

## Master Amateur Retriever Club

### Annual Meeting –April 22, 2023

President Fred Nusbickel called the meeting to order and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

-Fred opened up the meeting by recognizing first time handlers, our sponsors; (Purina, Avery Sporting Dog, Garmin, Dogtra, Kent Cartridge, Up-Close Photo, Gerbino and Associates, Zinger Winger, Retriever News, and Entry Express), Charter and Lifetime members, and the Board members rotating off the Board. Dave presented a beautiful plaque to Nancy Bauer, Beth Gerdes and Betsy Pohl thanking them for their service. Fred announced incoming Board members, Jace Tramontin and Doug McGuire. He also announced that Larry Blasbalg will be taking over as Sponsor Liaison.

-Fred then announced the 2022 recipient of the John O. Blackbird award – Co-winners – Ellison Armfield and Sam Ferguson.

-Fred introduced Our AKC representative, Stacy West who is the field representative for the Retriever Detector /Patriotic Puppy task force. This organization has volunteers training puppies to be used in disaster situations, helping to find lost people.

-Dave thanked everyone who helped and introduced the judges.

-Patty Polish spoke on behalf of the judges running through their collective thoughts on judging the event. She stressed to everyone to focus on having a good time.

#### **Membership meeting:**

##### **-Fred:**

Fred made a pitch to the members to step up to open positions on the Board in the future, explaining they can all get involved in this great organization.

-Recapped the results of the surveys to keep the number of qualifications at 4, which passed as well as the question on combining two regions, (West and West Central) which 55% of the members responded yes.

-Asked the membership to continue to reach out to their area representatives with suggestions. Told them those representatives are: Bob Montler, Carol Hynes, Rex Gibson, and Laura Judd. He announced the 2024 MAI to be held in Carnation, Washington, dates will be from 6/9-6/16.

##### **-Mark**

-Spoke to membership numbers, presenting a great visual power point, showing how it's the family atmosphere of the Amateur that brings people together. Also stated the numbers in the club to be 469 annual members, 127 Charter Members, and 49 Lifetime members.

##### **-Carolyn**

-State of the business (which she reported to be healthy.)

-Update on current finances.

**Long Range Planning Committee:** Fred explained the proposal to combine the West and West Central regions had failed Board approval.

#### **Other Pertinent Board decisions:**

-Bringing on Mike Heard to be our new Communications Director

-First running dog was chosen (dog #1) and then all were wished good luck. It was actually Dog #1, now running #1.