

President Curby called the meeting to order at 5pm. Secretary Ketz was in attendance. The quorum was determined to be 55. A quorum was present. 62 members were in attendance.

Members Present: Toni Ackerman, Lynn Arrand, Dennis Arrand, Lisa Auerbach, Mark Baime, Laura Baker, Damara Bolte, Katie Besemer, Kim Brown, Kim Byrd, Kyle Cabral, Stephanie Cheng, Susan Coe, Terry Colbert, Bernadette Conner, LeeBeth Cranmer, Jon Curby, Doreen Duffin, Julie Dugan, Magaret Dugan, Pam Geoffroy, Laurie Gregory, Bryan Gregory, Lisa Hart, Debbie Hauri, Deborah Henning, Laura Mae Hesse, Karen Hutchison, James Johannes, Jarod Johnson, Julie Jones, Sylvia Jordan, Daniel Karas, Maarianne Klinkowski, Suzanne La Croix, Julie Leicht, Carrie Lewis, Jane Lodge, Shelia Lund, Elizabeth Lundell, Lisa Marshall, Jean Martin, Chris Maxka, Tammy McQuigg, Annete Muentner, Dennis Narehood, Barb Marehood, Laura Pond, Veronica Predale, Bob Reed, Terry Reed, Barbara Reisinger, Jared Reisinger, Kathy Samders, Andrew Sawler, Natalie Scherwin, Donna Slavin, Scotti Slonaker, Laurie Stargell, Karen Terry, Richard Terry, Sandy Tucker, Denise Vertrees, Rita Webb, Carol Webb, Elizabeth White, Michael Work, CarolAnn Worsham, and Carol Wyatt-Oberg. Also in attendance were Parliamentarian Harry Rosenthal and guests Nancy Sherman, Rick Calmelat and Hanni Joronen.

Order of Business:

Quorum/Standing Rules/Agenda, Minutes of last meeting, Report of President, Report of Secretary, Report of Treasurer, Reports of Committees, Unfinished business, New business, Adjournment. Post Meeting Awards

Standing Rules:

The Standing Rules shall be adopted immediately after the Call to Order.

Oral reports of Officers and Committee Chairs shall be limited to two minutes except for those of the President and Treasurer. An additional two minutes may be allowed for questions from the membership on reports (such as those of the Health & Research Committee) presenting important new material. Typed copies of all reports shall be filed with the President and the Secretary. Members who wish to speak must rise, address the Chair and wait to be recognized. They shall move to a microphone if one is available for use of the membership. They shall state their name and office or club (if any) before speaking. No member shall speak more than two minutes without permission of the Chair. All motions and resolutions must/should be presented in writing to the Secretary prior to the meeting. Individuals registering a motion in advance with the Secretary shall be recognized by the Chair to make that motion to the membership present at the meeting. Individuals registering a motion in advance with the Secretary shall have the right to speak first in debate, if they wish, after the Chair has stated the motion and it has been seconded. The Chair shall alternate, as far as possible, between speakers favoring and speakers opposing a motion under consideration. Debate on motions shall be limited to 15 minutes. A timekeeper will be on duty and will call time on all discussions. All cell phones and pagers are to be silenced during the business meeting. The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the annual business meeting in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Basenji Club of America, Inc. Bylaws and these Standing Rules.

A Motion to accept the Standing Rules was read was made by Lisa Marshall, with a second. Motion Accepted.

2014 Annual Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the 2014 Annual Meeting were published in the October 2014 *Bulletin Board* Newsletter.

A motion by Laura Pond and a second were made to suspend the reading of the minutes of the 2014 annual meeting. Motion passed.

Secretary Note: Based on Parliamentarian suggestion, these and all future Annual Meeting minutes will be approved by the board of directors shortly after the publication of the Annual Meeting minutes in the *Bulletin Board* Newsletter.

President's Report

President Curby noted the new edition of the Vavra book 'Canis Basenji' is available for purchase. Based on a request from Mr. Vavra to upgrade the quality and add a few new items, the 1991 edition was pulled from sale and has now been replaced with the 2015 Edition. A Fula picture once owned by Veronica Tudor-Williams and donated by Mr. Vavra is currently up for bid on E-bay and the sale will close on Sunday. Proceeds of the sale will go to cover some of the costs of printing the 2015 edition.

The 2017 National Specialty is lacking volunteers to put on the event. Purina Farms has been reserved for September 9(Sat) -15(Fri), 2017. We will share the facility with IG's and Ibizan's during the week, with an all-breed show on the weekend (16-17). If no volunteers are available, the board may have to suspend the National Specialty required items and go to a minimum schedule such as sweepstakes and conformation only.

Secretary's Report

- All 5 of the Bylaws revisions have been approved by the membership. The next step will be AKC approval. The board is hoping to have these in place early in 2016.
 - The Bulletin Board Newsletter will be published each month going forward.
 - The 2018 National Specialty will be held in mid-September, Frankenmuth, MI. Chairperson will be Suzanne La Croix.
 - The 2016 Officers and Board results: President- Bryan Gregory, Vice President- LeeBeth Cranmer, Secretary-Janet Ketz and Treasurer-Laura Mae Hesse. The 7 board of Directors are Jon Curby, Karen Hutchison, Jackie Jones, Suzanne La Croix, Andrew Sawler, Denise Vertrees and Michael Work.
 - As noted by President Curby, volunteers are needed for the 2107 National Specialty. If you are interested in volunteering to chair or help on any event, please contact President-Jon Curby, Secretary-Janet Ketz, Nat Spec Oversight Comm Chair-Jackie Jones or any board member.
 - Unsung Hero Award
- The board received two nominees this year - Sue Joyner and Peg Grundman. Both will be awarded the Unsung Hero Pewter Plate for their dedication to BCOA and the basenji. Nomination statements from submitters can be read in the November Bulletin Board Newsletter.
- National Specialty Seminar had to be cancelled. The presenters were stranded in an airport on their way to Getysburg and could not get a flight out in time. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Treasurer's Report

2015 Balance Sheet as of Oct 15, 2015 is attached to these meeting minutes. Quarterly reports can be viewed in the BCOA Bulletin. Questions can be sent to Denise Vertrees Bridenbasenjjs@juno.com

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Breeder Education Laurie Stargell and Susan Coe

Measuring Station

An article was prepared with the results of the Measuring Stations carried out at the last three national specialties. The article appeared in BCOA BULLETIN for April/May/June 2015.

Basenji University

Timeline now includes more links for performance events and records. The links go directly to the appropriate sections of the BCOA website so they will always be up-to-date.

Julie Jones' tallies for the conformation Stud Dog & Brood Bitch Honor Rolls have been added.

Members have sent in photos to be included with their dogs' debuts on the Rolls.

Current Board has been added to that history.

New Best in Show dogs added to the linked listing.

Newest Ch. Reveille Re-Up award has been posted.

Updates made to the bibliographies.

The College of Basenji Activities has two new articles reprinted from past Bulletins: "Building Blocks" by Linda Siekert and "Out of the Box" by Parry Tallmadge.

Sarah Smith-Falkner is working on a section about NOTRA coursing events for the College of Basenji Activities.

Work is underway regarding the trot viewed from the side for the College for Basenji Breeders. The objective is to show a variety of basenjies standing and following through the phases of the trot in stills, slow motion and full speed video.

Breeder Referral Liaison Denise Vertrees

Approx. 300 requests for breeder information via the Breeder Liaison

3-4 requests each week, mostly email, 1-2 calls per month for info on basenjies and breeders

Majority are looking for breeders in Texas, Kentucky, Indiana, Tennessee, California and the Pacific North West Area.

3 requests for breeder information from other countries: Brazil, Canada, France.

Notify the Breeder Liaison of any change in contact information promptly!

If you are in the Online Breeder Web Listing, Denise will make sure that information is updated as well
If you have websites, keep them updated! Many comments that breeder websites are not updated and potential basenji owners ARE looking at them, but find that the information isn't current.

Breed Standard Damara Bolte` and Andrew Sawler
Happily the Breed Standard Committee has had some thoughts, but needs no action.
The Basenjis appears in better condition conformation and health-wise than most other breeds.
"So if it 'ain't broke don't try to fix it!"

Judge's Education Marianne Klinkowski
--We expect a large group of student judges to observe our National this year!
Thank you to all of our dedicated mentors, breeders, and exhibitors who so willingly share their knowledge and their lovely Basenjis with our upcoming judges
National Specialty Judges' Seminar & Hands-On Judging Exercise – Saturday approximately 30 minutes after the end of regular class judging. Seminar and Slide Show will last for 90 minutes and is open to all.
Following the Seminar, we will do the Hands-On Exercise and challenge the prospective judges to evaluate and place a stellar class of Basenjis. All the class winners of Thursday's Puppy Sweepstakes are invited to participate in this exercise, which will be very similar to a regular show ring competition.
--AKC's new judging requirements have greatly expanded the role of breed mentors in judges' education
All breeders and exhibitors who have at least 12 years' experience in the breed, whether they currently participate in our BCOA Mentors Program or not, may be called upon to mentor judges at local shows where there is a major entry.
Judges will provide their own paperwork for you to sign and will be very appreciative of your time.
If anybody has any questions about how this program works, please contact Marianne Klinkowski this weekend or at naharin@comcast.net

Lure Coursing Mary Ellen Chaffin & Russ Jacobs, Co-Chairs & Terry Colbert
<<ASFA Statistics for 2014
95 Basenjis competed in ASFA Field Trials in 2014, earning 12 titles:
2 Titles of Coursing Proficiency
7 Field Championships
3 Lure Coursers of Merit
1 LCM 4
1 LCM 5
#1 ASFA Lure Coursing basenji 2014: GCh DC N'Focus Santa Baby LCM SC GRC CGC VB Owned by Kathy Sanders
<<AKC statistics for 2014
Basenjis entered in AKC field trials earned 71 titles:
19 Junior Coursers, 20 Senior Coursers, 10 Master Coursers
13 Field Champions, 7 LCX, 1 LCX2
1 National Field Champion!
CAT statistics for 2014: Basenjis entered in AKC Coursing Ability tests earned 13 titles: 8 Coursing Ability, 3 CAA, and 2 CAX3\
The #1 AKC lure coursing Basenji was "Nike" – GCH DC Emerant Makindu Heez Got Game BN RN SC owned by Brenda Phillips
The first time Basenji winner of the National Field Champion title was "Chief" – NFC FC Taji's hAfrican Chief SC CA, owned by Katie Campbell

Social Media Karen Hutchison And Andrea Stone Co-Chairs
Total 2015 Facebook likes 3,247.
We are now on TWITTER! Look for: BASENJIAMERICA
Lisa Marshall is assisting with the show results on Twitter.

Watch for additional Committee reports in Bulletin Magazine.
African Stock Project - James Johannes & Linda Daves Siekert Co-Chairs – Need owners and breeders to send in information!
AKC Delegate – Katie Campbell

AKC Gazette Columnist - Marcia Woodard
AKC Legislative Liaison - Vickie Jacobs
Archive Action Committee - Donna DeFlorio, Chair
By-Laws/Corporate Documents - Bill McCann, Chair - Big Shout Out for all his work on the revised bylaws!
Editorial Advisory - Suzanne La Croix, Chair - No activity
Events Coordinator & Affiliate Club Liaison - Veronica Predale
Health & Research - Lisa Hart, Chair
Junior Lisason – Sharon Unrau
Legal Review and Advisory Committee
Medallions - Peg Grundman, Chair – Shipped medallions as needed.
Membership Ballot Tallier – Jane Johnson – Nothing to report
National Specialty Oversight - Jackie Jones, Chair
Native Stock – Pamela Geoffroy & Damara Bolte’, Co-Chairs - No report as we have not had any submissions
Pedigree Database – Sally Wallis – Keep sending in your information!
Performance Events Committee – Cindy Griswold & Suzanne LaCroix, Co-Chairs - 13 new Versatile Basenji Program awardees in 2015; adding more nosework titles; investigating dog scouts/geocaching
Public Education - Kim Brown & Carole Kirk, Co-Chair
Specialty Judges Selection - Donna DeFlorio, Chair
Rescue Liaison – Joe Carlson & Sharron Hu, Co-Chairs
Judge Tallier - Laurie Stargell
Sunshine - Peg Grundman – Sent well wishes to 6 members so far in 2015.
Tallier Junior Showmanship - Kathy Britton
Tallier Obedience and Rally - Katy Scott
Tallier Performance Stud Dog & Brood Bitch Honor Rolls - Susan Kamen-Marsicano - Yearly report will be in *The Bulletin's "Yearbook"*
Tallier Conformation Stud Dog & Brood Bitch Honor Rolls - Julie Jones - Yearly report will be in *The Bulletin's "Yearbook"*
Videographer - Andrew Sawler

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

--The 2018 National Specialty will be held in Frankenmuth, Michigan during the week of October 15 - 21, 2018. The show will be held in the Harvey E. Kern Community Pavilion, <http://www.frankenmuthcity.com/facility-reservations/kern-pavilion> ; the host hotel will be the Bavarian Inn Lodge, <http://www.bavarianinn.com>
Specialty Chair- Suzanne La Croix - lacroix@animalink.com

--Research Proposal from Dr. Gary Johnson, University of Missouri - College of Veterinary Medicine Columbia, MO was submitted to the BCOA board. With input from the Health & Research Committee, the board plans to work with Dr. Johnson on both parts of the proposal. The BHE board has approved the request for \$6000 for the MassARRAY equipment and will ask for a more detailed proposal on the basenji Genome project from Dr. Johnson. The original proposal is included here:

In the next few weeks we at the College of Veterinary Medicine expect to purchase an expensive scientific instrument known as a MassARRAY. With this instrument, we will be able to perform 20 or more different tests simultaneously on individual DNA samples for approximately the same expense it now takes us to do a single DNA test. We plan to combine most of the tests we currently offer into breed-specific panels, which we expect to offer to dog owners for less than \$100 per panel. For Basenjies, we expect the panel would include DNA tests for Fanconi syndrome and PRA. We also plan to include variants that influence coat color in the Basenji panel. The PRA test should easily adaptable to the new technology; however, because of the nature of the Fanconi syndrome mutation, redesigning a robust and reliable test is likely to be more difficult and it may require considerable resources. We have already obtained funding for the instrument from other sources; however, we are requesting \$6,000 from the Basenji Club of America to develop the Basenji test panel.

Both the Fanconi syndrome mutation and the PRA mutation were identified from the whole genome sequences of individual dogs. In addition to the mutations, these whole genome sequences contain millions of other “sequence variants” (or differences from the canine genome reference sequence). Some of these sequence variants are responsible for the characteristics that define a Basenji. We have been studying other sequence variants that may be responsible for the differences between individual Basenjis. We are particularly interested in sequence variants that are responsible for heritable diseases. We have focused on sequence variants that may have been gone undetected because they were inherited from only one parent but are likely to cause overt disease in relatives that have inherited the sequence variant from both parents. Our algorithms have identified several such sequence variants within the canine versions of genes known to be associated with heritable human diseases and/or diseases in rodent models. Among the sequence variants in the Basenji whole genome sequences are those in genes associated with inflammatory bowel disease, cataracts, renal failure (unrelated to Fanconi syndrome), dilated cardiomyopathy, bleeding tendencies, hearing loss, early onset progressive retinal atrophy, autoimmunity, immune deficiency, and fading puppies. Fortunately, only a subset of these sequence variants will actually cause disease. Because with the MassARRAY, >20 DNA test can be performed simultaneously on a single sample, we will use the excess testing capacity of this instrument to investigate sequence variants such as the above-mentioned potential disease-causing sequence variants. The results from this experimental testing will not be reported to the dogs’ owners before the sequence variants have been validated as authentic causes of Basenji diseases. Tests for validated causes of Basenji disease will be added to the Basenji MassARRAY panel for little or no price increase.

Of course a more direct and efficient way of discovering the mutation responsible for a particular heritable disease is to generate a whole genome sequence with DNA from a dog that exhibits that disease. We demonstrated the effectiveness of this approach a few years ago when identified the causes for Fanconi syndrome and a form of Basenji PRA. Back then, these projects involved frustrating, months-long waits for the sequence data to be fed through the data processing pipeline because we were dependent on help from bioinformatics experts with other priorities. When we finally got our data files, it took hundreds of hours scanning through sequence alignments and mutation reports to identify plausibly causal sequence variants and the laboratory evaluation of numerous candidate variants, many of which were sequencing artifacts. Now the situation is greatly improved. Advances in presequencing sample-preparation chemistry have eliminated most of the sequence variant artifacts and post-sequencing error-correction software has eliminated almost all of the rest. The sequencing technology has also improved. Improvements in throughput have reduced or eliminated sequencing bottlenecks and higher and more even genome coverage has eliminated almost all of the coverage gaps that were common in the data produced a few years ago. Over the last 3 years, our graduate student, Ana Kolicheski, has been taking bioinformatics coursework and can now process whole genome sequence data without outside help. Thus, the months-long waits for data processing have been reduced to a few days of analysis by the University of Missouri’s supercomputers. The most recent advancement occurred earlier this month. Sequencing technology that was limited by legal contract to the analysis of human samples can now be used to analyze animal samples, including canine samples. We expect this technology to further increase the quality of the whole genome sequences and to reduce the sequencing price by at least 50%. We are currently exploring prices at various sequencing centers that have the advanced instrumentation and expect to offer whole genome sequencing plus analysis for \$2,500 per dog. At this price we believe it may be cost effective to investigate relatively rare heritable diseases of Basenjis. In addition, some owners of healthy dogs are now investing in whole genome sequences as a basis for improved diagnosis and treatment of disease that may develop as their dogs age.

Finally, whole genome sequences are typically analyzed in comparison to a reference canine genome sequence assembled several years ago with DNA from a Boxer. This has proven useful for all breeds, including the Basenji. Nonetheless, most breed comparisons with DNA markers have indicated that that among the domesticated dogs, Basenjis are outliers, reflecting many generations of isolation from other breeds and explaining the unusual reproductive and behavioral characteristics that make Basenjis so interesting. We believe that the Basenji breed could benefit from the assembly of a breed-specific reference sequence. This could help explain the unique features of the breed and serve as a safeguard to prevent the unintended introgression of non-Basenji DNA sequences at critical sites within the Basenji genome. De novo assemblies are much more complex procedures than the alignments that we now do routinely. They require other, more expensive types of sequence data. Ana Kolicheski has not yet generated a de novo assemble, but is eager to learn. University of Missouri faculty member Dr. Christine Elisk has experience with de novo genome

assemblies in other species and has agreed to help guide Ana's efforts, if she undertakes a Basenji genome assembly. I estimate that this project would cost between \$40,000 and \$80,000, including part time salary for Ana. If the Basenji Club of America is interested in exploring this project, please let us know and we will generate a more specific proposal.

Our next meeting is planned for the week of August 10-14, 2016 in Longview, WA.

With a motion to adjourn by Dennis Narehood and a second, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Submitted,
Janet Ketz
BCOA Secretary