

Agenda

Annual Membership Meeting April 28, 2017 Wilmington, Ohio

Meeting called to order at 7:16 pm EST by President Cara Greger

A quorum was established by sign in sheets

Motion by Cindy Ryder to limit all motion presentations to be no more than 2 min. 2nd Julie Feichter.
Motion passes by simple majority

Motion by Cindy Ryder to limit all individual speakers debate to no more than 2 min. 2nd Julie Feichter

Motion amended to allow 3 minutes per person with 2nd presentation of 3 min to be allowed by the debater. 2nd Lynette Gandl Motion passes by simple majority.

Motion by Marion Heise that the BSDRT report be presented as a courtesy to the BSCA membership at the end of the meeting rather than as a committee report. 2nd Terri Votava Motion Passes by simple majority

Introduction of officers and members

Introduction of Parliamentarian

Motion by Ramona Kraft to approve the 2016 BSCA Annual Meeting Minutes as Published. 2nd Lynette Gandl. Motion passes by simple majority.

Officer Reports

a. President's Report – Cara Greger

My First Term as Prs was an easy one. I was blessed with a very experienced Board, it was like being handed the leash to a very well trained dog...then as they do, things chanced and lots of my experienced board stepped down for new blood to step in We have experienced learning and growing pains but we are trying...at this time I would like to thank all the people who have carried the torch for so long, and I would like to thank all the people who willing to reach out to take up the torch and carry it on. I would also like to remind EVERYONE that the BSCA is 410 people NOT the 9 people on the board. The boards responsibility is "the general Management of the clubs affairs" but it is EVERY MEMBERS BSCA. SO it is everyone RESPONSIBILITY to make sure things that are important to you happen, please dont wait, reach out, step up contact the appropriate committee chair or any board member. Together the BSCA will continue to flourish. Second By a show of hands raise your hand if you have bred a litter in the last 2 years. keep your hand up if at least on puppy was sold to a first time Belgian owner...keep your hand up only IF when you handed over the puppy you also gave the new owners a signed BSCA membership application... Here in our problem, Like our Gean pool the door to be part of "the club of Belgian Sheepdog owners" has been closed for too long...so reach out and step up and hug your dogs Thankyou

b. 1st VP Sherry Hanley

It's been my pleasure to serve as 1st Vice President and look forward to another term.

I want to thank my fellow board members for their support and the accomplishments we achieved this past year.

As the next in line to the President my duties are to help carry out the same responsibilities and step up when necessary. By stepping up I volunteered to take over and head the General Education Committee. First thing on my agenda was to make sure that all the winners at the Royal Canin National Dog Show received the medallions that were to be awarded at the show. With the understanding from the AKC I was able to obtain them and present them personally to the recipients. As we move ahead I will continue to serve the board and the membership to the best of my ability.

c. 2nd – Penny King

It has been a year packed with learning! One truly has no idea of the work that goes on behind the scenes until involved. A most SINCERE thank you to everyone who has taken the time to sit on the BOD, past, present and future! A VERY heartfelt thank you to the sitting members for their patience and willingness to teach. I appreciate the opportunity to serve the members and hope each and every one feel free to reach out to their BOD members with ideas, suggestions and questions.

d. Coresponding Secretary – Julie Fiechter

On July 1, 2016, I became Corresponding Secretary for BSCA. I am very grateful that the previous Secretary, Carleen Wiles, has and continues to be so generous with her time and guidance helping me to assume the duties of the position.

These duties include keeping the Membership List and Newsletter Mailing List updated, handling the mailings for the yearly election of officers, putting together the Membership Directory and the Breeders Directory, processing applications for new members and receiving and sending official Club correspondence and, if necessary, forwarding it to the appropriate person(s) in the club for action. In 2016 we had fifteen new members and, as of the beginning of April 2017, we have six new members.

I would like to again express my appreciation to Carleen Wiles for taking over the duties of Regional Specialty Coordinator. She is now in charge of all paperwork and obtaining Board approval for regional Belgian Sheepdog clubs' requests to hold BSCA regional events. This is a big job and, thanks to her willingness to volunteer for this position, it is one that I do not have to cover.

In addition to what I mentioned in the first paragraph, I also answer many requests for information about Belgian Sheepdogs from the general public. These cover a wide range of subjects but many are from people looking for a dog. I would like to repeat what Carleen expressed in her Corr. Sec. Report of last year. For ethical reasons, as Corresponding Secretary, I can't refer these people to specific breeders. The best I can do is refer them to the Breeders Directory on the BSCA website and to the BSCRT (rescue). I urge members of the BSCA to add their names to the Directory even if they are not presently involved in any of the services listed in the Directory. It would be helpful for potential Belgian Sheepdog owners to have local and knowledgeable contacts available to guide them in finding a dog suitable to their situation.

One of the most difficult challenges I have had so far is keeping the Membership List information updated. Please send me any changes to your contact information, especially residential and email addresses, as soon as possible. Every time the Newsletter is sent, I generate an updated mailing list. Since I have become Corresponding Secretary, I have received envelopes from the U.S.P.S. containing Newsletter envelopes that could not be delivered because of an address change. These envelopes have a printed label with a forwarding address and indicating that postage is due. I assume the additional postage is because of the weight involved to forward a Newsletter. The most distressing thing is, in addition to the envelope, the U.S.P.S rips the covers off of the Newsletters and sends those as well. This obviously means that the rest of the Newsletter is thrown away. I do not receive these envelopes right away so one or sometimes two Newsletters end up being mailed to the wrong address.

It has been a bit of a challenge learning the ropes of my position but I am enjoying being able to contribute to the BSCA. As Corresponding Secretary, I am looking forward to working with the Board and members and executing my duties to the best of my ability.

e. Recording Secretary – Jana Behm

We are continuing to work on keeping all files updated and all board business published in a timely manner. Thank you for your patience as life changes have sometimes gotten in the way of my club responsibilities.

For future annual meetings, we will be changing reporting for the annual meeting. All agenda items must be sent to the recording secretary 45 days before the annual meeting. The agenda will then be published to the general membership 30 days prior to the meeting. All reports are due to the Recording secretary 30 days before the meeting and will be published for the membership to review and print for themselves 15 days before the meeting. Limited copies will be printed by the board. We will put an ad in the newsletter that comes out right before the national.

f. Treasurer - Cindy Herman

2016 Annual Meeting Treasurer's Report

Total Receipts for calendar year 2016 were \$106,272. Total disbursements for the year were \$93,788 for a net increase of the Treasury of \$12,484. Total funds in the Treasury as of December 2016 were \$132,044, of which \$24,217 were restricted to various events.

In light of the current budgetary projections for 2017, dues for 2017 are recommended to stay the same as for 2016.

Single membership: \$65 of which \$5 is designated to support the gastric carcinoma study;
Household membership: \$80 of which \$5 is designated to support the gastric carcinoma study;

BSDRT Treasurer's Report

Total funds in the Trust as of the end of the year was \$46,173. Of this, \$5,501 was held for disbursement to various health initiatives and \$40,672 was held for support of ongoing rescue operations. The Trust also donated \$5,038 to the gastric carcinoma study at Tuft's University.

g. Board Members: Jan Powers, - No report Cynthia Ryder, and Kathay Lovell

Area Club Reports

- a. Barbary Coast Belgian Sheepdog Club
- b. Belgian Sheepdog Club of Oakland County Michigan
- c. Belgian Sheepdog Club of the Rockies

The Belgian Sheepdog Club of the Rockies (established 1992 – Licensed AKC Herding Club) (“BSCR”) hosted a regional specialty for the Belgian Sheepdog Club of America (“BSCA”) on April 7, 2017 at the Adams County Fairgrounds, Brighton, Colorado in conjunction with Terry-All Kennel Club’s all-breed conformation and rally and obedience trials the following two days. We also held a BSCA supported entry on Sunday, April 9, 2017 at Terry-All. BSCR had not held a regional specialty and supported entry on behalf of BSCA since October, 2015 due to disagreements with the BSCA board regarding specialty guidelines. The regional specialty with Terry-All was a completely independent specialty with their own show secretary, catalogs, ribbons, judges’ fees and expenses, etc., a small part of which was trophies. All of our specialties going back to the 90’s have been independent specialties. We joined with the Rocky Mountain Belgian Tervuren Club hosting an ABTC regional specialty, in asking Belgian Tervuren breeder judge Pat Weymouth to judge both specialties. In between both specialties, we shared a joint potluck and also a joint sweepstakes judge, Sheree Sanchez. Both clubs had separate raffles and enjoyed a Belgian puppy match (under six months), judged by yours truly. Each puppy received a sheep toy and pretty pink first place rosette.

BSCA Regional Specialty Results:

Puppy Sweepstakes, Judge Sheree Sanchez:

Best in Puppy Sweepstakes – Willow Creek Cudicini, Bitch, owned by Janet Bennett

Veteran Sweepstakes, Judge Sheree Sanchez

7 years and under 10 years – Bitches – 1st – CH Cibola’s Cauldron of Fire AX,OAJ NAP, owned by Marie Kutsch.

10 years and under 12 years – 1st and Best in Veteran Sweeps – GCHB Liswyn’s Twizzler, owned by Barbara Weiner and Lisa Leffingwell.

Regular Conformation, Judge Pat Weymouth:

Open Dogs – 1st, WD and BOW: Isengard’s Just Mine, owned by Lorra Miller and Susan Anderson.

12-18 Month Bitches – 1st, RWB – Willow Creek Cudicini, owned by Janet Bennett.

Open Bitches – 1st, WB – Aleika’s Dawn Treader, owned by Stephanie Price.

Veteran Bitch – 1st - GCHB Liswyn’s Twizzler, owned by Barbara Weiner and Lisa Leffingwell.

Best of Breed – GCH Querido de la Terra Sauvage, Dog, owned by Shawn Petersen.

Best of Winners - Isengard's Just Mine, owned by Lorra Miller and Susan Anderson.

Best of Opposite Sex – GCH CH Adagio Belbrook Oso Deep Purple CGC, Bitch, owned by Lynn Black.

Select Dog – GCH Liswyn's Allsorts of Shiloh, Dog, owned by Barbara Weiner and Lisa Leffingwell.

Select Bitch – GCHB Liswyn's Twizzler, Bitch, owned by Barbara Weiner and Lisa Leffingwell.

BSCA Supported Entry, Terry-All Kennel Club, Sunday, April 9, 2017, Judge Tami Worley:

Best of Breed: GCH CH Adagio Belbrook Oso Deep Purple CGC, Bitch, owned by Lynn Black.

Best of Winners/WD: Isengard's Just Mine, owned by Lorra Miller and Susan Anderson.

Best of Opposite Sex: GCH Querido de la Terra Sauvage, Dog, owned by Shawn Petersen.

Best Owner Handled: GCH CH Adagio Belbrook Oso Deep Purple CGC, Bitch, owned by Lynn Black.

Winner's Bitch: Aleika's Dawn Treader, owned by Stephanie Price.

Reserve Winner's Bitch: Willow Creek Cudicini, owned by Janet Bennett.

Congratulations to all the beautiful Belgian Sheepdogs that competed and their owners. The weekend was wonderful and fun for all. Watch for photos in the newsletter! Hint - one pretty boy Belgian was jumping for joy at his gigantic stack of every imaginable sheep toy there was!

d. Downeaster Belgian Sheepdog Club

e. Northwest Belgian Sheepdog Club

Our first event of the year is our Regional Specialty held in conjunction with the Rose City Classic in Portland, Oregon. We are almost always able to gather majors all five days. We also include a BSCA Supported entry on Saturday and have for several years put together a Meet the Breeds booth. The show committee for Rose City are wonderful to work with and they put on an awesome weekend of Conformation, Obedience, Rally and Agility. They have various judge's seminars as well as health clinics. It is a great way to start off the New Year.

This year we are also planning a three day All-Breed Agility Trial. Dates will be July 28-30 in Auburn, WA at Argus Ranch.

f. Potomac Valley Belgian Sheepdog Club

g. Raritan Belgian Sheepdog Club

h. Trinity Valley Belgian Sheepdog Club

i. Belgian Sheepdog Club of the Blue Ridge

The Belgian Sheepdog Club of the Blue Ridge has been busy getting ready to host the first North Carolina BSCA Regional Specialty. They will also be hosting their second Blue Ridge sponsored Belgian Sheepdog entry. Both events will take place in conjunction with the Salisbury NC Kennel Club, Inc. shows during the Victory Lane Classic Cluster at the Cabarrus Arena and Event Center in Concord, NC on June 3 & 4, 2017.

We are currently working on doing some important fundraising that will enable us to purchase our own insurance. This will allow us to hold such events as a Belgian Fun Day BBQ, a Herding Fun Day, and matches.

At this point, we believe we have enough NC members to pursue AKC licensing. However, we have agreed to wait until we increase our funds, obtain our insurance, and just have fun as a new club before moving forward in that direction.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eileen Indorato

Secretary/Treasurer, Belgian Sheepdog Club of the Blue Ridge

j. Sierra Nevada Belgian Sheepdog Club

Sierra Nevada Belgian Sheepdog formed in 2015. We held our first Supported Entry in 2015 with majors all weekend.

In 2016 we had the following successful events:

Tracking Seminar

Our 1st Regional Specialty & 2nd Supported Entry with majors in bitches & dogs all weekend.

We had Belgians travel from 6 states for our shows!

During the Regional & Supported entries we also put on successful CGC & TDI tests & had Belgians qualify for both!

2017 Events already AKC & BSCA Approved

Our 1st two Herding trials & tests June 16, 2017

BSCA Regional Specialty & Sweeps 9/29/17

BSCA Supported Entry 9/30/17

We would like to consider hosting 2019 Nationals!

k. Belgian Sheepdog Club of North Georgia

Board Appointed Committees

a) AKC Delegate Barb Swisher

AKC Delegate's Report

There were four delegate's meetings this year. I attended two of these and tried very hard to get to the third, which was held in the middle of a blizzard and had barely a quorum in attendance. I never plan to attend the meeting in December because I think that it is more of a gathering of people who want to go to Florida in the middle of winter than an actual meeting with important issues to be voted on. For those of you who want to see the reports of the meetings in their entirety, they can be found at:

www.akc.org/delegate/delegate-meeting-minutes

I am available to answer any questions on AKC and its events and rulings. Contact me at BSwisherB@AOL.com

b) Historian – Sharon Lafuse

This past year has been a quiet year for the historian.

The club has lots of photos, documents, old stud books, club newsletter, etc. I would like to come up with a method to share some of these. One method I thought of was a Facebook group that I could share photos and members could ask question, make requests etc.

c) Newsletter – Mary Grace Buckwalter

Last year, I wrote a brief overview of the problems involved with the increased costs of our Newsletter and the team’s efforts to reduce those costs. Just hours prior to our meeting last year, I received the third and final printer’s quote for publishing our Newsletter. This was followed by two months of research and questions as we worked on the finer points of a final (and formal) bid and contract. Kathay Lovell, BSCA Board Liaison to the Newsletter, used her expertise in this area, and, by June, the newsletter had a three-year contract with a new printer.

I am happy to let the membership know that in the first six months of our new contract, we realized a savings of \$792 over the previous year. This includes our decision to bulk print 2500 mailing envelopes with the logo and return address. This up-front cost will actually yield further savings as we move forward. It also includes printing the largest National Specialty issue to date, at 96 pages.

Table A contains the printing costs over the last three years. Areas shaded in grey were issues printed

These are the newsletter costs covering the last three years. Information was gathered through published board business, motions to pay invoices, and actual invoices.							
	Veterans	Puppies	Performance	NS	Brood Bitch	Stud Dog	yearly total
2017	67.1						
	1975.94						
2016	66.1	66.2	66.3	66.4	66.5	66.6	
	2804.84	1456.53	2089.53	3596.32	1882.39	2138.92	\$13,968.53
2015	65.1	65.2	65.3	65.4	65.5	65.6	
	2147.28	1933.68	2390.33	2679.63	2804.84	2804.84	\$14,760.60
	64.1	64.2	64.3	64.4	64.5	64.6	
2014	1370.85	1279.32	2219.33	2650.18	2519.91	1814.78	\$11,854.37

Table A

through the publisher we were with from mid-2014 to mid-2016.

Determining costs is dependent upon the number of pages printed, the number of issues printed, and the driving cost behind printing is the amount of color pages used. Table B is a further breakdown by

This is an analysis of cost per page. Costs per page should decrease as number of pages increase. This does NOT apply to color pages. One should also see a pattern in ranges of number of pages v costs emerge.

Issue	cost	# pages	cost per page	notes:			
				actual number of issues printed			
67.1	1975.94	32	0.17	362	color center; b& w Inside covers		
66.6	2138.92	40	0.15	367	color center; color inside covers		
66.5	1882.39	28	0.19	360	color center; b& w Inside covers		
66.4	3596.32	96	0.11	356	color center; color inside covers		
66.3	2089.53	36	0.15	400			
66.2	1456.53	24	0.15	400			
66.1	2804.84	40	0.18	400			
65.6	2804.84	32	0.22	400	color center;color covers (inside & out)		
65.5	2804.84	48	0.15	400	color center;color covers (inside & out)		
65.4	2679.63	68	0.10	400	b&w center; color covers		
65.3	2390.33	44	0.14	400	b&w center; color covers		
65.2	1933.68	28	0.17	400	b&w center; color covers		
65.1	2147.28	44	0.12	400	b&w center; color covers///mismarked 64.7		
64.6	1814.78	20	0.23	400	b&w center; color covers		
64.5	2519.91	36	0.17	400	color center; color covers (inside & out)		
64.4	2650.18	64	0.10	400	b&w center; color covers; FIRST BOOK TO BOZEMA		
64.3	2219.33	24	0.23				
64.2	1279.32	26	0.12		b&w center; color covers		
64.1	1370.85						

Table B

these factors.

Last year we told you we wanted to “reduce the current costs” and we have done so.

We told you we wanted to reorganize under a clear division of responsibilities. This, it turns out, is a fluid concept, but, generally, Sherry, Barbara and Carleen collect and send the materials to Mary Grace, who formats, edits, and puts together the layout. Ads are received as is, or created by Carleen. All of the members act as proofreaders and have a final say before the booklet is sent to the printer. Doing this ourselves saves in graphic design charges (approx.. \$120/hour.)

We also told you we wanted to revisit our policies and guidelines. We did just that with our policy regarding clearances printed in an ad. Advertisements may now be run with a choice of three types of wording: one, health clearances are stated; two, the sentence “Health clearances have not been performed to date.” may be used; three, “Spayed” or “Neutered” may be used.

Moving forward:

- 1) We have established a system to track our ad revenue and will be able to include it in future reports.
- 2) We are looking for contributors interested in writing a bi-monthly (every two months) column. Please send us your ideas and a sample column. 400-500 words; Arial; size 9; ½ inch margin
- 3) We continue to work on a “How To” manual for future coordinators and editors.
- 4) We continue to visit policies and guidelines, looking towards a healthy future for our Newsletter.

Your Newsletter Team is:

Barbara Swisher BswisherB@aol.com
Mary Grace Buckwalter buckwalters@verizon.net .
[Kathay Lovell, BSCA Board Liaison](#)

Sherry Hanley fuzzybadge38@msn.com
Carleen Wiles carleenwiles@gmail.com

Committee Reports

a) 2017 National Specialty Mary Stephens

The 2017 BSCA National was held April 23rd through the 29th, 2017 at the Robert's Centre/Eukanuba Hall in Wilmington, OH. This is the first year that Ohio hosted the national and it was a resounding success! The Robert's Centre and Eukanuba staff were very easy to work with and extremely accommodating. Some examples of this:

- At the end of 2016, when the realization that we needed a larger space than originally reserved, they only charged us \$600/day versus the going rate of \$1500-\$2000/day.
- We paid for the hall for Tuesday through Saturday but we had use of the space by Sunday afternoon, thus saving us money for Sunday and Monday rental fees
- I had originally negotiated a comp room night for every 40 room nights booked. Based on the end tally of 537 room nights, they originally notified me of 14 comp nights (this did not include the hospitality suite (that we had "free" Saturday through Saturday). We ended up having 16 billable room nights (judges, super, photo, etc., etc.). They did not bill us for any. Comped us for all 16 nights!
- The food provided by the Robert's Centre for both the Welcome Party and Banquet were very well received. With the PayPal glitch, we had quite a few last minute additions for both the Welcome Party and Banquet and they were able to easily accommodate.

Based on the statistical information on the BSCA website, the 2017 national had the largest performance entries recorded. This included herding that was at a venue 3 hours away. Though there were locations much closer for herding, it was stressed from the membership that having sheep adapted to upright Belgians was more important than close proximity to the host hotel. The sheep at Hado Bar didn't let them down and everyone was very happy. The dense foam matting used for agility, obedience and rally was very well liked, both two and four legged.

Everyone seemed happy with the variety of seminars and events that occurred during Thursday afternoon. In fact, there was so much going on, would need to reconsider the number of events and length of time offered.

The conformation ring was nice and large allowing the dogs plenty of movement space. Use of the microphone prevented the ring steward from yelling and repeating the armband numbers, etc.

This year we had the Parade of Titleholders done during the Welcome Party. Again, we had the largest amount of entries of titleholders. The folks that participated for the most part just wanted to share the love of their dog with others and were appreciative that they had an audience.

The collective team of folks that volunteered for this specialty did an excellent job. The majority of the folks took their commitment very seriously and it showed. Yes, would do it again.

b) 2018 National Specialty – Lorra Miller

BSCA 2018 National Committee Report

Location: Purina Farms near St Louis MO

Dates: April 6th-14th

Tentative Schedule:

April 6th Fri - French Herding at Purina Farms - All Belgians

April 7th Sat - Possible AKC Scent Work (all Belgians) Purina Farms

April 8th Sun - BSCA Herding at Purina Farm (ABMC All-Breed Herding at another location)

April 9th Mon - BSCA Tracking at Purina Farms/All Breed (Belgians Preferred) Agility at Purina Farms (indoors)

April 10th Tue - Belgians Only Agility at Purina Farms (all classes-indoors)

April 11th Wed - Two BSCA Obedience and Rally Trials at Purina Farms (eye clinic) - Welcome Party

April 12th Thu- BSCA Sweeps - Annual Meeting

April 13th Fri - BSCA Regular Classes

April 14th Sat - BSCA BOB Judging - Awards Banquet

Hospitality setup and annual meeting at PF, possibly banquet there too.

Possible Barn Hunt and Dock Diving and Lure Coursing in fenced area at PF

Have folks working on BSCA only logo and we are working with other clubs on a combined logo. Flew out to St Louis the beginning of April and met with Marion Lloyd and Anne Marie Potchen Lynch who are local. Spent quite a bit of time touring the grounds with the site manager of 40 years looking at facilities and tracking locations.

Tracking location everyone in area has used for 20 years has become unavailable, was held at small local airfield but changes to FAA regulations have made that difficult. We decided to have BSCA tracking at Purina Farms unless a better alternative shows up. GSD club has tracked there, I was told they had 4 TD and 2 TDX tracks.

Most challenging aspect has been lodging since we came late to the process.

Two full service dog friendly host hotels in area. One is the Holiday Inn but the ABTC has 179 rooms and not other blocks of rooms available. Members who are also ABTC members may choose to stay there. Individuals can still reserve there.

The other host hotel recommended was the Wildwood Hotel. When we initially contacted them last spring/summer they required a non-refundable \$150 pet fee. We felt that was unreasonable and few of our members would choose to stay there. I called again in January and with new sales team they had a more reasonable pet fee but if anyone cancelled a reservation at anytime from the reserved block they would charge \$125 one night fee regardless of 6 weeks or 6 days. And they did not have a large block available still at that time during our peak days.

Travelodge which was closest to PF was contacted but would not discuss anything more than a year out and closed in the fall.

So we reserved 60 rooms at Comfort Inn in Pacific which is the closest lodging to PF with a nice grassy area for dog walking. A Quality Inn is on opposite side of highway from Comfort Inn. (about 6 miles from PF)

The ABMC reserved a large block at Budget Lodging which is about 15 minutes from PF but we have 20 rooms there reserved. Better rates than Comfort Inn and fenced dog area.

There is RV parking with hook ups at PF and local companies that will bring in an RV, drop it off and then pick it up after. I'm planning on going with that option. There is also a local campground with cabins several members stayed at in 2001 and enjoyed nearby.

Since most events, meetings and seminars will be at PF we probably will have members staying at a variety of lodgings which is really unfortunate but there does not seem to be a really good option open to us.

Grooming and RV parking will be split into thirds and then unreserved spots opened up after a TBD date.

Videographer has been lined up, Show Dog Video Pros, will do all Belgians but we have individual contract with them. Have some leads on candid and show photographers for non-shared events.

Need volunteers! Especially need a tracking chair and conformation chair. Bonnie Leonard and Susan Spinhirne are doing trophies and are advising on obedience trials and other areas as needed. Penny King and Cara Greger are working on logos. Anne-Marie is Obedience chair, John Elliot (assisted by Beth Elliot) is Agility Chair. Peggy Richter is Herding Chair. We still need a decision on Conformation judges.

Lorra Miller

2018 National Specialty Chair

c) Audit Committee – No report

d) Breeder's Education – Lorra Miller

My apologies, I have not had time to work on this committee this year. As show chair of the 2018 Specialty and chair of another committee I have not had time to work on this committee. I feel it is a very important topic and I hope someone else will step up and chair it the coming year.

e) Webmaster – David Jackson

Ongoing website support includes software updates, backups, committee specific content updates, updating and archiving minutes, financial reports and digital newsletters. We also provide online membership renewal and end of year donations. Every year we also support each BSCA national providing web space, online ordering, results and any support that is needed. This year we should see the launch of the BSCA online store where dues, donations and other items will be available.

f) Event Coordinator – Carleen Wiles

Since the last Annual Meeting, the BSCA Board has appointed me as the Regional Specialty Coordinator. I was quite surprised when I was recently "promoted" to the Event Coordinator! Since my appointment, I am pleased to report that in the past year, things have been running smoothly and to date, all events that have taken place were successful and funded. We have the usual lineup of BSCA Regionals and Supported Entries but we are pleased to add three new upcoming events approved by the BSCA this coming June and July. In June, two Herding Trials are being hosted by the Sierra Nevada Club in NV and the first Regional Specialty in NC is being hosted by the Blue Ridge Club. July will offer three Agility Trials being hosted by the Northwest Club. All upcoming events are posted in the Newsletter as well as on the BSCA website. If your Club is planning something, like a Match or a Fun Day, please let me know and I will have it included.

In addition to an increase of promoting BSCA events, we now have a new regional club in Georgia, the Belgian Sheepdog Club of North Georgia. Both North Georgia and Blue Ridge are planning to work towards obtaining AKC licensing, so please support them by either joining the Clubs (you do NOT have to be residents of GA or NC to join) or by attending the events they will

be planning. And since the topic is being discussed, I'm sure that all our existing Regional Clubs, especially the AKC licensed ones, would love to have some new members! It takes hard work and dedication to become AKC licensed, and while these Clubs have been in existence for years...new members, new 'blood', and new dogs are just what they need! A list of all of our clubs can be found on the BSCA website. If there isn't one in your area, maybe your group of Belgian fanciers would like to form your own club. Please think about it and if you have any questions, ask me!

Lastly, there have been some slight changes to the Request for Regional/Supported Entry Policy, which incorporates submitting information regarding your Club's status. While this information has never been requested before, it was considered to be necessary for the formation of new Clubs going forward. It is now required that ALL clubs provide certain information-- updated yearly. I have encountered some reservations obtaining some of the club contact information. My concern is who must I contact if I have a question regarding your club???? I am the only person who will see this information and it will NOT be published. This enables me to have our website updated as well as a sending list of regional clubs and their club contacts to our insurance carrier as those being BSCA approved Regional Clubs to hold events in our behalf. All policies, procedures, guidelines and forms are available on our website.

Lastly, speaking of insurance, it may be necessary for Regional Clubs to provide evidence of BSCA liability insurance coverage for their events. Regional clubs are covered by the BSCA Liability Insurance. This protects both the BSCA and your club. I will be submitting a list of our Regional Clubs and their contact person to our insurance carrier for their files as those the BSCA will approve for coverage requests. While in the past, you may have been able to request this info yourself, going forward, any request for Proof of Insurance can only be made by three people, authorized by the BSCA Board. I am one of them. In order to alleviate confusion please direct your requests to me. I have worked with our insurance carrier and have had copies of the insurance coverage available within an hour. While AKC licensed clubs must have their own insurance, you are also covered by the BSCA when hosting a BSCA event and may need to provide this information. We have had an instance in the past, where one Regional Club, unfortunately, had to spend \$500 to get insurance for an event they were hosting because of a lack of communication and timing. We do not want that to happen to you!!

At this point, we are looking forward to promoting our wonderful Breed by supporting the BSCA, forming new regional clubs, and supporting the existing ones.

g) Awards and Sportsmanship – Linda Brady (Received)

This year at the Banquet we will hand out 99 new title medallions for those 99 dog and handler teams who earned new AKC titles.

28 dogs earned new NON AKC titles

Our committee this year revamped the tie breaker criteria for the Versatility Award and it is listed on the form that is filled out to enter which is on the website. We also added the newer AKC titles to the list and will be adding more in 2017/2018 as AKC is adding Nosework this coming year.

Each year the Versatility Award Participant list grows !

- h) BSCA Store
- i) Constitution
- j) General Education –Sherry Hanley

I took over the General Education Committee the end of December. My duties assigned are to oversee Meet the Breeds and any special awards at National Dog Shows.

I would like to thank Gina O’Gara for donating her time and hard work at Eukenuba.

Your dedication over the years was appreciated.

Welcome Eileen Indorato who volunteered to take over the Royal Canin Championship Dog Show.

Under Events:

In November of 2016 Raritan Belgian Sheepdog Club held a supported entry at the National Dog Show hosted by the Philadelphia Kennel Club. This is a benched show and had a small booth next to our designated benching area. We provided educational material and a nice display of photos. One of the campers we met at Ronald McDonald Camp came by for a visit.

February 4th & 5th Raritan sponsored an educational booth at the annual Canine Learning Experience hosted by the Lehigh Valley KC. It’s a 2 day event and this years theme was “History of the Breed”

The weekend of the Westminster Kennel Club was held February 10-14th. Mary Grace & Emily Buckwalter along with myself attended the AKC’s Meet the Breed in New York City. It’s the largest Meet the Breed and is attended by thousands of people. We’re very proud that our booth was awarded 2nd place. The judges commented on the fact that we provided the history, versatility, & outstanding qualities our breed has to offer by the display of photos we had.

If anyone attends all breed shows that promote Meet the Breeds and would like to participate, please contact me for any assistance.

- k) Judges Education – Linda Robey

The Judges Education Committee consists of: Chair, Linda Robey, committee members Marcy Spalding, Peri Norman, Jill Miller and Sandy Shaw.

Judges Education Seminars:

October 22, 2016, Lisa Leffingwell and Melinda Andric presented the Belgian Comparison seminar at a large workshop in Belton, TX. The ABTC and ABMC both approved her to present for them. Judges in attendance: Alberto Berrios, Daniel Sena, Barbara Palmer, Robert Robnson, Gaye Lynn Todd, Juan Griego, Nancy Griego, Larry Abbott, and Vicki Abbott. Think of these judges if you are planning sweeps in the future.

Mentoring:

October 2016, Julie Felten contacted me about discussing the breed. I directed her to Tim Beihoff since he was in her area. The AKC has approved telephone discussions for credit in the new application process. So be aware you may get phone calls. In addition, potential judges can discuss the breed with you at shows. It would be classified as a kennel visit. See below for the AKC requirements for mentors, it is the italicized area.

Planned education events:

April 27, 2017, A Judges Education workshop is scheduled with the National Specialty. Special thanks to Lisa Leffingwell who will handle the presentation.

JEC members and BSCA-approved mentors continue to provide ringside mentoring at the National and selected Regional specialties. We continue to work with prospective judges on a one-on-one basis as requested.

Outside Communications:

April 21, 2016 - Linda Robey replied to a request by the AKC concerning the parent club mentors. Advised no changes at this time. We are working on updating our information.

August, 2016 – Linda Robey participated in a Judges Education Survey by the Saluki Club of America.

December 2016 – Linda Robey reviewed the AKC guidelines for examining bites. They have produced a chart explaining how to examine the bites on each breed.

Illustrated Standard: Linda Robey is still hopeful that a new illustrated standard can be completed.

Other activities:

Mentors: The AKC has changed the judges application process. The JEC is still working on updating our mentor guidelines. Peri Norman is working on this.

When new judges are studying the breeds they have many options for education. Ringside mentoring and tutoring are a couple of them. The person can be a parent club approved mentor but it does not have to be. The AKC has defined the requirements. The potential Judge should know the requirements when asking you to assist them!!

Here are the AKC requirements for ringside observations:

**Observer may observe with parent club approved mentor or individual with a minimum of 12 years' experience exhibiting or judging the breed in conformation. Observations with mentors not meeting the criteria will not be accepted. (Mentors will be permitted to participate on days they are exhibiting, but should not mentor for classes which they are competing. Mentor should be available for discussion during major entry. Mentors will be asked to document their own experience on the Observation Form when they sign it.)*

Linda Robey continues to answer inquiries from the AKC and the dog magazine editors.

- l) Finance Committee – Cindy Herman
- m) French Style Herding – Peggy Richter

From the first trial in 2014, there have now been 26 trials with an additional 10 trials planned for 2017. Trials have expanded out of California with events in Colorado and planned in Tennessee. In the short time this program has been up and running, this is enormous success. A French style herding trial is planned as part of the BSCA National Specialty in 2018. This event will be open to all Belgians. A certificate for a Gunner Kennel is being offered as prize for high score Belgian Sheepdog, high score Belgian Tervuren, high score Belgian Lakenois and High score Belgian Malinois.

	Date	Type	location	Event #	judge
1	7 Feb 2014	Sheep	Lancaster, ca	2014BSCA01	Roy sage
2	8 Feb 2014	Sheep	Lancaster, ca	2014BSCA02	Roy Sage
3	9 Feb 2014	Sheep	Lancaster, ca	2014BSCA03	Robin Elliott
4	1 Nov 2014 --AM	Cow	Leona valley, CA	2014BSCA04	Linda Holloway
5	1 Nov 2014 --PM	Cow	Leona valley, CA	2014BSCA05	Linda Holloway
6	2 Nov 2014 --AM	Cow	Leona valley, CA	2014BSCA06	Rich Godfrey
7	2 Nov 2014 --PM	Cow	Leona valley, CA	2014BSCA07	Rich Godfrey
8	7 Feb 2015	Sheep	Lancaster, ca	2015BSCA01	Larry Favereau
9	8 Feb 2015	Sheep	Lancaster, ca	2015BSCA02	Larry Favereau
10	1 May 2015 AM	Cow	Leona valley, CA	2015BSCA03	Roy Sage
11	1 May 2015 PM	Cow	Leona valley, CA	2015BSCA04	Roy Sage
12	4 Oct 2015 Sat	Sheep	Lancaster, ca	2015BSCA05	Sean Hathaway
13	5 Oct 2015 sun	Sheep	Lancaster, ca	2015BSCA06	Sean Hathaway
14	13 Feb 2016 am	cow	Leona valley, CA	2016BSCA01	Larry Favereau
15	13 Feb 2016 pm	cow	Leona valley, CA	2016BSCA02	Larry Favereau
16	14 Feb 2016 am	cow	Leona valley, CA	2016BSCA03	Robin Elliott
17	14 Feb 2016 pm	cow	Leona valley, CA	2016BSCA04	Robin Elliott
18	5 March 2016	Sheep	Lancaster, ca	2016BSCA05	Larry Favereau
19	6 March 2016	Sheep	Lancaster, ca	2016BSCA06	Larry Favereau
20	1 Oct 2016	Sheep	Lancaster, ca	2016BSCA07	Roy sage
21	2 Oct 2016	Sheep	Lancaster, ca	2016BSCA08	Roy sage
22	1 may 2016	Sheep	Wellington, Co	2016BSCA09	Roy sage
23	10 July 2016	Sheep	Ft Collins, Co	2016BSCA10	Carol lucero
24	1 oct 2016	Sheep	Lancaster, ca	2016BSCA11	Mary Wisecarver
25	2 Oct 2016	Sheep	Lancaster, ca	2016BSCA12	Mary Wisecarver
26	21 Apr 2017	Sheep	Lancaster, ca	2017BSCA1	Roy Sage
27	22 April 2017	Sheep	Lancaster, ca	2017BSCA2	Roy Sage
28	23 April 2017	Sheep	Lancaster, ca	2017BSCA3	Larry Favereau
29	15 Sept 2017	Sheep	Bell Buckle, TN	2017BSCA4	Roy Sage
30	15 Sept 2017	Cattle	Bell Buckle, TN	2017 BSCA5	Rick Hardin
31	16 Sept 2017	Sheep	Bell Buckle, TN	2017BSCA6	Rick Hardin
32	16 Sept 2017	Cattle	Bell Buckle, TN	2017 BSCA7	Roy sage
33	17 sept 2017	Sheep	Bell Buckle, TN	2017BSCA8	Roy Sage
34	17 Sept 2017	Cattle	Bell Buckle, TN	2017BSCA9	Rick Hardin
35	30 April 2017	Sheep	Wellington, CO	2017BSCA10	Ken Theus
36	9 July 2017	Sheep	Wellington, CO	2017BSCA11	TO BE DETERMINED

Forty dogs have earned legs and/or titles in the program (see attachment) 13 of these are Belgian Sheepdogs, 7 are Belgian Tervuren. Additional dogs have run but not qualified. The first trial outside California was held 1 May, 2016 in Colorado. The trials have uniformly been successful, with handlers expressing appreciation of the program and the type of work the dogs are expected to do as well as the scoring system. Additional sites have inquired about having events in their locale.

Some minor comments as a result of the program to date:

1. The original program did not specify a “tie breaker” and doesn’t discuss time to run in the course. After consulting with traditional judges in France as to the methodology employed in the traditional course there, the following recommendations are made:

- a. TIME is never to be a tie breaker and in fact, while a general “time for the course” may be set by either a “dog in white” (an unentered dog demonstrating the course) or the first dog to run, penalties for overrunning this time should only be assessed if there is lack of progress. Stock should ideally never be run on the course as the intent is to demonstrate good stockmanship with an eye to weight gain and care of the stock. Stock should ideally WALK thru the course.
- b. Tie breakers may be set based on the overall work followed by conduct and maneuver. (see attached scoresheet). The scoring is designed to favor the higher level classes.

2. the jump. It is traditional to have a dog jump into the enclosure for the “take pen” portion. Originally, this was based on traditional type pens (rock built) or railing where the dog could easily climb or slip through the panels. In a program where a variety of different breeds may participate and where the Belgians involved may be either at the small end of the standard or the tall end of the standard and of varying ages, it is recommended that either a means to climb over/ slip thru be provided or a jump of no more than 24’ be used or that the dog simply enter the pen through the gate ahead of the handler and then keep the stock from escaping while the handler enters.

The following judging guidelines are recommended:

It is not the intent of these guidelines to provide specific penalties for stated infractions. In general, Judging should be on efficient, practical work as if evaluating an actual shepherd or herdsman doing a daily task. Stock should be walked, not run. Good stockmanship is to be rewarded. Teams that accomplish the course in reasonable order should qualify. The ideal is calm, confident control of the livestock and deviations from this ideal should be penalized to the degree they depart from that ideal. It should be remembered that this type of course and evaluation was initially instituted to encourage the average stock owner to exhibit their working dogs and not primarily for professional competitors. While an excellent team should always score highly, excellence should also be accorded the calm, if not flashy, competent stock work.

1. The course should, as much as possible, emulate real life type tasks. Consequently, where possible and practical a task involving crossing a real bridge or a bridge where water or other hazard is created is to be preferred to artificial ones. A real road or path is preferred. Obstacles such as passing through a lane of trees, turning past an actual field are to be preferred. It is, however, also understood that artificial obstacles such as free standing panels are necessary in a competition course.

2. The judge is allowed, and indeed ENCOURAGED, to plot out a course or to modify a proposed course keeping to the essence of the requirements of the program. This is desired to preclude any “course trained” or “course patterned” livestock or drilling by handler/dog teams on a specific, known route with known static obstacles. Reverse directions, mirror imaging, or relocation of obstacles are all allowed. Innovation (turn at tractor and circle back, turn here and go thru that lane) is encouraged. CONSEQUENTLY, a judge should be secure in the level of tasks being imposed and their ease or difficulty given the resident livestock and if possible, a judge should run the course themselves either the day before or as a demo at the beginning of the

trial to both demonstrate what is desired and to ensure that the time estimate is reasonably accurate. TIME may be adjusted. It is not the intent to penalize a team that is making reasonable progress simply because they overrun the expected time. On the other hand, clear lack of progress should be penalized.

3. Particularly in advanced levels, the judge may set up tasks that none of the contestants would be expected to accomplish without flaw (an example would be an animal going off line on a road or not penning all the stock without a few tries). Solving a difficulty with good stockmanship and without a disaster is part of the evaluation.

4. As this style is intended to emulate tending type tasks, except where specifically required (such as work at a distance), the handler should always be in close proximity to the livestock. The position of the handler may vary (in front, to the side, behind), but they should be part of the group.

5. Dog and handler teams that accomplish the course in a reasonable stockmanlike fashion should pass. The intent of the program is to promote dogs that could reasonably be expected to be of value in a real farm/ranch system using tending techniques.

6. LIVESTOCK should be in good physical condition. Each head may be used up to 10 times. A judge should consider sheep or cattle as in riding horses – a fit, well-conditioned animal can be moved at a reasonable pace for most of a day. An unfit animal cannot. Rest periods and water should be accorded to animals at reasonable periods (as providing water during a graze period or in providing water and rest when alternating stock. Animals showing distress (panting, etc) should immediately be removed from the group and if necessary to keep the numbers required, replaced.

7. Livestock should be well accustomed to being worked in a tending type style by the types of dogs entered. Animals which panic at the calm approach of a dog are not well accustomed. Livestock should calmly accept the dog's presence and control. It is not necessary to use "specially trained" livestock, but it is not appropriate to use animals which have not been well familiarized with dogs working in a typical tending style (close working, upright dogs).

8. Course times: It is absolutely NOT desired that a run become an "agility trial " meaning entrants will run their course just concerned about making a good time and neglecting the work's quality. The course should ideally show respect for stock and possibly an actual display of good stockmanship and maneuver for spectators. Dogs making good progress and running over time should be penalized one point per minute. Where a majority of the dogs have run over, the time should be adjusted to reflect the longer course times. A dog that has had difficulty or is particularly slow shall be allowed 4-5 minutes past the end time before time called. Workmanship is the priority, not speed. A GENEROUS allocation of time for the course should be set. Usual time for level I is 10-15 mn. Level II (brevet) is 20-25mn. Level III is 35-40mn. But this may vary based on the difficulty of the course. Lack of progress, however, is a reason for calling time or limiting tries on an obstacle.

- n) Future Messenger Dog – Anabelle Cambier
BSCA MESSENGER DOG COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2017

Last year was super busy for the Messenger Dog Committee. We evaluated 63 new Messenger Dogs, 61 of them at the 2016 National Specialty in Maryland. While we were there, Terry Brown mentioned that he'd like to see at least 100 new Messenger Dogs in the 2017 in Ohio. So if you get this report before the evaluations, please give Terry a hand by bringing your Belgian out for the fun. Also, please see if there is anything you can do to help Terry: with 100 Belgians he'll have his hands full!

The Messenger Committee is thrilled that Terry Brown volunteered to evaluate at the 2017 National. When we were creating the evaluation brochures a few years ago, Terry and his Belgians volunteered to test all the elements to see if what we had written would be clear to a newcomer to the sport. Terry then went to the 2012 National in PA that year and observed and helped with evaluations. It's been an honor to have his continued input and support.

Another person we'd like to mention is Nikki Puccini. Nikki is our latest committee member and a welcome addition. The Messenger Committee does many things, but we aren't a time consuming committee. If anyone else would like to join us, please don't hesitate. We always look forward to new members.

We plan to have many Committee members attending the 2018 National. This will be a big event with a combination of Belgians attending. It'll be a wonderful opportunity for the BSCA to introduce the other Belgian clubs to our Messenger program and to provide materials regarding its historical significance to all of our dogs. We plan a display and literature handouts highlighting the support work of Belgian Groenendael, Lakenois, Malinois and Tervuren through the years. We plan to have a special area where all participants can photo their dogs wearing the vintage military jacket.

We're working on videos of the evaluation exercises. There are many things we can cover in our "A Message For You" column in the BSCA newsletter, but not everyone who comes for the test will see that column. And even for club members, it would be helpful to see dogs and handlers actually doing each exercise. If there is room on the BSCA Messenger web page, we would like to post the videos there.

The Messenger Dog Committee does not have a budget. At each National Specialty we hand over all the money we have collected to the Show Committee for that year's Specialty. Furthermore, all the items we give away are paid for and donated by the Committee members. Each year, Jean-Luc Cambier buys the dog tags and Annabelle Cambier sews the ribbons. With two major moves in the last two years, there was simply not enough time to sew ribbons for the 2017. The Committee will ask the Board for a budget so that we might be able to purchase premade ribbons for the 2018 or ask the club to purchase them as they do the other ribbons and rosettes if that is simpler. Then, the dog tags can be attached to the purchased ribbons. In addition to the dog tags that the Messenger Committee gives out at the Nationals, we have given bandanas and other mementos that have been donated by the Committee members themselves. But with all the dogs expected at the 2018, this may stretch our personal budgets. At one time, the Messenger Committee had some nice items made for sale, including some great patches of our logo. We will be talking with the Board about the possibility of funds to have the patches made again. The patches would be sold at the National rather than be giveaways.

Our database for Messenger Dogs is coming along and eventually we hope to include it on the BSCA Messenger Dog web page. The Messenger Committee looks forward to putting your dog's name in that database!

In closing we would like to thank our BSCA Board Liaison, Cynthia Ryder, for her support. And we'd also like to thank our past Liaison, Pat Snow for her continued encouragement. We are very grateful to have a Board that believes in honoring this part of our Belgians' history. And to the BSCA membership, thank you for letting us play Messenger with your dogs, that's the very best part!

o) Health Committee – Rory Friedow

BSCA Health Committee Report- Rory Friedow DVM The Health Committee is open to suggestions on projects to pursue or changes needed in our health requirements for CHIC etc. I would like to see the BSCA add thyroid certification to its requirements at some point. The Belgian Sheepdog currently ranks 105th in the OFA thyroid statistics, with a respectable normal percentage of 85. My concern is that since 1974 only 335 dogs have been certified and many times dogs with known problems are not submitted.

Gastric carcinoma research is ongoing and hopefully will give us an update soon. Much exciting research is now being focused on canine epilepsy in regards to treatment and identifying non-genetic components.

p) Judges Selection – Rachelle Bailey Austin

Stage Two for 2018 will go out while everyone is at the National
Expect a short turn around time! Everyone VOTE!

q) Jr. Showmanship – Samantha Niemeck

We have 4 juniors actively showing in AKC shows.

Carmen Walker

BIS MBISS Bronze Gch. Cíobolas Brazos De Dios of Adagio HOF “Brazos”

In 2016, Carmen Walker and Brazos finished up the year as the Number One Junior Handler in Belgian Sheepdogs. Carmen is thirteen years old and a straight A student at the Millikan School for the Performing Arts in Los Angeles, California. Her other interests include dance and theatre. At the Beaumont Kennel Club Dog Show, held in Houston, Texas, Carmen and Brazos perfected their conformation performance and earned themselves first place in the class and winning Reserve Best Junior Handler. Not to mention, defeating thirty-nine other Junior Handlers! We plan to continue to see these two only improve and grow closer than before as they enter the junior ring together.

Kenna Fox

Ch. Hobbitor's Inola PT “Nola”

Besides showing her dog Nola in Junior Showmanship, Kenna Fox also received the prestigious Best Opposite Sex award at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show last year under Mr. Walter J. Sommerfelt. Kenna not only shows extreme interests in dog showing, but is a very hard

working student and athlete! She was invited to the 2016 AAU Junior Olympic Games for Track and Field! Way to go, Kenna!

Emily Dobler

Verseau's Quintessential Player "Quint"

Emily and Quint have had many wins in the past year in Junior Showmanship and Conformation. Emily is fourteen years old and lives in Hillsboro, Oregon. Her interests include volleyball and track while Quint participates in search and rescue! Let's be on the lookout for this exciting team!

Kristen Kish

Now, let's introduce our newest junior, Kristen Kish! I hope to eventually meet up with this incredible team and follow their whereabouts in the conformation and performance world!

- r) Legislative Action – Peggy Richter
- s) Mediation and Arbitration – Cara Greger
- t) Membership Committee – Penny King

In July of 2016, I sent out membership recruitment letters to the following persons, based upon the list provided to me by Claire. I compared the list from Claire to the current list of members to come up with the parties that I would be sending recruitment letters to. I also included a copy of our newsletter with each recruitment letter.

Jim McDaniels

Roxanne & Matt Chumbley

Patricia & Winter Ginocchio

Susan Parodi

Linda Davis

Judith Hoffman

Lise & Charles Mason

Francoise Maxwell

Florence B. Archer

Connie Richards

Suzanne Roble

Catherine Cathey

I did not receive any response from the letters.

Along with the letter and newsletter, I had included a code of ethics form and membership application.

I have not been advised as to whether any of these parties applied for membership.

I will be contacting Claire to see if she has any new prospects for me to contact.

Respectfully Submitted,

BSCA Membership Committee

Melanie B. Reiswig

The renewal went very smoothly this year with the ease of paypal. Compared to the last few years, I am thrilled to say that our renewal rate was very high, so hoping that means the club is doing something

right and hanging on to members! Committee member Melanie Reiswig received a report from Claire Trethewey listing non-members with BSD who have earned titles. Melanie then sent them congratulatory letters, an introduction to the club and a copy of the newsletter - hoping to recruit some new folks.

Respectfully,
Penny King

u) Merit Achievement – Lynn Sharkey

Committee members: Linda Brady, Karen Hodges, Viola Dyer, Tami Worley, Lorra Accord Miller, Barbara Swisher, Lynn Sharkey, Chair.

Sixteen dogs received a Merit Award for 2016 as follows:

Obedience Hall of Fame: 1

Breed Hall of Fame: 1

Agility Hall of Fame: 3

Registry of Merit: 2

Working Dog-Competitor: 5

Working Dog-Excellent Competition: 4

There were no additions or changes to the Merit Awards this year.

As a reminder, as of January 2017, the Registry of Merit qualifications have changed. (voted in at the BSCA annual meeting 2016)

The changes will be added to the qualifications on the website and also will be printed in the BSCA newsletter with all other Merit forms at the end of the year.

Changes that were made: adding performance titles as a qualification for the Get of the dogs/bitches applying.

Sire applying: 100 points with a minimum of 10 Breed Champions and a minimum of 10 performance titles with 2 advanced titled Get.

Dam applying: 50 points with a minimum of 5 Breed Champions and a minimum of 5 performance titles with 2 advanced titled Get.

Points/titles available are listed on the ROM form.

v) National Specialty Advisory – Melinda Andric

The Committee has worked with and answered questions from Mary Stephens, 2017 Show Co-Chair and Lorra Miller, 2018 Show Chair. Some questions were answered directly and some were referred to the Board. No activity for 2019 as of yet.

w) Outstanding Sportsmanship – Julie Coding

x) Performance Events – Bonnie Leonard

y) Sunshine – Pat Porter

z) AKC Gazette – Barb Trezza

I'm very happy to have been approved to be the AKC Gazette Columnist for the Belgian Sheepdogs. My first column has already been printed and my second is in the works.

There will not be a "report" regarding the National, as the AKC feels

National Specialties are written about in many different places. I have several ideas for my next column but would certainly entertain the ideas of any one who would like a specific topic mentioned. I have several copies of the AKC Complete Dog Book going back to the 1940's and I may make a comparison of how various parts of the Standard have changed. I've also had the opportunity to attend the National Obedience/Rally Championships and have recently worked for 4 days on regular Obedience & Rally Trials, so, perhaps I may write about various points of view regarding Belgians and Obedience and Rally. I hope the columns I write will be educational and entertaining for all!!
Barbara L Trezza
barbthom@comcast.net

Unfinished Business

a) AKC Exploratory Committee – Lorra Miller

To the BSCA Board of Directors

Our committee's mission was to explore registration options for the Belgian breeds. The ABMC also formed a committee to explore the same issues.

I flew to Raleigh NC and on March 17th, 2017 I met with Mari-Beth O'Neill who is a Senior Vice President with the AKC and explained I was chairing a BSCA committee to explore registration options along with Marcy Spalding and Peri Norman.

The first item I brought up was the technicality that an AKC registered Belgian Sheepdog that is phenotypically looks like a Belgian Tervuren can be sold to another country and registered in that country as a Belgian Shepherd of the Tervuren variety, and even compete, title and be bred in that country to another Belgian Shepherd of the Tervuren variety. However offspring from an officially registered litter in that country can not be registered in the US as one parent is already in the AKC database as Belgian Sheepdog. However a Belgian Tervuren from two Belgian Shepherds of the Groenendael varieties can be registered with the AKC as long as neither parent is in the AKC database as a Belgian Sheepdog. It is confusing to everyone and has caused registrations to be pulled from individual imported dogs and their offspring.

If all the Belgian parent clubs request the AKC Board to respect the country of origin's registration and not consider the AKC registration status of the import's parents then it may be changed. It currently penalizes US breeders.

The second item I brought up was the concept of "register as they drop".

In the case of the Belgian Sheepdog breed, the gene that produces Tervuren puppies is recessive, that gene can be masked by the dominant black gene for many generations. Then it can show up and two black Belgian Sheepdogs that carry the gene can produce a puppy, or puppies, that are phenotypically Belgian Tervuren. Currently the only option is to register them as Belgian Sheepdogs. In other countries they would be registered as Belgian Shepherds of the Tervuren variety.

Some AKC Belgian Sheepdog breeders export their Belgian Tervuren puppies to other countries, some place them as pets and, in some cases, co-own them and use them in their breeding program. The AKC may be willing to provide the option to register them as Belgian Tervuren if all the Belgian clubs requested this be allowed. The details would have to be worked out with the AKC .

This would keep show quality puppies, that might currently be exported outside of the US, here in the US to be shown at AKC shows and bred to other Belgian Tervuren and their offspring would then be registered with the AKC as Belgian Tervuren.

No changes would be made to existing Belgian breed clubs or to how the Belgian breeds are shown at AKC events. Breeding of AKC Belgian Sheepdogs to AKC Belgians of a different breed would not be allowed. The proposal to “register as they drop” would simply give breeders options when filling out paperwork to register their litters.

I presented the results of our meeting to Linda Friedow, chair of the ABMC committee exploring registration options. I recently heard from Mrs Friedow that her committee unanimously supported our committee's recommendations on the registration changes we discussed and will draft a version applicable to the Belgian Malinois.

Motion by Lorra Miller that the BSCA board write a letter to the Board of the Directors of the AKC and request they respect the country of origin's registration as to the breed of the imported Belgian as they normally do. A breed status of a parent in the AKC database will not affect the registration status of imported puppy or dog. 2nd Mary Grace Buckwalter Motion passes with Simple Majority

Motion was made to table the previous motion. 2nd by Marion Heise Motion failed

Motion by Kathy Champine to recess for 15 minutes. 2nd Cindy Herman. Motion Failed

Motion by Lorra Miller to have the BSCA board request AKC allow breeders be given the option to accurately registere puppies in their litters as to the Belgian breed they actually are. 2nd Marion Heise Motion Passes by Simple Majority

New Business

- a) Announcement of 2017/18 BOC
 - a. President – Cara Greger
 - b. 1st VP – Sherry Hanley
 - c. 2nd VP Penny King
 - d. Treasurer- Cindy Herman
 - e. Recording Secretary – Jana Behm
 - f. Corresponding Secretary – Julie Fiechter
 - g. Board Members – Jan Powers, Kathay Lovell, Barb Trezza
- b) Newsletter Motions
 - a. Mary Grace Buckwalter moves to put up for silent, blind bid the use of the front and back covers of the directory, under Newsletter ad policies, for the purpose of providing directories to our Lifetime members. 2nd Jana Behm Motion Passes with Simple Majority
 - b. Mary Grace Buckwalter moves that the newsletter accept and publish advertisements for dogs that include one of the following: 1) actual health clearances, 2) Spayed/neutered clearances 3) health clearances have not yet been performed to date 2nd. Estelle Brienens Motion Passes by Simple Majority
- c) Jr. Showmanship Motion and Discussion
 - a. Motion by Terri Votava for the BSCA to more actively promote participation for Juniors.
- d) Request for Ballot counting committee for 2018 elections
 - a. Ramona Craft
 - b. Christine Staten
 - c. Cindy Ryder

Alternates: Sarah Rosecrans and Kitty Halton Bernes

- e) Motion by Marion Heise to accept the ballot counting committee 2nd Anny Marie Lynch Motion Passes with Simple Majority
- f) If you would like to be on the Nominating committee – please contact the board by October 15th.
- g) BSDRT Report Karen Scott
Belgian Sheepdog Rescue Trust
April 2017
As always, Belgian Sheepdog Rescue Trust would like to thank the members of the BSCA, and all our tireless volunteers throughout the country for their support this past year. We could not do what we do without you!
Once again, we had a very busy year!
58+ individuals contacted us with questions/requests
53 adoption applications were completed
18 volunteered their service to either transpot/ID or foster
16 dogs were surrendered to us
2 were returned to their breeder

8 dogs we were contacted about were declined for various reasons
(aggression/bitehistory/change of heart)

13 dogs have been placed in new homes

1 dog is still in foster care but should be available for adoption soon

Two new area coordinator positions were filled this last year,

Sharon Lafuse graciously accepted to volunteer to fill the vacancy of our Heartland

Coordinator, This position became open when Sharon Roundy resigned to devote more time to personal obligations. We "get that" and thank her for her years of service!

Our new Sharon, has computer skills as well, and has been working on updating some of our out of date material while she waits for things to get busy in her area of the country! We are very grateful to have her as a part of our Rescue team! Please thank her personally if you happen to see her at the Specialty!

Patti Liermann who has owned Belgians over the years has also graciously stepped up to become the Volunteer Coordinator for both the Pacific North and South West. Formerly from Colorado, she is now a West Coast native. Patti is eager to learn the ropes and promises to be a great asset; especially to Marion Lloyd, who has done a great job trying to say grace over that area for a long time. She and I are both happy to have someone in place living in the "time zone" and with new connections in the area!

We are very excited to now have an official Donation Page on our website (thanks to the work of David Jackson & Cindy Herman). This will now allow anyone visiting the BSCA Rescue website, should they feel inclined, to instantly make a donation through PayPal or by Credit Card, in addition to writing a check. The number of BSD surrenders continues to grow, and we are hopeful that this update will bring us additional support. For those of you who are doing estate planning, please keep us in mind as well. It is truly a simple and painless process to include BSDRT in your final plans and one that means a great deal to this breed we all love so much.

Thank you again and please remember to stop by our Rescue Raffle while you are visiting the show!

- h) Motion by Marion Heise to provide electronic version of BSCA Membership to those members who request it. 2nd Kathy Champine Motion Passes with Simple Majority
- i) Please visit the website and check to see what committees are available to join and which ones need chairs. Contact the board with your interest.

Motion to adjourn by Jan Powers. Multiple 2nds. Motion Passes

Adjournment at 10:06 PM EST