

JUDGES TRAINING COMMITTEE (JTC)

REPORT TO THE BOARD

December 2011

REGION & STATE	COMMITTEE MEMBERS	ROTATE OFF
1 – WA	Joyce Hubbard	Dec. 2012
8 – NC	Debbie McGhee	April 2014
2 – CA	David Wortham	Dec. 2012
5 – NY	Fran Bishop	Jan. 2014
3 – AZ	April Seiler	Dec. 2011
2 – CA	Gail DeGough	April 2014
5 – VT	Michael O'Kelly	Dec. 2011
6 – IL	Jill Conklin	June 2012

COMMUNICATION:

- I have sent out a letter/email informing judges of the NPGA Board's decisions made at the 2010 Board Meeting.
- I have requested, again, that all judges and board members send their thoughts, concerns and ideas to me to help improve the NPGA Judges Corps.
- I have made certain that the judges signed and returned the Judge's Pledge in a timely manner.
- I have worked with the NPGA Webmaster to be certain all necessary information regarding judges has been posted to the NPGA website and the Judges portal.
- I have worked with the NPGA Central Office to make sure all judges' information is correct and updated.
- I contacted the judges and updated the website and address book with the correct contact information for all of the judges that I received.
- I provided information to prospective candidates for the June 2012 Judging Exam (JE).
- The JTC, as a committee, will be making several proposals to the board for changes to be made to improve the current judge's corps' knowledge and to facilitate steps and procedures to improve our candidate pool for the JE itself.

Note From the Central Office:

This is an email from Dori Lowell sent to President Hoyt and myself. I think it is a great example of how the judges and directors are working towards a better NPGA.

"This is a FIRST!!!

ALL ... Yes I said ALL judges and Directors are paid up already for 2012!! Usually there are a couple of people who wait until 12/30 to pay, but everyone was on top of it this year!

Dori

Continuing Education (ConEd):

Two judges who were given a one-year extension for the year 2011 must attend the 2012 ConEd in Texas.

The first required Judging Clinic, to fulfill the NPGA ConEd requirement as set forth by the Board, was a huge success. The judges who attended all gave very good feedback on the clinic and suggestions on how to improve the clinic in the future. To quote George Starbuck, "I was very DIS-Gruntled about having to take this clinic, but after taking it, I am now VERY GRUNTLED". To me, this speaks volumes of what a good ConEd can do for the education and future of the NGA Judges.

2011 Judging Clinic

The 2011 Judging Clinic offered at the 2011 convention was an incredible success. The NPGA Clinician Jennifer Joesphson did an amazing job organizing and operating this huge success. The 2011 JTC members that attended the Clinic said it was one of the most educational and valuable experiences possible to offer JE candidates. I spoke with the candidates who attended the Judging Clinic and they all agreed that the positive atmosphere, the guidance of the JTC members present, the educational goals of Jennifer were all wonderful. The candidates all benefited greatly from the classroom sessions as well as the hands on portion of the clinic. Most candidates felt it really helped them understand and put together the whole judging experience.

Candidates were required to participate in a Showmanship Class, and were required to take the microphone several times during the national show and speak spontaneously to the entire audience about different topics. Candidates were able to mock judge several classes and ask as many questions as possible regarding the placings. Candidates were encouraged to assist each other and work as a team to help each other learn more throughout the entire process.

There were 6 members of the JTC present for most of the clinic to assist Jennifer and to help put the candidates at ease for this grueling process.

Most of the candidates told the JTC that this was the most informative, friendly, open, encouraging JE that they had ever attended. The JTC was very glad to hear that candidates felt at ease and comfortable asking questions of the committee. It's an effective and necessary reminder that the JTC is here to help the candidates in any manner possible, and to make the JE and the Clinic and friendly, upbeat, learning experience.

The JTC would like to thank all of the candidates who attended the Judging Clinic for their efforts and positive attitudes. The JTC looks forward to seeing many of you, if not all of the candidates at the 2012 JE in Texas.

Remember, the JTC is here to assist, help, educate, and make the process a positive one!

2011 Judging Exam:

Ten candidates took the JE and Judging Clinic in Washington in June 2011. Two of the candidates passed: Kelly Estes and Brittany Swackhamer. Two candidates missed passing by only 1 point! The JTC was very proud of all of the candidates' hard work and dedication to the program. We hope to see all of them again next year in Texas.

OCTOBER 2011 Judges Pledge and Membership Dues:

All of the NPGA judges signed and returned the NPGA Board-required Judges Pledge in a timely manner by the due date. Two judges resigned from being a judge: Linda Carpenter and Keith Harrell. I thanked both of them for their many years of service to NPGA; they will both be missed.

2012 Budget:

Whenever possible, my correspondence will continue to be sent via e-mail, which is free.

I have some current data and figures to determine an actual budget for 2012; therefore, the following estimated figures are based on previous JTC reports.

2011 INCOME: \$2200

\$250 for written tests [10@\$25 each] and \$1000 for candidates [10 @ \$100 each for the Clinic] and \$500 for the JE [10 @ \$50 each].

\$450 for the Judges taking the ConEd Clinic [9 @ \$50 each].

2012 Possible EXPENSES: \$350

BOARD PROPOSALS:

The JTC kindly requests the board's approval of the following proposals. Each JTC member's name is next to each item with his or her vote on the item for approval.

Topic 1: Wether Sanction

In practice, NPGA states that the Wether portion of the show is sanctioned. Historically, a wether must be registered to record an official win. These official wins, in turn, are accumulated into different color-status levels of winning for the wether. A wether must have a certain number of official wins to be eligible to compete for the National Champion Wether title.

A show chairman must fill out a wether sanction portion of the Doe/Buck/Wether sanction form, in addition paying a sanction fee, to receive NPGA ribbons and the proper paperwork to record the official win.

This practice has been confusing over the years for NPGA members: is the wether portion of the show a sanctioned show or not? There has never been an official statement from the NPGA stating that the wether portion of the show is sanctioned. This practice must be officially declared "sanctioned" to end the confusion.

Pros:

- NPGA already operates as if the Wether portion of the NPGA show were sanctioned.
- An official NPGA statement clearing up the confusion would only allow NPGA members to practice what is already taking place as an official NPGA act.

Cons:

- None

Facts:

- The sanction forms are already printed and currently in use by the NPGA Show Chairs.
- The official paperwork to record a Champion Wether win are already printed and in use by show chairs and judges.
- The official champion wether and the national champion wether guidelines are already in place in the rules and are currently being used by show chairs and judges.
- Wethers must obtain official recorded wins in order to be a part of the medal program and to earn credits towards competing for National Champion.

Conclusion:

The JTC requests that the NPGA Board of Directors make a specific, official statement sanctioning the Wether portion of the show.

The JTC requests that the following are adopted:

1. The Wether portion of the show be “officially” sanctioned.
2. Best Wether and Reserve Best Wether be changed to Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Wether in all of the NPGA publications and ribbons.
3. Rules For Official Shows A.5. be changed to add Wethers.
4. Rules For Official Shows B.3.b. NOT be altered in any manner.
5. Rules For Official Shows D.1. be changed to remove the “sponsored” and replaced with “Sanctioned”. Please note, this same area already states “sanction” fees for wether classes.
6. For the Wether registration certificates to remove the “Certificate of Recorded Ancestry” and be changed to read Certificate of Registry.
7. Only NPGA registered Wethers may be shown in the Sanctioned part of the Wether show.
 - a. Shows may add non-registered Wether classes to their show classes if desired.

JTC Members Vote: Approve: Bishop, Conklin, DeGough, Hubbard, McGhee, O’Kelly, Seiler, Wortham Against: None.

Topic 2: Additional \$150 Stipend to JTC member assisting Clinician

The 2011 Judges Clinic for candidates and judges was a resounding success. This success was assisted by the presence of a JTC representative helping the NPGA clinician during the two days of the candidates judging clinic. Having this extra member of the JTC committee present to assist the clinician allowed the candidates to benefit from more time with an official NPGA representative. This presence is completely beneficial to the clinic program, but is also a huge financial burden on the particular JTC member taking the time to assist the candidates and the clinician. An extra \$150 could be allotted for this JTC member to help assist with the candidates clinic.

Pros:

- The extra JTC member at the clinic allows the candidates to have more educators present.
- The extra JTC member is able to assist the Clinician.
- This person may help coordinate the hands-on portion of the clinic, while the clinician finishes certain classroom portions of the clinic.
- Another judge present with the candidates assists in soothing the nerves of the candidates and helps ease the tension during the testing portion of the JE.
- Another judge may answer more questions and give different perspectives to the candidates, enabling them to learn more.

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Cons:

- It would require a spending of \$150 by NPGA.

Facts:

- During the 2011 Judges Clinic, there were 6 member of the JTC present to assist the clinician during the candidate clinic. This extra assistance allowed the candidates to ask as many questions as possible to the actual JTC.
- Candidates were given more “one on one” time since there was an assistant JTC member to help with the clinician.
- The extra JTC member present during the clinic was helpful on too many levels to write here in this report.

Conclusion:

The JTC requests that a stipend of \$150 be paid to the official JTC member present to assist the Clinician during the judge’s clinic portion for the JE candidates. This stipend is paid to a single member of the JTC, who has been appointed by the JTC Chair to serve as assistant.

JTC Members Vote: Approve: Bishop, Conklin, DeGough, Hubbard, McGhee, O’Kelly, Seiler, Wortham Against: None.

Topic 3: Candidates Judging Clinic Date Change

The original request for the Judging Clinic for Candidates, as requested by the JTC in the December 2010 report to the board, asked that the two days of the clinic be held on the Thursday and Friday prior to the National Show. Currently, the NPGA Board of Directors voted to hold this Candidates clinic on the Saturday and Sunday during the National Show. This caused an enormous number of logistical difficulties for the Clinician, the handlers, the goat availability and the show chair coordinator assisting during the clinic. If the required clinic were returned to the originally requested dates of the Thursday and Friday prior to the show, it would be less distracting for the candidates and all involved.

Pros:

- Candidates would be able to take the required Clinic and the JE, while still being able to show their own goats during the National Show.

- Handlers would not have to rush off from the clinic to show animals during the national show.
- Goats being used as teaching tools would not be taken away to be shown.
- Candidates would have two full days of rest prior to the JE to do follow-up questions with the JTC or Clinician.
- Candidates would be able to use the actual show ring for practice classes during the clinic.
- There would be fewer logistical issues in coordinating handlers, goats and time in the ring.

Cons:

- Candidates would have possible additional costs in regard to taking the Clinic and the JE.
- Goats/handlers would have to be present on those dates.
- The clinician would have to be present for more days to teach the candidates and then the judges.
- Board members would not be able to take the Clinic portion of the JE and would have to wait until they were no longer on the board to take the JE.

Conclusion: The JTC requests that the Judging Clinic for candidates be moved to Thursday and Friday prior to the National Show.

JTC Members Vote: Approve: Bishop, Conklin, Hubbard, McGhee, O'Kelly, Seiler, Wortham
Against: DeGough.

Topic 4: Wether Portion of the 2011 JE.

The JTC wants to note in this report that during the 2011 JE, the candidates were given a wether class to judge as a practice class. Each candidate placed the class in almost the same placings each time they were judged. The wethers all behaved very well during these practice classes. The candidates relayed to the committee that they were glad to have been able to judge a wether class, since they will have to judge these classes during a normal show. If there is any issue with behavior of any of the goats during the JE, in a doe, buck or wether class, the JTC has always been able to adapt and alter the classes as need to reflect a fair and proper testing situation.

JTC Members Vote: Approve: Bishop, Conklin, DeGough, Hubbard, McGhee, O'Kelly, Seiler, Wortham
Against: None.

Topic 5: Judges ConEd Dates

During the 2011 ConEd the Clinician along with the judges who attended were able to accomplish the clinic in one day. The information was the same relayed to the candidates, but being that this is a refresher for judges, it was able to move at a much more rapid pace. The judges who attended for their ConEd requirements and the Clinician all agreed that the requirement be changed to Monday only for the ConEd Judges Clinic.

Pros:

- Judges would have less travel costs associated with taking the required clinic.

Cons:

- None

Conclusion: The JTC requests that the ConEd Judging Clinic be changed to Monday only.

JTC Members Vote: Approve: Bishop, Conklin, DeGough, Hubbard, McGhee, O'Kelly, Seiler, Wortham Against: None.

Topic 6: Hormel System for the JE

The Hormel System is used by almost every 4H judging project, as well as almost all college judging majors throughout the country. As a general statement, the JTC would like to say that the system used for scoring during the 2011 JE was the same system used by NPGA since the beginning of NPGA.

The Hormel System was in place and used by the JTC since the beginning of NPGA and the judges testing. Dr. Bogart later gave Dr. Tim Norman a circular chart that made the scoring easier. A JTC member could line up the cuts and the total number of points designated to a class and the various permutations of scores was easily found. Later, NPGA Judge Ben Dillon made up an actual list of all possible permutations that people could see using the NPGA 100 point scorecard.

Basically, if you mixed up 1 & 2 you were all right, if you mixed up 1 & 3 you might be in trouble, and if you mixed up 1 & 4 you were definitely in trouble. The sheets gave a picture to the system that made it easier to see the scale of difference between a well-placed class and a poorly placed class. For the NPGA, the Hormel System works because it is a committee of judges evaluating animals and deciding what cuts are to be used. This committee aspect allows the system to be applied fairly. It actually is a benefit for the candidate because it allows the candidate to miss a placing and still stay in the running for a license.

In the mid 1980s Ben Dillon presented the NPGA with official Hormel System scoring sheets, the same sheets that are used today for the JE. In 1999 the NPGA actually

copyrighted this document as the "NPGA Judges Training Committee Hormel Scoring Sheet".

This JTC firmly stands behind the use of this system and seeks NO changes. To be blunt, if isn't broke, don't fix it!

JTC Members Vote: Approve: Bishop, Conklin, DeGough, Hubbard, McGhee, O'Kelly, Seiler, Wortham Against: None.

Topic 7: "Emergency Alert"

It is the JTC's duty, as well as the H.E.R committee's responsibility, to inform the membership of a possible disease issue. Members of NPGA have the duty to act ethically and morally to help stop the possible spread of a disease.

A potentially catastrophic health issue was discovered to be a possible problem in a region of the USA that had in prior years never outwardly experienced such an issue. This type of alert/issue had never been openly discussed by NPGA members; accordingly, a plan of action has never been established for such a possible issue.

Emergency measures were taken to protect the breed with the information given at the time. As a committee chair, I properly followed the procedures set forth by the NPGA Rules and Regulations: I followed the NPGA Mission statement, I followed the NPGA Code of Ethics, and had the Judges Training Committee's approval in proposing a revised emergency statement.

Since we do not know the severity of this issue, we took the "better safe than sorry" or the "an ounce of preventions is worth a pound of cure" perspective.

NPGA currently has no emergency health issue protocol or emergency action plan.

In a revised statement, the JTC members voted to request that until we can determine the scope of the health issue that bites/mouths no longer be checked during the course of a show. Judges may still check the teats, testicles and udders of the goats in the course of their judging duties.

JTC Members Vote: Approve: Bishop, Conklin, DeGough, Hubbard, McGhee, O'Kelly, Seiler, Wortham Against: None.

The H.E.R. Committee with Dr. Elaine Krieg's guidance and based on the recommendation by the JTC stated the following: "A University expert in Johne's has given the opinion that the handling by judges at a goat show is extremely unlikely to cause transmission of this disease, unlike some other established communicable diseases. Accordingly, the notification on judge checks has changed to allow for teat, udder, and testicle checks, but not bite checks until further information can be gathered." Dr. Krieg also reported in her statement that, "A number of ranches are currently evaluating multiple tests and testing

centers to support claims of Johne's-free and/or to identify and isolate any infected animals. The data from this testing initiative should help to identify the best testing strategies for pygmy goat owners to use in the future."

Conclusion:

I am requesting that the NPGA Board of Directors:

1. Establish an emergency health issue action plan.
2. Determine if the checking or bites/mouths as part of the ring procedure is necessary or only increases the chances of spreading any disease from goat to goat during the course of a NPGA show.
3. Have a protocol established that will enable the H.E.R Committee to inform other NPGA committees and the membership of health issues becoming known across the country and how to act upon the situation.
4. Establish a mandatory information chain between the committee chairs in reporting to each other information that could affect the breed and further the Mission Statement of the NPGA.

Topic 8: NPGA Clinician.

We regret to inform the board that Jennifer Josephson has resigned as the NPGA Clinician. Jennifer was a wonderful asset to the JTC and acted as a great clinician. She will be missed by all and we understand that personal lives and family must take priority over hobbies.

The JTC will make a replacement clinician recommendation to the board for their approval early in the new year.

JTC CHAIR NOTE:

This is an amazing committee! The JTC members have once again worked as a single unit to press forward in making our judges corps more knowledgeable and our candidates more prepared. The JTC is a true team, full of ideas and constructive thoughts. I thank each and every member for their hard work.

Some of the items requested are tweaks on items previously requested by this committee. The only way we are able to perfect these items is by the Board's dedication to assisting the JTC to make these changes. We thank the board in passing our requests that enable this committee to work towards our common goals. We are only able to strive for greatness in our current judges and futures judges with the board continued support. The NPGA membership supports the JTC goals and shares our vision of a better tomorrow for our love of Pygmy Goats.

Respectfully Submitted

Kevin Kress

Judges Training Committee Chairperson
December 21, 2011

cc: JTC Members