

IWANE Membership Meeting Minutes
Wilbraham Public Library, Wilbraham, MA ~ November 9, 2019

Call to Order:

The IWANE president called the membership meeting to order at approximately 11:40am. The following board members were present: Andrea Dormady (AD); Janel Milner (JM); Pat Campbell (PC); John Fitzgerald (JF); and Joni Light (JL). Absent: Eileen Flanagan (EF) and Colleen Brown (CB)

The following members were present: Pat Scelso, Karen Eberl, Mike Meyer, Evelyn Jimenez, Marc Campbell, Stuart Gilson, Sue Gilson, Beverly Alba, Sherry Mayo, Suzanne Gibney, Al Gibney, Rosemary Wortman, Denise Batastini, Justine Corchado, Clary Healy, Lee Leobelenz
Guests: Hector Corchado, Meg Turner, Holly Miller

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.

Officer's Reports:

JM provided the members with several financial documents. Documents are included as attachments. JM is working on a budget proposal now that most financial documents have been received and reviewed. She plans to have a budget prepared by calendar end. Her assurance was given to members that a balance sheet and a profit & loss statement will be provided at each meeting for complete transparency. JM called attention to a few areas; firstly, that the withdrawals to the trust (Janney Fund) since it was established total approximately \$161K. The balance of the trust is now back to the original principal of \$500K. Secondly, that there is a withdrawal of \$40K (2016) that does not have any details behind it, and years 2013, 2014 and 2015 have not been received. JM is committed to delving into these areas and hopes to settle these questions before year end. It was previously considered to be for board voted projects, such as the contribution towards the care of the "Texas 72", and the genetic study at the University of Washington. After a comprehensive presentation JM asked members for any questions.

Karen Eberl asked if the earnings from the Janney Fund were ever reinvested. JM explained that they were reinvested by Janney, and further explained any withdrawal on the earnings should be done annually at the end of the calendar year to maximize any interest and reduce the number of withdrawals. This would allow the account to grow more favorably in times when rates were high, and interest would accrue at the higher balance. JM plans to have a representative from Janney to attend the next meeting.

Beverly Alba asked how the cardiac donation was reported, and if there was a limit as to what could be withdrawn. AD confirmed there was a limit of 5% of principal, in addition to the annual interest/earnings on the balance, that was available for withdrawal. However, such proceeds should not be used for the operation of The Club as it has been in past years. This board does not intend to make any withdrawals on principal. IWANE is a non-profit 501c3 which is recognized by the IRS as a tax-exempt organization for the charitable purpose of education and must follow guidelines put forth by the IRS, as well as the Commonwealth. Beverly further ask for clarification as to whether health, research and rescue will be covered by the Janney Fund in the future. JM confirmed that these are the issues it was intended to fund. Going forward everything will be communicated to members, and any withdrawals for donations or movements of money within or out of the Janney Fund will be put to the members for a vote.

That said, JM noted the membership previously voted to get an accountant to do a full review of the records. While it is beneficial to do a full review of the finances, JM said if The Club were to go through an audit exercise it will fail. The cost of a full audit will cost several thousand dollars that The Club cannot spare. She has found that there are no policies and procedures detailed on how the recording of the finances are done. This is quite significant and will trigger an immediate failure without these basic instructions. She will work to get these in place. Other areas vital to the audit are basic transaction histories, sales receipts, journal entries and petty cash records; much of which is non-existent. Additionally, the treasurer should not be the "collector" of funds, such as member dues, and should only be representing the depositing of funds. JM asked for a neutral person willing to help with the collections. Sherry Mayo was one who volunteered. JM will work on a policy outlining this process to be voted on before anything further will be put into place. The board will discuss this at the next board meeting. More to follow.

Additional discussion around costs continued, and the topic of increasing dues was brought up as a question to the members by JM. A show of hands proved that everyone present would agree should an increase in dues be made. This is important to note as dues have not been raised in more than a decade, and it will help the operational side of The Club to have additional funds added to the general fund. The question will be how much to raise, and JM is working on that while she puts together a budget for calendar year 2020. Since JM will be working on this in the coming months, she informed members that the annual dues notices may be sent out a bit later, and to expect them likely in January. More will be posted on the Facebook Page and website. She will be looking at all the pros and cons before it goes to the board to vote.

Marc Campbell said that other clubs are moving away from independent specialty shows and are holding them in conjunction with All Breed shows to avoid costs. Karen Eberl further commented that the financial records show \$1,000.00 for trailer storage, and that she would be willing to garage it on her property to avoid this cost. AD agreed on the high cost and confirmed that it no longer exists because the trailer is on her property and it is currently not registered or insured. Another cost that is going away is the cost to run the website.

To close on the financial discussion, JM said that the budget will be submitted to members at the April meeting to be voted on for the next fiscal year.

Meeting Minutes:

JL provided the membership with the meeting minutes from the July 28, 2019 membership meeting held at the IWANE Specialty show. Members reviewed and Karen Eberl moved the motion to accept the meeting minutes from said meeting as written; Pat Scelso seconded. Motion approved.

Show Sponsorships and Committee Reports:

AD went over the list of IWANE sponsored shows for next year. Those shows are as follows: Pioneer Valley, Trapps Falls, Green Mountain, St. Hubert's and South Shore Kennel Clubs. She also confirmed the sweeps judges that were approved. Andra O'Connell is the 2020 sweeps judge, and Joe Roland has accepted the sweeps judge position for 2021. AD also let the membership know that there will be a date change for the specialty in 2021, and it looks as if it will be moved to the last weekend of August. This is being done to get the hounds out of the hot summer sun and keep them, and humans alike, from suffering any heat exhaustion.

AD announced new committee chairs for the Specialty. Karen Eberl will take over as Show Chair with Andrea Dormady as Co-Chair. Discussion continued around the cost of having Rau Dog Shows as the Show Secretary, and the need to research other ways of keeping this cost down. This will be revisited at the next meeting as it can be a significant cost avoidance if The Club could get a volunteer, or even

charge a nominal fee per dog as compensation. Some members brought up the idea of having the specialty with an All-Breed event, or potentially hold a one-day specialty. Pat Scelso commented that it was a good idea to forgo a banquet this year as it had always been a large expense with very few members attending. There are other discussions going on providing food for people attending the specialty. As AD noted, the location is not near any food or market areas and having food available onsite would be advantageous. Marc Campbell said the trophy costs have increased and should be reviewed. AD said she wants to ensure every trophy is sponsored so The Club does not incur additional costs. Mike Meyer is taking over as Trophy chair and will be organizing them for next year. Karen Eberl said she welcomes all ideas and would appreciate support for next year's show. Please reach out to her directly if you are willing and able to help.

Moving on to the need for fund raising, AD announced a new committee that currently is being handled by Sue Gilson and Joni Light, and that is the Fundraising Committee. Pat Scelso volunteered to be a part of this committee. The Club is currently offering Christmas Wreaths in the shape of an Irish Wolfhound. Sue will be hand crafting live wreaths to order. Orders must be received by November 25, 2019. Wreaths will be ready for shipping or pick up by first/second week of December. Live wreaths are \$60.00. This does not include packaging and shipping. Perpetual wreaths will be available to order for next season, although they will be a higher price. Please reach out to either Sue or Joni if you would like to order a wreath.

Health and Education will be chaired by Beverly Alba. Beverly spoke to encourage members to join and support the Irish Wolfhound Foundation (IWF) and Irish Wolfhound Club of America (IWCA). One item she shared was that after years of health testing it is recognized that the average life span of our breed has increased from 6.5 years to 7.6 years. Participating in annual heart testing, studies with the Broad Institute, and other studies made available to members, has proved significant in attaining such results. She hopes members will continue to participate in the studies. Beverly also asked members to reach out to her for suggestions on speakers for future meetings.

New Business:

PC asked about the committee and position descriptions for The Club. AD confirmed that these will be completed and uploaded to the website for all members to see.

There was additional discussion on the show sponsorship, and several members suggested looking into coinciding the specialty with an All-Breed, perhaps until The Club can start operating in the black again.

The general meeting was adjourned at 2:01pm with a motion by JL and seconded by Sherry Mayo. Open panel discussion between the board and members continued.

Submitted and approved: May 9, 2020

Joni Light
IWANE Secretary