

**Minutes of the HSDAA Annual Membership Meeting
November 6, 2015**

The Annual Membership Meeting of the HSDAA was held on Friday, November 6, 2015, with the President, Mary O'Day, and Secretary, Debbie Ezzell, in attendance. The meeting was called to order by the President at 7:12 p.m.

A roll call was taken by the Secretary and it was determined that there was a quorum present for the meeting.

Minutes from the 2014 Annual Membership Meeting – November 7, 2014

The Secretary read the minutes of the 2014 Annual Membership meeting. President Mary O'Day moved that the minutes be accepted as read. The motion was adopted.

Report of the President

Mary O'Day reported that the HSDAA obtained tax exempt status this year. HSDAA originally applied for tax exempt status in 2007 but did not follow through with filing tax returns so that status was revoked in 2010. Dionne Franklin and Sharon Martin worked diligently to file the documents to regain this status and our tax exempt status as a Social Club was granted retroactive to the revocation in 2010.

Also this year the Bylaws Committee reviewed the current Constitution and Bylaws and are proposing some changes. The Standard Committee has also been reviewing our standard that was adopted in 2010 and has proposed changes that we will discuss tonight. We passed out the proposed changes to the Bylaws and Standard for review. And we want to discuss our 2016 show schedule.

Report of the Secretary

Debbie Ezzell reported that during 2015 the recording secretary sent correspondence as directed by the Board as follows:

- Email was sent to voting members for comments on five applications for membership upgrade.
- Contracts and show information was sent to judges for all shows.
- The notice of the Annual Membership Meeting was emailed to all members on October 6, 2015.

The secretary attended and took minutes at all board meetings.

Report of the Treasurer

Sharon Martin reported our current financial status as follows:

Total Income	\$22,057.70
Total Expenses	<u>\$13,745.24</u>
Net Income	\$ 8,312.46

Checking account balance:	\$20,255.37
Savings account balance:	<u>\$ 7,121.30</u>
Total Assets:	\$27,376.67

Committee Reports

Publications Committee

Barb Theisen reported that the HSDAA Silk Road magazine is published three times a year and is free to all members. Any member can place a greeting or an ad in the magazine. Committee members are Barb Theisen-editor, Doc Baldwin-publisher, Anita Yeager-proofreader and Serelda Elliott-design editor. The covers of the Silk Road issues are dedicated as follows:

Spring issue – front and back are available for purchase

Summer issue – front and back are reserved for the winners of the photo contest. First place winner has

the front cover and second place winner has the back cover.

Winter issue – front cover is reserved for the National Specialty BISS winner and the back cover is reserved for the National Specialty Companion BISS winner.

Additional copies of the magazine are available for purchase at Create Space, a division of Amazon. Members are encouraged to write articles or even suggest articles for the magazine.

Health Committee

Dionne Franklin reported that the Health Committee is considering raising the PennHip distraction index for our breed to from .62 to .69. We are having trouble getting information regarding our DI results from Antech, the company that keeps the data for PennHip tests. Julie Savastio said the committee has attempted to address the health issues reported in the health survey of 2013 through articles in the Silk Road. The main issues that came from the health survey were dental, allergies and temperament. Julie also encouraged members to report any health issues to the Health Committee.

Registration Committee

Doc Baldwin presented a report of the HSDAA registry. The report details the number of active sires, dams, breeders, puppies born, and puppies registered by year. Doc said that many puppies that are sold are never registered by their owners. Doc suggested that breeders encourage their puppy buyers to register their puppies, or even complete and send the registrations in themselves.

Standard Committee

The committee presented a proposed change to the standard in a side-by-side format to show where the proposed changes occur in the current standard. The main changes proposed by the committee include:

- eliminated the weight requirement of 13.5 pounds because an 11 inch dog with moderate bone and muscle as we require would have to weigh 15-16 pounds
- removing the rise in the topline
- change the short upper arm length to a normal arm length
- allow the chocolate color with dark brown pigment
- modify or remove the disqualification for non-ideal black pigment on the nose. We made a new disqualification for dilute pigment because that is associated with health problems. That means blues, blondes, dilute chocolates and merles would be disqualified.
- tail description was changed from an “inverted J” or “crozier” to carried high and gracefully arched over the back
- gait should be smooth, elastic gait rather than bouncy
- added a disqualification for aggression

Other changes were made as clarifications such as the muzzle is not the same length as the back skull and we explained how to measure the ear length.

A discussion about temperament included the following points

- how would a judge interpret it?
- should aggression only be considered aggression if it is unprovoked
- it was reported in the health survey so it was addressed in the proposed standard
- someone reading the standard might presume we have a problem with aggression in our breed

A suggestion was made to change the statement to: The dog should be lively, playful, curious and intelligent, very outgoing, and self- confident. Should display acceptance and friendliness towards people and other dogs. Any deviation should be a disqualification. The standard committee agreed to consider the comments from the membership and rework the statement regarding aggression as a disqualification.

Show Committee

Mary O'Day reported that this year we had shows in Florida, Durham, Chicago, Richmond, Colorado and Virginia Beach. If anyone would like to investigate other locations for our National Specialty in 2017 we welcome suggestions. We partnered with ICKC for several shows in the past but that has not worked well. We are looking at another organization, ICE, which we would like to partner with for a few shows next year as well as four of our own shows. Next year we already have shows scheduled in Chicago in May and our National Specialty will be in Virginia Beach again. We are also planning shows in North Carolina, Richmond, Colorado and possibly Texas.

Evaluators Committee

Helen Conticchio reported that Ann Carille will co-chair the committee with Helen. This will allow Ann to be able to evaluate the foundation pending dogs. Ann travels to some of the shows that Helen does not attend so there are more opportunities for evaluations. We also have an independent evaluator, Neal Glaser, and we are planning to add more independent evaluators. The committee has performed 17 evaluations this year and 16 of those passed. To schedule an evaluation contact Helen and send soap pictures of the dog to Doc Baldwin for the committee to review prior to the evaluation.

The committee made a change to the evaluators form and the guidelines pertaining to shoulder layback. A 35-40 degree layback is 2 points; 30-34 degrees is 1 point; 41-45 is 1 point; under 30 and over 45 degrees is 0 points. The automatic failure for 0 points has been removed so the dog will be able to pass with a 0 score for layback. Helen stressed that breeders looking for breeding partners should look at the soaps and the evaluations when making their decision.

Technology Committee

Tom Theisen reported that he has a test server loaded with the programs. Tom had planned to work with Jerry Accuardi on the project but Jerry will be unable to work on the project at this time due to his work schedule. Tom is looking for other volunteers or he will consider hiring someone to help with the project.

Companion and Performance Event Committee

Cathy Foldesi reported that the committee has made much progress this year which includes setting up the Hall of Fame, the Quest Hero Award and having our first rally trials. We also now accept performance titles earned through other performance organizations if the title is earned as a Havana Silk Dog. We will soon be looking for a training facility that will offer agility training to see if our members want to participate in agility.

Breed Promotion

Helen Conticchio reported that the committee strives to increase our Havana Silk Dog promotion. If any member has any ideas please contact the committee. The latest success we made is the acceptance in the International Canine Events (ICE) organization. They have conformation classes, regular and companion, and rally. They also recognize all of our champion titles. The show format is one or two shows on Saturday and Sunday. They only have two shows scheduled for 2016 at this time. We need to finalize our Standard before we can continue to move forward.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Anita Yeager provided a handout of the Constitution and Bylaws with proposed changes and discussed the proposed changes. There was discussion about the associate membership and if it is necessary for a member to wait two years before being eligible for upgrade. Mary O'Day asked for a show of hands to see how many members would want to change the time requirement to one year. There was a majority show of hands in favor of changing the time requirement from two years to one year. . The Board will consider amending the current draft to include this change.

New Business

Facebook Group

We have had requests from members to create an HSDAA Facebook page that would be open to the public. The current Facebook pages that are now being used do not allow members to post messages to the public. Discussions included concerns about privacy if the page became public. Mary O'Day invited anyone who would like to look into this project to contact Barb Theisen.

A motion was made for adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

Debbie Ezzell, Recording Secretary