


DOCOF DOINGS

September 2023



Photo courtesy of 

Dog Obedience Club of Lee County High Scoring Team 2023 DOCOF

DOCOF OFFICERS

President: Ron Seeley rseeley1337@gmail.com (772) 971-4151

First V.P. Becky Babicz sheepy143@aol.com

Second V.P. Terri Bell terribell@embarqmail.com

Secretary: Carolee Boyles carolee@caroleeboylesmediagroup.com

Treasurer: Loni Coleman icoleman@tampabay.rr.com
1425 Dexter Dr.
Clearwater, FL 33756

President's Message

Another DOCOF has come and gone, and I felt that DOCOF 2023 was a tremendous success. I want to thank all the teams that attended DOCOF this year. It was nice to see some old familiar Club names that returned to DOCOF after not competing for a while. Brevard County Dog Training Club and Dog Obedience Club of Lee County returned to DOCOF, and they had a blast. In fact, Lee County won the competition! So, I want to offer my congratulations to the Dog Obedience Club of Lee County on returning with a bang! Maybe it was because of waiting to see if Hurricane Idalia would force us to cancel or maybe just having a photographer back again but this year's event seemed to have some of the old-style excitement. Anyway, let's keep the spirit going for many years to come.

I also want to welcome Becky Babicz as our First Vice President. I know Becky will bring some great ideas to DOCOF as she has been representing IPOC at DOCOF for quite some time. Loni Coleman has agreed to step up and take over as Treasurer for us. Lodge Weber stepped down after four years and I want to thank Lodge for his dedication to DOCOF during that time.

I was pleased to see that Aaron Gold Photo was pretty busy taking pics of several teams and competitors. I will be posting some of Aaron's photos under the Photo Gallery tab of our website. Aaron has agreed to return next year as our photographer. I sincerely hope everyone will continue to support him.

I also want to thank all of our Judges that judged for us this year, Carol Ann Klein, Brenda Critelli, Leslye Pinnell, Donna Edins and Pat Gannon. I thought both events went very smoothly, I saw lots of smiling faces. Our Trial Secretary, Adrienne Swanick, made an adjustment to the Obedience schedule and it really helped to limit any conflicts between the Utility and Open rings. I think we will use the same format next year as it worked flawlessly.

Don't forget that next year you will also be able to earn AKC Rally legs and titles! Thanks to all of our Delegates, they approved the new Rally Rules and Regulations that now allow us to offer Rally as a Special Event Trial! We are going to try it next year as the rules are currently written and review it afterwards to see if any modifications are needed. I know I said that I felt DOCOF would never return to our glory days of yesteryear, but I truly feel that with some of the changes we are making, DOCOF has the ability to grow. It takes time to adjust to change as we all are set in our ways, but if we keep an open mind and give the new changes an honest chance, I think we can keep it going for some time. So be sure to have your teams talk up both Rally and Obedience and let's have another great DOCOF weekend in 2024.

If you have a nomination for the Jon Mett Award for 2024, please don't forget to click on the Jon Mett Award page of our website and send in your nomination. Sometimes the longer we wait after DOCOF we tend to forget about the award. Also view our Photo Gallery on the website. The link is www.docof.org

Thank you for supporting DOCOF,

Ron Seeley

DOCOF MINUTES

September 2, 2023

Meeting called to order at 3:02 pm by Ron Seeley.

A signup sheet was sent around for attendees to sign.

Becky Babicz moved to accept the minutes from last year's meeting as published. Carol Ann Klein seconded. Motion passed.

Ron said that we've tried some things to get DOCOF back the way it used to be, but the days of having 40-something teams are gone. What's important now is that we try to make DOCOF as competitive as it was in the past and open it up to new people. That's hard with the fewer numbers of people trialing at all now. We need to be grateful for what we have and keep trying to get new people in.

There was no secretary's report, as the secretary was not asked to do anything other than keep minutes this year.

Treasurer's report. Last year we made \$20.65 from our annual event. We will make more for 2023. Deb Neufeld moved to accept the Treasurer's report. There were several seconds. Motion passed.

Committee reports:

Judges: Carol Ann Klein hasn't hired anyone yet for next year. She is waiting to see what happens at this meeting. We usually hire from out of state because they don't know the handlers. We may want to hire Florida judges because of the difficulty in traveling sometimes, and expenses. If we had 40 teams, we could hire out of state judges but it's hard to afford that now.

Deb Neufeld moved to consider hiring Florida judges for next year. Angela Smith seconded.

Ken Kincaid proposed an amendment to replace "consider" with "may utilize" to make it a little stronger.

Deb restated her motion to say we "may utilize local judges" when hiring for DOCOF. Aimee Kincaid seconded. Motion passed. Anyone with judge suggestions should email them to Carol Ann Klein.

Election of Officers:

Terri Bell is home taking care of her sick husband but has agreed to stay on as Second VP.

Deb nominated Ron to remain as President. He agreed.

Deb nominated Loni Coleman as Treasurer. She agreed.

Aimee nominated Carolee Boyles to stay on as Secretary. She agreed.

Deb nominated Becky Babicz as First VP. She agreed.

The vote was by acclamation. Passed.

Unfinished business:

None.

New business:

Rally regulations for the SET for 2024.

Rachel had a question about the order of classes in the proposed regulations. Ron will correct the order of classes to be consistent with AKC. Discussion followed about the number of classes and whether we will offer Intermediate and Choice. We need to limit the number of people on a team, so each team would need to decide whether they are entering a dog in either Intermediate or Advanced, and either Master or Choice. Discussion followed. Do we want to have 3 dogs at each level on each team like we do in obedience or stay with 1 dog at each level and have more teams?

If we make any changes to what Ron has proposed as an SET, it all has to go back to AKC before we vote on it.

Deb suggested we go with what we have for this year and see how it works out.

Ken pointed out that the more of this we do the more people we need to volunteer to run it, and we don't have the volunteers we need now.

Carol Ann agreed with Deb to stay with this for a year and see how it works out.

Deb moved to accept the new rally SET regulations as Ron has proposed for now. Aimee seconded. Passed with 2 abstentions.

*Proposal B from Ron's agenda: **Modify Article 1. Section 1.2 of DOCOF Rules & Regulations.** Delete the last sentence quote all dogs will run their UDX (second) class after all "Team" dogs have completed their run. **Purpose of change:** Allows the trial secretary greater flexibility to schedule classes. Deb Neufeld moved to accept as written. Aimee seconded. Passed with 2 abstentions.*

*Proposal C from Ron's agenda: **Team Unification (Rules & Regulations Article 3 paragraph 3.5c)** Allow two (2) teams to be formed for Obedience & Rally. **Proposed Change:** Delete the last sentence "A unification team may be for the purpose to field one (1) team only. **Change to:** A unification team may field up to two (2) teams. Deb Neufeld moved to accept as written. Aimee seconded. Discussion ensued. Passed.*

*Proposal D from Ron's agenda: **Dues & Entry fees.** Do we need to increase dues and entry fees? It's been many years since we raised them. Lodge thinks dues should be \$75. Loni said add a \$5 late fee after September 1. Aimee moved to accept this; Loni Coleman seconded (with additional seconds). Discussion followed. Passed.*

Rachel Flatley pointed out that if we increase entry fees, we may chase people off because it's so much more expensive than regular trials. Lodge said what about raising rally entry fees to be the same as obedience fees. This is complicated by the classes for the RACH.

Aimee moved to raise rally entry fees to \$35 for first rally class and \$15 for additional classes for same dog. Seconded by Lisa (?). Passed.

Proposal E from Ron's agenda: DOCOF Dues Date. **Purpose:** to clarify date when annual DOCOF Membership Dues are due. Several people asked for clarification of what we passed previously about where dues are due. Much discussion followed. Lodge said he had arbitrarily set September 30 as the last date they could pay and get the \$5 rebate.

Aimee moved that if dues are paid on or before September 30 dues will be \$75. October 1 through December 31 clubs would be considered delinquent, and dues would increase to \$80. If not paid by January 1st. the club would be out of DOCOF and would need to reapply. This would take effect next year, 2025, not this year.

Deb suggested an amendment. On January 1 dues would increase to \$100 and clubs would be delinquent on April 1. More discussion followed. Ron thinks going up that much will scare people away. Deb said then move the date from January 1 to April 1.

Making it clear: Dues are due by September 30 for the following year. They will be \$75 through September 30th. From October 1st through April 1st, the clubs who haven't paid will be considered delinquent and dues will go up to \$80. After April 1, any clubs who haven't paid will be considered as not being members anymore. This will not affect dues paid in 2023 for 2024 but will affect dues paid in 2024 for 2025. Passed.

Proposal F from Ron's agenda: Awards. Move the list of awards that is currently listed under General in our Rules & Regulations and place it under Article 10 Awards. Aimee moved to accept the changes as written. Carol Ann seconded. Passed.

Deb suggested we eliminate the veteran's class and add all three preferred classes instead. We do not have to take this back to AKC.

Note: there are multiple requests to add the premium to the DOCOF website. This was just part of the discussion that came from above.

Discussion about writable forms. Can we have forms that can be downloaded? Ron is working on all this. Right now, the only one that's fillable is the membership application.

Deb brought us back to the veteran's/preferred question. Deb moved to eliminate the veteran's class and add all three preferred classes instead. Aimee seconded. This means a change in the constitution. Discussion followed about Novice/Preferred Novice because they are different and not like Open and Utility. This also means adding a bunch of awards too. Passed.

John Mett award. Awarded to the Dog Training Club of St. Petersburg for saving DOCOF.

Adjourned 4:32 pm.

Carolee Boyles
Secretary, DOCOF

Our Experience at DOCOF

By Acacia Schendel

Those of us competing on the Dog Obedience Club of Lee County (DOCLC) teams came into DOCOF this year with no expectations. Simply filling DOCOF teams was difficult. Many of us are still recovering from Hurricane Ian. Suffice it to say, the last year has been a lot less active with our dogs than we would have liked. Some of us (myself included) were going into the weekend with either green or young dogs. We practiced a LOT, in the weeks leading up to DOCOF and helped each other work through each dog and handler's individual sticky spots. It has only been since 2021 that the DOCLC has had its own dedicated training space. Having a facility to utilize for practice as a team has been a wonderful resource and was a driving force in the decision to put teams together this year.

For many of us it was the first time at an event like this. It was certainly an exciting weekend both as competitors but also as dog lovers. Spending the day with our dogs and fellow dog people is always a great reminder why we participate in these sports. While we were very excited to trial together and see how our training and practice held up, we knew the quality of the teams we would be competing against was going to be top notch. Watching so many fantastic dogs and handlers in the ring was inspiring to say the least. To come away with not just a placement, but First Place was beyond our wildest dreams! Thank you to everyone who made this event possible. I cannot imagine the work that went on behind the scenes to put on such a weekend! In case you were not told in person, you are very appreciated.

I competed as a young junior handler on the last DOCLC winning team in 2003. Returning to DOCOF after 20 years was exciting in and of itself. However, returning to DOCOF with my own child on our Rally team made the weekend even more special. My son Jay competed with his dog in Advanced Rally on Saturday. This was both their first time in the Advanced ring and by far the biggest event they have trialed at. Jay is 12 and has been involved in sports such as dock diving, fast cat and scent work for several years now. While he has trained consistently for quite some time, he has very limited experience competing in Rally. As you can imagine, coming into a fairly technical sport as a child and being surrounded by almost exclusively adults is a bit intimidating.

I really want to thank those who encouraged him! Not just those on our team but members from other clubs who took the time to speak with him. As a former junior competitor and now as the parent of one, I can tell you those kind words make all the difference to a young kid in a tough sport. He practiced just as hard as the adults on our team and studied his rally signs diligently. Like the rest of us, he loves and is so proud of his girl, even knowing that she isn't the easiest dog. He gave it his all and was proud of the score they were able to achieve together. He also learned where his training needs improvement and what he needs to spend more time proofing (can we say treat distractions lol). He really enjoyed his weekend, from his time in the ring on Saturday to helping with the Raffle table on Sunday. He loved the team atmosphere and was very impressed with the venue. He really felt like he was in the big leagues! He is excited to be on the team again next year and is planning on competing in both obedience and rally.