



**The next DFOV General
Membership Meeting will be
Wednesday, April 14, 2010
at Gander Mountain in
Germantown.
6:30 PM Board, 7:00 General
Membership**

DFOW Officers & Board

President Joy Brand
Vice President Tracey Johnston
Secretary Heidi Braun
Treasurer Wendy Biewer
Board of Directors:
Toni Raden
Patti Krueger
Connie Kieckhefer

**DFOW DAY AT THE STATE ROTUNDA
Tuesday April 20, 2010—SEE PAGE 7**

**PUBLIC HEARING ON SB580
TUESDAY APRIL 6, 2010**

SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS

**Conspiracy Theory
Is it really a theory or is it fact?**

On March 19, DATCP released the names of their appointed breeder licensing committee members:

- [Patty LaFave](#), Black Creek, dog breeders selling fewer than 50 large dogs a year
- [Mike Marsch](#), Neillsville, dog breeders selling 50 or more large dogs a year
- [Jackie Fogel](#), West Bend, dog breeders selling fewer than 50 small dogs a year
- [Dr. Rick VanDomelen](#), Mount Horeb, dog breeders selling 50 or more small dogs a year
- [Chuck Wegner](#), Neillsville, humane societies sheltering fewer than 500 dogs a year
- [Eilene Ribbens](#), Elkhart Lake, humane societies sheltering more than 500 dogs a year
- [Kim Waugus](#), Beaver Dam, dog rescue groups
- [Pam McCloud Smith](#), DeForest, animal control facilities
- [Troy Anderson](#), Hartland, retail dog seller
- [Elaine Rhodes](#), Richfield, sporting associations whose activities involve dogs
- [Dr. Maria Verbrugge](#), Madison, technical expert
- [Dr. Doug Kratt](#), Onalaska, veterinarians

Out of the committee of 12 members, there is exactly ONE individual that may keep the concerns of hobby breeders foremost in their mind during the meetings. None of the DFOV nominees were selected. Of the

other 11 individuals, 6 have ties to animal rights leaning humane societies or were very active in getting breeder licensing put in place in our State.

Chuck Wegner, Eilene Ribbens, Pam McCloud Smith, and Elaine Rhodes all testified for AB 793 at the public hearing. We find it very interesting that the sporting association's delegate supports a bill that takes away 14th amendment rights. Also of interest is the fact that Dr. Bellay, representing DATCP, registered in support of this bill.

So who nominated these individuals and why were they selected? Despite organizations being told that they could only nominate 3 individuals, WI Federated Humane Societies nominated 9 individuals for 4 positions. There were many individuals nominated by sporting groups, but none of those individuals were appointed. There were 3 nominees with past police officer experience, they were not appointed either.

This whole situation leaves a very bad taste in our mouths. Why did DATCP personnel tell DFOW representatives at our meeting on January 5, 2010 that those on the cusp of having to be licensed would be considered? Why did they tell us that the only way they could "trim" the list of nominees was to make up their own rules when they sent out their letters to the various dog clubs in the state asking for nominees? This entire process is suspect in our minds and has been since the original letters were sent out on December 18th. How does it make you feel to know that State employees, that your tax dollars pay for, are apparently operating with their own agenda, rather than following the State act?

A committee of three passed on their top two ranked nominees for each category to the Secretary of DATCP, Mr. Rod Nilsestuen who then appointed a nominee from each category. We do not believe that Mr. Nilsestuen, or even Dr. Ehlenfeldt who was in charge of the selection committee were given full details of the selection process.

On March 19th, when the appointed advisory board members were named, we were immediately suspect of the process that led to those selections. Under the WI open records law, we were able to obtain the nominee information submitted by organizations (and in one case there was no nomination found) with ties to the State of Wisconsin.

The committee of three DATCP employees developed a number rating system as there were 59 nominees. The "rankings" were apparently determined by a number system of 1-3, 3 being well-qualified and one being less than qualified. This number system was applied to: ability to attend meetings; fair & balanced representation for industry represented; communication to industry regarding actions of advisory committee; the ability to bring concerns and comments to the advisory committee from their industry.

It was very time consuming to go through the 200+ pages of documentation that received so we decided to streamline the process. During this process we found some major errors. The first was a nomination form for a DFOW nominee. This individual was nominated by a total of 8 clubs and one State Representative. This nominee could be considered for the positions under the category of dog breeders that sell small dogs and that sell less than 50 a year AND under the category of sporting associations whose primary activities involve dogs. By omitting the DFOW nominee from the sporting association category, it allowed a woman who had also been nominated for the same two categories to be ranked first. There was a ranking sheet that showed the DFOW nominee was ranked 4th, and Elaine Rhodes was ranked 5 under the small dogs category.

Further into our research, we found that individuals with past law enforcement experience were consistently ranked lower than those that appeared to be less qualified for the position. Individuals nominated by the WI Federated HS were consistently at the top of their lists.

According to DATCP's web page that lists the appointees, each appointee will have to be licensed under the Act. That is not true. The sporting association appointee will not be subject to licensing. Also, additional records were requested from DATCP regarding their score totals for the nominees. Under the small dog category, this appointee was considered not qualified to be on the committee for that very reason, yet under the sporting dog totals, she was considered eligible for licensing. The tally sheets also showed some pre-conceived ideas on how well suited an individual was for each of their rating categories. If any nominees had

be put forth by a sporting group, many were scored less than well qualified for their ability to communicate with the people IN THEIR OWN INDUSTRY.

It was also common to see individuals that were ranked lower on their scale, even if they were nominated by a greater number of clubs/organizations than the higher ranked individuals with ties to humane societies or past legislative work.

Looking at the various nominees for the 4 positions that dealt with humane societies, breeders, and animal control, another pattern emerged. As stated previously, the nominees put forth by WI Federated HS were at the top of each category. The advisory panel should be somewhat diverse, in order to truly represent the different categories of those dealing with dogs that need shelter. Rather than rank those with a more diverse background higher on the scale, these individuals were ranked lowest.

The retail representative is another curiosity. The appointee belongs to two organizations regarding his trade; however there was no nomination paperwork for the gentleman. Two other nominees for this category included two with law enforcement backgrounds, but according to the tally sheets, they were not considered eligible for the category.

The nominees with law enforcement backgrounds have very impressive resumes as well as complete paperwork. These individuals were considered for the categories of Retail, Sporting, and Large dogs – more than 50. An additional nominee's resume was apparently not received by DATCP, yet her nomination forms were. Her resume stated a law enforcement background. This same individual should have also been considered for the position of small dogs, less than 50 sold per year. No one with past police officer experience was chosen to be on the board (only those that are humane officers or past humane officers).

As upsetting as the individuals chosen for the advisory board is, it becomes even more sinister when you tie in additional information regarding the original bill, the bill that ultimately was signed into law, and the introduction of two new bills. The original bill contained language regarding cruelty to dogs as well as illegal seizure of dogs. This language was removed before the bill was passed. Dane County Humane Society is now heavily lobbying for a bill (AB793/SB580) that brings seizure language in through a back door. The history of their efforts goes back to 2006 with an initial meeting held in October of that year that dealt with coming up with legislation regarding the humane officer statute (173) and the animal cruelty statute (951). In a number of meeting minutes posted on the DCHS website, they had meetings with the Humane Society of the United States and the Animal Defense Legal Fund groups. Most damning are the meeting minutes of June 17, 2009 which states "Leslie Hamilton was confused about DCHS' support for the Puppy Mill bill but cleared up; She understands that the 173 issue is being dealt with separately". The Dane County Humane Society Executive Director is Pam McCloud Smith who has been named as the animal control representative and has been part of the force behind AB793/SB580 since 2006.

DCHS is also supporting a bill regarding increasing animal cruelty charges to felonies if done in front of a minor. If you are a felon you cannot own firearms. If you can't own firearms, you can't hunt. Animal cruelty is subjective to an individual's experiences and beliefs. It is curious that the original breeder bill's language considered some normal dog husbandry practices cruel.

Finally, the "technical" expert named is a veterinarian that volunteers at Dane County HS. In the nomination paperwork, there was a nomination form for a veterinarian who specializes in canine reproduction. According to the rules of the bill, veterinarians put forth by WVMA would be the veterinarians considered for appointment and we don't have a problem with that. However, if there is going to be a "technical expert", wouldn't it be advisable to have one that deals with canine reproduction? The committee in charge of selections had the paperwork for a very qualified individual at their fingertips and we have to ask ourselves why she was not included.

Because of the obvious duplicity involved with the advisory board selection process, it is imperative that all dog owners be prepared to attend all public hearings that will be held regarding the rules that this committee puts forth. We assume that they will be the standards of care that were put forth in 2003-2004 for the Pet Facilities Act and that will mean that you will not be able to raise dogs in your home as you cannot meet commercial standards of care in a home environment.



Dog Federation of Wisconsin
742 S. Indiana Ave.
West Bend, WI 53095
www.dfow.net
We own dogs and we vote!

URGENT— Red Alert – *Senate Bill 580
PUBLIC HEARING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2010 ROOM 411 South—11:10 AM -
or immediately following the Executive Session

AB 793 & **SB580** are the Assembly and Senate bills that seek to seriously undermine your Federal 5th & 14th Amendment rights. It is being heavily lobbied by the Dane County Humane Society who are trying a back door attempt to sneak in the illegal seizure language that was REMOVED from the Breeder Licensing Bill prior to its passage. AB 793 was passed out of the committee on Corrections and the Courts today. Remember our motto "we own dogs and we vote".

If there is one major objection to the bill (other than the obvious loss of constitutional rights), it is the fact that the bill states (pg 13, lines 23-25): Any person claiming the right to possession of property seized pursuant to a search warrant or seized without a search warrant, **EXCEPT PROPERTY SEIZED UNDER s.173.13 (1) (a)** or withheld under 173.21 (1) may apply for its return.... **173.13 (1) (a) *8 states AN ANIMAL MISTREATED IN VIOLATION OF CH. 951** That means that if you are charged, but not convicted of crimes against animals—you **CANNOT PETITION THE COURT TO GET YOUR ANIMALS BACK!** *Note—if a bill makes reference to 173.13 (1) (a), it means the entire section, not just a portion of the section and that includes 173.13 (1) (a) 8.

173.17(2) allows humane officers to not have to disclose information to anyone regarding the disposition of seized animals, unless ordered by the court, yet according to 173.22 (1), a person who claims that the animals were improperly taken into custody and files a petition to get them back, must **SERVE A COPY OF THE PETITION** to whomever has the animals!

This bill creates a new section of chapter 951—951.17. This will allow the court to keep the animal in custody to allow collection of evidence relating to the animal, eliminating your right to due process.

This bill is a very complicated bill as it is dealing with 3 sections of law— Ch. 173 Animals; Humane Officers, Ch. 951 Crimes Against Animals, and Ch. 968 Commencement of Criminal Proceedings. We encourage our members to read the bill, but in order to do so, it would be helpful for you to print out each Chapter to go over the changes. The chapters can be found at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/stats.html> , the State Constitution can be found at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/statutes/wisconst.pdf> , SB 580 can be found at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2009/data/SB-580.pdf>

The public hearing is Tuesday, April 6, 2010 at the State Capitol building, room 411 South 11:10 AM. The bill is before the Committee on Ethics Reform and Government Operations (of which the author of the bill is the chair of this committee).

The committee members are: [Senator Fred Risser \(Chair\)](#) [Senator Judith Robson](#) [Senator Pat Kreitlow](#) [Senator Michael Ellis](#) [Senator Alan Lasee](#)

THIS BILL WILL APPLY TO ALL ANIMAL OWNERS IN THE STATE, NOT JUST DOG OWNERS!
***An amendment was offered by Senator Risser on 4/2/2010 removing the microchip requirement. Our other objections as stated above are still included in the bill.**

Dog Federation of Wisconsin, Inc. Renewal Membership Form

*2 delegates with email access are required for club memberships

Type I – DELEGATE MEMBER. Open to all Kennel Clubs, Specialty Clubs, Obedience Clubs, Humane Societies and independent dog fancier organizations, which support the objectives of the Federation. Delegates of the above organizations shall be ascertained on each January 1st. **Type I membership will be a voting membership.** Type I member organization shall designate two delegates. In addition, each Type I member organization may designate up to two alternate delegates. The delegates and alternates, so designated shall remain duly accredited representatives of such member organization until the Secretary of the Federation has been notified in writing of a change. Any one delegate or alternate delegate can represent only one organization.

Type II – INDIVIDUAL MEMBER. Open to all individuals who support the objectives of the Federation. Type II membership is a voting membership.

Type III – ASSOCIATE MEMBER. Non-voting membership open to all individuals who support the objectives of the Federation.

Type IV – BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP MEMBER. Open to all professional or commercial organizations who wish to support the Federation objectives. This is a non-voting membership. There are two sponsorship fee schedules. For \$100.00 per year your business will be listed as a supporter of DFOW on the official DFOW website. For \$250.00 per year there will be a link on the official DFOW website to your company. The Business Sponsorship is subject to DFOW board approval.

* Delegate responsibilities include forwarding to their club membership DFOW alerts and newsletters. It is vitally important that your membership receive alerts as soon as possible, especially when it comes to local legislation as in many cases there is less than 24 hours notice to act.

CLUB NAME: _____ # OF MEMBERS: _____

WEBSITE: _____ Will you or your club accept email communication as a means of conducting DFOW business? Yes: _____ No: _____

INDIVIDUAL OR DELEGATE #1 NAME: _____		EMAIL: _____	
ADDRESS: _____			
TELEPHONE: _____		**INTERESTS: _____	
DELEGATE #2 NAME: _____		EMAIL: _____	
ADDRESS: _____			
TELEPHONE: _____		**INTERESTS: _____	
ALTERNATE DELEGATE: _____		EMAIL: _____	
ADDRESS: _____			
TELEPHONE: _____		**INTERESTS: _____	

**Interests that would be helpful to the DOG FEDERATION OF WISCONSIN, INC. include: Article Writing, Lobbying, Legal, Education, Printing, Professional, DFOW Newsletter, Computer, DFOW Booth, Fundraising, Research, Public Speaking

CLUB CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

Membership fee schedule (membership follows the calendar year—Jan through Dec):

Individual Voting Membership \$25.00		Individual Non-Voting Membership \$15.00	
Club or Organization Memberships			
25 and fewer members 2 votes— \$40.00	26-50 members 2 votes— \$50.00	51-99 members 2 votes— \$75.00	100 or more members 2 votes— \$100.00
\$100.00 Business Membership— listed on DFOW website as a supporting organization		\$250.00 Business Membership— Link from DFOW website to your website	

Make check payable to DFOW and mail to: Wendy Biewer, Treasurer, W825 Froelich Road, Sullivan, WI 53178

What are a club delegate's responsibilities?

The club delegates to DFOW perform a very important duty for their club. They are the ones that must disseminate the information provided by DFOW to their club's members; sometimes an immediate response is required.

Years ago, newsletters and other pertinent information had been mailed to member clubs. This is no longer an option. Local legislative matters happen quickly—sometimes with less than 24 hours notice. DFOW requires two club delegates to be on the DFOW yahoo email group. This is our only means of communication with our club and individual members.

There exists a patchwork of local community animal and zoning rules in our State. Changes to local ordinances can happen quickly; before anyone even knows that they have been considered. For too many years, dog people have not paid attention to what is going on in their communities and rules and regulations have been put in place regarding your ability to keep your dogs. These rules and regulations are typically put into code because of neighborhood disputes or the actions of a few irresponsible pet owners. Within the last few years when we have been asked for help, DFOW has given information to local municipal officials that have considered changing their existing animal codes. We believe that grass roots efforts by responsible animal owners to educate elected officials can help them make informed decisions regarding code changes. This is where the club delegates come into play.

When DFOW is alerted to a possible code change, we send out an alert on the Yahoo list. Delegates must immediately get this information to their club members. As DFOW does not have access to individual club rosters, we do not know if there are members in the community considering animal code changes. In one recent case, DFOW was alerted only 6 hours before the meeting was taking place. It has been our experience that if responsible animal owners appear at the initial meeting and are polite and give expert advise, the elected officials are more inclined to not react in haste by creating a burdensome code change. This is the primary reason that we must use an email system; there is typically no time to compose, print, then USPS mail alerts.

DFOW requires two delegates with email access to insure that if one of the delegates is out of town or is having computer problems, someone can still get important information to their club members.

Delegates are also the voice of their club when it comes to voting matters. If there is legislation being considered at the State level, DFOW will gather all of the information regarding a bill. That information will be shared with our membership. The membership will vote as to our position on a bill. This position will then be put on the State of WI ethics website. For this type of situation, we will try and hold two meetings—the initial meeting will cover the bill's contents and possible ramifications for dog owners. At the second meeting we will take a vote on our position. This gives the delegates time to share the information with their club members and for their club to give them their voting decision.

Delegates should also give regular reports at their club meetings regarding DFOW business. They should also provide their club newsletter editors with DFOW event information and volunteer requests. Delegates should also notify their club members when a new newsletter is posted on the DFOW.net website.

Thank you to all of our club delegates who are providing such an important service to their clubs!

**Dog Federation of Wisconsin
Day at the State Capitol Rotunda
Tuesday, April 20, 2010
10:00 AM until 2:00 PM
Clubs are needed to participate**

As much as we would have liked to have showcased our dogs on all four paws for this event, due to an unfortunate incident a few years back regarding cows, that is not an option of us now. Instead, we will rely on photographs, newspaper articles, and other means of display to show how important dogs are to us as well as society.

There should be many school children in attendance as this is the time of year that school trips are scheduled for the Capitol. We will use this opportunity to explain the importance of responsible dog ownership. For legislators and their aides that may stop by, we will provide them with more in-depth materials that explain what we are and what we do.

We have room for 18 tables on the rotunda. The tables, table coverings, and chairs will be set up for us in advance. Those that would like to attend should bring materials that showcase their dogs.

There will be an awards presentation at Noon.

As of this time, we have the following clubs committed to attending this function:

Badgerland Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club
Badgerland Miniature Pinscher Club
WISARK9
Greater Milwaukee Poodle Club
Sheltie Club
Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club of America
GMNEA
Fancier's Cocker Spaniel Club
English Springer Spaniels—various hunt & field trial clubs participating
Waukesha Kennel Club
Western Waukesha County Dog Training Club
Wisconsin English Springer Spaniel Association
DFOW / AKC

We have room for 5 more clubs to man a table at this event. Please contact Joy Brand if your club would like to participate. Jbrand @ greatlakesrubber. com