

USLHC Annual General Meeting
Aug 6, 2023 Called to order 6:06 PM CT

In attendance: Sheryl Bradbury, Meaghan Thacker, Grayson Trevett, Patrick Helton, Carla Coggins, Patricia Blankenship, Martha O'Connor, Meredith Cairns-Mellen, Bonnie Smith, Jona Decker, Lindsay DeVito, Tammy DeVito, Rosanna Buehl, Tammy Erickson, Bev Lewis, Mark Taylor, Lisa Meeker, Linda Walawander, Lindsey Dobruck, Linda Cummings, George Loucks, Kelly Herrera, Jan Garner, Jean Turoci, Karen Mason, Diana McCarty, Kiki Branley, Joanne Woolley, Greg Woolley, Elaine Giannelli, Linda Bell, Chelsy Pendleton

President's Report - In 148 days, the Lancashire Heeler will be able to enter conformation shows and compete for Championship points. Our versatile, feisty breed will bring up the rear of the herding group and I am sure will create a lot of excitement for many years.

This board is proud of the members that supported the journey to full recognition and now a new checklist to become a licensed club with the AKC is our focus. The first of many exciting changes for sure and those members that supported the club through membership and competition will again be needed to support this growth.

Today we will hear the results of our first ever balloted election with 97% of the membership voting. That is unheard of in an election. I am so proud that the membership came together and voiced who they want to join the leadership as secretary. Congratulations to the newly elected Secretary, they will take on the duties that will support the club and administer the tasks for licensing process. I want to thank the Election Inspection Committee members for stepping up to ensure accurate and confidential election results. Those names will also be released when the results are announced. I wanted to thank everyone that attended this meeting today, it was good to see or hear such an enthusiastic group.

Vice President's Report -

Patrick supported Sheryl's remarks concerning the contributions of the membership in regard to competing with their heelers in conformation and performance events. It is through their efforts that the visibility of the breed is enhanced, and the versatility of the Lancashire Heeler is showcased. Thank you for all of your hard work.

Treasurer's Report

Beginning bank balance -8/12/2022 -----\$7418.56
Dues deposit ----- +1064.25
Youth funds -----+ 858.89
Payment from D. Carroll to S Bradbury-- + 375.00
Expenses ---see below----- - 2759.82
J Kestner tri-fold copies - \$256.20
AKC Medallions -- \$95.00
Diane McCarty judges ed. -- \$588.62
Reimburse S Bradbury judges ed. \$320.94
Refund D Carroll dues - \$25.00
Reimburse S Bradbury for S Carroll FI show expenses - \$609.91
Reimburse S Bradbury from D Carroll - \$375.00
Reimburse S Bradbury for website - \$452.85
Refund L Walawander for over payment of dues - \$20.00
Reimburse T DeVito for ballot postage- \$16.30

Ending bank balance on 8/6/2023 -----\$6956.88

Moved by Diana McCarty to approve Treasurer's report as read, Carla Coggins 2nd Motion carried. Opposed - Rosanna Buehl, Mark Taylor, Linda Cummings, Kelly Herrera. Abstain - Lisa Meeker

Secretary's Report - My year continued to be challenging. Mainly working with the Board at meetings and committee work. The election was a lot of work but I congratulate the members on showing up to vote. I spoke with Sid Cranston by phone, he is dealing with his loss of Virginia a day at a time. He does not need the clubs' help with his dogs at this time but will let us know if a challenge arises for him. I am pleased to be able to turn over my secretary duties to a competent, dedicated member and work on my own health issues in the near future.

Approve minutes from August 2022 Annual Membership Meeting:

Patricia corrected starting date of Treasurer's Report to 9/12/2021, Martha O'Connor would like revisions to the Policy and Procedures section. Moved by Kelly Herrera to approve minutes of 2022 AGM as read with corrections noted. Jona Decker seconded, Carried Unanimously

Committee Reports:

Awards, Lindsey Dobruck – Karen Mason Committee Leader

-Certificate of Merit medallions will be awarded to the USLHC members who own one (or more) of the first 10 Lancashire Heeler CMs. We have gotten quotes on medallions and are currently awaiting the final logo.

-Any Heeler who earns a RATN (Barn Hunt), HS (herding), and FDC (Farm Dog Certified) will be eligible for the USLHC Heritage Award. We have not decided what this award will be—possibly a car magnet, custom artwork, or more. I would like to send an interest poll to the membership for award inspiration.

-Title plaques are also awaiting artwork/logo before rolling out to the membership. Much of our focus has been on the election.

Discussion - Jona Decker re Heritage Award - Felt Barn Hunt title too low, too easy. Lindsey encouraged the input.

Conformation/Open Shows/Matches, Sheryl Bradbury – Grayson Trevett Committee Leader - The club will need to work through some details with AKC before any action can be taken to start the process of our first National Specialty. I am waiting for an email from Club Relations and then we will be able to do planning. There are two shows that would be appropriate. The Nebraska Kennel Club Show, the costs are in line, there are the activities either connected to the show or in the area such as agility, FastCAT and such. There are adequate facilities to hold a meeting, etc. Greeley Kennel club would be the other show to align with. There will be more information to come.

Discussion - Kelly Herrera - How do we know where all the active show dogs are. Patrick is developing a survey of members to get us that data? - Bonnie Smith - Are we going to have Lancashire Heeler stuff to sell at the National Specialties. Yes, when the time comes.

Happy Heeler Newsletter, Sheryl Bradbury – Design, Rosanna Buehl; Developmental Editor, Bonnie Smith; and Copy Editor, Lindsey Dobruck

After a year-long hiatus in 2021, the Happy Heeler resumed bimonthly publication in February 2022 with Volume 2. Since then, the length of the newsletter has averaged nine and three-eighths pages (range 6–13). At the beginning of 2023, the Happy Heeler changed to quarterly publication as requested by Sheryl Bradbury on behalf of the Board of Directors. Beginning with Volume 3 this year, members can expect to receive their newsletter on the first of March, June, September, and December. Four issues have been published since the August 2022 AGM. The President's column has been moved to the front page. Slides from the Judges Education have been published over this time period and will continue to appear until readers have seen them all. The Happy Heeler is grateful to Jona Decker, Patricia Blankenship, and Kelly Herrera for submitting articles—with photographs! The Membership Map, a regular feature, provides a visual representation of ourselves and our locations. The names of new members are routinely published near this map. Also, the newsletter has spotlighted several members—an established member, several new members, and a Board—so we can get to know one another. We announce new titles and honors bestowed upon our members and their Lancashire Heelers since the newsletter immediately preceding the current one. An occasional recipe, book review, or other general interest topic has slipped into the newsletter. We provided candidate information for the two candidates who ran for Secretary of the Board this year. Volume 2 introduced a new feature: "Ruffy Tells Dad Jokes." This has proven to be immensely popular. Many members have mentioned that this is the first thing they read when they open the newsletter. What your newsletter needs from you is content: articles, photographs, committee reports, brags, tips, reviews, recipes, and more! No special invitation is needed. Send your contributions today!

Health, Sheryl Bradbury – Tracie Zeitz - We were only able to connect once and it was not the whole committee. So unfortunately there has not been much progress. Once we are able to connect, we are ready and willing to prepare what is needed.

Herding, Meaghan Thacker –

The herding committee exists to promote the sport of herding among Lancashire Heeler owners and enthusiasts. We have a few teams active in the world of competition herding now. I will be putting together a survey for the

membership to participate in how the club might help them get involved in the sport. I will be looking for a few members interested in being involved with the committee. Anyone interested please send an email.

Historian, Patricia Blankenship –

The USLHC will officially become the 201st recognized breed in AKC Herding group on Jan. 1, 2024. The ballot box for the election has been received and taken its place in USLHC history. The Lancashire Heelers continue to compete in all areas of AKC events and making history with their wins.

Discussion - Rosanna Buehl - will we be publishing some of these accomplishments. Yes, they will be prominent on the Website when it is completed. Martha O'Connor and Carla Coggins support this.

Judges' Education/Mentors List, Sheryl Bradbury – Jeff Kestner - On behalf of the USLHC, Jeff Bazell and I presented the Judges Education Seminar at the North Carolina Triangle Area Judges Education Group on March 11, 2023. Nine individuals participated in the training. This was Part 1 of the group's herding breed seminars. Due to popular demand following the announcement that Lancashire Heelers will be receiving regular AKC status on January 1, 2024, we will be presenting the training again for Part 2 of the group's herding breed seminars on Thursday, August 31, 2023.

We have been invited to present the seminar again at the following: Sacramento Valley Dog Fanciers Assoc. Inc., Dixon, CA. October 2023, date TBA. We will need club members in the region to provide dogs for the hands-on portion of the seminar in order to maximize the CEUs available to judges. American Dog Show Judges Advanced Institute at the Kentuckiana Cluster, Louisville, KY. March 2024, date TBA

The Judges Education Committee will be recommending criteria for becoming a Parent Club Approved Mentor. The Board of USLHC will need to approve the criteria for club members to provide mentoring experiences for potential breed judges. This list of mentors would only be used for mentoring judges, not for advising others in the fancy about the breed.

I hope that JEC will be able to offer the Judges Education Seminar online (e.g. Zoom) to all interested USLHC members prior to January 1, 2024.

Kiki Branley joined the meeting 7:02 PM CT

Legislative /Membership, Patrick Helton – No issues concerning the membership brought to my attention.

Discussion - Martha O'Connor has an issue with our elective process. Patrick suggested she send an email addressing her concerns.

National Specialty/Show Manual, Sheryl Bradbury – Nothing to report

Joanna Woolley and Michael Wooley joined the meeting 7:08 PM CT

Nominating Committee, Patricia Blankenship –

Not much to report, other than the club had its first ballot election this year for the position of secretary.

Election Results -

Ballots were mailed to 77 US Members in good standing, Congratulations to our members who stepped up in record numbers to return 75 ballots. Rosanna Buehl - 33 Grayson Trevett - 42

The results of the 2023 USLHC Vote were certified accurate and confidential on 7/23/23. The Election Inspection and Ballot Counting process was followed by the committee to protect the accuracy of the vote. Tammy DeVito, Lindsay DeVito and Elaine Giannelli, we thank you for your service. Greyson thanked the members for coming out to vote. Congratulations for Grayson from many. Thank you to both candidates for running for office.

Pedigree/Health Database, Sheryl Bradbury – Nothing to report

Performance Events/Matches, Sheryl Bradbury – Nothing to report

Policy & Procedures, Patrick Helton –

Work continues on the P/P manual as the committee awaits duties and objectives statements from committee chairs.

The following committees have submitted the requested information: Membership, Policies and Procedures, Legislative/membership, Ways and Means, National Specialty-Show manual, Herding, Rescue, Audit, and Nominating. The committee has added the USLHC constitution and bylaws, statement of incorporation from Mississippi, code of ethics statement, and about 1/2 of the standing and ad hoc committees to the P&P document. It is expected the remainder of the committee duties and responsibilities material will be added before the year's end.

Discussion - Linda Bell brought up discussion on the code of ethics document. Questions included how the document will be revealed to the membership, concerns about content, importance of breeder guidelines.

Public Education: AKC Gazette, Lindsey Dobruck –

-The AKC Gazette will include the Lancashire Heeler in the breed columns section beginning in 2024, after achieving full recognition. I am in contact with Bud Boccone and Arliss Paddock.

Public Education: Meet the Breeds, Lindsey Dobruck – There has been increased interest among club members in participating in Meet the Breeds events nationally. While MTBs is an excellent opportunity for the public to learn about our amazing little breed, this event can be very stressful and exhausting, and not every dog is a good candidate to participate. Having worked several of these events as both a breeder and as AKC staff, I look forward to helping club members determine if participation is right for them. We appreciate our club members' interest in promoting the breed and educating the public at these events!

Discussion - Martha O'Connor - Meet the Breeds, AKC encourages club participation not individual participation. Lindsey will look into opportunities for the club. NOTE: The AKC specifically stated in the reply regarding Meet the Breeds. AKC will cover if you are injured like falling or such. But if your dog bites a person at any event, you are not covered. At the meet the breed event, visitors are told that they can pet and touch your dog. The club will not insure your dog. There is much risk to the club, the dog, and you.

Member Education - To Be Developed

Rescue, Meaghan Thacker -

No rescues have come to my attention this year. The rescue committee needs to be developed. They will be responsible for developing and implementing policies and procedures for the rescue of Lancashire Heelers. To screen potential adopters. To place rescued dogs in suitable homes. To develop and train a network of foster homes. Develop methods for providing post-adoption support to adopters. Create programs to educate the public about responsible pet ownership.

Discussion - Martha O'Connor - will there be fundraising for Rescue. The committee needs to be developed and then yes, fundraising will be necessary.

Social Media, Lindsey Dobruck – Marisa Woznicki

-Marisa continues to do a fantastic job managing the USLHC Instagram and Facebook pages! We are grateful for her commitment to the breed and the club. Please continue to tag @unitedstateslancashireheelerclub on Instagram and forward your brags and cute photos to Marisa!

Ways & Means, Sheryl Bradbury – Chelsy Pendleton Committee Leader, – When we get the committee organized, we will invite Bonnie to the committee.

Discussion - Rosanna Buehl - Was fundraiser last fall a club activity. No Chelsy organized and managed it entirely herself.

Elaine Giannelli joined meeting 7:32 PM CT

Website, Sheryl Bradbury – Waiting on a meeting with AKC Club Relations. Working on two proposals from Professional Web Developers. Will be discussed at next Board meeting 8/14/23

Membership, Patrick Helton

Since 8/13/22 the club has added 19 new members. The membership currently stands at 84.

Two applications are on hold pending further review. A survey was completed of members who did not renew.

Discussion - Martha O'Connor - can we have a membership drive. Patrick explained we are already seeing an increase in membership inquiries with the greater visibility of the breed. Explained grassroots growth is likely to take care of any issue without a club drive. Rosanna questioned the process of sending in dues and Patrick explained once again.

Audit – Patricia Blankenship -

Breed Standard Oversight - To Be Developed

Specialty Judges Selection – Jeff Kestner - Nothing to report

Unfinished Business:

Club Status – AKC Member Club – Waiting for a meeting with Club Relations

USLHC 2024 First National Specialty - Waiting for a meeting with Club Relations

New Business:

Election Results – Announced after the Nominations Committee report

Earth Dog Events – Jona Decker reported that the USLHC has submitted a request to have the LH be able to compete in Earth Dog events.

Obedience Jump Height Update - Information was gathered from competitors and the club has requested AKC reduce jump heights for Lancashire Heelers.

2024 Electronic Election Information - Future electronic balloting is being investigated. Suggestions welcome. If we proceed family members will need an individual email in order to vote (i.e. no sharing email addresses if you both want to vote). Membership will be sending a form soon to update information.

Zoom meetings - Membership input encouraged. About 50/50 for good idea or not. Will need paid account to increase quality and get more features to manage the numbers we can see at an AGM. Worth investigating. Diane Swift could not manage to get into our meeting this evening. Others mentioned they finally got in but it took a long time and multiple tries to accomplish.

Patricia thanked Meaghan for service to the club. Sheryl explained the last secretary quit and did not send any records back to the club. Rosanna thanked Meaghan and congratulated Grayson on his election to Secretary.

Patricia moved the meeting adjourn, Jean Turoci 2nd - 8:01 PM CT