

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 26, 2023 – Via Zoom

Colorado's Junior Handler Educational Foundation / aka-dba Colorado Junior Foundation

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- **Meeting:** called to order at 7:05
- **Attending:** Marlene Groves, Louise Leone, Carey Moreschini, Annel Henderson, Anthony Wagoner, Douglas Johnson, Jill Chase, Diane Simcik, Natasha Kramlich
- **Minutes 04-05-23 - MOTION** by Daine, second by Carey to approve. ***Motion passed with all in favor.***
- **Finances:** None yet.

OPEN ITEMS & UPDATES:

- **SUPPORTING CLUBS** – Not much new except some communications with Durango and Grand Valley, both are supportive of the concept but not able to support financially. These small clubs probably need our help with juniors. within their own smaller clubs even if they are not able to help Best of the Best in a financial way. Mention that Colorado Springs supports juniors and money is not their issue; they are taking a stance that juniors need education and there needs to be something that bring more juniors into the fold (including the underdogs).
- **AKC** - Mary Beth O'Neil, AKC VP, hopes to attend the event to support and help it's launch but will know more when she gets her 2024 budget.
- **SPONSORS & FUND RAISING** - Marlene is holding off submitting for a sponsors until we have a formal name and IRS status. Doug still plans to get Pro Handler support. Marlene will start a Go Fund Me page.
- **LOGO DECAL** - Marlene asked Miranda (Tony's wife, a graphic artist) to design a logo for a decal to sell to raise funds. Group discussion included a decal with a paw print, "Juniors are the future" theme, a suggestion of an outline with a male and female youth and different breeds of dogs (different silhouettes). And we need to be mindful of AKCs focus on Juniors in the entire sport of dogs, not just on conformation. We will try to encompass all dog sports, i.e., conformation, obedience, and performance.
 - o **ACTION** – *Miranda to work on Logo/s.*
- **ANNUAL HOSTS** – 2024 is Plum Creek, nothing formal past that. Information presented to Buckhorn Valley and they are in a "wait and see" mode. Greeley also has an interest but no commitment.
- **INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT & COMMITMENTS** – Marlene stepped up to chair the 2024 event, Diane offered assistance. Doug will be a liaison with the Pro-Handlers, and Tony would be a liaison to try to bring in other advocates. Jennifer Carlson (Dachshund) has 4H contacts at the State level and wants to be a liaison there.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **NAME** - The best name, so far, includes Colorado Junior Handlers Educational Foundation. Tony thinks it's a good name. Renee (PR advisor) likes words like "Educational and Foundation", says they are important to include. Marlene reminded that without a name, we can't get insurance, tax ID number and will shoot for obtaining a 501c3 (real non profit), not like a dog club's membership club. The majority of the attendees like the name the way it is. Marlene has suggested we call this the draft name for now, "Colorado Junior Handlers Educational Foundation". (*Development may be an alternate word*).
 - o **ACTION** - Vote on the name at the May meeting.
- **BYLAWS** - Bylaws and Constitution was emailed to the Board. It was modeled from some agricultural and non profit groups, (not from dog clubs); and has categories for voting and non voting members. Input included: Need better wording about insurance. Need details if we are to have sub members. Should we have Junior Members or does that complicate or make it not possible for them to get scholarships (benefit) from the foundation. AKC may be going the direction of developing junior clubs.
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- **COLORADO AREA** - Louise asked how we defined the "Colorado Area"? Marlene, said it is not currently defined but if we call it "Colorado Area" we can include Colorado Clubs with shows in other states. Louise thinks we need to define "Colorado Area" but to start with only "Colorado". There were mixed feeling on including only Colorado Juniors or beyond; maybe start with Colorado only, then see if there is a need to expand or augment.
- **BEYOND COLORADO** - Tony had a question regarding the size of our reach including not only Colorado but surrounding state, Laramie, Cheyenne, Scottsbluff, Garden City, etc., For the first year. Marlene is tracking the Juniors from the surrounding states clubs. Tony would like to see "Colorado Area" be included specifically in our bylaws. It may be too early to really say yes or no to any of the bordering, out-of-state clubs.
- **IMPORTANT DATE GOAL** - Shooting to have all business items in place, tax #, bank account, etc. so we can start with income and donations by June 1, 2023.
- **INSURANCE** – Preliminary quotes received. We can't afford any insurance for 2023 but will budget for insurance for 2024. Directors and Officers insurance will be a priority and other Liability as needed, etc. ON HOLD for 2023.
- **GROUP CLUBS** - Tony requested clarification on if a group club membership would be able to send a Best Junior to the Best of the Best. Further discussion on the topic leaned favorably, depending on the overall numbers, finances, etc. It's a decision the board will have to make who, which clubs, states, etc. to include.
- **EDUCATION** - Jill suggested offering (for a nominal fee, like 4-H and state) a Best of the Best educational opportunity for all youth prior to the annual event to give kids a glimpse of what is available to them, It could possibly open up more opportunities in the long run. Marlene thinks the new organization will have several branches, yes the Best of the Best, but also Education, probably also helping smaller clubs, reaching out to 4-H, etc. But we gotta walk before we run and we need more people to help and take things on.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn at 8:13 pm.

NEXT MEETING - May 24th, 2023, at 7pm – we will vote on a name; and board continues to work on Bylaws.