

2024 ABC Board of Directors Minutes November 24,2024

The meeting was called to order at 8:18am by President Joe Droel, after so difficulty getting the internet to work correctly. In attendance in person for the meeting was Darlene Dow, Linda McCartney, Matt Wedele, Leslee Masolotte, Shawn Macleod, Robin Tomasi and Joe Droel. As part of the Zoom meeting, we were joined by: Jim Hammett, Helen Riggle, Bret Lindback, Bruce Heiter, Burton Wice, Jim Stevens, Vincent Anderson, Ron Gulembo, Phillip Thayer Jr. A full quorum was achieved for the Board Meeting.

The first order of business was to approve the minutes of the 2023 ABC BOD meeting. Bret Lindback made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as they were written. The motion was seconded by Jim Hammett. The directors approved the motion unanimously.

The first discussion was from Richard Beaver about the ABC Derby Classic. That it is hard to find dogs to run it as the dogs are either too young or aging out too fast. The first choice was to stop having the Derby Classic all together. After discussion of the change of the Derby Classic from an American Field event to an AKC event saw it change under the rules. More discussion was had about changing the event from AKC to ABC and opening more options to revamp it.

Motion made by Director Darlene Dow

MOTION 1: Motion by Darlene Dow, seconded by Leslee Masolotte I make a motion to Discontinue the current Derby.

Director Dow then withdrew her motion and made a new one.

MOTION 2: I make a motion to discontinue the current derby invitational and have the president appoint a special committee to either re-establish the derby invitational or having some alternative.

VOTE YES 13: Dow, McCartney, Thayer, Stevens, Anderson, Heiter, Wedele, Masolotte, Lindbeck, Macleod, Hammett, Riggle, Tomasi.

VOTE NO 2: Wice, Gulembo

MOTION PASSED

Richard Beaver mentioned information about the club taking a more reactive stance on the grounds, there have been several big changes at Booneville. The grounds are being managed quite differently. The mowing is being done different and the fire prevention is not as conducive to the club's needs. There is also trapping and hunting allowed on the grounds while the field trails are being held. There are also more levels of approval for changing things on the grounds. The state of Arkansas has also made it so the people at the field trail are required to have a hunting license for the field trails. The discussion was made to task the future grounds committee to find the most viable option to carry the national events forward. Whether they stay at the Booneville grounds or choose to find more viable options at different grounds.

2nd VP Jacqui Campbell came on and discussed that a lot of the problems with membership will be solved once the new website comes online. The current membership software is outdated and cannot be updated anymore. After the new website goes online the membership lists and reminder information will be more accessible and organized better making renewal and reminders easier.

3rd VP Joy Crisler and Tim Smith the NSS account came on and spoke about the updating of the electronic payment systems that have helped with a lot of stuff and the advantages of using it. He gave the projections for the income from the show. They also spoke of the videographer that was hired and brought in and how it was streamed for those at home. Joy spoke about the adding of the independent specialty and the other new events that were added at the NSS. This includes the grooming seminar and the breeders showcase. There was also discussion of the Top 20 event and that it falls under the 3rd VP and is not part of the policy book. Due to this a motion was made.

MOTION 3: Director Robin Tomasi, second by Director Shawn Macleod: I make a motion to strike the reference to the entry fee to NSS Top 20 in appendix 1 in the policy book.

VOTE YES: 15- Dow, McCartney, Thayer, Stevens, Anderson, Gulembo, Heiter, Wice, Wedele, Masolotte, Lindback, Macleod, Hammett, Riggle, Tomasi.

MOTION PASSED

4th VP Spoke about how successful the walking gun dog was in Ionia. There was discussion about the increase in the entry fee for the events to cover the changes in cost to use the grounds and other fees that they are being assessed with during their events. There was more discussion on the ground's conditions and possible changes will need to be made.

The Ex. Sec. spoke about the problem of paper ballots again and that the voting numbers are low. 1329 ballots were mailed and only 423 came back. Hopefully with the new website it will allow us to vote online. The next discussion was about the filing of the 990 forms for the regional clubs. The updating of information from the regional clubs is a problem and why some clubs are not getting their forms done. It was also discussed that the clubs could file their own 990 forms. There was a discussion of the finance committee regional leaders to file the forms for their regions.

The finance committee spoke about the changes in the club dues and the new ways that will be available to pay for things on the new website.

There was a discussion about making it easier for the AKC delegate to communicate with the BOD faster and make fast decisions on critical information put forth by the delegate.

The committee chair for the Breeders education committee spoke about how the program will go forward and what is needed to start that and what AKC wants from the club. This will include ethical breeding practices. What each parent club requires for health testing and other helpful

information. The committee will need to add a full committee and will need to submit something to the policy book chair to be added to the current policy book.

The book of the Brittany is still behind but hopefully the chair can start handing out pieces of this and other members of the club can step up and help her with this chore.

East Coast report

Director Dow spoke about updating the policy book wording for the 1,3 and 4 VP. At this time, it states that they have 30 days to get the monies to the bank after the national events.

MOTION 4: Darlene Dow seconded by Helen Riggle, I make a motion to change the wording from 30 days to be in the bank account to 7 days for the money to be deposited in the ABC bank account. And no monies shall be passed through personal bank accounts.

VOTE YES 15- Hammett, Riggle, Tomasi, McCartney, Lindback, Macleod, Heiter, Wice, Wedele, Stevens, Gulembo, Dow, Anderson, Masolotte, Thayer.

MOTION PASSED

Director Linda McCartney spoke about the Preservation bank that AKC is proposing (more information can be found on the back of the agenda book) There was a lot of discussion on the good and bad things that could come from this in the future.

MOTION 5: Burton Wice Second by Bret Lindback, I make a motion the ABC is not interested in participating in the AKC preservation bank.

VOTE: YES 14- Dow, McCartney, Thayer, Stevens, Anderson, Gulembo, Heiter, Wice, Wedele, Masolotte, Lindback, Macleod, Riggle, Tomasi

NO 1-Hammett

MOTION PASSED

The next thing that Director McCartney spoke about was adding the suffix WT (Water Test) as an available suffix through AKC for the Brittany. This is for Dogs that pass a water retrieving test, including dogs that do NAVHDA testing. The next is to add NBOB as a recognized Prefix for the National Best of Breed winner at the National Specialty Show.

MOTION 6:Phillip Thayer Jr seconded by Linda McCartney, I make a motion to accept and recognize the WT suffix with AKC for the Brittany.

VOTE: YES 8-Tomasi, McCartney, Heiter, Wedele, Stevens, Dow, Masolotte, Thayer

NO 7-Hammett, Riggle, Lindback, MacLeod, Wice, Anderson, Gulembo

MOTION PASSED

MOTION 7: Linda McCartney seconded by Robin Tomasi, I make a motion to add NBOB (National Best of Breed) prefix as an acceptable prefix through AKC for the Brittany.

VOTE: YES 15-Dow, Heiter, Hammett, McCartney, Wice, Riggle, Thayer, Wedele, Tomasi, Stevens, Masolotte, Vanderson, Lindback, Gulembo, Macleod

MOTION PASSED

Next was the discussion of the Dog of the Year awards and having a \$500.00 budget for the awards. Director Burton Wice made a motion to stop the awards.

MOTION 8:Helen Riggle seconded by Linda McCartney, I made a motion to revert the DOY back to its original format and put it in for review by the BOD.

This motion was withdrawn by both of the directors and a new motion was put forth.

MOTION 9:Robin Tomasi seconded by Leslee Masolotte, I make a motion to review the point system and awards for revision by the DOY committee to be presented to the BOD prior to the close of the 2024-year end.

VOTE: YES 15- Hammett, Dow, Riggle, Masolotte, Thayer, Tomasi, McCartney, Lindback, Macleod, Stevens, Anderson, Gulembo, Heiter, Wice, Wedele.

MOTION PASSED

Next was a discussion about information from the agenda book addressing a letter from the Heart of Illinois Brittany Club and other clubs from that area. Concerning the DNA purity of some dogs running and competing in various events.

MOTION 10:Helen Riggle seconded by Jim Stevens, I make a motion to form a committee to look at implementing breed specific DNA for all national championship winners.

Motion withdrawn.

MOTION 11:Helen Riggle seconded by Linda McCartney, I make a motion to form a committee to explore the possibility of breed specific DNA testing for breed purity.

VOTE: YES 11-Riggle, Dow, McCartney, Thayer, Masolotte, Heiter, Wedele, Stevens, Anderson, Gulembo, Mcloud

VOTE NO 3-Hammett, Lindback, Wice

MOTION PASSED

Next discussion was with Nancy Clendenon and the dual dog award. She wanted to update the point system to the chart she had presented in the agenda book. There was also discussion on adding the National Walking gun dog to the National point system.

MOTION 12:Robin Tomasi seconded by Leslee Maolotte I make a motion to approve the new point system for the dual dog award as presented.

VOTE: YES 10- Hammet, Riggle, Tomasi, Masolotte, Lindback, Heiter, Wedele, Gulembo, Dow, Thayer

ABSTAIN:1 -Wice

VOTE NO 4-Macleod, Stevens, Anderson, McCartney

MOTION PASSED

Next Matt wedele made a motion from a discussion that was had previously. Since it is very hard to open up the by-laws another option was found to help out the 4th VP. Rather than adding a 5th VP and opening the bylaws.

Motion 13:Matt Wedele seconded by Darlene Dow, I make a motion to amend the duties of the 4th VP to include. The 4th VP may appoint a separate chairman and/or secretary for horseback/walking gundog national championships.

VOTE: YES 15- Hamett, Masolotte, Heiter, Stevens, Riggle, Lindback, Wice, Anderson, Tomasi, MacLeod, Wice, Gulembo, Dow, McCartney, Thayer

MOTION PASSED

Further on Director Shawn MacLeod will look into what it takes to open the by-laws of the club to update more information on the 4th VP information or to add a 5th VP.

A further discussion was about the magazine and why the Field Trail results are behind. A large problem is that the results are not being done correctly or missing information. The time it is taking to track down the information or find the correct information is putting the results so far behind. The magazine committee is looking at a form to streamline the process to help this happen faster.

Leslee Masolotte came to talk about a problem that has been happening in nominating litter for the futurity. People are waiting to nominate long past the 180-day mark and then want to pay a fine. She requests that the sentence under late litter nominations in the policy book that states “Nominations after 180 days will be accepted at the discretion and decision of the futurity committee.” And replaced with “Litter nominations after 180 days will not be accepted.”

MOTION 15: Leslee Masolotte second Darlene Dow, I make a motion to change the wording for the futurity nominations in the policy book from “Nominations after 180 days will be accepted at the discretion and decision of the futurity committee.” And replaced with “Litter nominations after 180 days will not be accepted.”

VOTE: YES 14- Dow, McCartney, Thayer, Stevens, Gulembo, Heiter, Wice, Lindback, Wedele, Masolotte, Macleod, Hammet, Riggle, Tomasi

MOTION PASSED

There was a discussion about the town hall meeting at not only the show but the walking gun dog. The use of the ramp was brought up and will be going onto the breed standard committee. There was talk about setting up the next zoom meeting to finish discussing the DOY awards and any end of the year business.

Executive session was called at 2:57pm there was a 20 minute break during session.

The meeting wrapped up at 4:27p.m and everyone headed out.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Jennifer Brooke Burlingame

ABC executive secretary

NEW DIRECTORSFOR 2025

East Coast- Darlene Dow

East Central- Jim Stevens

Central-Bruce Heiter

Midwest- Leslee Masolotte

West Coast-Steve Cosgriff

1st VP- Richard Beaver

3rd VP-Open

4th VP-Teresa Richmond

Treasurer-Tim Smith

Hall of Fame-People

Lyle Johnson

Mary Crawford