

## 2014 NAIA CONFERENCE

*This report comes to us courtesy of the South Windsor Kennel Club and Delegate Mabel Diamond.*

The theme for the conference was "If You're Not At the Table, You're On the Table!" The conference was generously supported by the American Boxer Club, American Shetland Sheepdog Association, Animal Blood Bank, Doberman Pinscher Club of America, Feld Entertainment, Eukanuba Dog Food, Masters of Foxhounds Association, Coastal Pet Products, and the World Pet Association.

The conference was cutting edge and provocative. The panel of speakers was absolutely top notch, all nationally or internationally acclaimed experts in their fields. The following were the speakers and the topics they covered:

1. David Jentsch, PhD, Neuroscientist and UCLA professor -spoke on "Seeking Cures in an Age of Extremism"
2. Cindy Buckmaster, PhD, Neurobiologist, Chair of Americans for Medical Progress; Director of Center of Comparative Medicine - Baylor College. She called her presentation "Speak Now or Forever Rest In Peace."
3. Theresie Tungilik, Advisor for Arts and Traditional Economy with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, Government of Nunavut.
4. Christina Hansen, NYC Carriage Horse operator and spokesperson for the carriage industry -spoke on "The Campaign to End the Horse Carriage Industry."
5. Baylen Linnekin, Executive Director of Keep Food Legal and Adjunct Faculty at American University. His topic was "Food Freedom."
6. Thomas Albert, VP - Government Relations - Feld Entertainment and Janice Aria, Director of Animal Stewardship - Ringling Brothers Center for Elephant Conservation. Their topic was "From the Courts to City Hall, the Extremist's Campaign to Ban the Circus Continues."
7. John Simpson and Michelle Pardo, Partners at Norton Rose Fulbright, Washington, D.C. The topic was "Insights Gained along the way to the landmark \$25 million settlement paid by HSUS and ASPCA to Feld Entertainment."
8. Jamie Foster, Solicitor - Countryside Alliance who spoke on "Animal Anarchy in the UK - the Battle between Welfare and Rights continues."
9. Chris Walker, AKC VP of Communications and Cynthia O'Connor, DVM spoke on "The Anatomy of a TV hit piece: HBO's Unnatural Selection."

10. Robert Guyer, President of The Lobby School, former state lawmaker and author. He spoke on "Effective Grassroots Lobbying."

All of the speakers and the topics were incredibly informative, provocative and even inspiring. Here is a summary of the topics covered:

1. "Seeking Cures in an Age of Extremism" was presented by David Jentsch, PhD. Dr. Jentsch is a Professor and researcher at the Brain Research Institute, UCLA. He described his 9 years of extreme harassment by the AR extremists: house fires, violent protesting in front of his house at all hours of the day and night, fire-bombing of his neighbor's car, and fire-bombing of his car. After the fire-bombing of his car he founded UCLA Pro-Test in order to combat the violence and defend the critical research that he and his colleagues carry out. He now lives with a body guard to ensure the safety of himself and his family.

What should we do to combat the extremist? We must Pro-Test, we must empower ourselves and continue to gain new advocates for our side.

2. "Speak Now or Forever Rest in Peace" was presented by Cindy Buckmaster, PhD. She is a neurobiologist at Baylor College. Dr. Buckmaster's presentation focused on why extremists act the way they do. The premise is they do not act out of love, but out of an agenda to end all relationship with all animals and to accomplish that goal by cheating, lying and spreading misinformation to the public. Dr. Buckmaster has been working to get the message out to all researchers and university students: we must have a unified response to the AR extremists, we must be careful with our language in speaking to the public about their work with animals and we must do a better job of our own public relations by using the print, online and TV media to get the message out to the public that animal research makes it possible to find cures for diseases and to develop pharmaceuticals that saves lives in an ethical and humanely manner.

3. "The Impact of Propaganda on International Policies" was presented by Theresie Tungilik, of the Dept. of Economic Development Government of Nunavut. Ms. Tungilik is an Inuit living in the Canadian arctic. Her presentation focused on the effects to the way of life of the Inuit by the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (amended in 1994 to provide for certain exceptions to the take prohibitions, including for small takes incidental to specified activities, when access by Alaska Natives to marine mammal subsistence resources can be preserved, and permits and authorizations for scientific research). She requested that the NAIA continue to assist their efforts to repeal the ban.

4. "The Campaign to End the Horse Carriage Industry" was presented by Christina Hansen, who works as a horse carriage operator in New York City. Ms. Hansen described the systematic campaign by AR groups in the New York City area called NYCLASS and Citizens United to end the horse carriage industry in New York City. The goal of NYCLASS is to ban horse carriages and replace them with electric cars (extremely expensive to manufacture and maintain). Their motto is "Get Political with Animals."

Citizens United essentially bought the NYC Mayor's office by pouring in a large amount of money (\$ 1,500,000) on an advertising campaign called "Anyone but Quinn" who was the frontrunner in the mayoral primaries, in order to get the win for DiBlasio who prior to the campaign was a distant fourth going in to the primaries. DiBlasio won the mayoral race.

NYC Horse Carriage has taken the proactive approach after a few accidents and incidents occurred between the years 2010-2012. In order to counteract the AR propaganda that stemmed from these incidents they developed a relationship with the NYC media (and some worldwide media outlets as well) by holding their own press conferences, by opening up the stables for public tours, by reaching out to the NYC Council and local legislators to visit the stables and inspect the horses, by using Facebook and press releases. All of these public relations activities have resulted in more business, but more importantly, it has enhanced the perception on the industry to a positive one.

5. "Food Freedom" was presented by Baylen Linnekin, Executive Director of Keep Food Legal Foundation (501(c)(3)) and Adjunct Faculty at American University. Mr. Linnekin's presentation was an interesting American history and civics lesson regarding the relationship of food and food products, the government and the people as far back as pre-independence colonial times to the present. The foundation's main goal is to defend choice not particular choices. They consider themselves the "ACLU for Food."

6. "Insights Gained along the Way to the landmark \$25 million settlement paid by HSUS and the ASPCA to Feld Entertainment" was presented by attorneys John Simpson and Michelle Pardo, partners in the law firm of Norton Rose Fulbright, of Washington, D.C. These two attorneys gave an overview of the massive litigation battle that lasted up to 10 years against HSUS, ASPCA and their "bought for" plaintiff, Tom Rider, who was the primary named plaintiff in the case. The main action was brought under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. They described all the years of evolving legal theories of liability by the plaintiffs' attorneys; how the "ends justify the means" mentality was evident by the willful blindness of the attorneys.

The settlement was \$9.3 million in cash - ASPCA; \$15.75 million in cash - HSUS, to make for the largest settlement against a 501(c)(3) charitable organization in US, with 100% recovery of fees.

There are three similar cases to the Feld Entertainment case currently in the courts:

- US ex rel RBC Four Co. vs. The Walt Disney Company, et al (CA)
- Chevron C01p. vs. Danziger, et al (NY)
- Sierra Club vs. Energy Future Holding Group, et al (TX) (the case had no basis, frivolous, the defendant filed for attorneys' fee and cited the Feld Entertainment case in their filing).

7. "From the Courts to City Hall, the Extremist's Campaign to Ban the Circus Continues" was presented by Thomas Albert, VP of Government Relations - Feld Entertainment and Janice Aria, Director of Animal Stewardship - Ringling Brothers Center for Elephant Conservation. Mr. Albert described how the circus industry is highly regulated by the AWA, Endangered Species Act, State/Provincial regulations and local regulations. They are continuously inspected (not announced or pre-arranged) by federal, state and local officials (state/local veterinarian, state/local animal control officer, etc.). Ms. Aria described the current science and research being

done at the conservation center with the elephants and their outreach programs to other countries like Sri Lanka.

There is currently a proposal called the "Traveling Exotic Animal Protection Act" (Rep. Moran) to impose a 14 day rest period between travel and performance. Mexico City has just passed a circus animal ban; the UK has proposed in the past and will continue to propose banning the circus; and other countries in Europe and South America have bans in place. Expected introductions of banning legislation in 2015 from MA, RI, PA, Washington, D.C., CA and changes to current laws in NY.

The City of Los Angeles passed a "bull hook" ban effective as of 2017. The bull hook as it is commonly called by the AR but not circus industry is a guide, it is an acceptable, legal and humane tool for safe handling of elephants used by zoos, TV trainers and safari parks. There are two websites to visit for more information-- [www.elephantcenter.com](http://www.elephantcenter.com) and <http://grassroots.circusfans.org>.

8. "Animal Anarchy in the UK - The Battle between Welfare and Rights Continues" was presented by Jamie Foster, Solicitor with Foster & Griffin who represents Countryside Alliance. Mr. Foster described the general attitude and activities by the AR groups and politicians against the rural way of life (hunting, farming, etc.). The main opponent is the RSPCA (around since 1824) who in 2011 euthanized 50,000 animals and has been operating without a CEO or any executive officer and is basically being run "in secret" at this time. Their future PM is an AR proponent.

9. "Effective Grassroots Lobbying" was presented by Robert Guyer a former state lawmaker and lobbyist. Mr. Guyer's presentation was a primer on lobbying and the legislative process, an overview of the mental psyche of legislators and how to be the most effective when dealing with politicians.

Basics:

- Less than 10% of legislators read any bills
- Inyo want to persuade, speak of interest, not reason
- Most don't care about any studies you may present to them
- They focus on media rhetoric
- It's an "arms race" based on stack height
- Committee deliberations are pro-forma