

TCVESSA Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Board Members Present – Mary D, Carmen L, Courtney H, Gretta T, Michelle B, Kathy P, Tekla V, Heather R.

Board Members Missing – Diane S

Others Present – Sandi K, Mary H, Jean D, Liz P, Joan B, Cyndi M

Call to Order – 7:31pm

Next steps

- [Mary: Set up PayPal business account with \\$2 surcharge option for payments](#)
- [Mary: Share Google Docs access instructions with Board members](#)
- [Michelle: Set up merchandise store with Big Frog including regular TCVESSA logo](#)
- [Gretta: Work with Kathy to prepare detailed financial report for both obedience/rally trial and agility trial for next meeting](#)
- [Liz: Research the legality of Small Dog Show Helpers fundraising approach and report back at next meeting](#)
- [Courtney/Tekla/Cyndi: Visit and assess the building at Cambridge show for potential specialty event venue and take pictures](#)
- [Carmen: Send approved meeting minutes to Jean for website posting](#)
- [Michelle & Cyndi: Continue monitoring AKC event approval process for 2025 specialty](#)
- [Jean: Continue updating ESS specialties page and TC VESSA page with specialty information](#)
- [Michelle: Share specialty logo options with board members for feedback on TCVESSA gear](#)
- [Board Members: Review agility trial profitability and cleaning fee proposal for October trial](#)
- [Michelle/Jean: Continue promoting the fall specialty event through various channels once AKC approval is received](#)
- [Mary: Send text reminders to Courtney and Tekla about taking pictures of the Cambridge building](#)

- [Mary: Set up and send out Zoom meeting details for July 10th at 7:30 PM to all participants](#)
- [Board Members: Brainstorm creative solutions to address the agility trial volunteer shortage and workload issues](#)
- [All Members: Consider volunteering for the ESSFTA agility trial on July 18th-20th at Cloud 9](#)
- [Courtney: Send welcome letter to Mary](#)
- [Courtney: Send volunteer card pictures to Mary](#)
- [Mary: Call Gretta to test PayPal payment system](#)
- [Joan: Upload high-resolution club graphics to Google Docs once access is granted](#)

Summary

Meeting Minutes and Membership Approval

The correct balance in the account as \$2,868.16. They approved the meeting minutes with the discussed changes and confirmed that the approved minutes would be posted to the website. The membership update included a motion to approve Janice Johnson, Erica, and Riley as new members, which was seconded and approved.

Dog Trial Financial Review

The group discussed financial results from recent dog trials, with Gretta reporting a balance of \$2,638.08. They determined they lost approximately \$44.17 on the May obedience and rally trial, despite receiving a check of \$331.90 and additional charges of around \$210. Kathryn mentioned they would receive another check for agility trial expenses, and Jean suggested Gretta compile detailed financial reports for both trials to present at the next meeting.

PayPal Implementation and Fee Structure

The group discussed implementing PayPal as a payment option, with Mary Dahl reporting progress on setting up a Gmail account and event proposal form with Kathy Flanders' help. After debate about whether to absorb the 3% PayPal transaction fee into membership costs or pass it on to users, the group agreed to add a \$2 surcharge for PayPal payments to encourage check payments while maintaining an option for convenience. The motion passed with Mary Dahl planning to implement PayPal the following afternoon, with the system expected to be operational for 2026 membership renewals and other payments.

Club Graphics and Fundraising Updates

The meeting covered several topics, including financial transactions, setting up Google Docs, and club graphics. Mary Dahl discussed the status of the 2025 specialty, noting that documents are submitted to AKC, judges' panels are approved, but there are pending issues with event permissions. Michelle presented fundraising ideas, including a traditional raffle, email and social media donations, and merchandise sales featuring a new "Fall in Love with the Springer" logo. The board needs to approve the merchandise plan, and there are ongoing efforts to resolve technical issues with event permissions.

Board Approves Merchandise and Fundraising

The board approved a \$57 expense to digitize and add the regular TCVESSA logo to merchandise and the website. They also discussed a potential fundraising opportunity through the Small Dog Club Helpers Facebook group, which organizes raffles for dog clubs. Liz agreed to research the legality and legitimacy of this group's operations, as there were concerns about potential legal issues with raffles across state lines. The board decided to gather more information before making a decision on whether to proceed with this fundraising method.

Fall Specialty Event Planning Update

The meeting focused on the financial and logistical aspects of an upcoming fall specialty event. Michelle explained that Big Frog is currently behind in staffing but confirmed that the treasury is stable due to cost savings in expenses like judges, building, and electricity. The group discussed the financial model for the concurrent event, which is projected to generate significant revenue per dog entry. The judges for various events were announced, including Grace Fritz, Kathy Rust, and Joyce Winkles, with detailed arrangements for their compensation and logistics. The team also outlined plans for promoting the event, including contacting other clubs and updating social media pages, while awaiting final AKC approval to release the premium list.

Agility Trials Financial Challenges

The meeting focused on discussing the club's upcoming agility trials and the challenges faced by the organizing team. Kathryn requested that the club start paying the \$250 fee for cleanup services at trials, as she and a small group of volunteers have been handling all the work, including setting up and breaking down the course. The group agreed to revisit the issue in October, and Jean suggested adding a specific volunteer slot for crew work at agility trials. They also discussed the declining popularity of agility trials, with Kathryn noting that they are no longer making the desired \$2,000 profit and may need to reduce the number of trials in the future.

Volunteer Recruitment and Trial Profitability

The group discussed volunteer recruitment challenges. The discussion then shifted to trial profitability, with Jean suggesting they examine whether paying cleaning fees would impact profits, particularly for agility trials. The conversation ended with agreement to table the volunteer recruitment issue for further consideration, while Liz noted that recent financial data showed the club was breaking even on obedience and rally events, which helped ease pressure on agility trials.

Agility Trial and Club Updates

The club discussed volunteering for an agility trial at Cloud 9 on July 18-20, with Jean inviting members to help, especially in the afternoons. Courtney reported on club communications and a potential collaboration with the Cambridge Club, which offered to provide a separate building for specialty shows, including power supply. The group agreed to meet at the Cambridge show in two weeks to inspect the proposed building and take photos. They also decided to hold the next club meeting on Thursday, July 10, at 7:30 PM, with Mary Dahl agreeing to set up the Zoom meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01pm