

## **Minutes of the HSDAA Annual Membership Meeting November 2, 2018**

The Annual Membership Meeting of the HSDAA was held on Friday, November 2, 2018, at the Wyndham Oceanfront Hotel in Virginia Beach, with the President, Mary O'Day, and Recording Secretary, Gloria Sharrar, in attendance. The meeting was called to order by the President at 7:08 p.m.

A roll call was taken by the Secretary and it was determined that a quorum of Regular members (19) was present for the meeting.

### Minutes of the 2017 Annual Membership Meeting

Mary O'Day moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve them as published in the Silk Road. The motion was adopted.

### Report of the President

Mary O'Day, the President, started off her remarks with describing a key issue facing the Club, which is a reduction in our bank account due primarily because of increasing costs for Silk Road production and decreasing revenue from membership dues. The shortfall in revenue has resulted in membership dues covering only 2 issues of the Silk Road and no other expenses.

The board asked for member feedback and email responses were directed to Mary, as follows: Go to two issues (6); Raise dues and go to two issues (8); Raise dues (8). Majority of people who answered questions wanted to reduce the Silk Road to 2 issues; 14 of 22 who responded wanted to go to 2 issues. A majority also wanted to raise dues (16 of 22). Mary offered to read responses verbatim. Instead, there was a discussion on the merit of raising dues for the first time since the inception of the club, and there was favorable support for doing so. Frank Conticchio proceeded to make a motion to raise dues to \$50 single, and \$55 household. The motion was amended to \$50 single and \$60 household. The amended motion was passed, and the dues increase of \$50 single and \$60 household will be effective for the membership year 2019.

### Report of Recording Secretary

Gloria Sharrar reported that during 2018, the Recording Secretary completed actions as directed by the Board as follows:

- 1) Notified all members of the 2018 Annual Membership Meeting via emails on October 3 and October 9, 2018.
- 2) The secretary and secretary pro tem attended and took minutes at all board meetings. Approved minutes were either published in the Silk Road and/or uploaded to the HSDAA website.

### Report of Treasurer

Sharon Martin distributed the Treasurer's Annual Report, and a summary will be published in the Winter 2019 Silk Road. Sharon invited questions from the members in attendance. Questions were asked about Silk Road costs and about donations. In general, the attendees discussed our increasing costs and ways to combat them. The Publisher of the Silk Road, Dionne Franklin, explained the costs of producing the Silk Road. If anyone is interested in more details as covered during the discussion, please contact Sharon at [doggy.mom007@gmail.com](mailto:doggy.mom007@gmail.com).

## Reports from Committees

### Breed Recognition Committee:

Helen Conticchio, the Chair, reported that we still have three venues in which to show our Havana Silk Dogs. They are our Havana Silk Dog Shows, ICE (International Canine Events) Shows, and ICKC (International Canine Kennel Club) Shows.

A lot of our members have expressed how much they enjoyed the ICE shows and how professionally they are run. Not to mention that our Havana Silk Dogs have done extremely well & done a lot of winning & are getting a lot of exposure at their shows.

The Breed Recognition Committee has lost committee member over the years. Right now it consists of myself & Gloria Sharrar.

Anyone who has questions or feels that they can help with ideas and help spread the awareness of our great breed or who would like to be a part of this committee, please feel free to email me (Helen Conticchio) at [dogpack@suddenlink.net](mailto:dogpack@suddenlink.net) Any and all ideas are welcome. Helen would love to hear them.

### Companion Committee

Suzanne LaCosse, the Chair for the Companion Committee, asks for suggestions of activities that our Companion Dog families would like to see happening at our shows.

### Evaluators Committee

Helen Conticchio, the Chair, reported that in 2018 only four evaluations have been requested. They will be done at this year's Nationals.

Evaluations are necessary for any Havana Silk, male or female, that has been registered with the HSDA as Provisional Certified, and the owner is planning on breeding them in the future.

Evaluations serve a very important purpose. Your dog's evaluation will tell you where your dog needs improvement. I can't stress enough how important I feel it is to compare your dog's evaluation to the male or female you are interested in breeding too. You want to make sure that they do not both have the same weak points, as the purpose is to improve on those areas.

### Past Evaluations Done (Interesting)

2014- Males 5    Females 8

2015- Males 0    Females 3

2016- Males 5    Females 6

2017- Males 3    Females 5

### Health Committee

Suzanne Lacosse, the Chair, reported that more than 30 CERF tests were being completed at the National. She asked our members to please complete the Health Form for any of our dogs who are diagnosed with a health issue or that pass away. Once the form is completed, please send it to Suzanne at [suzannenbob@aol.com](mailto:suzannenbob@aol.com).

### Membership Committee

Debbie Ezzell, the Chair, reported that the club has 240 active HSDAA members. The membership consists of 50 regular voting members, 198 associate members, and 2 honorary members. Associate members who have been members for at least two years are eligible for membership upgrade to a regular voting member. Active members who are interested in upgrading their membership may contact the Recording Secretary, Gloria Sharrar, to request an application for the upgrade along with two sponsor forms. Sponsors must be regular voting members. If there are questions about upgrading a membership you may contact Debbie for more information at [debezzell@cox.net](mailto:debezzell@cox.net).

### Performance Events Committee

Barb Theisen, the Chair, reported the following:

The Performance Committee is currently looking into recognizing K9 Nose Work titles earned by Havana Silk Dogs who compete as Havana Silk Dogs. This would be the same as how we recognize titles in agility and rally. In other words, we would NOT recognize titles earned while a dog is competing in AKC as a "mixed breed." Our next step is to recommend this to the HSDAA Board for approval.

I recently contacted The National Association of Canine Scent Work (NACSW™), the official sanctioning and organizing body for the sport of K9 Nose Work. I've asked them to add our breed to their database. There is a Havana Silk Dog who has titled with NACSW competing as "Other: Havana Silk Dog." I feel we should recognize this title, but I'd still like to see NACSW add "Havana Silk Dog" to their database.

Nose Work is a canine sport created to mimic professional detection dog tasks. It's a fun search and scenting activity for virtually all dogs and people. This easy to learn activity and sport builds confidence and focus in many dogs, and provides a safe way to keep dogs fit and healthy through mental and physical exercise. One dog and one handler form a team. The dogs must find a hidden target odor, often ignoring distractors, and alert the handler. After the dog finds the odor they are rewarded with food or a toy. It is a fast-growing canine sport that our Havana Silk Dogs can excel at. HSDAA Member Pauline Michels wrote a wonderful article about K9 Nose Work that was published in the Winter 2017 Silk Road magazine.

We think this will be a great addition to our Performance Events!

This past year we also received HSDAA Board approval to recognize rally titles our Havana Silk Dogs earn while competing at ICE shows in their RALLYE events.

At this year's National Specialty, Performance Committee Member Cathy Foldesi, along with HSDAA Member Marilyn Spence, is hosting a Rally Demonstration and Trials so our members can see how Rally works.

We would like to gauge member interest in having a Rally Trial at the 2019 National Specialty.

### Publications Committee

Colleen Eagle, the editor of the Silk Road, thanked several members for their contributions to the Silk Road and encouraged members to submit material for the Silk Road along with ads.

### Registration Committee

Debbie Ezzell, the Registrar and the Chair, reported that the HSDAA Registry currently has 1571 dogs registered. Since the 2017 National Specialty, we have registered 10 litters of puppies totaling 33 puppies. We also added a new registration category of Companion Pending. This category allows a dog that is out of two registered Havana Silk Dogs, one certified and one uncertified, to be registered as a Havana Silk Dog companion dog. Companion pending dogs may never be upgraded to certified status. We added one companion pending dog to our registry in 2018 for a total of 34 dogs added to the registry in the last year.

### Show Events Committee

Mary O'Day, Chair, reported the following:

- 1) We had 3 shows this year, 2 with ICE and our National Specialty. We had a show scheduled with ICE in Michigan, but we canceled it for lack of attendance.
- 2) Our contract with the Wyndham expires at the end of this year. We have had our National Specialty here now for 11 years.
- 3) The Show Committee is working on the schedule for next year.
- 4) A survey was put out to the members on Survey Monkey. Summary of responses:
  - a. 47 responses
  - b. 80% have attended a show
  - c. People that own both Companions (60%) and Certified (56%) Dogs answered the survey. 5% were unsure. Some people owned both.
  - d. We asked preferences for National and Regional Specialties.
  - e. 80% said that shows closer to their home would motivate them to attend a show.
  - f. We asked respondents to rank from 1 to 8 various locations for a National Specialty. Survey monkey computes the results. Number 1 location was Richmond, number 2 was Florida and number 3 was Atlanta, number 4 was Virginia Beach and number 5 was a tie between Raleigh Durham and Chicago.
  - g. We asked the same for a regional specialty and number 1 was Florida, number 2 was Atlanta, number 3 was Richmond, number 4 was Chicago and number 5 was Virginia Beach.
  - h. Survey though was answered by a lot of members that have not been attending shows and are probably not going to attend a show in the future. Renee's figures do not support Florida as the number 1 attended show.
- 5) There was a discussion on where members wanted to hold the National Specialty in the future and there was a strong consensus to remain in Virginia Beach at the Wyndham. Members felt the rates and deal would not be able to be obtained elsewhere.
- 6) There also was a discussion on whether members like having our shows with ICE and there was very positive feedback on continuing to do so.

### Show Records & HSDAA Championships

Renee Kuharski, the Chair, presented a show report with annual data going back to the first Havana Silk Dog Show in Virginia Beach, October 26 & 27, 2007. The following data are an excerpt of show entries from 2017 through May 2018.

**2018:****Lakeland FL- (ICE):** March 17 & 18

8 Certified

**Colorado - (ICE):** May 19 & 20

5 Companions

11 Certified

**2017:****Lakeland FL - (ICE):** April 8 & 9

12 Certified Dogs

**Chicago:** May 6 & 7

9 Companions

15 Certified Dogs

**Richmond:** June 10 & 11

3 Companions

24 Certified

4 Rising Stars

**Colorado:** Sept. 30 & Oct. 1

5 Companions

7 Certified

**Virginia Beach Regional:** October 27

7 Companions

22 Certified

2 Rising Stars

**National Specialty:** October 28 & 29

7 Companions,

23 Certified

2 Rising Stars

1 Stud Dog 1 Brood Bitch

3 Bred By

1 Generations

2 Brace

1 Comp Puppy Sweeps

2 Cert Puppy Sweep

2 Comp Veteran Sweeps

3 Cert Veteran Sweeps

**Grand Champions Summary**

Companion Champions: 3

Companion Grand Champions: 4

Certified Jr. Champions: 3

Certified Champions: 4

Certified Grand Champions: 3

Technology Committee

Les Foldesi, the Chair, reported on his annual maintenance of content for the website, as provided by the club president, the recording secretary, and committee chairs. He announced that efforts are in process to get a new website host set up and to migrate content from the current website. Gloria Sharrar is providing

technical design support for end-user infrastructure with a new website host, and Les will advance the delivery of accessible content.

Suzanne LaCosse moved to adjourn, motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10 :10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gloria K. Sharrar, Recording Secretary