

Orchid Isle Dog Agility
Minutes From the General Membership Meeting
12-10-2024
Google Meet Online

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 p.m. by President Sandy Leggett. This meeting was held online via Google Meet. Board members present were Marchand Green, Sandy Leggett, Tamara Brown, Meghan Jerolaman, Michelle Escobar, and Mary Jo Stevenson Fullen. Also present were OIDA members Renee Elliott and Angelic Ebbers. This constitutes a quorum of OIDA members.

President's Report. President Sandy Leggett welcomed everyone and reported on the events the club had sponsored during 2024. She noted that at the beginning of the year, the club made money, but as the year progressed with a diminishing number of attendees at events and a decreased membership, the club lost money for the year. Some OIDA club members have moved to the mainland, with additional members planning to move. She suggested that another factor that may have affected attendance at the November events is the close proximity timewise to the November AKC trial hosted by HOTC.

Treasurer's Report. Sandy reported that Marchand Green has agreed to assume the Treasurer position for the remaining year of Meghan Jerolaman's 2-year term. Meghan has moved to the mainland. The Board appointed Marchand Green as the OIDA interim Treasurer effective immediately by unanimous consent.

Sandy reported that as of December 6, the sum of OIDA's funds in the savings and checking accounts is \$5,134. The March NADAC trial made \$366 and the Scentwork Workshop made \$560. OIDA went in the red \$80 for the August Scot Seo workshops, \$60 for the Roger Coor November workshops, and \$35 for the November NADAC trial. She noted that regular expenses, including website fees, insurance, equipment storage, etc., total approximately \$1100 per year, so in order to break even for the year, in addition to covering any expenses associated with events, the club needs to bring in \$1100. Sandy reported a loss of \$230 for OIDA for 2024, and is concerned for the future due to decreasing attendance and membership.

Marchand noted that the bank will need a copy of OIDA minutes that document her assuming the position of Treasurer, and that the officers will need to sign the new signature card in order to be authorized signers for checks.

Secretary's Report. Secretary Mary Jo Stevenson Fullen reported that the minutes for our last Board meeting were sent and approved via email, and have been uploaded to the OIDA website. She reported that because of having the General Membership Meeting in close proximity to Christmas last year, there was difficulty and pressure to get the ballots sent out within three days of the meeting, as specified by the bylaws. The Board has, thus,

proposed a revision to the bylaws to relieve the pressure of having to do club business on holidays. She reported that the ballots, which Sean Fendt will send via email access link after the General Membership Meeting, will contain the proposed change as follows:

The OIDA Board of Directors is proposing revisions to the current bylaws in order to update the election procedure requiring that ballots be sent within three days of the General Meeting where nominations are finalized. The Board is proposing this be changed to “within three *working* days” to give time for the process to be completed if those days fall on holidays. For consistency, the Board also proposes that the deadline for receipt of completed ballots be changed from "14 days" to "10 working days.”

Exact wording of the change is detailed below. Please read the suggested change, then vote your approval or disapproval by checking the appropriate box. An **approval by 60% of OIDA members** is required.

ARTICLE V **VOTING** (ballots)

Yes No Ballots shall be sent by one of the above-mentioned methods within 3 working days after the annual General Membership Meeting. Completed ballots must be received by the Election Committee within 10 working days of the annual General Membership Meeting to be counted as part of the election process.

Election. President Sandy Leggett thanked Marchand Green and Renee Elliott for calling the membership to find potential nominees for open Board positions. She reported that Renee volunteered to serve in an At Large position. No additional members expressed desire to serve at this time.

The open positions that will be on the ballot include the one-year Treasurer’s position which Marchand has offered to cover, Vice President, Secretary, and two At-Large positions. Sandy noted that the following current Board members have volunteered to continue for another two-year term: Sean as Vice President, Mary Jo as Secretary, and Michelle as one of the At Large positions.

Sandy thanked Meghan for her service to the Board during this past year. She asked if there were any other ideas for members who may wish to serve on the Board, and noted that Donna McClung has applied for membership, and may be a good candidate for the future, considering her bookkeeping experience. With no further nominations, the ballot will contain the following for election by OIDA members:

Treasurer – Marchand Green – for a one-year term to fill the position vacated by Meghan Jerolaman, who moved to the mainland.

Vice President – Sean Fendt – for a two-year term (2025-2026).

Secretary – Mary Jo Stevenson Fullen – for a two-year term (2025-2026).

At Large – Michelle Escobar – for a two-year term (2025-2026).

At Large – Renee Elliott – for a two-year term (2025-2026).

Sandy Leggett will continue as OIDA president and Tamara Brown will continue in an At Large position through the end of 2025.

Upcoming Events. Sandy asked for ideas for getting Novice handlers and dogs involved in OIDA activities and events. Angelic reported that not all of her students are doing competitions, though she has encouraged them to try. Some like an occasional fun match, but not all the time. Sandy reported that she has reached out to NADAC regarding NADAC-sponsored trials and the possibility of bringing in judges from the mainland. Far Flung has completed a calendar of events for 2025, with two NADAC trials, fun runs, and workshops. She believes they have something scheduled for every month except June and July. We can create our calendar considering their events, the HOTC events, and the Agility League schedule.

Mary Jo asked Tamara, who is fairly new to agility, for her input regarding why she likes to participate in Agility League, but not in trials. Tamara mentioned factors such as the cost to participate in a trial and the pressure of competition as keeping her and possibly others from participation. She commented that Agility League offers a good combination of the cost, level of effort involved, camaraderie, and fun. She noted that it is a good entry point for others to see if they like competition. She also suggested that new handlers have no idea what is involved in a trial, and that we should do more to help them know what to expect and to feel comfortable. She also noted that many people have dogs. The club could reach out to dog owners and let them know that their dog does not have to be a Border Collie to participate in agility.

Michelle noted that as an owner of small dogs, she is concerned for the safety of small dogs. She stressed the importance for newcomers to know that their dog is safe, and suggested keeping reactive dogs separate. She suggested that when multiple dogs are present, all dogs should be on leash—even in the backfield. She suggested separating reactive dogs so that other dogs do not get barked at immediately upon entering the facility, and possibly having a separate entry for reactive dogs.

Angelic noted that among her students, some are afraid of reactive dogs, while others have reactive dogs and wish to participate. She acknowledges the problem but does not know the answer. She tries to be inclusive and looks for ways to work around the problem.

Marchand suggested that a major need would be education for the handlers to know what to look for and how to handle a dog that tends to react. It was decided to contact Dawn Goehring, Terri Rolph, and Emma Gerrish regarding possible seminars to help in this situation.

Michelle also suggested teaming up with Far Flung or AKC for events. Sandy brought up the possibility of Flyball, noting that we do have Flyball equipment. Angelic noted that Flyball can push the dog's excitement level higher and make them more reactive to other dogs. Meghan offered to email the Board her ideas for increasing participation and membership.

Equipment. Sandy suggested that it is time to take an inventory of our equipment that is stored at Sean Fendt's property. Because of our rental fee to store the equipment, she has pondered selling the equipment but would not like to be without equipment if we may need it in the future. Meghan suggested offering tunnels for rental to compensate for storage fees. Mary Jo noted that we have offered tunnels for rental, but that only she and Sandy had rented them. It was decided to inventory the equipment once Sean returns to the Big Island.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

I certify these minutes to be true and correct.



Mary Jo Stevenson Fullen
OIDA club secretary