

IWANE Membership Meeting Minutes
Showcase for Dogs, East Windsor, CT ~ July 29, 2019

Call to Order:

The IWANE president called the membership meeting to order at approximately 2:00pm. The following board members were present: Andrea Dormady (AD); Colleen Brown (CB); Janel Milne (JM); Pat Campbell (PC); John Fitzgerald (JF); Eileen Flanagan (EF) and Joni Light (JL).

The following members were present: Rosemary Wortman, Susan Craighead, Judy Mazurkiewicz, Dolores Kane, Pasquale Scelso, Mike Meyer, Donna Sula, Jennifer Sula, Karen Eberl, Karen James, Susan Gilson, Stu Gilson, Marc Campbell, Raven Axelrad, Anne Linden, Paul Hayes, Evelyn Jimenez, Val Schiller, Sherry Mayo, Julie Schaeffer, Jeanne Patterson, Justine Cruz Corchado. Guests: Bambi Rabe, Tammy McNeely-Aube.

Agenda:

A meeting was scheduled in conjunction with the general meeting as per IWANE By-laws, Article II, Section 3. JL was recording the minutes. IWANE will be referred to as "The Club" henceforth. Agenda items per the attached and in slightly different order noted in bold below.

Introduction of the new board:

The new president introduced the new officers and encouraged members to feel free to reach out to any one of the board members with any concerns, questions or comments. Emails or phone calls are the preferred method of contact, and the commitment is to respond as quickly as possible to address issues. The new board is all about open communication and wants to put the focus back on the hounds and what the members want out of the club, and what they want from the members at large. She welcomes suggestions on topics for meetings, and issues that should be addressed by the members. This is the year of healing and participation and support from members is key. She confirmed that all the officers are aligned with this philosophy and all officers want to move forward in a positive manner.

AD publicly called out several people who gave additional support to the show and to The Club leading up to the specialty and to this first meeting: Karen Eberl, Sue & Stu Gilson, Rosemary Wortman, Justine Cruz-Corchado, Janel Milner, Joni Light, Colleen Brown, Pat Campbell, John Fitzgerald, Eileen Flanagan, Raven Axelrad

Treasurer Report:

JM shared with the members how difficult it has been compiling all the financials for The Club. She reviewed the process of the transition, and that the plan to get most of the questions answered and presented to membership at the fall meeting. Additionally, as part of the full explanation and disclosure of the Hick's Trust (Janney Fund), the board is preparing a presentation to the members that will outline the details of the fund. The operating account is perilously low and there is currently not enough to cover large unforeseen costs. The Rescue Fund is completely consumed and with the transition of the financials comes a transition of accounts. JM intends to move IWANE financial accounts to a national bank and allocate funds appropriately between operating and rescue.

Suze Craighead asked about the transition process, and if it can be turned over on a day other than at the specialty. JM responded that it would be nice but historically it has always been transitioned after the specialty. It can certainly be investigated for future transition.

Committee Reports:

JM led the discussion with Rescue being the only “committee” to report on at this time. The planned path for IWANE rescue is to adopt a policy engaging the IWCA National Chair to coordinate efforts with respect to hounds being surrendered. This is a “work in progress” and the board is committed to acting quickly to have details of a procedure addressing all aspects of what to do, who to notify, etc. JM further explained that The Club will continue to financially support any rescued hound from our geographical area and will continue to provide transportation and fostering as needed. All that said, The Club currently received notification of two rescues. AD is working with Jean Minnier.

With funds for rescue depleted as mentioned in the Treasurer’s report, The Club is in desperate need of donations for Rescue. JM made a recent withdrawal from the Janney Fund to cover necessary expenses and anything remaining will need to be on reserve for these rescues.

Evie Jimenez asked about the average amount set aside for rescue. JM explained that it varied from year to year and until she reviews the financials, she cannot give a hard number. All of this should be ready for more discussion at the fall meeting.

Committees:

AD explained how the board would like to get members involved in club matters by way of committees. One of the priorities for the coming months is to have an overhaul of the website. Committee members have been chosen and Pat Reilly, Cate Kowalski and Julie Schaeffer agreed to be on this committee. This committee, like others, will have a liaison to the board. Joni Light will be the board liaison for the website committee. AD once again encouraged members to give ideas and suggestions for layout, content, etc. Pictures and events that members want uploaded to the site will need board approval. The board is committed to fast turnaround to get content added. Additionally, AD confirmed that the website domain is owned by Pat Reilly, and that she is being paid \$50.00 per month to manage the site. Given the research the board did on hosting costs this is cost effective. Again, this will be reviewed once the treasurer is able to delve into full financials.

Discussion moved to the Facebook page for IWANE. Suze Craighead asked if this would be created. AD confirmed there will be a Facebook page for The Club, but it will be different from the website committee, and managed by a separate team. The board is reviewing code of conduct for the page and will likely encompass the IWCA rules. This will also have a board liaison and will be monitored. Suze Craighead expressed willingness to help administer the page.

Other discussion on committees, CB confirmed she’ll continue to update The Club on legislation. Janel will look into the need, if any, to pay dues to be informed on a federal level.

Unfinished (Old) Business:

Since meeting minutes for the past two years have never been accepted, AD asked for three important motions to be ratified and officially put on record.

CD moved the motion to remove the two-meeting requirement for associate members. Suze Craighead seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

Pat Scelso moved the motion that IWANE donates to the IWF, for heart testing research conducted by Dr. Tyrrell in which IWANE members can volunteer their hounds to be put into the study and provide

blood draws for other studies currently being done to improve the health of our breed, from the trust for this study at the Specialty. JL seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Karen Eberl moved the motion that Club meetings be allowed to be held at supported entry shows, within the constraints of the by-laws. Pat Scelso seconds. Motion passes, however, it is not unanimous. (Judy Mazurkiewicz opposed)

AD brought up the impending policy on what The Club should do when a member with Irish Wolfhounds dies. The position of The Club is that it is a family matter and IWANE will reach out to the family with condolences and an offer to help if needed. No further contact will be made but if the family decides they need help with the hounds, even weeks or months later, The Club will help on their terms. Additionally, it was brought up by several members that people may want to investigate having something legally drawn up for the care of their dogs in the case of their death. The Donna Monahan situation should never have happened, and it almost broke up The Club. AD spoke for the board in saying that we never want to have this happen again. She asked for additional thoughts and input from members, and the board will have a draft for full review ready to vote on at the fall meeting.

New Business:

Judging assignments were passed out to the members for a vote. Members were instructed to vote for one of the named judge candidates under 2021 Conformation, and two named judge candidates for 2020 and 2021 Sweepstakes. Ballots were collected and will be counted. Judges will be announced on the second day of the Specialty.

The next member meeting is anticipated to be held in November; not yet scheduled. Locations are currently being reviewed.

Motion to adjourn was moved by EF and seconded by Suze Craighead. Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30pm.

Submitted and approved: November 9, 2019

Joni Light

IWANE Secretary