

December 2017 Delegate Report  
Submitted by Jane Bjork

**Orlando 2017:** This is definitely the most fun meeting- Orlando in December! As declared in my 2017 annual report and 2017 September delegate meeting, items not fit for paper or items that are time-essential will be posted on [Dualbrittanys@yahoogroups.com](mailto: Dualbrittanys@yahoogroups.com) and Facebook's *Brittany Discussion* page. There you will find a brief video on the AKC Reunite Rescue trailers, to which ABC donated \$1000. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/978743772178409/permalink/1730511493668296/>

Also at Orlando, Mid-Florida Brittany Club's fabulous Meet the Breed's booth was a hit this year. Public education about our breed is essential. Thank you MFBC!



At Orlando, Delegates were treated to the akc.org website reorganization overview. The website receives 7.5 million visitors a month, and 40% of the visits are for breed-related content. It is now optimized for mobile. The event search was not part of the overview.

**Canine Health:** According to Dr. Brown DVM PhD of the AKC Canine Health Foundation, active research is ongoing on leptospirosis strains, brucellosis and drug resistant heartworm. Chagas disease and leishmaniasis are emerging. For more information on these or other health-related items, check out <http://www.akcchf.org/canine-health/>.

**AKC and Youth:** AKC has ready-made lesson plans on available on responsible dog ownership for schools. <http://www.akc.org/public-education/lesson-plans/>

These plans are appropriate for grades 4-12. I know that was hooked on the dog game in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. It was a flyer in the cafeteria for dog obedience classes. At the time, I was reading the book *The Dog in My Life*, by Kurt Unkelbach, which was a story about the adventures of a young girl and her Labrador Retriever who she exhibited in conformation. If you know a teacher, are a teacher, or have an "in" with a school district, connect! When I was a teacher, I found ways to bring my dogs in the classroom. The energy change was palpable when a well-behaved dog is involved, although real live dogs are not required.

**Limited Registration:** Nothing is currently in the works to change Limited Registration. Good news is that overall registration, after a 20 year decline, is increasing. Registrations of dogs and litters are up 7% over last year. The size of the litter "complement" (total number of pups in a litter) is up 0.42% since 2008, but the number of pups registered by Limited Registration is flat. To increase participation, breeders should encourage those who may want to participate in conformation shows and revoke LR where appropriate.

**Registration and Events:** Both pointing breed hunting test and field trial entries are down 3% compared to last year (October YTD). If anyone is wondering what that looks like in actual numbers, field trials were at 24,700 (down 820) and hunting tests were at 10,489 (down 345). New for retriever hunting tests only (which are up 1%) starting 01Jan18, clubs may offer testing at in any order as long as they hit minimum numbers of test stake levels per year, they can be held on different dates. This is something to consider to get approval tests for pointing breeds, as you can offer Master-only for one weekend, Junior only for another weekend, and so on. Right now, this is only offered for retrievers.

Breeder of Merit program now has bronze, silver, golds and platinum. This launched the first week of November 2017.