

Idaho Retriever Club 2024 Special Member Meeting  
February 24, 2024

President Dale Langhorne called the meeting to order at 11:30 am, at the Sunrise Café in Middleton. Also attending were Secretary Brett Crow, Treasurer Blair Clark (via Zoom), and Board members Linda Harger, Jan Holshevnikoff, Mark Rombal, Scott Hayes, Briedi Gillespie (via Zoom), and Cindy Huff (via Zoom). Six club members also attended.

The Club's website status was addressed first. Member Jeff Davis reported that he and VP Diane Mazy are attempting to recover site control directly from the hosting company, since the former Club member who ran the site has become uncooperative. Scott Hayes will draft a letter and submit that for legal review to Blair Clark, seeking to influence the hosting company in our direction, as the site owners who have paid for site hosting. Micah Duffy pointed out that it may eventually be better to construct a new site. Member Wayne Dorband volunteered to work with Jeff Davis in that effort, should it become necessary. Progress is being made, although with more difficulty than necessary.

There was discussion of the picnic trial format, regarding competition vs. training. Brett will modify the 2024 invitation letter to specifically encourage competitive entries, but the format of allowing either competitive or training entries will not be changed.

Public relations ideas were discussed, building on Jack Smith's Annual Meeting idea of developing some press coverage. Dale will contact Jack regarding the person who might be involved, although concerns were raised about possible public sensitivities and the potential difficulty of shaping press coverage. The idea of working into the annual Sportsman's Show with other local retriever clubs was favorably received. Dale will begin that conversation with the other clubs at this year's show, intending to build towards a presence in 2025.

Linda Harger presented a Nominating Committee procedure based on her National club experience and IRC Bylaws. She proposed that the Club adopt a standing rule that (a) the Committee be formed by October 15 of each year, (b) that the Committee consist of one third-year Board member and two general membership persons, (c) that the membership be quickly informed of the Committee's formation and need for volunteers, the positions that need filling, and the job descriptions of those positions as the Committee begins its work, (d) that the Committee complete its work by December 1, thus allowing the Club Secretary to provide a longer notice period to members, and (e) that members be reminded of their ability, per Club bylaws, to provide alternative nominees at the Annual Meeting.

Dina Perugini raised the concern that voting for a slate of nominees at the Annual Meeting, as opposed to voting for individual office holders and Board members, ran contrary to her knowledge about the voting process in other clubs. It was then noted that voting for an entire nominee slate has occurred because there have not been any nominees beyond those provided by the Nominating Committee. There was also a

concern that the nomination process had become exclusionary. Brett noted that Club bylaws allow Annual Meeting nominees beyond those provided by the Nominating Committee (via direct floor nominations for officers or a different pathway for Board members), making the exclusion argument difficult to support. Although the notification window provided for alternative Board nominees is tight, that is one of the points addressed in Linda's proposal.

Scott Hayes moved that the Board vote in favor of adopting Linda's proposal, Jan Holshevnikoff seconded the motion, and Board voted unanimously in favor. Brett will proceed with a write-up, and future Board meetings will address the necessary job descriptions. In connection with that, Brett provided a summary of various written observations provided by George Rogers before the meeting. These observations include job description ideas that will be useful in the months ahead.

Scott stated that he dislikes the Covid-inspired conference call approach to Board meetings, that he considers the approach to actually be harmful, and that he prefers a return to in-person meetings. This idea was favorably received, along with the idea of meeting at a private residence (or at least a private space, since the Sunrise Café venue was a noisy one). Dale will seek that change, along with improved Board meeting notifications. Zoom, however, can be a useful adjunct for those with travel concerns.

To that end, we expect the next Board meeting to take place in the second half of March, after a date and location are pinned down.

Dale noted that the April Hunt Test and Owner/Handler Qualifying event is set, with AKC approval, and that Brett will soon open the event on Entry Express. Linda has two judges set for the May field trial, with two more under advisement, so that we can seek to finalize that event as well. Volunteers are needed for both events, including the field trial committee, and planning will continue at the March meeting. Dale also noted that we should seek to schedule a property work day at Pete Ciraulo's this spring, since burning provides a needed and dramatic improvement.

The meeting was officially adjourned at 1:00 pm.