



Atlanta Kennel Club *DIGEST*

Atlanta Kennel Club Newsletter

February 2024

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Jerry Cerasini
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ponyguru@aol.com

Gilda Mallik
(770) 394-4098
gilndon@comcast.net

February Meeting

February 21, 2024

Program

You Can Help Our Shows Succeed, Have Fun, and Make Money at the Peach Blossom!

Have you ever thought about the person who hands you the armband before you go into the ring? Who are they? How did they get there? What are they doing, exactly? And do they get paid? This month we'll do a deep dive into the wonderful world of being a dog show steward - assisting the judge, ensuring the ring runs smoothly, and making money while they do it! Ring Stewards could be exhibitors with time on their hands and a desire to help, they could be people who supplement their income by working weekends at dog shows, they could be people thinking of becoming a judge and fulfilling the pre-application ring stewarding requirement, and they could be you! Join us for our February meeting and see if you want to deepen your understanding of dog shows while making some extra \$\$\$ as a ring steward.

Presenter: Diane Pegram—Diane has been a conformation and performance steward for approximately 20 years. She also shows her dogs in conformation and performance events. Diane feels that stewarding is not only fun but a great way to learn from your time with judges..

Dinner Menu

Lasagna (beef) with salad, garlic rolls, and cannoli for dessert. Soft drinks, iced tea, water, and regular coffee are included. Specialty coffees and alcohol are not included.

Location

Aldo's Italian Restaurant, 6690 Roswell Rd NE, Sandy Springs, GA 30328, Phone 404-252-4832
Directions: Aldo's is on the northwest corner of Roswell Rd. and Abernathy Rd. in Sandy Springs, just outside the perimeter and west of 400. Parking is behind the restaurant in the Sandy Springs Crossing shopping center.

Time: Gather at 6:45, Business Meeting at 7:30, Program at 8:00 p.m.

RESERVATIONS ARE **REQUIRED** IF YOU PLAN TO DINE WITH US!

You are not required to have dinner, but a **reservation is absolutely necessary** if you want to dine with us. Join us for dinner, or come about 7:30 for dessert and coffee (or other soft beverage). Reservations are required for either option. The business meeting will start about 7:30 and the program will start at 8:00.

Make your dinner reservation on the website or by emailing **Lisa Hall** at lisahall888@comcast.net NO LATER than Sunday evening, **February 18th**. If you make a reservation and do not attend you will be billed for your meal. Please bring cash or personal check to the meeting, or pay by Zelle from your mobile banking app or your bank's website. Send to this email: TheAtlantaKennelClub@gmail.com. The app should confirm the email that you entered and say that it is enrolled in Zelle as "Atlanta Kennel Club". Please enter "[month] dinner meeting" or "[month] dessert" in the message section before you click send. **NOTE: You must use your mobile banking app or your bank's website.** It will not accept payments from the Zelle app.

Price for dinner: \$30 adults and \$15 for children under 12

Price for dessert and coffee only: \$10

If you have special dietary needs, please mention this to Lisa when you make your reservations. If you decide to attend after the RSVP deadline, you can order food from the menu. Just be sure to let us know so we can hold your seat!

See page 4 for the report of the Nominating Committee.

Cards and Flowers

If you know of a member who's going through a tough time, please let Jerry Cerasini and Sandy Weaver know. Email them at ponyguru@aol.com and golfndogs@att.net

Membership

Prospective new members:

Sabine Teague

Rome, Ga. 30161

snowberrydogs@yahoo.com

Breeds: Poodle

Sponsors: Michelle Conroy, Carol Simmons

Sara Ayres

Atlanta, GA 30318

saraayres@hotmail.com

Breed: Standard Poodle

Sponsors: Carol Simmons, James Conroy

Kelly Edwards

Ball Ground, Ga. 30107

kellyedwards0707@gmail.com

Breed: Irish Terrier

Sponsors: Pat Joyce, Hannah Yi

New Members - none in December

Do you have a friend who loves dogs? Invite them to attend a meeting with you. It's a great way to introduce friends to the sport that includes their furry best friend! You can also refer them to Gilda Mallik – gilndon@comcast.net

Member of the Month

Congratulations to our member of the month for February:

Hannah Yi

Minutes

If you are reading the Digest online, please remember that the minutes of the board meetings are posted on the website under the Members Login tab.

[Members Login - Atlanta Kennel Club](#)

Webmaster

Jim Macke - jimmacke@comcast.net or Mary Ellen Macke - maryellenmacke@gmail.com,

404-310-5933. Call or email either Mary Ellen or Jim for website questions or help.

Do not forget to like us on FACEBOOK! Do you have something to post?

Tamara Brower is the Facebook Administrator for the **Atlanta Kennel Club** and the **Peach Blossom Cluster**. Contact Tamara at tamarabrower@gmail.com.



Find us on:
facebook®

Birthdays

Pat Klausman - Feb 01

Kellie Holbrook - Feb 03

Karen Mays - Feb 04

Alison Lowe - Feb 09

Joyce Osburn - Feb 14

Gail LaBerge - Feb 15

Amy Caple - Feb 16

Marcene Perry - Feb 17

Sherry Buchla - Feb 17

Melanie Barnes - Feb 18

Rebecca Kestle, DVM - Feb 19

Nathan McClung - Feb 19

Sheila O'Brien - Feb 20

Gary Oller - Feb 23

Amanda Lunsford - Feb 24

Ralph Bates - Feb 26

Anniversaries

Kathryn & James Dodd - Feb 13

Becky Norton - Feb 21

Linda & John Schuemacher - Feb 22

Mary & Gary Johnson - Feb 23

Editor's Note: A lot of our members didn't include birthday and/or anniversary info when they joined. If you'd like your special day(s) recognized here, please send the info to me – digest@atlantakennelclub.org

So, You're Thinking About Judging...

If you're thinking about becoming a conformation judge, you'll need to do some stewarding assignments as part of the application process. Luckily you belong to a club that is delighted to help you get those assignments. Atlanta Kennel Club has a long history of members steward at our shows. If you'd like an assignment, please contact Mary Ellen Macke, maryellenmacke@gmail.com, to let us know of your interest!

AKC Legislative Alert

February 8, 2024

<https://www.akc.org/legislative-alerts/u-s-congress-ask-lawmakers-oppose-harmful-radical-change-federal-breeder-regulations/>

Club officers and Legislative Liaisons: Please forward this alert to your club members.

A bill to allow the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to circumvent USDA animal experts in enforcing federal breeder licensing and potentially undermine the current hobby breeder exemptions for USDA licensing is gaining traction in Congress.

Your U.S. Senators and Representative need to hear from you TODAY! Let them know you are a constituent and **ask them to not sponsor or support H.R. 5041/S. 2555**. Scroll down for details and contact information.

About the Bill: [H.R.5041/ Senate Bill 2555](#), the so-called “Better CARE for Animals Act”, circumvents enforcement of dog breeder licensing under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and shifts authority to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). *This shift would move oversight authority from an agency staffed by animal experts that focuses on improving animal husbandry; and instead place it with one with little or no animal expertise that focuses on violations as potential federal crimes.*

The bill would also empower the DOJ to file charges, seize animals and impose penalties regardless of whether USDA has determined or even alleged that there has been a violation of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

Additionally, the measure could potentially undermine or remove current exemptions from licensing for small hobby breeders, thereby requiring them to be licensed and comply with USDA standards.

Your Representatives in the U.S. House and Senate need to hear opposition to this bill TODAY!

Visit AKC’s Legislative Action Center at www.akcgr.org and type your address in the “Find Your Elected Officials” box to find out who represents you and get their contact information. ***Please call or email their offices today.***

Use the talking points below when reaching out to them.

Talking Points:

- Explain you are a constituent.
- Ask them to oppose H.R. 5041/S. 2555, the so-called “Better Care for Animals Act”.
- Tell them it will do precisely the opposite of its name by removing crucial animal experts from the chain of animal welfare oversight. Removing subject matter expertise will undermine both animal care and enforcement of violations.
- DOJ does not have staff, veterinarians or experts in animal husbandry and behavior that are experienced in evaluating AWA compliance or enforcement.
- Rather than creating more efficiency, HR 5041/S 2555 create redundant and potentially conflicting authorities and jurisdictions. This will cause greater bureaucracy and expand the backlog of cases at the DOJ.
- Removal of exemptions for de minimis activity such as hobby breeders will also create greater strain on the limited resources of federal agencies charged with AWA oversight of professional breeders.
- The measure is unnecessary as the USDA already can and does seek assistance from DOJ when appropriate.
- The bills allow owners to be required to pay for the costs of boarding and care of seized animals while legal proceedings are pending, regardless of the outcome – with no provision for restitution.
- **Instead, suggest an alternate solution to address lawmakers’ animal care concerns:** Ask your members of Congress to instead support additional financial resources for USDA Animal Care enforcement, so they can appropriately enforce the requirements they already have.

For questions or more information, contact doglaw@akc.org, visit AKC’s Legislative Action Center www.akcgr.org or contact 919-816-3720.

Background: About Federal Dog Breeder Licensing and Oversight

Anyone who maintains more than 4 “breeding females” (a term that is undefined but is generally considered to mean an intact female) and transfers even one of the offspring “sight unseen” is subject to licensing under the AWA. “Breeding females” include any combination of cats, dogs, or other small pet mammals such as hamsters, guinea pigs, etc. ([Learn more](#)). The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, which is staffed by thousands of animal experts, currently administers AWA licensing requirements. As part of their mission, which includes improving animal care and welfare, the agency’s experts recognize performance-based animal care standards and provide expertise, training, and certification programs that benefit animals and those who care for them.

Nominating Committee Report

The nominating committee has proposed the slate shown below.

Additional nominations may be made at the March membership meeting by any member who is in good standing and in attendance. The proposed candidate must accept in person, or if the proposed candidate is not in attendance at this meeting, the proposer shall present to the Recording Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate indicating his/her willingness to be a candidate. No person may be a candidate for more than one position, and the additional nominations which are provided for herein may be made only from among those members who have not accepted a nomination by the Nominating Committee.

A Board Member may be nominated for another office while his/her term is still in effect. The Board Member must, however, resign from his/her present Board Position if elected to the new office. The vacancy created shall be filled according to Article III, Section 6. Nominations cannot be made at the Annual Meeting or in any manner other than as provided in this Section.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2024-2025

President	Carl Vitner
1 st Vice President	Mary Ellen Macke
2 nd Vice President	Lynette White
Corresponding Secretary	Karen Mays
Recording Secretary	Bud Hidlay
Treasurer	Carol Simmons
AKC Delegate	Ann Wallin
Board of Directors - Class of 2026	
Sandy Weaver Ginger Aldrich Paul Averill	

Upcoming Events

Start getting ready for the Peach Blossom Cluster—April 10-14, 2024.

The premium should be up shortly on Onofrio.com. Entries close on March 27, 2024. Make plans to come and to volunteer to help out. The March program will include information about volunteer opportunities.



AKC News

AKC Educated Breeder Webinar Series :

Don't miss the upcoming series of webinars created for breeders by breeders.

- **January 9**—Pyo: The Fear Inducing 3-Letter Word, presenter Dr. Marty Greer, DVM, JD
- **February 13**—Crash Course in Canine Eye Testing, presenter Dr. Adam King, board certified veterinary ophthalmologist
- **March 12**—Breeder Spotlight, presenter Doug Johnson of Clussexx Kennel

Please go to <https://www.akc.org/2024-akc-educated-breeder-webinar/> for more information and to register for the webinars. There is a small charge for each webinar.



Judges' Selection Committee

Please contact committee members from the appropriate groups to suggest judges for consideration by the selection committee which meets several times during the year. Please remember not everyone "suggested" can be placed on a panel due to a variety of reasons, however, club members input is given priority. We do work with our "sister" cluster clubs and also have a policy not to hire the same judge for the same show two years in a row. Since we do share judges with the other cluster clubs, we tend to try to hire judges approved for several groups, if possible, to control expenses through judge sharing. Members provisional for any breeds are also given a priority as well as suggestions from specialty clubs for their supported entries.

Show Chair Emeritus - Kathleen Steen - 770-751-0311 - kathleensteen@bellsouth.net

Show Chair & Sporting - Mary Ellen Macke - 404-310-5933 - maryellenmacke@gmail.com

Working - Carl Vitner - 404-291-0123 - samoyed@bellsouth.net

Hounds - Jerry Cerasini - 770-475-3152 - ponyguru@aol.com

Non Sporting - Lynette White - 770-801-0780 glwchows@bellsouth.net

Toys - Candy Wright - 678-851-4633 - chiggerbug@gmail.com

Herding - Dr. Carmen Battaglia - 770-998-3679 - carmenbattaglia@gmail.com

Terrier - Gilda Malik - 770-394-4098 - gilndon@comcast.net

If anyone in our club is newly provisional in new breeds or thinking you may be soon, you must let Mary Ellen Macke know in order to be included in a future panel. The new judges lists are not necessarily being monitored, just an FYI reminder. If you know of someone who may be provisional in their first group, non member, etc, to recommend, also let Mary Ellen or the group leader know as they are always seeking provisional judges for AKC requirements.



Atlanta Kennel Club

Our Mission

To promote, advance and protect the interests of purebred dogs and to encourage good sportsmanship at all purebred events as recognized by the American Kennel Club. To educate the fancy, government and the public regarding responsible dog ownership.

From:
Lynette White
4050 Norton Pl SE
Smyrna, GA 30082-3963

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TO:

DIGEST EDITOR: Lynette White, 4050 Norton Pl SE, Smyrna, GA 30082-3963, digest@atlantakennelclub.org

In case you did not know... Digests are now available for viewing without using a login and password. If you have a computer, go to the website: www.atlantakennelclub.org and click on the tab at the top for DIGEST – It's all there! **EXCEPT** for the minutes which remain private for members. To view those, you will still need to access the member only sections with your login. **BUT** you can read the rest of the Digests anytime you want! The past Digests are also archived there.

Anyone wanting to “review” how to access your member only info on the website, please do call us. If you have an email address in our database you should be receiving via email the meeting notices and announcements that the Digest is available online. If you are not getting the notices for any reason, please let us know if your email has changed or add digest@atlantakennelclub.org to your address or contacts list.

VISIT US ON THE WEB @ WWW.ATLANTAKENNELCLUB.ORG



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