**ACOAM BOARD MEETING 2/13/19 Meeting called to order 10:05**

**Conference call**

**Board Members Present:**

Joe Chague- President

Hilary Cohen-South Eastern VP

Aimee Contois-Central VP

Jessicah Gower-Western VP

Rachel Hoffman-Northeastern VP

Jules Sanborn-Director-at- Large

Jennifer Cronin-Director-at –Large

Melinda MacKendrick-Director-at-Large

Brenda Hamelin-Members Secretary/Treasurer

Kelly Flynn-Secretary

Sue Webb-Zoonotic Committee/Past President

Manny Maciel-Sgt-at Arms/Past President

Kara Holmquist-MSPCA- Guest

**Legislation:**

Kara outlined some Bills which have been filed. She employs a tracing service which notifies her if there are any new bills which pertain to animals. Several are re-files.

1.) 174E – Tethering Law-legislation to expand the law to include animals other than dogs.

2.) A bill to protect the health of puppies and kittens.

3.) Several bills to regulate doggie daycare/kennels. 137 updates-If they have a kennel license they may still have to license individual dogs.

4.) Joe-Our big push this year is to work on Group 4-Marshall is working on it. Dispatchers/Court Officers and other groups are also working on this as well.

-Melinda mentioned that cats being boarded may be included in kennel licensing laws.

-Jessicah-discussed 3 year licensing/lifetime licensing, does current law wording prevent this? Brenda noted that Blackstone has 3 year licensing.

**Secretaries Report:**

-Not everyone had a chance to look at the last meetings minutes so Hilary made a motion to table minutes, Sue seconded. Motion approved.

**Treasurers Report:**

-Brenda completed information that needed to be sent to the State for our taxes.

-Hilary made a motion to pay the accountant, QRGA, $1,500.00. Sue seconded. Motion approved.

**Western VP:**

-Nothing to report.

**Central VP:**

-Has been working with Melinda and Kelly to set up 2 open ACO meetings to be held in Northern and Southern Worcester County.

**Northeastern VP:**

-Nothing to report.

**Southern VP:**

-Jules mentioned a new strain of rabies virus in Massachusetts. Sue will call Mike Cahill and ask about it.

**Membership Secretary:**

-Nothing to report.

**Academy:**

-Discussed Scholarships- decided to wait two weeks to give people a chance to apply for one. Applicant must send an essay or they will not be considered.

- Hilary made a motion to table the scholarship decisions until March 6 when we will have a conference call meeting to decide who gets them. Sue seconded. Motion approved.

- Joe-20 definite Academy applicants so far. Brenda has 2 more and we have 5 applicants that are not yet ACO’s that we will consider if the class does not fill up with working ACO’s. Sue noted that only working ACO’s will be eligible for $100.00 reimbursement from Mass Animal Fund.

- Joe will send out tentative syllabus for the Academy. Still waiting for a few to finalize. Books ordered.

-All hands on deck for first day of the Academy-March 22, 2019.

- Discussed sending something to Barbara Prada, Sue Thibideau, Pease sisters from ACOAM for their years of service. Possibly Life time member at no cost.

- Melinda is interested in having someone speak at the Academy regarding service dogs

- Jessicah –cannot wear anything with the ACOAM logo because it has a Sheriff Department badge on it. Hilary- could not find any copy right on ACOAM badge/logo.

Hilary made a motion to adjourn. Sue seconded. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30.