

NAFA Board of Directors Annual General Meeting January 26th, 2019

Hosted by Animal House Flyball Club, Polk County Fairgrounds, 520 S Pacific Hwy W, Rickreall, OR 97371

Meeting started at 5:40 pm

Board members in attendance: Aaron Robbins, Emma Mak, John Hendriks, Steve Corona, Kim Davis, Lynda Mantler, Leerie Jenkins, Dana Hanson, Dirk Elber

Steve Corona, chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. As the Executive Director, Neil Flood was unable to attend he sends his regrets and regards.

Thank you to Animal House for the hospitality and to region 7. Thank you to Dan Wood, Regional Director for all the hard work that he has done for the region.

Thank you to Jonae Waldroop from region 7 for her organization of a successful flyball demo at the Clark County Event Center in Ridgefield, Oregon in December 2018. The event received positive newspaper coverage and helped promote NAFA flyball.

NAFA stats:

NAFA AGM Statistics for FY2018

of events hosted: 354

of states: 36 different States/Provinces

of unique clubs hosting: 121

of teams that raced in the events: 7522

of clubs represented: 300

of total club entries: 3509

of teams by class:

Regular: 2978

Multibreed: 659

Open: 3733

Veterans: 140

CanAm: 8

CanAm-Multi: 4

of new titles: 5614

of new Iron Dogs: 177

of dogs earning titles: 2805

of points during the year: 12,342,226

of dogs earning points during the year: 4643

of different breeds earning points during the year: 141

of new dogs registered: 680

What we normally do to get started is we have a trivia question! We have a nice prize for our winner. I will read off the question and the closest answer, without going over, wins. Our board members are walking around with pens and paper for everyone.

Here is our question:

Without going over, how many dogs debuted in region 7 in the 2018 racing year? 24 dogs

How many points were earned by those dogs in the 2018 racing year? 21,060

Winner was Chris Adiletta

Results of elections were given.

Announcement of New Officers: I am pleased to announce that our Board of Directors have elected the following individuals as our Officers:

- Chairman of the Board: Steve Corona

- Vice Chairman: John Hendriks

- Secretary: Lynda Mantler

- Treasurer: Dana Hanson

Special thank you for Kim Davis for serving two 3-year terms as secretary on the board. A commemorative plaque was presented to Kim.

Q & A:

Joy Adiletta - Any progress with the new measuring device and the data that was gathered at CanAm

The data has been correlated and the board had a first review of the data at the meeting yesterday. Determination will need to be made to match the measurements with the jump heights.

Lindsey Campbell - Why after asking for a delegate vote and receiving feedback from delegates did we not just go with the 1" height drop?

The board looks at a lot of different things, such as different measuring devices. A new measurement device was not at the forefront when the question was posed. It is not the desire of the board to drop the jump height and then bring in a further change with a new measuring device. Once the investigation regarding the new measuring device is complete, a decision will be made.

Bill Carter - A dog in region 16 earned 200,000 points. Is there any consideration for having a title, award for that level of points earned?

We are not currently looking at an award for that level of points.

Randy Kenzie – Are there changes to types of balls that can be used?

Splash, pool balls will not be able to be used. The object does not conform because it is not round. It also does not hold its shape.

Lea Reisig - When is the rule coming into effect?

if they are being used here it's ok, but after this tournament is over they should not be used.

Steve O'Donnell - Region 16 lights do not seem to perform as well as the lights that have been used at this tournament. Can we have an update on the what is happening with the light replacements.

Prototype is now being tested. Runs off cordless DeWalt batteries instead of disposable batteries.

Timing lights are also being looked at. New units will be lighter and cost less to ship. Parts in the EJS are getting harder to find.

Joy Adiletta – Will the new systems work with the APES system?

Yes, they will be compatible.

Dan Wood - Why don't we see an RFI come out and request the info and be able to respond to it?

We have not done that. Farm Tech owns some of that code that needs to be shared to do the programming and non disclosures have been signed.

Dave Thomas has been working on this and is contributing a lot of time with no fee.

Online sanctioning of tournaments is being investigated.

A more paperless system is being looked at.

Lindsey Campbell - How can we give input to the technology committee regarding items that are up for changes?

Send your input and suggestions to: Technology@flyball.org

Lea Reisig - Red 4 lights have had issues and Yellow 8 lights are not up to standard.

We need to know that there is an issue with the lights so that it can be addressed. Spare part kits are needed. John Hendriks will address that issue.

Wendy Scott - Could we have a light system in each region?

The plan is to have 'parked' systems so that they will not have to be shipped. Individuals could also purchase a light.

Kristie Burke - In travelling to other regions, her team has found that their seeding and schedules are available sooner than in region 7. Is there a rule for when this needs to be available?

The rule is 48 hours before the tournament start.

Dan Wood addressed this. Sometimes there are late changes, such as teams dropping out due to illness or injury. If this happens then he will rework the seeding and schedule so that there are not a lot of ghost races. The week before the tournament the schedule and seeding are completed.

Joy Adiletta - Can we get the seeding the week before. Clubs practice the weekend prior to the tournament.

Dan Wood's turnaround time is 2 days from when he receives them. It is in the hands of the host club after that.

Kevin Moberg - Bonus point rule that was just made. Is it typical to make significant changes without consultation from the public. With the bonus points, there may be more need for higher title awards. The 20% extra somewhat dilutes the titles that were earned previously.

If we took everything to a delegate vote we would never get anything done. We have tried to get more input before making big changes. The board continues to work on improved communication. We try to do what is best for the dogs, what is best for the sport and to grow the sport.

Jessica Knox - If we aren't going to vote on it, can we get notice of what is being discussed so that input can be provided.

Agendas are posted and minutes are also posted on the NAFA website.

Lea Reisig - Thrilled that the board did away with false starts, but why do we have a practice start?

Because every handler except the start person gets to practice their pass. The practice start is at the option of the start dog handler.

It has sped up the day, it has lessened wear and tear on the start dog and made the start position a position of skill.

Wendy Scott - Is the board looking at moving CanAm?

A lot goes into that event. Equipment is being stored in Indianapolis. Logistically very difficult to move CanAm. If anyone would like to send suggestions of a new venue, the board would look at it. The venue is 147,000 square feet.

We are on the vendors show rotation and losing them would have a significant financial impact to the event.

Kristie Burke - It is not feasible for teams on this side of the country to attend CanAm. It would be nice to have it at another venue once in a while.

Joy Adiletta - We are an island in region 7. It is difficult when someone wants to become a judge. Would it be possible for NAFA to send a supervising judge to the region once a year.

Great suggestion.

Lindsey Campbell - Initial runback area. Any guidelines to where line judges should sit? The concern is that feet or flags get into the racing lane and could spook the dog.

Suggestion is that flags on sticks not be used. Line judges are an integral part of the race and should continue to sit at the start/finish line outside of the racing lane.

Randy Kenzie -Make a rule no flags on a stick.

Steve, send in the suggestion so that we have something to consider.

Laura Brieske - 50 ' is not enough length for runback. Is there thought to increase the minimum runback? 50' runback is dangerous for all dogs and people.

Cheryl Wood - Shouldn't every tournament that is sanctioned include everyone. A short runback excludes teams that need more runback due to. It is a safety issue.

Clubs need to decide if it is safe for their dogs to run at a tournament. It is not a requirement to run at every tournament in order to be in contention to win Regional Champion.

Approximately 10% of tournaments have less than 60' runback

Finding venues is an issue that we have struggled with in the past.

Joy Adiletta - If runback is an issue and cost is an issue. Would it be possible for NAFA to provide financial assistance to find venues that have a longer runback.

The short answer is no. We have significant expenses coming up to replace lights, etc and NAFA does not have a large slush fund. To subsidize one group, someone else is going to pay for it.

Laci Wentland - What is the best way to send a proposal to the board. Should it be from an individual, club, petition? She had examples such as widening the jumps and changing the box dimensions.

It should be sent to the board at large and it will be directed to the appropriate committee. Send your proposals together in one correspondence. Petitions would not necessarily carry more weight.

Cheryl Wood – As a point of interest, half of region 7 is not here; they are in Canada, and the exchange rate on the dollar is prohibitive.

Kim Davis motioned to adjourn the meeting.

John Hendriks seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.