

Minutes of the USLHC Annual General Membership Meeting
(Held via Zoom)
Monday, August 4, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President Tracie Zeitz.

Members in attendance:

Linda Bell
Patricia Blankenship
Sheryl Bradbury
Rosanna Buehl
Jona Decker
Tammy De Vito
Lindsey Dobruck
Elaine Giannelli
Patrick Helton
Kelly Herrera
Jeffrey Kestner
Kim McIntyre
Martha O'Connor
Chelsy Pendleton
Bonnie Smith
Diane Swift
Mark Taylor
Meaghan Thacker
Tracie Zeitz

The minutes of the 2024 Annual Membership Meeting were approved with the following corrections:

Beverly Morgan Lewis's name was listed twice on the roll call vote. As a result, the motion was opposed by 17, 14 for, and 3 abstentions.

President's Report (Tracie Zeitz)

The president reported that she couldn't believe an entire year had passed since our last membership meeting. She thanked all who participated in Meet the Breeds. We have our first designated specialty at Morris & Essex on October 1, and the club is soliciting sponsors for the trophies.

Vice President's Report (Patrick Helton)

The vice president reported that he worked with the herding committee (Molly Wisecarver, chair, Ken Ferrill, trial secretary, Debbie Brooks & S Susan VanBuren) to establish the club as a sponsor and mentor for AKC herding events. He thanked the committee and Lindsey Dobruck for facilitating the process. As membership chair, Patrick reported that the club added 10 new members, with 84 members representing 34 states and Canada.

Treasurer's Report (Patricia Blankenship)

The treasurer reported the following:

Beginning Balance 8/4/2024		\$6,939.38
Deposits/Income		
Dues	\$1232.45	
Trial Fees	\$ 443.00	
AKC Meet the Breeds	\$1,000.00	
Small Dog Club Helper	<u>\$ 300.00</u>	
	\$2,975.45	
Expenses		
AKC Medallions (Sheryl Bradbury)	\$ 170.00	
Postage for election (Sheryl Bradbury)	\$ 29.20	
Nebraska KC supported entries	\$ 100.00	
Wearne Accounting – election & audit	\$ 319.30	
Cheryl Simpson – logo design	\$ 300.00	
Zoom fees (Lindsey Dobruck)	\$ 170.29	
Michael Phillips – thank you plaque	\$ 100.00	
Wirebuilt – website hosting	\$ 228.00	
Meet the Breed expenses (Kim McIntyre)	\$ 200.00	
Election expenses (Jeff Kestner)	\$ 139.14	
CAN – surety bond insurance	<u>\$ 126.00</u>	
	\$1,881.93	
Ending Balance		\$8,032.90

Secretary's Report (Jeff Kestner)

The secretary announced the results of the election for Director as follows:

 Sheryl Bradbury – 34

 Lindsey Dobruck – 31

Sheryl Bradbury was declared the winner of the election.

Director's Report (Lindsey Dobruck)

The director reported that the club was well represented at the AKC Meet the Breeds event in New York City, with thousands of dog lovers and potential pet owners in attendance. Two awards were created to recognize Heelers that excel in multiple sports – Fit for Function and Versatility. The club also transitioned to using MailChimp for mass club emails.

Committee **Reports:** Reports were made by the following committees:

Awards (Jona Decker) Jona Decker reported that Linda Bell, Carla Coggins, Diane Swift, Karen Mason, and Beverly Lewis, with lots of consultation from Lindsey Dobruck, worked through the requirements for:

- * Fit for Function - For demonstrated aptitude in performing the historic duties of the Lancashire Heeler including herding and vermin control (FF). Approved May 1 - Certificate.

- * Versatile Heeler - For demonstrated versatility across a minimum of three disciplines - bronze, silver, gold, platinum (VH-x). Tried to cover conformation, companion events (ob, rally, agility, lure coursing), breed-specific events like herding and hunting vermin, scent sports, family dog (CGC, Farm/Fit/Fetch/Tricks), and other sports like dock diving, flyball, treibball, parkour. Under review. Some pushbacks on whether sports that have an AKC equivalent should recognize UKC alternatives.

- * Register of Merit - Still to be discussed. Versatility provides a really good platform for the options within ROM recognition so this may be premature before that is approved. Exploring recognition options, ranging from certificates to magnets.

Judges Education (Jeff Kestner) The AKC/DJAA-sponsored Advanced Institute will be held in Orlando in December, and as the newest herding breed, we have been asked to present the club's seminar with a hands-on workshop. We will be soliciting members to bring dogs for the hands-on portion. **Following this meeting, Kestner verified that there is no AKC prohibition against using dogs that are currently being exhibited in conformation in the presentation.**

Member Education (Jeff Kestner) There is a plan to present the Judges Education seminar as a Zoom workshop for interested members of the club later this year.

Public Education (Lindsey Dobruck) Reported on the Meet the Breeds event in NYC, and announced that she would be stepping down as the breed columnist for the AKC Gazette as she is doing more writing for other AKC publications.

Ways & Means (Sheryl Bradbury) Reported that the club has used the Small Dog Club Helpers Facebook page to raise money for the club. There will also be a Custom Ink campaign for apparel this fall and another holiday campaign.

Old Business

Discussion was held regarding the release of members' contact information. The issue was referred back to the Board for clarification and further action.

New Business

There has been a request from the family of the deceased owner of two Lancashire Heelers. Conversation about what the club was going to do about it. The matter was referred to the Board.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Kestner, Secretary