**ATTENDANCE:**

Barb Ioia, John Ioia, Adrienne Sherman, Eva Melia, Sharon Shave, Wes Shave, Jill Darling, Amy Cox, Carrie Cronin, John Obermeier, Deb Mattice, Janel Sharer, Charlene Sharer, Marlene Emler MacLean, Katie Scezneny, Jane Davies Lane, Laurie Vidler, Pat Hicks

**CTO** meeting started at 1:17 PM

**Approval of Minutes**

Katie motions to approve, Barb seconds

**Reports:**

 President – welcome! Lots to discuss today.

 Vice-President – no report

 Secretary – next newsletter due March 15. Send anything you want submitted to Adrienne

 Treasurer – Checkbook balance is $10,001.30 & PayPal balance is $4671.17

 AKC Report – Election of officers coming up in March. There was a proposed $1.50 increase in registration fees, but the Board has decided not to put that through now. They are running at a deficit right now. They take in approx. $116 million per year and are just about breaking even. President of AKC has been asked to step down. They have a temporary CEO & president right now and are searching outside of the organization for someone permanent.

**Reports of Committees:**

**Specialty Show:**

 **Judge Changes**- Saturday show will be Evelyn Gregory, Friday – we were supposed to have Katie Sloan, but she has retired. Replaced with Stephanie Abraham. This will save us about $2k, since Katie was coming from Paris. Lisa May will judge Sweepstakes on Friday. Obedience & Rally - ? Marian Creary was supposed to judge Saturday, but with the political climate in Canada, she doesn’t feel that she can make a commitment at this point. This is going to affect lots of shows, as some Canadians are choosing not to travel to the U.S. Cheryl Barns is replacing her.

 **Entry Fee** – Possible Increase – Our financial situation looks okay now. The Circuit did not make any money last year. We are raising entry fees by $1. We need to continue to watch our expenses (be mindful of bringing in judges from overseas, etc.)

 **Trophies** – Adrienne is heading this. Email her if you want to sponsor something and are not yet on the list.

**Grounds** – Wes is heading this. Will need help especially with cleaning the pavilion on initially (Monday and Tuesday prior to the show). We do have someone who handles washing, we pay $1600 for this. John O. suggests buying wet/dry vacs to help.

**Hospitality** – Laura handled this in the past and will continue to work on this committee, with Carrie and Deb. Deb will help with collecting money, Carrie will be there to pass out lunches both days. Per the January meeting, we proposed increasing lunches from $7.50 to $12. Looking at switching to Front Street Deli for sandwiches. Proposing changing the buffet to Augie’s in Ballston Spa. They provide trays and will deliver. Catering menu is online. Will investigate this. Will wait to set the price for dinners until we get more info.

**Auction** – Other regional clubs are backing out of doing an auction. Auctions keep depending on the same people to pay, and there’s only so many times we can ask for money. Need to look at offering fewer items, that are larger and appeal to people from the All-Breed show. A daily auction – one or a few items per day – would eliminate the need for teardown each night. Deb currently has some of our items that didn’t sell last year. Amy will continue to promote items that we are auctioning on social media. Need to investigate fewer big-ticket items for this year.

**Catalogues** – sold out last year (had 25 to sell). Pat recommends increasing to 30 this year.

**Possible Change of Date and Venue -** Circuit is running out of money. They can continue through 2026, but after that are unsure if they will be financially solvent. Also running out of manpower. Right now, Troy Kennel Club gives the ring to Southern New England Club in October. Troy is currently doing well. In the future (post 2026), Troy could incorporate our club at Springfield in April. We would be indoors, would not need to worry about setup/cleanup, etc. This would enable us to continue having shows with less volunteer help.

**Membership:** application from Joan Curtiss from Connecticut, who is moving to Wappingers Falls. John O. is sponsoring, she will need to get a second sponsor (Amy has declined).

**Old Business:**

**Storage Shed vs Trailer** – cheapest storage shed would be around $55/month. This would be a substantial yearly expense. Currently Deb is storing a lot of items. Laura is storing coolers, tubs, multiple totes and cartons for hospitality & stores all the club t shirts. Jane also has some items. Everyone will bring their items to the August show. May be able to downsize, especially if we are changing venues down the road. Not having the auction items will help as well. **Update: Bruce Mattice has agreed that all items can be stored at Bruce & Deb’s house following the August show. Thank you Bruce & Deb!!**

**New Business:**

**Health Clinics:**

 Dates – Will not know a spring date for another few weeks.

 Service Charge – Need to ensure we aren’t losing money. Per Jane – we are breaking even on this. It is all-volunteer and no money is expended on it. John I. suggests there should not be an add-on charge for club members but could add a charge for non-members. We currently charge $300 for dopplers. Others are charging $285 - $325. We charge $45 for auscultation – could add $10 to this, and we would make about $400 in profit. Katie recommends $45 for club members, $55 for all others. Jane recommends leaving the price of echoes the same and revisiting in the fall. There are pros & cons of raising price of echoes – people who are coming would probably be willing to pay an additional $25, but could also get it done cheaper at a dog show. Other clubs are having similar conversations about raising rates. John O. motions to add $10 to auscultation and $25 to the echoes for non-members. Eva seconds. Motion carries with one opposed.

Revisiting – Jane feels strongly that raising the prices of auscultations should be the only increase at the moment. If we raise echoes we would be on the higher end. Raising by $25 is a big increase for those who have multiple dogs. **Katie recommends starting with a $10 increase on echoes as a trial. John O. amends his motion to raise the price by $10 for both auscultations and echoes for non-members (no additional charge to members). Eva seconds. Motion carries with none opposed**.

**Breeder List –** Implementing a breeder referral list could be a benefit for members. Breeders would need to agree to complete all health testing and follow a code of ethics. Southern New England (Edith Tibbet manages this) had problems with people from outside of the area ending up on the list without following the proper guidelines. If we implement this, someone will need to make sure that everyone on the list is adhering to our guidelines. Would need to have a disclaimer that the club is not responsible for issues with puppies that arise. John I. will do some homework on setting this up. Will need someone to manage this once it’s set up.

 **ADCNY: (Associated Dog Clubs of New York)** – Looking for someone to step up to be our rep. We currently don’t have a delegate. Delegate would be encouraged to attend quarterly meetings (held in the Capital Region), or at minimum to stay attuned to what is going on. We made a $50 donation in December.

 Appoint a Delegate – John O. has volunteered

 Donation to ADCNY –They have a great lobbyist in the area who could attend a meeting with us if we would like. Deb M. motions to make another $50 donation. Amy seconds. Motion carries, none opposed.

**Judging Committee –** question as to whether we will have a committee to pick future judges. John I. will take care of choosing moving forward, to ensure we don’t have multiple people reaching out to judges.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

May 3rd – SLOC

July 15th via Zoom at 7pm

September 13th – site TBD

November 5th – via Zoom at 7pm, will determine dates for 2026 at this meeting

January 10 – Annual Meeting – location TBD

**Good & Welfare/Brags:**

It’s Carrie’s Tippy’s birthday today! She is 9 & heart clear

Eva’s girl is going to be 15! She is doing great

Happy anniversary Wes & Sharon – 56 years!!

Amy has a new singleton girl (Micah!)

Marlene’s Ronin got his CGC

Adrienne’s Paige got her Performer Trick Dog title

\*Good & Welfare – Amy suggests having more meetups for pet people to get them more involved. She is willing to help organize this. Things like trail walks with picnic lunches.

**Adjournment –** meeting adjourned at 3:13