



**ESAA Board of Directors  
Videoconference  
March 16. 2021**

**In attendance:** Colleen Bell, Julie Brimble, Kathy Cunningham-Roy, Tony DiSiena, John Fabelo, Jane Flynn, Susie Kerwin-Bush, Sandy Miller, Joanne Mistler, Mary Nowak, BJ Parsons, Anna Quigley, Julie Quirk, Coleen Raber, Lori Whorff. We were joined by guest Mary K Iverson, Annual Awards chair.

The meeting was called to order at 8:08 pm EDT. The sole topic of this meeting was to discuss the proposal for the banquet and Annual Awards presentation at the 2021 National in Seattle. Each Board member received a copy of the proposal prior to the meeting. It was felt that the proposal was enough of a change to warrant a face-to-face meeting of the Board.

Kathy asked Mary K to speak first since she is the Annual Awards chair.

- She felt some clarification needed to be made for consistency.....all candid shots?...show pictures?....does it matter?...etc.
- We would hope everyone would send a picture of their dog with the application as requested.
- Someone mentioned the awards should be announced before the pictures are shown on the slide show, but not necessarily presented.
- It was asked how many awards were not applied for last year. There were only about 3 for which there were no applications.
- There was some controversy over who should have the plaques engraved in 2018 and 2019. Mary K has a plan to avoid that situation in the future.
- If a picture is requested and sent in, it could be included on the runner-up certificates.

It was suggested that perhaps an announcement of all award recipients could be made during happy hour. The slide show could be running during the dinner as well for anyone who might have missed the announcement. The awards would be laid out on a table as always and the recipients can come to claim their award and sign the "pick up" card.

A few Board members questioned if the awards could take place on a night different from the banquet. This idea was not met with favor since the week of the National is already so busy.

Another suggestion was put forward to perhaps include a picture of all the applicants posted on a board in the banquet room. The announcement of winners and runners-up would be made and a slide show of those recipients would be run during the banquet.

Julie Brimble shared what precipitated the suggestions for change. Numerous ESAA members wanted the banquet to be more of an evening of celebration and socialization rather than sitting for a length of time during the awards ceremony. The idea was to streamline the awards to free up time.

Tony DiSiena made a motion for a sub-committee to be formed to come up with specific logistics for presentation to the Board at a future meeting. The motion was seconded by Susie Kerwin-Bush and passed without objection.

The meeting was adjourned on a Mistler/Nowak motion at 8:48 pm EDT.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Coleen M. Raber*

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ESAA Secretary