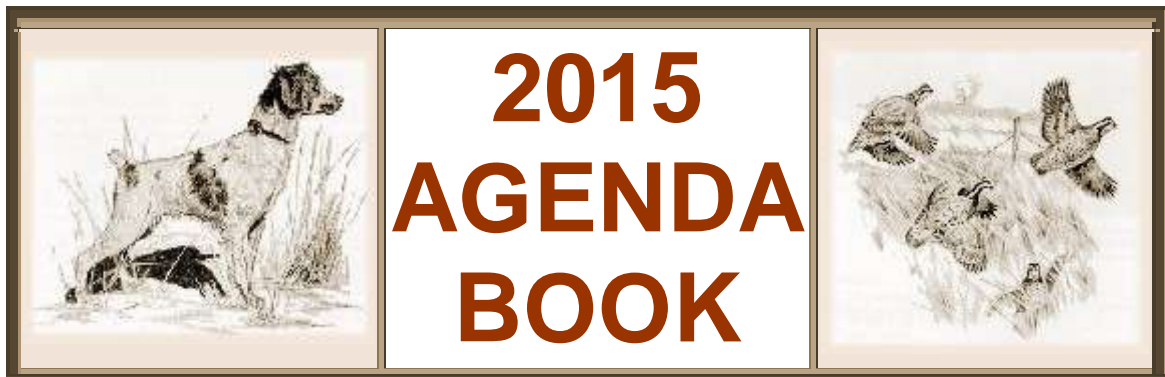




AMERICAN BRITTANY CLUB



CALL TO ORDER

BOB RANKIN

SEATING OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

BOB RANKIN

ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

MARY JO TRIMBLE

APPROVAL OF 2014

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

REPORTS AND AGENDA ITEMS

AGENDA
2015 ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
OF
THE AMERICAN BRITTANY CLUB, INC.
NOVEMBER 22, 2015
BOONEVILLE, ARKANSAS

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11. Adjourn

“Red Page Numbers” = Action Item/s or Action Item/s in Report (Red Flag Sticker)

NR = No Report

*2014 American Brittany Club
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
(Unofficial until approved by the BOD)
November 29, 2014
Fort Smith, Arkansas at the Show Site*

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 A.M. by the President Robert Rankin. The Executive Secretary, Mary Jo Trimble, called the roll. Directors present were:

L. Pollock, D. Dow, K. Hanson, D. Riedl, K. Patterson, B. Hendrickson, T. Jagielski, J. Brigham, S. Ralph, M. Karbinger, T. Milam, A. Christensen, R. Wire, J. Henderson, J. Gower. All Directors were present. New Board Members Christensen, Hendrickson, and Gower were seated.

Motion # 1, 2013 Minutes: Motion by Ralph, Seconded by Brigham. **I move to approve the 2013 minutes.** 15 Yes, 0 No: Motion Passed.

President Rankin began with his Action Items. The first action item concerned a proposal from the Texas Coastal Club to remove all references in the Policy Book regarding event starter fees that did not require ABC approval to AKC. **Motion # 2, Event Fees:** Motion by Ralph, Seconded by Brigham. **I move to strike obedience, rally, and agility from the starter/recording fee structure in the policy book. If clubs holding obedience, rally and agility events want results published in the ABC magazine, they will pay the advertising display rate as published on the masthead page of the magazine.** 14 Yes, 1 No (Milam) Motion Passed. (Other starter/recording fees for field trials and shows will remain at \$2 per starter. Hunt tests remain as currently stated at \$2 per starter only if they want results published in the magazine.)

2nd Vice President Bryce Novotny addressed the BOD with his report and three (3) action items. He outlined the work of the ad hoc membership committee since its formation last year.

Motion # 3, Membership Promotion: Motion by Henderson, seconded by Dow. **I move to add the current ad hoc Membership Promotion Committee to fall under the duties and responsibilities of the 2nd Vice President.** 15 Yes, 0 No, Motion Passed.

Motion # 4, Membership Data Base Software: Motion by Ralph, Seconded by Karbinger. **I move to allow Linda Langford, on a volunteer basis, to work in cooperation with the 2nd Vice President to develop new membership data base software for the ABC.** 15 Yes, 0 No, Motion Passed. Bryce indicated he would also include input from anyone who needs to work with the membership list.

Motion # 5, NBRAN (National Brittany Rescue): Motion by Ralph, Seconded by Hendrickson. **I move to recognize the NBRAN Rescue organization on the website and in the policy book.** 15 Yes, 0 No, Motion passed. **Terry Hilliard, 3rd Vice President** addressed the Board. She indicated she had been contacted by several people and received comments on recent surveys about moving the National Specialty Show before the National Amateur All Age Championship instead of between the Amateur and Open Championships. The Fairgrounds has indicated the grounds would be available that weekend.

Motion # 6, Date of National Specialty Show: Motion by Hendrickson, Seconded by Milam. **I move to allow the 3rd Vice President, Terry Hilliard, to move the National Specialty Show events to be held the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday prior to the running of the National Amateur Championship with the Board of Directors' meeting to be held on Sunday of that weekend at a location to be determined.** 13 Yes, 2 No (Jagielski & Brigham), Motion Passed. (The National Specialty will be held on Friday and Saturday with Rally to be held on Sunday.)

Motion # 7, Nat. Specialty items: Motion by Riedl, Seconded by Milam. **I move that the first six (6) items of the 3rd Vice President's report on page 15 of the agenda book be adopted.** 15 Yes, 0 No, Motion Passed. Those items are as follows:

Page 38- typo in 2-D- should read: NSS will announce their judging assignment in the magazine and on (not one) the web site.

Page 39- J. the superintendent does not supply catalogs. We use the Yearbook. Take out catalogs.

Page 40- #7- If possible, the NSS is given its own day. The NSS/Obedience and Rally is now 3 days (and we would like more).

Page 40 the last paragraph, should read at the discretion of the show chairman, the NSS Qualifier class can be added and then continue on with the qualifications.

Page 41- #19 is redundant. That was already discussed on page 38, #5.

Page 41- #21 should also include Rally

The Board did discuss whether or not to leave Agility on Page 42 - #27. It was suggested that since we do not currently have Agility at the National Specialty Show that it be removed. However, the Non Field Performance Committee in their report indicated that they would like to see an Agility event added to the National Specialty. Rather than remove and have to add back later on, this proposal was not adopted.

The next topic of discussion was the Secretary/Executive Secretary's action items.

Motion # 8, ABC Business/Facebook: Motion by Ralph, Seconded by Jagielski, **I move that ABC business and/or motions may be announced on Facebook with a link to the ABC Website, but no discussion is to be allowed on these items on the ABC Facebook page.** 15 Yes, 0 no, Motion Passed.

Motion # 9, Garmin Collar orders: Motion by Milam, Seconded by Hendrickson. **I move to adopt #2 and #5 items on page page 17 of the agenda book regarding the Secretary's report.** 15 Yes, 0 No, Motion Passed. Those items are as follows:

Item #2: Policy Book page 35, #28 and #5 page 75. Delete these sections and any other place they may appear as Garmin has requested that all request for Collars come through the Executive Secretary to avoid multiple requests. Add to duties of the Executive Secretary in the policy book. (Also see Trophy Chair Section page 75 of Policy Book)

Item # 5: Change and add to page 55 of policy book, Championship Pins section; Deep Blue, Field Championship (CHAMPION); Light Blue Amateur Field Championship (CHAMPION), Red, Show Championship (CHAMPION); Yellow, Dual Championship (CHAMPION); Dark Green; Obedience (CHAMPION); Light Green, Obedience (CD) & (CDX), (UD), Rally Advance Excellence (RAE), Beige, Master Agility Champion (MACH); Beige, Preferred Agility Champion (PACH); Purple, Grand Field Champion (GFC); Purple, Grand Champion (show) (GCH); Orange, Master Hunter (MH)

The Board reviewed the Treasurer Gerilyn Sennott's report and action items.

Motion # 10, ABC Donation Policy: Motion by Ralph, Seconded by Riedl. **I move to adopt Treasurer Sennott's proposal on page 18 of the agenda book.** 15 Yes, 0 No, Motion Passed.

This proposal is as follows: Page 51 of the policy book – Line items # 22 and # 23 should be deleted. Page 52 of the policy book – Line item # 24 should be deleted. New Proposal: The American Brittany Club, Inc. shall donate to the following organizations based on the finances of the Club on a yearly basis: Bird Dog Foundation Brittany Endowment, Sportsmen's Alliance, National Animal Interest Alliance, National Animal Interest Alliance Trust. These donations should be reviewed each year by the Finance Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at the November meeting.

The Treasurer asked Finance Committee Chair Judy Graves to point out to the Board that we currently have **seventy five outstanding membership refund checks from numerous clubs.** Checks range in amount from \$2 to \$140 with an average of \$40. A list of those clubs was read to the Board and Judy asked them to contact clubs in their region. Judy was asked to provide an email list to the BOD so this could be accomplished. If not cashed soon, those checks will be declared null and void by the Treasurer.

The AKC Delegate Judy Tighe asked in her report for donations for the AKC Disaster Relief Fund and the AKC Legislative Fund. This was tabled until the budget discussion.

(No funds were allotted during the budget discussion.)

4th Vice President John Perry distributed his report to the Board concerning the Gun Dog Nationals. The Gun Dog Banner brought in over \$3,100 for trophy donations this year. In 2013 it was \$200. This was a huge success for the Gun Dog Nationals. He said the Nationals needed better communication as to who has the equipment such as bird bags, coffee thermos, etc. to be passed on to the next committee. He presented three action items.

Motion # 11, Woman Handler Award: Motion by Karbiner, Seconded by Henderson. **I move to discontinue the Woman Handler's Award at the National All Age and National Gun Dog due to a change in the times. The trophies should be retired to the Brittany Wing of the Bird Dog Foundation with a history of the award to be included.** 14 Yes, 1 No (Dow), Motion Passed.

Motion #12, Best Dog Awards: Motion by Milam, Seconded by Patterson. **I move to discontinue the female dog of the year award in both the All Age and Gun Dog Nationals.** 2 Yes (Patterson & Milam), 12 NO, **Motion Failed.** No motion was necessary for the Field Trial Committee to change the award for the Runner-Up. VP Perry also presented an item that necessitated Executive Session.

Executive Session lasted from 10:00 A.M. until 10:20 A.M. No action taken following the Executive Session.

Motion # 13, Judges' Education Policy: Diana Kubitz, Judges' Ed Committee Chair, submitted an updated version of their policy to be changed/included in the Policy Book. Motion by Riedl, Seconded by Wire. **I move to adopt the Judges' Education Policy on page 32 of the Agenda Book with items # 6 and the commentary in # 13 deleted.** 15 Yes, 0 No. Motion passed.

Policy is as follows with original # 6 & #13 deleted and renumbered with changes in red:

1. **The Judge's Education Coordinator (JEC) is the chairman of this committee and maintains and updates the judges' printed handout materials and the computer presentation used in the seminars.**
2. The JEC maintains materials to be disseminated to judges and makes sure this information is available on the ABC website.
3. **The JEC makes available all information needed to hold seminars to people who will be presenting the judge's education program. (A side note: Brochures are no longer sent.)**
4. All judges education seminars are to be channeled through the JEC. The ABC computer presentation and printed handout materials are to be used as educational materials at all seminars.
5. The Judges' education budget is as approved by the Board of Directors. See Appendix 1 (2013)
6. **The Judges' Education Committee shall determine the materials to be used in the presentations. The presentations will be updated as new materials and photos are obtained.**
7. **The JEC will maintain a record of individuals having taken judge's education and make that list available to clubs, the Summer Specialty and National Specialty Chairs.**
8. **ABC Mentors shall be approved by the following method:**
Note: The ABC Mentor requirements are meant to be a guide in selecting members. The following is the criteria for being an ABC mentor.
 1. A full member in good standing of the American Brittany Club For the past 12 years.
 2. A full member of a regional Brittany Club for the past 12 years.
 3. Having bred, whelped and raised Brittany litters would be considered helpful.
 4. Having attended the ABC National Events that include both conformation and performance field trials.
 5. The applicant, to be effective, should:
 - a. Be well versed in the history of the Brittany.
 - b. Understand the Brittany Performance Standard.
 - c. Have Experience with the process of judging in conformation and performance.
 - d. Be willing to have prospective judges come to their home or kennel to observe and discuss Brittany's
 - e. Attend any classes or meeting for mentors when possible.
 - f. Realize that their conduct reflects on the ABC at all times.
 - g. Should be unbiased.
 - h. Adhere to Brittany standard and its quest to keep the breed "forever dual" in keeping with the ABC Mission Statement.
9. Effective 2009, the Board of Directors voted to give the Judges' Education Committee the ability to determine if a candidate for an ABC Mentor/Presenter meets the qualifications as outlined in the ABC Policy Book. The **JEC** will take a written vote by email, U.S. mail, or fax approving or disapproving of candidates with a majority vote of committee members. If a committee member casts a NO vote, they shall indicate on the ballot which of the ABC Mentor's Criteria (i.e. item #6, number and/or letter) listed on the American Brittany Judges' Education section of the Policy Book that the candidate failed to meet. While individual ballots will remain confidential as though the committee is meeting in Executive Session to discuss personnel, ballots will be sent to the ABC President, an ex-officio member of all committees, for verification of the vote, yes or no. If a candidate is rejected by a majority vote of the Judges' Education committee, the candidate shall be notified by the **JEC** and advised of the reason(s) for the negative vote. (2009) In 2010 the board of Directors voted to allow the committee to add categories that a rejection might fall into: (1) insufficient information and (2) Does not meet qualifications at this time. The Board also voted to revise the application to add information about field trials, hunt tests and attitudes regarding the Dual Dog. (2010)
10. ABC has asked AKC to require judges to take judges' education in Brittanys every five years.
11. ABC recommends that regional clubs hire judges **who meet** the five year criteria whenever possible.

Director Milam represents the ABC on the **Blue Mt. Field Trial Association**. He reported on proposed changes at both Conway and Blue Mountain field trial grounds regarding dog wagon & driver, burning rather than mowing, fees to be charged by the day and by the dogs run, pre-release bird cost and pay for someone to feed the birds. Discussions are currently taking place between the Association and Fish and Game. At this point, no vote has been taken by the Fish and Game BOD. That vote may take place this summer to be effective during the 2015-2016 field trial season.

Jim Brigham, Chairman of the **Brittany Foundation BOD**, gave an update on the progress of the Foundation during the last year. He thanked Bob Rankin and Ed and Judy Graves for their generous donations to help get their funding started. The Foundation will have a presence (page) on the ABC website. Insurance has been piggy-backed on the ABC Liability Policy. Brigham announced that Karen Hanson's one year term had expired. He asked for a BOD vote to fill the new five year term.

Motion # 14, Foundation 5 yr term: Motion by Dow, Seconded by Hendrickson.

I move to appoint Karen Hanson to the five (5) year term on the Foundation BOD.

15 Yes, 0 No, Motion Passed.

Motion # 15, Auction/Raffle Report: Karbner reported on Auction/Raffle financials that had been submitted to her up to this date. Motion by Karbner, Seconded by Hendrickson. **I move to change the name of the Auction Raffle Committee to National Fundraising Committee.** 15 Yes, 0 no, Motion Passed.

Facebook Committee Chair, Robin Tomasi requested the BOD to allow her committee to create a U-Tube Channel. The committee can restrict the channel to no comments. These can also be put on the ABC Website. Content would be approved by the committee as to what is appropriate material.

Motion # 16, U-Tube Channel: Motion by Christensen, Seconded by Dow. **I move to create a U-Tube Channel with comments disabled. Site to be monitored by the ABC Facebook Committee.** 15 Yes, 0 No, Motion Passed. Dow brought up a discussion of an Oversight Committee to work with all media outlets of the ABC. (Magazine, Website, Facebook). She wanted more coordination between the venues. Others agreed that more communication should take place without a formal committee trying to direct all groups. Committee Chairs should drive what needs to be shared with and/or on other venues. Dow also asked who receives the various ABC emails. The Webmaster Ralph explained that the only multi-faceted business address is the one to ABC Membership because several people/committees deal with membership issues.

Bobbie Sigmund, Chair of the Futurity Committee, discussed her Committee's Policy Book revision. She alluded to her discussion with Bernie Matthy's about futurity dogs not being FDSB registered. They are now including FDSB registration forms in the final forfeit mailing as well as the initial papers.

The **Purina and Garmin programs** were discussed and explained how they are handled. The Futurity currently has its own **website domain** which is not under the auspices of the ABC. The question was asked, "Does ABC need multiple domains for every committee that wants one?" Webmaster and other directors felt we only needed one URL which shows more of what the ABC does. Sigmund felt her domain was easier to use. It was decided that ABC needs to control all domains using the ABC name. The webmaster and Facebook Chair agreed to work together to solve this problem and consider format changes on the Website Futurity Page.

The Futurity Committee requested that **Pay Pal** be used to collect Futurity forfeits. Pros and cons of its use were discussed. The Treasurer has asked that this not be approved. It was suggested that this issue be tabled until the Futurity Chair could discuss the issue with the Treasurer and that the discussion be done as soon as possible. Litter nominations for 2015 start January 1. Steve asked for 90 days. President said 60 days or sooner. Since there was no motion on the table there was no need for a motion to table but discussion should take place.

The discussion then moved on to multiple awards in the case of a **tie for the Dual Award**. Number of dogs defeated in the show exceeds number of dogs in the field in several instances. No motion concerning this was made but Karbner withdrew her objections.

Protests at the futurity were discussed. Futurity Committee asked that they handle any protests. Directors felt that the committee on the grounds of the host club should handle protests as that follows ABC protocol as used in our ABC National Events. ABC should develop its own policy similar to AKC's protest policies. Host clubs will be told they will deal with the issue. No motion was made and Henderson said these were discussions on line items and then we vote on the total package after it is revised.

The Futurity Committee asked that the **Dual Dogs pictures appear on the cover** of the magazine as they have been sometimes in the past. Current policy outlines what dogs/events will be used on the cover of the magazine. This was rejected by the BOD last year but could be changed this year. This is the only “national” event where participants must be a member. Some preferred leaving off the older Hall of Fame dogs and using the Dual Futurity winners.

Motion # 17, Dual Futurities on cover of magazine: Motion by Dow, Seconded by Hanson. I move to put the Dual Futurity Award winners on the cover of the magazine.

13 Yes, 1 No (Karbiner), 1 Not Voting (Brigham). Motion passed.

Karbiner asked if we should include purebred in front of the word dogs where applicable. Directors felt this was assumed if the dogs were registered and this was redundant. The BOD moved on.

Page 65 #5, dealing with where **futurity money is deposited**. A lengthy discussion on ABC Banking procedures and accounts was conducted. Currently, all money is deposited as directed by the treasurer. Futurity Committee would like for Futurity Secretaries to handle this bank account. Judy Graves explained that the Commerce account was created so that she could relieve the Treasurer of some of the accounting issues as she is herself an accountant. Last year’s motion created the Commerce Account near the Graves home. Graves who is chairman of the Finance Committee currently explained the reasons why ABC needs multiple accounts. Graves suggested that Sigmund discuss this with the Treasurer when they discussed Pay Pal. No wording change or motion was put forward on this issue.

Page 68, #14. Mary asked why “It is recommended but NOT REQUIRED “Nothing came of this discussion.

Page 70, #3, strike out the **Pay Pal** tabled for now. Agreed.

Page 74, #21, deals with number of days to send sectional **futurity reports** to Nat Futurity Secretary. 20 days rather than 30 would be better when results are sent to 2nd Futurity Secretary and that they are to be verified that be sent on the regular field trial form to the ABC Secretary as soon as possible. Agreed but no motion.

Reporters should confer with judges if needed should be added. Agreed but no motion.

Page 77, under Dates: Futurities should be held before/after....: change Sectional trial to Regional trial. (incorrect term correction) Sectional Futurities are subject to approval of the Regional Dates Coordinator and then the National Dates Coordinator. No argument on this change but no motion.

Page 79, strike **AKC and put ABC** approved tracking collars. Can be same as AKC or American Field but make it ABC policy. Agreed but no motion. Futurity is not run under the AKC.

Page 84, paragraph 4, Strike AKC and put ABC. No argument. Last line acceptable.

Page 88, **Administration Fee:** additional expenses must be pre-approved by Chair.

Change Futurity Auction to Futurity Fundraiser: agreed but no motion.

Page 87: **Purse changes** are already made according to R. Tomasi, member of the Futurity Committee, but was not in agenda report book. Ratio, 2nd paragraph under proposed. Leave show out on purse ratio for all age & gun dog. Cross out if applicable on Dual Dog. Add line regarding show purse minus 5%. 10 % for ABC then take out 5 % for dual dog. If no dual dog, then ABC retains that. Agreed but no motion.

Page 89: Milam would like to see finding birds should be a primary objective. 4 lines up from bottom paragraph. Current wording acceptable.

Page 47 dealing with **nomination allowed 60 days after whelp**. Straw Vote left at 60 days. No problem with increasing fees. Bullet point entry fees discussed. Litter fee \$40, Show final \$30, Field entry goes to \$60. Litter nomination starts Jan 1 everything else 2016.

Motion # 18: Futurity Proposals: Motion by Hendrickson, Seconded by Wire. **I move to accept the Futurity proposal with modifications.** 15 Yes, 0 No, Motion Passed.

Bobbie then asked that the Futurity form be a full page alternating with the half page each month. Rankin suggested a full page every other month with no half page which would keep the magazine costs the same.

Motion # 19, Futurity Ad: Motion by Dow, Seconded by Pollock. **I move that the litter nomination form be a full page run every other month in the magazine.**

15 Yes, 0 No, Motion Passed.

Motion # 20, Classics Committee, Ray Trimble, Chair: The policy book needs to be corrected by not calling all the Classics Grand Championship Stakes. They are American Field Championships and AKC Classics that carry Grand Champion points. Motion by Karbinger, Seconded by Jagielski. **I move that the verbiage on page 89 – 92 of the policy book should have Grand removed where appropriate and add Chair’s Statement in Agenda Book.** 15 yes, 0 No, Motion Passed.

Statement on Classics and rationale follow: *The Policy book needs to update the title of this section changing the title of the first Classics Section to read: “Original ABC Game Bird/Gun Dog Classic/Championships” to further distinguish between the original Classics and the second section dealing with Championship Association Championship trials which are also ABC/AKC Classics.* After the BOD Meeting in December, the following motion was passed: *I move that the ABC (Chukar, Grouse/Woodcock, Gun Dog, Pheasant, Prairie Chicken, Quail) Classics and the ABC National (All Age & Gun Dog) Championships be designated as AKC Grand Champion Limited stakes.*

While this motion is correct, the Grand designation has nothing to do with American Field sponsored championships. This is an AKC designation referring to points given to the above mentioned events that are also ABC Classics. The policy book currently refers in every mention of the “Original” Classics as GRAND CHAMPIONSHIPS which is incorrect. **These references need to be removed and a statement added that all of these stakes will be AKC Open Limited stakes offering Grand Championship points. The title of this section of the policy book should be ABC ORIGINAL GAME BIRD/GUN DOG CLASSIC/CHAMPIONSHIPS.**

Brigham discussed the progress on the Ethics Committee’s upcoming proposal. Some work is yet to be done and proposal will likely come out during the time parameters for mailing out election ballots in order to include them as it will entail a by-law change.

Motion #21, Code of Ethics Name: Motion by Brigham, Seconded by Hendrickson. **I move to change the title of the Code of Ethics section of the Policy Book to Breeders’ Code of Ethics.** 15 Yes, 0 No, Motion Passed.

Judy Graves presented the report of the Finance Committee and discussed her committee’s action items regarding the financial outlook for the future and what needed to be done to keep the ABC in good financial status. Background on these motions can be read in a previous issue of the American Brittany Magazine in the Agenda Book Action Items. While no formal motion was put forth, the BOD accepted the report of the Finance Committee and moved on to specific action items the committee had to be presented.

Motion # 22, Appointments to the Finance Committee: Motion by Karbinger, Seconded by Ralph. **I move that Joe Gower and Kent Patterson be appointed to the Finance Committee to replace Dan Riedl whose term is expiring and John Henderson who asked to be replaced.** 15 Yes, 0 No, Motion Passed.

Motion # 23, Recording Fees, Motion by Ralph, Seconded by Brigham. **I move that Action Item #1, page 44 of the Finance Committee Agenda Report be adopted.** That Action Item reads as follows: **Effective immediately all recording fees collected shall remain in the general operating fund. This shall be retroactive to January 1, 2014.** 14 Yes, 1 No (Hanson), Motion Passed. (Background: Currently in the Magazine Policy Section, page 60 describes the recording fee policy. The entire four paragraphs should be moved to be added to the Recording Fee Section on page 20 with the last paragraph being deleted.)

Motion # 24, Future Grounds Fund. Motion by Milam, Seconded by Brigham. **I move to adopt Action Item # 2, page 44 of the Finance Committee’s report in the Agenda Book.** 7 Yes (Patterson, Jagielski, Brigham, Ralph, Karbinger, Milam, Gower), 8 No (Pollock, Dow, Hanson, Riedl, Hendrickson, Christensen, Wire, Henderson) **Motion Failed.** Action Item # 2 reads as follows: The \$94,265 balance currently held in the board designated Future Grounds Fund be transferred to the Undesignated Fund Balance (reserve account) (No Policy Book revision is necessary for this motion.)

After the motion failed, Judy Graves was asked to rename the Future Grounds Fund to more accurately reflect the special purpose of those monies. Agreed.

The Finance Committee’s Action Item # 4 dealing with Regional Club’s current share of dues had a great deal of discussion with little BOD support. The Chair withdrew that Action Item from consideration.

Motion # 25, Dues Amount (action item #3): Motion by Hanson, Seconded by Brigham. **I move to increase dues January 1, 2016 to fifty (\$50).** 15 Yes, 0 No, Motion Passed.

Motion # 26, Associate Dues: Motion by Ralph, Seconded by Gower. **I move to raise the associate dues to \$5 with \$3 going to the ABC and Regional Clubs getting \$2.** (effective January 1, 2016). 15 Yes, 0 No, Motion Passed.

The Board was given a revised Budget for 2015. They went over the line items and changed some of the entries as will appear in the BOD revised budget. Donations to outside organizations were reduced. These will be announced when the 2015 Budget is published. Removing color coverage of the national events would cut magazine costs over \$7,000. **Motion # 27, 2015 Budget.** Motion by Milam, Seconded by Patterson. **I move to adopt the 2015 ABC Budget as amended.** 15 Yes, 0 No, Motion passed.

At this point in the meeting, various misc. topics printed as action items in the Agenda Book were discussed and motions followed.

Motion # 28, Membership Lists: Motion by Hendrickson, Seconded by Pollock. **I move to change the policy book to allow every director to receive full membership lists.** 9 Yes, (Pollock, Dow, Hanson, Riedl, Hendrickson, Christensen, Wire, Henderson, Gower, 6 No (Patterson, Jagielski, Brigham, Ralph, Karbner, Milam) Motion Passed.

Motion # 29, National Patches: Motion by Riedl, Seconded by Pollock. **I move to adopt Steve Ralph's proposal #1 on page 102. (Page 69 of the Policy Book, Remove the following statement from #6 as we no longer order or sell a yearly national patch, "Order patches, approximately 100 National Patches per year. (Order them early in event of error). (i.e. 2004/2006)** 15 Yes, 0 No, Motion Passed.

Motion # 30, Reporter Expenses: Motion by Karbner, Seconded by Milam. **I move that National Reporters shall be paid the field report fee (see appendix) once their report is received for publication. Reporters may also request to be paid travel expenses to and from the trial and/or paid for their horse usage on the days they ride as the official reporter. Total paid to reporter is not to exceed \$1,000.** 15 Yes, 0 No, Motion Passed.

(Suggested amounts: \$250 on completion of report, \$400 for travel which could be discounted if reporter has dogs entered in field or show, \$250 (Based on five (5) days running) Horse usage on days that they officially report. Not to exceed a total of \$50 per day or \$25 half day for horse. Total paid to reporter is not to exceed \$1, 000.) Karbner will make a form for policy book.

The Board went into Executive Session to discuss election of Officers and People and Dog Hall of Fame. Results were announced as follows:

Motion # 31 (Done in Executive Session and Announced in Open Meeting): **People Hall of Fame: Ron Harling. Dog Hall of Fame: DC/AFC Masked Shoshoni War Chief and NFC R-U/NAFC/DC/AFC Shady's Tia Maria. Officers Elected: 1st VP: Tom Milam, Sec. Mary Jo Trimble, 3rd VP Terry Hilliard. 4th VP. John Perry.**

Motion # 32, Remote Access at BOD Meetings: Motion by Hendrickson, Seconded by Christensen. **I move that digital or telephonic remote access can be made available to officers and committee chairs in case they are unable to attend. This is extended to directors in extenuating circumstances.** 13 Yes, 2 No (Karbner, Milam), Motion Passed.

Bob Fleury, Magazine Committee Chair, presented his report in booklet form to the BOD outlining what duties our publisher Webster County Printing does for us in addition to actually printing the magazine. He also reviewed possible costs if we were to add an online version of the magazine.

Motion # 33, Webmaster Duties: Motion by Riedl, Seconded by Jagielski. **I move to accept items 5-6-7 on page 112.** 15 Yes, 0 No, Motion passed. **Items are as follows:**

#5: The ABC Webmaster shall be responsible for all ABC Domains and Email (Forwarding) accounts. The yearly Domain registration and other website expenses must be submitted to the treasurer for approval and reimbursement.

#6: The ABC Webmaster shall be responsible for the ABC Pay Pal and Email (PayPal Filters)

#7: The ABC Webmaster shall work with the ABC Secretary regarding new website content before posting.

Motion # 34, Email Votes: Motion by Ralph, Seconded by Brigham. **I move to approve Board of Director email votes taken since the last Annual BOD meeting.**

15 Yes, 0 No, Motion Passed.

Motion # 35, Versatile Dog Program: Motion by Hanson, Seconded by Christensen.

I move to adopt the proposed Versatile Dog Program outlined on page 140 and 141 of the Agenda Book and create a position of Versatile Dog Coordinator. 14 Yes, 1 No, (Karbner), Motion Passed. Hanson said this proposal did not incur financial obligation for ABC as the only expense would be printing the certificates which she would do. Proposal is as follows:

VERSATILE DOG AWARDS

- Awards will begin in 2015 and dogs that have previously qualified will be eligible for the VD and VDE titles if both they and their owners meet the qualifications.
- The Versatile Dog committee will consist of a Chair and committee members with expertise in each of the categories (field, show, & performance.)
- **All owners of a dog must be current members (full or associates) of the American Brittany Club by March**
1st of the current calendar year for the dog to be eligible for Versatile Dog and Versatile Dog Excellent Title Awards for that year. (Please note: the associate membership is only available to individuals who reside in the same household as a current full member. Also, Associate Memberships do not include voting privileges in club matters.)
- Versatile Dog Committee will provide form to be filled out for awards that require owners to submit information.
Owners are responsible for tracking their dog's qualification for titles and to submit the completed application for title to the coordinator.
- The Versatile Dog program will be evaluated in 2016 for changes to the program starting the 2017.
- The Versatile Dog award presentation will be held with an ABC event (ABC Summer Specialty, Gun Dog Nationals, National Specialty, or All-Age Nationals) Individuals unable to attend will be mailed their certificates. All owners will receive a certificate.
- The Versatile Dog Coordinator shall keep a listing of all Versatile Dog Title recipients and the list shall be published on the American Brittany Club website.
- Dogs who have been awarded a Versatile Dog (VD) or Versatile Dog Excellent title may include this information as a suffix to their dogs registered name. This title is an American Brittany Club title and not an American Kennel Club title.
- Costs associated with this award will be minimal for printing and mailing of title certificates.

American Brittany Club VERSATILED OG (VD) VERSATILE DOG EXCELLENT (VDX) APPLICATION

Dog's Registered Name:

Dog's Registration Number:

Sire:

Dam:

Date of Birth:

Breeder:

Owner(s) and Owner's Club Affiliation:

Please indicate the highest point value in each category. There is no combination of points within a category. The dog must earn at least one point per category, and must have at least one category score a 4 point value or higher. Versatility Award certificate is earned with a point total of 7 points, and a Versatility Award Excellent is earned with a point total of 10 points or higher. Documentation of points must accompany this form (i.e. where points were awarded, copy of title certificate, etc...)

FIELD AREA

POINT VALUE

6 NATIONAL FC/AFC, CLASSICS WINNER

**5 FIELD CHAMPION OR AMATEUR FIELD CHAMPION, NAVDA Versatility Champion,
NSTRA Field Champion**

- 4 MAJOR FIELD WIN, MASTER HUNTER, First place Futurity Field winner, NAVHDA Utility Test
- 3 Futurity Money winner
- 2 FIELD POINT(S), SENIOR HUNTER, NAVHDA Utility Preparatory Test
- 1 FIELD TRIAL PLACEMENT, JUNIOR HUNTER, NAVHDA Natural Ability Test

TOTAL FIELD AREA POINTS _____

CONFORMATION AREA

POINT VALUE

- 6 NATIONAL BOB OR BOS, OR BEST IN SHOW
- 5 SHOW CHAMPION/Futurity BIF or BOS
- 3 MAJOR SHOW POINTED/Futurity money winner
- 1 5 SHOW POINTS

TOTAL CONFORMATION AREA POINTS _____

PERFORMANCE AREA

POINT VALUE

- 6 NHIT and NHC
- 5 OTCH, MACH, CT, PACH
- 4 UDX, MX, MXJ, MXP, MJP, VST, PAX, MXF
- 3 UD, AX, AXJ, AXP, AJP, XF, T2B

- 2 CDX, OA, OAJ, RAE, TDX, OJP, RDX, OAP, OF
- 1 CD, RA, NA, NAJ, RN, NAP, NJP, TD, NF
- 1 Miscellaneous performance event titles are either AKC titled or AKC recognizes other registry titles, such as Barn Hunts, Fly Ball, Lure Coursing, Herding Instinct, etc...

TOTAL PERFORMANCE AREA POINTS _____

TOTAL POINTS _____

Motion # 36, Dog of the Year Awards, Robin Tomasi: Motion by Hendrickson, Seconded by Ralph. **I move to accept the Dog of the Year as written but striking the sections for All Age, Amateur All Age, Gun Dog, Amateur Gun Dog sections. Change Puppy and Derby to Juvenile Dog of the Year. Strike the funding sections.** 12 Yes, 3 No (Pollock, Karbiner, Dow) Motion Passed. Since the BOD did not approve any funding for this program, Karen Hanson volunteered to donate \$1,000 for the first year, and Robin Tomasi agreed to seek outside funding for future years. Field Dog of the Year categories were considered already being awarded with the Purina All Age Dog of the Year and Masked Magnum Award and The Garmin Gun Dog Award. Proposal as modified is as follows:

American Brittany Club National Dog of the Year Awards

- Awards will run from January 1st to December 31st, and start in 2015.
- The National DOY committee will consist of a Chair and a committee members with expertise in each of the DOY categories (field, show, obedience, agility, juniors, NSTRA, and NAVDHA)
- **All owners of a dog must be current members (full or associates) of the American Brittany Club by March 1st of the current calendar year for the dog to be eligible for the National Dog of the Year Awards. (Please note: the associate membership is only available to individuals who reside in the same household as a current full member. Also, Associate Memberships do not include voting privileges in club matters.)**
- If an individual obtains ownership of an eligible dog during the calendar year they have 30 days to join the American Brittany Club, and the previous owner(s) must have met the membership requirements for the dog to be eligible for the DOY award.
- If an owner's membership lapses during the year, they have a 30 day grace period to bring their membership current or their dog will be dropped from the eligibility list. Example: If an individual's membership expires on June 1st, they have until July 1st to renew.

- If there are no eligible dogs in a category, no award will be given for that year.
- DOY Committee will provide form to be filled out for awards that require owners to submit information.
- The Dog of the Year program will be evaluated in 2016 for changes to the program starting the 2017.
- DOY award presentation will be held with an ABC event (ABC Summer Specialty, Gun Dog Nationals, National Specialty, or All-Age Nationals) Individuals unable to attend will be mailed their certificates and any trophies. All owners will receive a certificate, but only 1 trophy will be provided per dog. Co-owners of dogs can purchase duplicates of trophies for the price of the trophy, and trophies will need to be ordered ahead of time with DOY Awards Committee.

Field Dog of the Year Awards: *Field DOY awards will be awarded in the following categories based on the following rules:*

Juvenile Dog of the Year - based on dogs defeated in Puppy & Derby stakes at any AKC Field Trial. Dogs defeated points from AKC trials hosted by clubs other than regional Brittany Clubs must be sent into the DOY committee with an attached copy of AKC win record report. In the case of a tie, the dog with the most 1st place wins will be awarded DOY. If a tie still exists then multiple awards will be presented.

Hunt Test Dog of the Year

- Junior Hunter (10 points for each qualifying score)
- Senior Hunter (20 points for each qualifying score)
- Master Hunter (35 points for each qualifying score)

In the case of a tie, a dog with the most points in the highest Hunt Test level will be awarded DOY. If a tie still exists then multiple awards will be presented. Owner must submit form (provided by DOY Committee) with AKC awards record attached highlighting hunt test legs submitted for DOY award.

NSTRA Dog of the Year: Top Brittany in NSTRA Top Performance rankings

NAVDHA Dog of the Year

-Natural Ability Test

- Prize III - 5 Points
- Prize II - 10 Points
- Prize I - 30 Points

-Utility Preparatory Test

- Prize III - 35 Points
- Prize II - 40 Points
- Prize I - 60 Points

-Utility Test

- Prize III - 65 Points
- Prize II - 70 Points
- Prize I - 80 Points

-Invitational Test

- Versatile Champion - 100 Points

In the case of a tie, a dog with the most points in the highest NAVDHA prize level will be awarded DOY. If a tie still exists then multiple awards will be presented. Owner must submit form (provided by DOY committee) with record of NAVDHA Prize certificates which will be verified against NAVDHA report.

Conformation Dog Awards: *Conformation DOY awards will be awarded for participation in AKC events based on the following rules:*

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Show Dog of the Year: based on AKC Top Dogs By Breed report based on breed competition. In the case of a tie, a dog with the most Best in Specialty wins at ABC Regional Club Specialties will be awarded DOY.

Owner Handler Series Dog of the Year: based on AKC owner handler series rankings. In the case of a tie, the dogs with the most Owner Handler Best of Breed wins will be awarded DOY

Non-Field Performance Dog Awards: *Non-Field Performance DOY awards will be awarded for participation in events where AKC titles are awarded based on the following rules:*

Obedience Dog of the Year: Notes: Average 3 highest qualifying scores in obedience trials. If the class was CDX, add a weight of 3 points to the average score.

If the class was UD, add 4 points to the average score. In the case of a tie, a dog with scores from the UD class will be awarded DOY. If both dogs are from the same class, then multiple awards will be presented. ***Owner must submit form (provided by DOY committee) with printouts of AKC win record with the scores submitting, underlined or highlighted, included with the Obedience form.***

MACH Agility Dog of the Year: top MACH dog in AKC MACH agility year end rankings based on Based on Score (2Q's x 10) + Points.

PACH Agility Dog of the Year: top PACH dog in AKC PACH agility year end rankings Based on Score (2Q's x 10) + Points

Junior Handler Awards: *There will be a Junior Handler award in both the field and the show categories. To be eligible, the Junior or one of their parents/guardians must be a full member of the American Brittany Club. For all the events the junior be compete with a Brittany that is owned or co-owned by the Junior Handler or a member of the Junior Handler's family who is a member in good standing of the ABC (father, mother, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, grandfather, grandmother, including step and half relations). For all Junior Awards, in the case of a tie multiple awards will be presented.*

Show Junior Handler: The Show Junior Handler points will be tabulated on the number of handlers defeated in AKC Junior Handler events. This is based on the AKC Junior Handler Rankings.

Field Junior Handler: The Field junior will get 5 points for every event in which they participate per dog. This includes AKC Field Trials, Hunt Tests, NVDHA, and NSTRA. A form must be signed by judges or event secretary indicating their participation in the event and the name of the dog they competed with. The Junior must compete in at least 4 events during the calendar year to be eligible for this award.

Performance Junior Handler: The Performance Junior will get 5 points for every event in which they participate per dog. This includes all AKC performance events that Brittanys are eligible to compete in (obedience, rally, agility, fly-ball, barn hunt, etc.). A form must be signed by judge(s) or event secretary indicating their participation in the event and the name of the dog they competed with. The Junior must compete in at least 4 events during the calendar year to be eligible for this award.

Special Acknowledgements of ABC Members at DOY ceremony (listed in ABC media DOY acknowledgements):

Dual Champions

UD, UDX, OGM, & OTCH

Obedience High in Trials & High Combined

MACH

PACH

RAE

MH/MHA

NAVDHA Versatile Champion

AKC Best in Shows

Owner Handler Series Best in Shows

Best Junior Wins

Wins at AKC Pointing Breed Championship

Motion #37, Designated Specialties: Motion by Patterson, Seconded by Pollock. **I move to accept Pollock’s proposal on page 142 of the Agenda Book regarding fees charged for Designated Specialties. Change the word recording to starter.** 14 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstained (Brigham) Proposal as modified reads as follows: **Designated Specialty Shows held by Regional Clubs in conjunction (not concurrent) with All Breed Kennel Club Shows shall be exempt from the starter fee unless they want their results printed in the American Brittany Magazine.**

Motion # 38, Director Vacancies: Motion by Gower, Seconded by Darlene. **I move that in case of a Director vacancy the BOD will go back to the last previous election ballot vote and appoint the 2nd place candidate if they garnered 33% of the votes cast.** 15 Yes, 0 No, Motion Passed. (Vote totals will be kept by each year’s nominating committee chair.)

Due to the drop in entries in recent years, the BOD looked at how we can work with the qualifications to help increase entries, particularly in the Amateur Stakes.

Motion # 39, Qualifications: Motion by Ralph, Seconded by Brigham. **I move to strike the line from the qualifications in all national stakes that “No dog may run in both the National All Age Championships and the National Gun Dog Championships in the same calendar year.”** 10 Yes, 4 No, (Patterson, Dow, Hendrickson, Pollock) 1 abstained (Karbiner).

Motion # 40, Qualifications: Motion by Ralph, Seconded by Brigham. **I move to qualify a dog who has “qualified in any previous year and during the period from the previous years close of entries to the current year closing of entries has a placement in an (name of stakes) 13 or more dog stake in an AKC licensed trial held by a Brittany Club.”** 14 Yes, 0 No, 1 abstained (Dow).

Motion # 41, Directors’ Ballots: Motion by Henderson, Seconded by Dow. **I move that all ballots for the BOD election shall be consecutively numbered for each region based on eligible voters for that region. President declared motion passed on a voice vote.**

Meeting adjourned. 10:00 P.M.

**Respectfully submitted,
Mary Jo Trimble, Executive Secretary**

2015 REPORT OF THE ABC PRESIDENT

Robert Rankin, MD
September 7, 2015

Well, we got through another year, but it wasn't easy. The BOD has dealt with a number of issues, some of which were related to the length of our last meeting.

Costs are slowly increasing with revenue slowly decreasing. The peak of field trailing has passed and has slowly declined since. The same is occurring in almost all pointing breeds with few exceptions. Since the main sources of income come from dues and field trials, income has decreased as these two things have declined. The increase in dues was warranted but with a number of 3 year renewals, it will take a while to see the final results.

Other sources of income could be sought such as increasing the field trial starter fees or requiring an ad in the magazine to get approval to run a trial, etc.

Or, we could try to limit expenses like donations to other organizations and the scholarship program. These were all started when we had lots of money.

Money problems are facing most pointing breed clubs and are being dealt with in different ways.

Being President of the ABC is much different than the other organizations I've been President of. Most of the calls or emails I get are along the lines of "you need to tell so and so not to do that" and things of that nature. In the past (I was on the BOD for about 23 years) everything was taken care of at the annual meeting. Now, with the advent of emails, it seems that everything has to be done "right now." Our new way of discussing things before a motion is made should be the new standard of how we conduct business. Otherwise we become somewhat dysfunctional. Somehow the president should be allowed to make more of the day to day decisions on his or her own about things he or she knows would meet with BOD approval. So, anyway, I'm going to drift off into retirement and enjoy my dogs and horses, helping with field trials, and judging quite a bit. I'll still be around.

Robert A Rankin, MD. President of ABC

2015 REPORT OF THE 1st VICE PRESIDENT

**Tom Milam
September 12, 2015**

An experienced committee was selected with Claude Kilpatrick agreeing to be the Stakes Manager of the Amateur and Bo Ackerman returning as the Open Stakes Manager. A very competent judge's panel was secured early.

Due to the early spring and summer rain, the grounds were flooded for quite some time. After the water receded, some feed plots were planted and damaged courses were repaired. This work continues. The photos of the grounds after the flood did not look good but I have confidence that Brad and Red will do everything possible to correct the problems.

Since the GSP Championships in March negotiations have continued with Arkansas Game & Fish. Those negotiations are still ongoing. Perry Mikles and Ray Marshall, Sec. / Treas. of Blue Mountain Conservation Assoc. have remained in contact with Ricky Chastain, Assistant Executive Director of AG&F. Ray has kept me advised of developments but since the final results have not been resolved, we are still unsure of the final plan. In any event, the birds have been ordered and will be released in the next week. I will be on the grounds the 6th of Oct. to judge a championship and will be in a better position to evaluate and report on the situation.

Tom Milam
1st V.P.

2015 REPORT OF THE 2nd VICE PRESIDENT

**Bryce Novotny
September 19, 2015**

Membership growth seems to be up from previous years and hopefully we will finish the year strong as field trial season is getting into swing and everyone getting excited about getting out with their dogs. I have not been contacted by any new clubs trying to form this year.

As far as action amongst developing regional clubs, Cajun Country Brittany Club is applying to hold a mentored hunt test in the spring by the South Louisiana Vizsla Club which will bring them licensed to hold hunt tests. Other than that, I have not heard of any others.

I have been working with NBRAN and collecting articles to possibly produce a Brittany Adoption Packet that will also promote the American Brittany Club and give Brittany adopters information on training, care, and all the different sports that the breed can excel at. There has also been mention of NBRAN putting an AKC P.A.L.S. number on all Brittanys adopted out to maybe encourage Brittany adopters to do an activity and train their dogs – leading to less returned to rescue for behavior/energy issues, but this has not been decided on yet.

Overall it's been a good year and there are numerous positive things going on throughout the club. I have no action items at this time.

Bryce Novotny, 2nd V.P.

2015 REPORT OF THE 3rd VICE PRESIDENT

Terry Hilliard
September 7, 2015

Changes for the Policy Book 2015.

Page 39, #7

Change wording to say: The National Specialty Show will be held the week before the start of the National AA.

This will allow possible expansion of the NSS in the coming years and not specify days.

Page 42, #26

Take out Agility.

We have not been able to add this venue to the NSS.

Action Item:

In April 2103, AKC recognized Barn Hunts as a titled program. The Barn Hunt Tests the traits of dogs. The program is open to all breeds that can fit through an 18# tunnel. The Barn Hunt program is taking off and growing quickly.

I would like to look into the feasibility of adding Barn Hunt to the 2016 or 2017 NSS.

Terry Hilliard, 3rd V.P.

Agenda Item from Steve Ralph:

ABC Policy Book changes & additions

Duties of the Third Vice President (Policy Book, pg 39)

- change "7. The National Specialty Show events are to be held the Friday, Saturday and Sunday prior to the running of the National Amateur Championship."

to "7. The National Specialty Show events are to be held during the week prior to the running of the National Amateur Championship."

2015 REPORT OF THE 4th VICE PRESIDENT

John Perry
September 17, 2015

Report will be presented at the Board meeting regarding the running of the Gun Dog Nationals in October 2015.

Action Items:

Policy Book Changes Page 46 #15—“Submit a report of your activities and recommendation to the Agenda Chairman in advance of the annual Board meeting. This must be done far enough in advance so the agenda chairman can have the agenda in the hands of the directors six (6) weeks prior to the annual Board meeting.”

The Gun Dog Nationals run approximately 5 weeks prior to the Board meeting and a report on the running cannot meet these deadlines. Without having the information in the agenda book any issue cannot be discussed. This should be changed so any items that need to be addressed from the current years running can be brought to the board for action.

A couple topics that do need to be addressed are:

1. Location of the Gun Dog Nationals
2. ADA handlers, use of quads, bracing information/guidelines

Page 46 # 19—“Site selection for the National Open and Amateur Gun Dog Championships must be approved by the Board of Directors.”

Many members have asked for a more neutral location and/or rotating grounds more centralized.

Page 47 #20—“Money made from the raffle and/or auction for the Gun Dog Championship shall be donated to the Ionia grounds as long as the ABC runs the Gun Dog Championships there. Before a donation to the grounds funds from the raffle and/or auction, each of the Gun Dog Nationals must break even.”

Discussion was held as to keeping any money made, if break even status is achieved, in an account to offset and deficit in future running of the Gun Dog Championships. Many people are interested in working on fund raisers but not if the money will be sent to Ionia grounds.

Why is this a different arrangement that the All Age Nationals?

Page 157 #7—“The statistician is to compile the list of qualified dogs for the National Open, National Amateur and National Gun Dog Championships and send to the editor and Executive Secretary.”

Over the past few years, that I am aware of, the Gun Dog Field Trial Secretary has kept the stats. I just need clarification of who is to do it and the policy book should reflect the same.

2015 REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/ SECRETARY Mary Jo Trimble September 8, 2015



Two main changes have dominated activities of the Executive Secretary/Secretary position during the last year. Activities outlined by the ABC Finance Committee have increased additional reporting of results and budgeting by the Executive Committee and the various ABC committees. This is a good thing to verify trends in income and expenditures which helps with planning for the future. Since this has never been enforced in years past, it has required great diligence on the part of the Finance Committee to work with all phases of the ABC Officer and Committee Chairs to develop a working plan for creating realistic budgets and accounting for each of their assigned duties. I know many members are upset with the lack of color in current issues of the magazine, but the Magazine Committee was charged with reducing their budget by several thousand dollars and this was a major way that could be accomplished. Hopefully with the new dues increase, some of the cut backs can be re-adjusted in the future as the club gets on a more long term solvency.

The second change has been adding someone to shadow my jobs as the BOD has decided after decades of the Executive Secretary (an ongoing BOD appointed position and ABC Secretary (an ABC BOD two year elected position) being held by one person to be divided. The Policy Book currently assigns very few duties to the elected Secretary position. When these two offices are once again divided, I anticipate some transfer of duties of the Executive Secretary to the Elected Secretary position. I was very pleased that Leslie Andreas was selected to shadow me for the Secretary position. Leslie is an ABC Life Member and has been actively involved with the ABC since her youth. She has a great understanding of the history and processes of the ABC, its dogs' pedigrees, as well as a great knowledge of the people in the ABC membership. All of this will serve her well if she later assumes the Secretary position.

Due to some confusion as to who was to do what in overhauling the way Membership Data is stored and distributed, nothing was accomplished on last year's BOD Motion to create a new database system for membership. One of my action items will address this and ask that the process be started during 2016.

I do feel the ABC is at a crossroads with different factions of the club pulling in different directions. I would hope that Directors, Officers, and Members would dedicate their efforts to keeping the Mission Statement foremost in their minds to remember that ***the objective and purpose of the Club shall be: to promote cooperation and friendship among the breeders and owners of Brittany and to encourage high standards in breeding, training and showing of Brittanys in the field and in the show ring: to discourage the breed from becoming split into groups of "field dogs" and "bench dogs" and to strive to keep it forever a "dual dog"***. Sometimes we get so wrapped up in pleasing everyone and promoting our own particular interests and worrying about the number of members in the ABC and forget that our goals should be directed toward protecting the high standards of the Brittany as a sporting dog with dual capabilities rather than how to please everyone and make everyone a winner. I would encourage Members to work through their Regional Club Directors and specific Committee Chairs when they wish to present new ideas or complaints to the Board of Directors. I would also encourage Regional Directors and Committee Chairs to also respond to those missives and be the ones to bring those issues to the BOD and Committee Chairs so they are not lost in the shuffle leaving the members to think they are not being heard. I would also encourage all to read the Policy Book so that you are aware of the rules and procedures that ABC Directors, Officers, and Committees are required to abide by.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/ SECRETARY

Mary Jo Trimble

ACTION ITEMS

1. Add to the duties of the Hall of Fame Chairs (both dog and people) to furnish the Magazine Chair a biography to be published in the ABC Magazine of those people and dogs elected each year to the ABC Halls of Fame. Since the ABC Secretary is to take minutes of the annual ABC Membership Meeting, I would add to the Policy Book Section for the ABC Secretary to receive nominations, conduct the election for Life Members at the Membership Meeting, and also present a biography to the Magazine Chair for publication of those members elected to Life Membership.
2. Reaffirm that the Membership Database should be overhauled by Linda Langford with input from an Ad Hoc Committee headed by the 2nd Vice President, and consisting of The Executive Secretary, Secretary, Membership Data Chair, Magazine Committee Chair, and Membership Promotion Committee Chair with others to be consulted or added as deemed necessary or beneficial to the project to assist Linda Langford in covering all bases regarding this program proposal.
3. I would like to propose that the ABC open an official ABC Yahoo Group for posting to member's notices, AKC actions, BOD actions, and referrals to the ABC Website and/or AKC website for more details to keep the membership more informed. This group would be for posting only with no discussion which has always been discouraged by AKC as internet fights do not encourage or promote new people to join our clubs and often create discord among the membership. The BOD has directed Facebook to only post notices to the ABC Website where no discussion takes place, but members are not in the habit of regularly checking the website, and we as officers are often criticized for posting to public discussion groups and/or Facebook. Signup and change of email addresses would be up to the individual members. I would be happy to add this to the duties of the Ex. Secretary as I serve pretty much in that capacity for the BOD anyway.
4. We need to add to the duties of the Ex. Secretary, Section # 5, page 53 of the policy book the following:
Members who belong to Regional Clubs in more than one region or a region different from their residence shall notify the ABC Executive Secretary prior to August 1 each year in which region they wish to cast their ballot. This notice shall be published in the Magazine, on the Website, and Facebook (and ABC Yahoo Group if that proposal is accepted) prior to July 1 each year. If no notice from the member is received, then a ballot will be sent based on the member's state of residence. Members who belong to only one Regional Club will receive a ballot based on that Regional Club's Region. It is very time consuming to have to deal with this issue after the August 1st date and should be the members' responsibility rather than ABC trying to find in the membership list all these overlaps and trying to contact the members each year to determine their primary region. We do have members who live in one region and belong to only one club in a different region and ballots have ALWAYS been sent based on that Club's Region so that will not change.

2015 REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Gerilyn Sennott

September 12, 2015

As my term as Treasurer of The American Brittany Club is drawing to a close, the financial statements will be completed for year ending 12/31/15 before turning over all records to the new treasurer.

The Finance Committee has completed their internal audit on the 2014 Financials and found it was balanced and complete with the exception of the recording of membership unearned dues as members are paying for multi years. The pay pal reports do not reflect the expiration year. This has been addressed by the Finance Committee and I have forwarded all membership packets to the Executive Secretary for review. This will continue as I receive the packets from the Membership Data Chair.

After the 2014 National Events concluded, it was very difficult obtaining the money collected for deposit and expenditure receipts/reports of the events. This has been discussed with the Event Chairs and the Finance Committee where all recordings of the events be submitted to The Treasurer no later than 30 days after the end of the event. (This is an action item on the Finance Committee's report). It is imperative that this reporting is prompt as it effects the year end statements.

Each year the Finance Committee will advise The Board of Directors as to the donations made to the following organizations:

- Bird Dog Foundation: Brittany Endowment
- Sportsmen's Alliance
- National Animal Interest Alliance
- National Animal Interest Alliance Trust

The bank account located at 1st Western Bank in Booneville, which was used for the disbursement of membership reimbursements, was closed to consolidate the checking accounts into one.

The 2014 Financial Statement and the 2015 Budget are available on the website.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Currently we are reimbursing the clubs on a quarterly basis. Any club reimbursement which is less than \$20.00 will be carried forward to the next quarter until their check reimbursement exceeds the \$20.00 limit. Reasoning is that a check written for \$2.00, mailed and then usually misplaced as it is not deposited promptly then needs to be replaced at a later date. The cost is much more than the check written.
2. All club reimbursement checks must be deposited in a timely manner. After one (1) year after issuance date, the check will be voided and no replacement check will be issued.

Gerilyn A. Sennott Treasurer
The American Brittany Club

2015 HOSPITALITY CHAIRMAN FOR ALL AGE NATIONALS
Nancy Clendenen, Hospitality Chair.
September 17, 2015

Diana Kubitz, outgoing chairman of this committee was outstanding in getting information and materials to me in a timely fashion.

The schedule was submitted to the magazine for the September issue and Steve has added it to items on the ABC website for the 2015 Nationals.

Winners of the 2013 Open and Amateur Championships have been contacted in order to help make their party planning easier.

I'm in the process at this time of obtaining an auctioneer for both Calcutta's and the Auction. Hopefully we can get the same auctioneer we had last year.

Last minute details are being wrapped up at this time. We will not be having greeters every night, but on key nights we'll have familiar faces at the door to welcome everyone.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Booneville!

Respectively Submitted
Nancy Clendenen
Hospitality Chair.

2015 AGENDA BOOK COMMITTEE REPORT

Hank Hartnek, Chair.
September 8, 2015

As in prior years, trying to obtain all reports and actions items in time was a challenge.

Reports with action items are noted in **BOLD** in the index and with a **red tab** on the actual report. **NR** in the index indicates No Report was submitted in time to be included in the Agenda Book.

This year I've tried to reduce costs by:

1. Eliminating a blank page where no report was received unless there was an Agenda item submitted by an officer or Board member.
2. Requesting the number of color pages is kept to a minimum.
3. Copying the pages of the Agenda Book double-sided.

I would personally like to thank everyone for their cooperation. It made the job a lot easier.

Respectfully submitted,

Hank Hartnek

ACTION ITEM: I would like the Board to consider sending future Agenda Books to Officers and Board members in electronic format. 2 – 3 copies could be sent to the Nationals for the club house and show. This would save time and money, \$300 - \$400 per year.

At the Board meeting, the Agenda Book could be projected for all to see. A projector would have to be purchased. It could be paid for in 2 – 3 years from the money saved not printing and sending out the Agenda Books.

A copy of the Agenda Book should also appear on the ABC website not just the Action Items.

From Darlene Dow, East Central Director
September 17, 2015

ACTION ITEM: Electronic transmission of the agenda book.

2015 AKC DELEGATE'S REPORT

Judy Tighe
September 15, 2015

The year has been busy with several changes to the AKC website. Unfortunately, the person in charge resigned mid-stream and the IT people had to work hard to make appropriate changes and updates. It is still a work in progress while problems are being worked out.

The Parent Club Committee has a number of projects: Parent Club of Excellence Project which has had poor response. Of those responding regarding the "Breeder of Merit", only 10 of the 27 clubs responding encouraged this program but 13 of the clubs encouraged full litter registration. Some of the clubs increased their membership while less than half report any Junior recognition or Junior Scholarship program.

AKC Classifieds needs to be able to verify if a person states they are a Parent Club member and Breeder of Merit.

The "Bred With Heart Program" has grown. It is geared to larger volume breeders that have 7+ litters/year. The breeder must comply with Parent Club recommended health tests, verification through the AKC inspection program and comply with the Breeder Education component. AKC is developing an on-line test and if you pass, you will receive certificate indicating you have completed the course.

Disaster Trailers – The program began in September of 2013. To date, \$1,031,000 has been raised. 30 Disaster Trailers have been delivered across the country with many more in the process of being built. **I recommend ABC begin a 501c3 fund and contribute \$500 to start and request members make donations. If we donate \$1,000 or more to the Disaster Trailer program, the ABC logo can be put on a trailer.**

The Certificate of Merit proposal for 4-6 month puppy class at shows has gone back to the Board to be reworked.

The Field Trial and Hunting Test Committee and Parent Club Committee are working together to update the Sporting and Hound breed fliers that go out to new puppy registrations. I have used the ABC flier and Irish Setter flier as examples. Many have old information that needs to be updated. Thank you to ABC for doing a great job on ours. **I have made the recommendation that this flier be sent to all people that breed a litter so they can copy and give to their new puppy buyers.** This way, we should get to those that are not members of ABC and encouraging them to join.

Also, the FT & HT Committee will be sending out a questionnaire to all the field trial clubs to see what we can do to help promote field events. A suggestion was made to invite veterinarian students to our field events.

With Legislation, AKC is supporting a Federal PAWS 2015 bill, Pets and Woman's Safety Act which helps women that are abused that have pets get to a safe place with their animal. Also they are supporting legislation that retail pet stores cannot sell pets from shelters. There are many bills throughout the country going after breeders. Any pets being brought into the USA MUST be vaccinated for Rabies. A one year vaccine may now be administered at 3 months but must be boosted at 4 months.

Election time is coming up and we need to assist in electing "dog friendly" candidates. You can sign up on line to make monthly donations of at least \$5 or more at akc.org/pac/. Or your club can sponsor a fund raiser. If there is a candidate you wish to support, get in touch with the AKC PAC. Of those the PAC donated to, there has been a 90% success rate. This is good for local and state elections. It gives us an edge whenever bad legislation is introduced.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Tighe
AKC Delegate

Action item: Set up a 501c3 fund and ABC donate \$500 for a Disaster Trailer and request club members donate.

2015 AKC GAZETTE REPORTER REPORT

David Webb, Chair.

September 2, 2015

During this past year there have been four brief articles written and submitted to the AKC Gazette for publication in the Brittany breed column, which appears quarterly each year.

These pieces for the Brittany breed column have been based on my 40 plus years with the Brittany. The four pieces were titled – “Almighty Water Hose”, “The Little Brown Book”, “Foundation”, and “The Magic Dancer”, which will appear in October issue of the Gazette. In addition a piece is being written is entitled, “The Right Stuff”. It will appear in January 2016 issue of the Gazette.

Several of these articles have been edited and photographs often included; then published in The American Brittany magazine.

Writings have been put together with intent to provide the reader with information about our breed. Appreciate the opportunity to write for the AKC Gazette.

David Webb, Gazette Reporter

2015 AKC JUDGES EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**Diana Kubitz, Chair.
September 17, 2015**

Our year was busy and packed with changes to the judge's education presentation. Jessica Carlson worked exceptionally hard updating photos that make up our newest presentation. Thanks to Jessica for all her hard work and to the committee members who made comments about changes throughout the process. I'm very proud of the way our committee works together to bring about positive changes that will help us preserve our pledge to our breed to keep it "forever a dual dog!"

We will look at the presentation at the nationals with as many committee members and ABC mentors as possible to give it final touches and decide what further changes might need to be made. Jessica is still working on video for the presentation and I look forward to including that in our finished product of the new presentation.

There is a schedule of presentations given this year that accompanies this report. We had several very large presentations this year with the Metamora hands-on seminar in Michigan in June the largest. We again had our 25 judges from all over the country and it was well attended by Brittany members bringing their dogs to help us educate the judges of the future. My thanks to those individuals who continue year after year to support this work! My thanks go to Cindy Miller, Doug Tighe, and Judy Tighe for doing presentations this year also. We were doing final touches on the presentation and Jessica was trying to keep us all updated so that the new material could be used as soon as possible. Thanks guys for doing great work on these presentations!

Last year at the nationals Amy Rodrigues Booth did a fund raiser that judge's education shared with the show. She groomed dogs to the tune of \$600.00! Her efforts were much appreciated by both the show committee and judge's education. I'm hoping to get her to do fund raisers in the future as well. Thank you Amy for your generosity and good work and thanks to the folks who participated!

We already have one seminar planed for January 2016 in Minneapolis so 2016 is already starting off with a bang! I'd like to encourage more mentors and committee members to do presentations to judges groups, kennel clubs and for new member functions as much as possible. You never know when the next prospective judge will walk through the door!

We have no action items to present at this time.

Respectfully submitted:

Diana Kubitz

2015 American Brittany Club Judges Ed. Seminars

January	February None	March	April
May	June June 20 & 21—Boy Scout Camp, Metamora, MI— Diana Kubitz— Presentation, breed match, field demos ABC Summer Specialty on Saturday, June 18, 2015 Presenters: Cindy Miller & Doug Tighe	July	August
September None	October Harvest Specialties Ionia, MI Sunday, Oct 18- Presenter Diana Kubitz	November Nov 19—Ft. Smith, AR Fairgrounds Diana /Committee	December Fri, December 11— Orlando, FL— AKC/DJAA Advanced Judges Institute—2:45 p.m. Cindy Miller & Judy Tighe presenters

2016 Seminar: Land O Lakes Kennel Club, Saturday January 9, 2016 , 9:00—Noon, Presenters: Joe & Dawn Droel: contact Info: mail@soveriegnbrits.com or cell# 651.620.3272

2015 U.S. SPORTSMEN'S ALLIANCE AND 2015 AKC LEGISLATIVE LIAISON AGENDA REPORTS

MARY JO TRIMBLE

TRIMBLEMARYJORAY@GMAIL.COM

September 14, 2015

One of the highlights this year of positive legislation happened in Illinois. The Illinois Federation of Dog Clubs and Owners sponsored a bill in the Illinois General Assembly to require shelters and rescue organizations to do multiple scans on dogs in their care to try and locate the owners before selling or placing any dogs with new owners. Governor Bruce Rauner recently signed the bill into law. Previously the Federation had sponsored a bill which required Animal Control to scan a minimum of two times before releasing a dog. This was an extension of that legislation. Currently there is a petition on line started by an East Coast lady who has spent over \$130,000 to try and get her dog back that had been placed into a new home even though the placing organization knew who the rightful owner actually was. She has established an online petition to try and get Federal Legislators to enact a federal law impacting all 50 states which would require these scans. I have included a summary of this and would encourage all clubs and ABC Rescue groups to work with your state AKC or other Dog Federations to promote similar legislation.

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/fulltext.asp?DocName=09900HB4029sam004&GA=99&SessionId=88&DocType=HB&LegID=90246&DocNum=4029&GAID=13&Session=>
<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/fulltext.asp?DocName=09900HB4029sam004&GA=99&SessionId=88&DocType=HB&LegID=90246&DocNum=4029&GAID=13&Session=>

AKC PRESS RELEASE

<http://www.akc.org/news/il-federation-helps-lost-dogs/> <http://www.akc.org/news/il-federation-helps-lost-dogs/>

AKC'S ILLINOIS FEDERATION HELPS PASS LAW TO BENEFIT LOST DOGS

By: AKC Government Relations Department

AKC's Illinois Federation Helps Pass Law to Benefit Lost Dogs

Thousands of Illinois pet owners will now have a better chance of being reunited with their beloved pets thanks to House Bill 4029, which was signed into law recently by Governor Bruce Rauner. The Illinois Federation of Dog Clubs and Owners (IFDCO), AKC's official Illinois state federation, worked with key sponsor Senator Thomas Cullerton to initiate the legislation, which requires animal shelters and rescue groups to scan intake animals for a microchip multiple times before releasing the animal. This extends the provisions of SB1632, which required the same procedure of animal control facilities. The American Kennel Club was proud to support both of these measures, which help reunite lost dogs with their owners.

"The Illinois Federation of Dog Clubs and Owners is committed to responsible dog ownership, and this new law is a win-win for all dog owners in the State of Illinois," said Michele Kasten, Vice President of IFDCO. "It will help get lost animals home more quickly by ensuring that shelters and rescues who take in stray animals follow the same requirements as animal control facilities -- scanning the animal for a microchip multiple times so it can be identified and returned to its rightful owners. Prior to this law there were no requirements for shelters or rescues to scan for a microchip and contact the owner..."

House Bill 4029 defines shelters as facilities operated by a humane society, animal welfare society, or other non-profit organization "promoting the welfare, protection and humane treatment of animals", as well as veterinary hospitals and clinics if they also provide these services.

Among other requirements, shelters would have to check for identification within 24 hours after the initial intake of a dog or cat. An additional scan for a microchip and other forms of identification would also be required prior to transferring an animal to another shelter or rescue group, or euthanization.

HB 4029 also states that if the first person listed on the microchip cannot be reached, the shelter must notify the second contact if one is listed. Also, shelters must notify the owner when they are identified and transfer dogs with identified owners to a local animal control or law enforcement agency for redemption. If they cannot transfer the animal, they must hold the animal for at least 7 days prior to removing the animal.

The AKC congratulates IFDCO on their significant efforts in bringing this important law that will help reunite lost pets with their owners as soon as possible.

For more information on the new law, contact Michele Kasten at schipnut58 @ [yahoo.com](mailto:schipnut58@yahoo.com) <https://us-mg6.mail.yahoo.com/compose?to=schipnut58@yahoo.com>

ABC Regional Clubs and/or Rescue groups, feel free to contact Mary Jo for more information or questions.

Fortunately, due to the Presidential Election, dog legislation has taken a back seat. HSUS continues to fund political campaigns though. I stay in contact with the US Sportsmen's Alliance, AKC, National Animal Interest Alliance, and other legislative groups and along with Judy Tighe, our ABC/AKC Delegate, to try and notify members when their state has proposed legislation that they need to react to accordingly. We need all of you to stay focused on dog or animal legislation in your state and work to keep laws that don't kill the sport we love with bad laws.

The trend from Animal Rights folks this year seems to be establishing legislation affecting dogs kenneled outdoors. The emphasis is on Extreme Weather Conditions with severe penalties for dogs left outside. The problem with most of their legislation is EXTREME is not always defined and sometimes applies to all companion animals which in many states includes horses. Be on alert for this as they slipped in through during the last week of the Illinois Legislative Session and neither the Federation or IL Federation for Outdoor Resources nor our lobbyists got wind of it until it had been run through Committee and to the floor for a vote. It sounds good to legislators but could be dangerous to dogs that are permanently kenneled outdoors. WATCH FOR THIS!

MARY JO TRIMBLE

2015 AKC POINTING BREED ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA REPORT

RAY TRIMBLE, Liaison

September 14, 2015

TRIMBLEMARYJORAY@GMAIL.COM

The AKC Pointing Breed Field Trial Advisory Committee last met in Boise, Idaho, on 11 April 2005. This committee used to meet every 5 years. At this point, we have been told that this is not a required meeting by the AKC, and we have not been advised that any meetings will be held in the near future.

Recent changes in the Field Trial program have been added/changed by the Performance Department and not through any Pointing Breed Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Trimble

2015 AMERICAN BRITTANY FOUNDATION COMMITTEE REPORT

**Jim Brigham, Chair.
September 11, 2015**

Jim Brigham, American Brittany Foundation Chair Action Item:

The ABC President shall present a nominee to the ABC Board to appoint an ABF Board Member as John Henderson's term will expire.

2015 AMERICAN FIELD LIAISON AGENDA REPORT

Ray Trimble

September 14, 2015

trimblemaryjoray@gmail.com

The American Brittany Club has been trying to increase the number of regional trials that advertise their events in the American Field in order to make sure that dogs running in the ABC National Championships and Classics are qualified to receive the title of Champion or Runner-Up Champion if they would win one of our national stakes. A derby placement in an American Field sponsored event qualifies a dog for life as does an adult placement. Regional Clubs that are members of the AFTCA will have win certificates issued to their Amateur- handled winner which qualifies them to receive AFTCA Championship titles.

The ABC Secretary has asked clubs to indicate if their regional trials are also American Field sponsored on the ABC Field Trial application blank. The ABC trial reporting form has a place to check if results are also being sent to the AFTCA as well as the AF and AKC. Not as many clubs are members of AFTCA as are now running their trials under the American Field.

A larger proportion of the events NOT run under the AF are Walking trials which does hurt people trying to get win certificates or placements that would make the dog eligible to receive an AF/AFTCA Gun Dog National Champion Title. They still get the AKC National title but not the American Field or AFTCA ones.

For more information on running trials under both the American Field and AFTCA, contact Mary Jo Trimble, ABC Secretary.

Of special note is the new American Field Field Trial Ad Policy which is now in effect. The information shown below was pulled directly from the American Field Publication and is included for all participating clubs' information:

ABC REGIONAL AKC CLASSICS/ AF CHAMPIONSHIPS:

In addition to the regular ABC Original Classic/Championships, the ABC also sponsors Regional AKC Classic/AF Championships in conjunction with several Championship Associations. Clubs running these events need to follow the guidelines as posted on the ABC Website or contact the ABC Secretary for a copy. Please indicate on the result form that the trial is both an ABC Classic and an American Field Championship. There is a space provided on the ABC/AKC/AFTCA/AF result form. Please use this form to report results. Prior to the event, the current insurance certificate and completed AKC Field Trial application and the \$15 AKC fee should be sent to the ABC Secretary who will sign and send to AKC. Associations will be responsible for any AKC late filing fees as well. Please appoint a reporter to cover the trial and get reports and write-ups in promptly to the American Field and the ABC Secretary for publication. Please try and get photos of the winners as well.

Respectfully submitted, *Ray Trimble*

2015 BREED STANDARDS

Judy Tighe

September 15, 2015

There are no issues that have come up in 2015 regarding Breed Standards. The Committee has no recommendations at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Tighe, Chairman

2015 CLASSICS COMMITTEE AGENDA REPORT

RAY TRIMBLE, CHAIR

September 14, 2015

trimblemaryjoray@gmail.com

The following ABC Original Game Bird/Gun Dog Classic/Championships will have been completed by the time this report is read:

- A. **The 2015 Chukar Classic/Championship** was hosted by the California Brittany Club 27-28 January 2015, at Castle Butte Wells, California City, CA.
- B. **The Chicken Classic/Championship** was hosted by the Nebraska Brittany Clubs, 14-17 September 2015, at the Ted Morton Ranch, Bassett, NE.
- C. **The Pheasant Classic/Championship** was hosted by the Greater St. Louis Brittany Club, 19-22 September, at Harm's Cattle Company, Valentine, NE.
- D. **The Gun Dog Classic/Championship** was hosted by the Hawkeye Brittany Club, 27-29 April 2015, at Hickman Ranch, Grand River, IA.
- E. **The Grouse/Woodcock Classic/Championship** was hosted by the Badger Brittany Club, on 9-10 October at Eau Claire Cty Forest, Augusta, WI.
- F. **The Quail Classic/Championship** was hosted by the Greater St. Louis Brittany Club, 12-16 October 2015, at Sportsmen's Association Grounds, Grovespring, MO.

Along with our current sponsor, Nestle-Purina, Tri-Tronics continues as a sponsor of these events. Garmin Tri-Tronics is supplying collars for the winners of the ABC Original Game Bird/GD Classic/Championships and monetary support for the painting of the winner of the Tri-Tronics Gun Dog of the Year Award of which the Classics/Championships are a big part of the point total.

The 2016 Classic/Championship program will need host clubs for five (5) Classic/Championship events, namely the Prairie Chicken, Pheasant, Grouse/Woodcock, Gun Dog, and Quail Classic/Championships. Please contact Ray Trimble for information if your club wishes to host a Classic. The Chukar Classic/Championship will be hosted in Mid Jan 2016 by the Grand Canyon Brittany Club on grounds near Sonoita, AZ.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Trimble

2015 DOG OF THE YEAR REPORT

**Robin Tomasi, Chair.
September 14, 2015**

The 2015 DOY banquet will be held with the 2016 Summer Specialty hosted by the Northern CA Brittany Club. The awards close on December 31st, and information on the awards have been posted on the ABC website.

Robin Tomasi

Action Items from Steve Ralph:

ABC Policy Book changes & additions

Dog Of The Year (Policy Book, Table of Contents & pg 148-150)

- change all occurrences of "National Dog of the Year" to "Dog of the Year"
- change all occurrences of "National DOY" to "DOY"

2015 ETHICS COMMITTEE REPORT

**Jim Brigham, Chair.
September 11, 2015**

The committee has been inactive this year. A misunderstanding of the procedures by me has caused a delay in Board action on these recommendations.

- Policy Book Article I deals with membership. We are proposing to amend Article I Section 2: Termination of membership and Section 3: Suspension of Membership to reflect the recommendations of the AKC Sample.

These amendments must follow Article IX Section 1: Amendment of the Policy Book. The first step requires that an amendment be submitted to by a referendum vote by mail, (a) when authorized by the BOD or (b) by a written petition addressed to the Secretary and signed by at least 25 members in good standing, no more than 5 being members of the same regional member club. Section 2: Within thirty days after authorization, the Secretary shall mail to every member, entitled to vote, a copy of the proposed amendment or amendments together with an appropriate ballot, and shall specify on the ballot a day certain, not less than thirty days after such mailing, on which the polls shall close. Ballot must be signed. Must be voted on by 1/4th of members and must receive 2/3rds yes vote.

Authorization is by the BOD.

Action Items:

Motion 1: I move that the Board authorize a vote on the proposed amendment modifying the procedures for terminating memberships. To save on mailing costs, I further request that Secretary postpone the mailing until the fall mailing for directors.

Reasoning: It is more specific in dealing with any debts owed to ABC

Motion 2: I move that Section 3's title from Suspension of Membership to Discipline of Members. Further, that the Board adds C – it would describe how the Board would deal with a member preferring charges against another member. To save on mailing costs, I further request that Secretary postpone the mailing until the fall mailing for directors.

Reasoning: To better describe the process by which the Board would determine the appropriate disciplinary action against a member. This would give the Board the same authority that its regional clubs are granted in B.

- **Proposed Code of Ethics for the ABC Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs**

Motion: I move that the Board adopt the following proposals for an Ethics Policy for Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs of the American Brittany Club.

1. Members of the Board, Officers and Committee Chairs will conduct the business of the ABC in good faith and with honesty, integrity, due diligence and reasonable competence.

2. No Board member or Officer shall share, copy, reproduce, transmit, divulge or otherwise disclose confidential information related to the affairs of the ABC. Each Board member will uphold the strict confidentiality of all executive sessions and other deliberations and communications of the Board deemed confidential.
3. Members of the Board, Officers and Committee Chairs will exercise proper authority, fairness and good judgment in their dealings with all parties.
4. Directors and Officers of ABC must at all times act in the best interests of the ABC and not for personal or third-party gains or financial enrichment. When encountering potential conflicts of interest Board members, Officers and Committee Chairs (refer to page 14 of the Policy Book - ABC Policy on Conflicts of Interest) will identify the conflict and as required, remove themselves from all discussions and voting on the matter,
 - Avoid placing (and avoid the appearance of placing) one's own self-interest or any third-party interest above that of the ABC.
 - Do not abuse the position of authority given to you by the ABC by improperly using that authority for personal gain or third-party gain or pleasure.

Complaints of misconduct or conflict of interest may be made by any ABC member or a party dealing with the ABC or its regional clubs. Under most circumstances, the complaint will be received by the President or the Secretary of ABC.

Discipline procedures will be taken as set out in Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 10th Edition Chapter XX Disciplinary Procedures Offenses Elsewhere Than in a Meeting; Trials or the most recent revised edition.

Jim Brigham, Ethics Committee Chair

Action Items:

**From Darlene Dow, East Central Director
September 17, 2015**

1. We need to add the language for the CHIC recommendation passed.
2. I would also like a statement added that the ABC does not condone cross breeding.

2015 ABC FACEBOOK COMMITTEE REPORT

Robin Tomasi, Chair
August 18, 2015

At the time of this report there are 3,250 fans of the page. In the past year, we added 1,082 fans; a 50% increase. On any given week the ABC Facebook page is seen by up to 10,000 people.

Following are some insights into the demographics of our Facebook fans:

56% of our fans are women while 43% are men. The 55-64 age demographic is the most engaged (those who comment, like, or share content), followed closely by the 45-54 age group. The ages of our fans break down as follows (from largest to smallest):

- 45-54: 23%
- 35-44: 22%
- 55-64: 19%
- 25-34: 17%
- 65+: 11%
- 18-24: 6%

Individual posts are viewed on average by 1,500 people. The most popular post to date was an AKC Gazette article shared from the AKC website written by David Webb on Brittany puppies. This article was shared from the ABC page almost 40 times, and reached more than 6,000 people. Health, hunting, personal stories, and training tips (across all venues) have been the most popular posts.

Periodic reminders were posted during the year encouraging FB fans to join the ABC, reminding current members to renew their membership, Futurity Nominate their litters, etc. Several promotional posts were made to support individual ABC events and items for sale.

Thank you to the members of the ABC Facebook Committee for all their hard work in providing a wide range of content for Brittany enthusiasts.

Robin Tomasi, Chair

2015 ABC FIELD TRIAL DATES COMMITTEE REPORT

Steve Ralph, Chair.

July 29, 2015

Field Trial Dates

Reviewed all Spring & Fall dates presented by Regional Date Coordinators. Some scheduling issues were raised by the Mid-Florida Club (regarding the 2016 Eastern Futurity), Neosho Valley Club (wanting to change region & dates), and Northern California Club (wanting to change dates). All issues were handled properly by the Regional Date Coordinators. I want to thank the Regional Date Coordinators (Beth Wintermute, Wade Haines, Ed Graves, Jim Crawford, Jerry Cape) for all their hard work in resolving conflicts in the best interest for their regional clubs and ABC. I also want to remind clubs to work with their Regional Date Coordinator concerning field trial date scheduling, as all date must first be approved by the Regional Date Coordinator before ABC can approve the field trial application.

Steve Ralph, Chair.

2015 FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Judy Graves, Chair.

September 2, 2015

Members: Judy Graves, Chair; Les Casselberry, East Coast; Kent Patterson, East Central; Jim Brigham, Central; Mary Karbiner, Mid-West; Joe Gower, West Coast

Having been formed in 2013, this committee continues to carry out its duties as outlined in the Policy Book. The first order of business for the committee is to oversee the audit function. Because of the ABC size and structure, an independent, certified audit would add unnecessary costs to the operating expenses, and provide nothing more than a certification that the financial statements were presented fairly. The committee members participated in an in-depth internal review and reported to the Board of Directors. One of our findings dealt with multiple people receiving cash receipts and event staff writing checks when the Treasurer was not available. Throughout the year, funds are collected by the Executive Secretary, Membership Data Chair, Webster Co. Printing staff, national event secretaries, volunteers for our publications, trophy donations, etc. etc. We noticed that the Policy Book does not address how often these funds should be forwarded to the Treasurer. In most cases, funds are sent to the Treasurer at least monthly. However, we did find that last year's gun dog nationals and the national specialty show took much too long to get their receipts and disbursement documentation to the Treasurer. We are proposing an action item to address this issue.

During 2015, we reviewed and recommended to the BOD the addition of a fifty cent mailing fee for all judges books & primers purchased. We found that in some instances, shipping costs exceeded the purchase price.

The outcome for 2014 was also sent to the BOD with an analysis of the actual vs. budget. Considering this was our first attempt at establishing a budget process, we feel the outcome was very positive.

The IRS group exemption continues to be in force with 45 clubs included in our umbrella. Two clubs were added in 2014. To date, no clubs have requested inclusion in 2015. Form 990-N was filled for each club and copies of the IRS e-postcard receipts were forwarded to each club's contact person. The ABC's 2014 IRS Form 990 was filed by the Treasurer May 12, 2015. Our 2015 CP 119 was filed Sept. 1, 2015 as required by the IRS.

Request for the 2016 Operating budgets along with the Futurity program will be due October 1st to the Finance Committee. National Gun Dog, All Age & Specialty events will be presented to the BOD in March of 2016. The dues increase approved two years ago will go into effect in 2016. Hopefully we will be able to submit a balanced budget with this increase. Costs continue to be monitored for any possible savings without sacrificing our program quality. We will continue to strive to establish a general operating fund reserve of at least twice our operating income.

ACTION ITEM #1

We request a motion be made to add to the duties of all event chairs that funds received for activity other than entry fees is turned over to the treasurer within 30 days of receipt.

ACTION ITEM #2

We request a motion be made to appoint Mary Karbiner to a full 5 year term as a member of the Finance Committee.

ACTION ITEM #3

After review of the 2016 budget submitted, we request a motion to approve the budget with any revisions made during board review.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Graves, Chair

Action Item:

**From Darlene Dow, East Coast Director
September 17, 2015**

Finance Committee: Discuss reimbursements in general, phone, internet etc. receipts?

Action Item:

**From Brian Hendrickson, East Central Director
September 18, 2015**

All ABC expenses and or reimbursements should be required to have receipts for reimbursement.

2015 FUTURITY COMMITTEE REPORT

**Judy Robin, Chair.
September 12, 2015**

There are really no action items; however, there have been changes in the futurities as you all know. I am now the Futurity Chairman and Kristi Anglen is Secretary. Thanks so much to Kristi for helping me and trying to put me back on my feet. A thank you also to Judy Graves for holding my hand and leading me in the right direction.

I'd also like to thank Robin Tomasi for her extremely hard work in obtaining donors for trophies and ads in the catalogs and both Kristi and Robin in addition to our committee for their fresh ideas. The futurities committee graciously accepted as committee members "mid-stream" and is comprised of Leslie Andreas, Kristi Anglen, Darlene Dow, Linda Langford, Robin Tomasi, Sharon VanWieren and myself.

Sharon VanWieren is taking on the project of preparing an understandable description of why puppies should be registered with FDSB. Thank you Sharon.

After much pushing, prodding and threatening, we finally received information from all clubs regarding the futurities held this spring. Central and West made money (above budget) and East was extremely close to budget. East would have probably done somewhat better with a little more help and a lot better weather.

Not one of you will forget changing the futurity policy this late spring/early summer. Thank you for your tenacity in getting this approved. The correct policy is posted to the ABC website. Some of the changes noted are: litter nomination period was increased, dollar amounts for forfeits and entries were increased and there was modification of dual award rules to give multiple awards if there are ties. There are several small changes to be made, but I think it better if we wait another year. I'm sure you'll all agree.

There are definitely some major miles between the locations of the regional futurities for the 2014/2016, but we are hoping for good, hopefully better, numbers.

The first forfeits this year are somewhat higher than this time last year. Final forfeits for 2016 are due by October 1st. At the time of this report, we have one application for hosting 2017. If you know of any club interested in hosting 2015/2017 regional futurities, please contact Kristi Anglen or me or ask interested club to complete application on ABC website and send to me. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted

Judy Robin

Action Items from Steve Ralph:

ABC Policy Book changes & additions

Futurity (Policy Book, Table of Contents & pg 100-114)
- change all occurrences of "National Futurity" to "Futurity"

Per Steve Ralph: Please add the following item to the 2015 ABC BOD Agenda.

Futurity improvement discussion (starting 2016/2018)

1. Change the Futurity format from running three sectional events (Central, East, West) to running three futurity events (All Age, Gun Dog, Show) with the corresponding National events.

a. The All Age Futurity would be run in conjunction with the National All Age Championships on the same grounds.

b. The Gun Dog Futurity would be run in conjunction with the National Gun Dog Championships on the same grounds.

c. The Show Futurity would be run in conjunction with the National Show at the same site.

2. Change length of field heats from 30 minutes to 45 minutes or 1 hour

Action Item from Karen Hanson: Discussion with the Futurity Committee and Futurity “Action Committee” on proposals for change in the futurity program.

Over the summer, members of the ABC Board sent in suggestions for improvement to the futurity program. The 2014/2016 futurity actually has 35% more litter nominations as compared to the 2013/2015 year. It would appear that futurity participation is on the upswing. The futurity program is one of the few programs where participation is limited to ABC members, and is one of the only programs that make money for the ABC year after year. The way the futurity program is currently run fits in with our mission, **“The purpose of the American Brittany Club is to promote cooperation and friendship among the breeders and owners of a Brittany and to encourage the highest standards in breeding, training and showing of Brittans in the field and in the show ring; to discourage the breed from becoming split into groups of "field dogs" and "bench dogs" and to strive to keep it forever a "dual dog".**

I personally have competed in the futurity off and on for almost 30 years. I’ve seen highs and lows, but found that having a National futurity run off heightened the importance of the event. My personal feeling is that the futurity program is not broken, but can be improved if the National Club gives the program more importance and cache’. I also believe that as a breeders’ stake, the breeders should be highlighted, which is something that up until now has been sorely lacking. With the last committee’s pursuit of trophy donations, I think the program can and will be giving more emphasis to the actual breeders. I am especially happy to see the “showcase of dams” on Facebook. I think it really gives the program a lift and makes the membership want to participate.

I do think the clubs need support in putting on the futurity. Most clubs put on a futurity on an infrequent basis. They need to know what they are allowed to spend and they need a helping hand. I think it would be beneficial to have a member of the futurity committee be a liaison to the club putting on the futurity. That would hopefully help stop some of the Monday Morning micromanaging that has plagued the program in recent years. If we want to make the futurity a national event – I believe that the actual events will run better... in that you have a continuity of people running the events, and facilities in place to put on a quality event. That would lower the number of events and most likely would lower the actual number of participants, and most likely would lessen the appeal to “new” members who come to the events as their first real exposure to the field and show.

I also think it’s time to look at why we are so afraid of “AKC” for the futurity program. AKC allows clubs to have special attraction events, and my understanding the charge to have a “special attraction” is \$15.00. The special attraction is considered to be a separate event. (See Beginner Puppy completion at dog shows, hunting dog stakes at field trials).

I think it would be an excellent idea to poll our futurity participants and breeders from the past two years to ask them what worked for them and what didn't. We are very concerned about the American Field registrations associated with the futurity or the lack there of. If the participants in the futurity do not want to register their litters or dogs with American Field, are we bringing any extra value to the participants by running the field events under American Field? What value to the participants does running the stake under American Field really bring?

Several members have suggested the following changes:

- If we move to one futurity, having the gun dog futurity with the gun dog nationals, the all age futurity with the all age nationals and the show futurity with the national specialty show. Other members have opined that this will make it harder to have a "real" dual dog, as many of the dogs that entered the gun dog stake would not want to make a second trip to the national specialty show, therefore giving the all age dogs a decided edge. A possible way to change this would be to have the futurity show with the summer specialty.
- Several members of the committee have recommending keeping the three- futurity set up, however, since the entries in the all age futurity have been steadily declining in years, combining the all age and gun dog futurities into one futurity field stake. They feel that this would highlight the "best" dogs, in a bigger pool of entries. Concern has been expressed that the gun dog futurity is currently a walking stake, and the resulting problems of bracing foot handled gun dogs with horseback handled all age dogs, perceived judging bias towards the "all age dog", and that many people who enter the gun dog futurity will not enter their dogs under this set up.
- Possibly change the stake from 30 minutes to 45-60 minutes.
- Explore the possibility of running futurities on the weekends or Friday or Monday to encourage more people who "work" to come.
- Explore ways to better reward the breeders of the futurity dogs as this is a breeders stake
- Have a show futurity run off or "maturity" at the National Specialty
- Steve Ralph has proposed that instead of having a field futurity run off, we instead have an ABC derby-style invitational, which would include futurity field winners and placers from the regional futurities and dogs that have won or placed in significant derby stakes such as the Victoire Nationale, or dogs that have met a qualification standard based on numbers of wins or placements. This would be a single stake made up of gun dogs and all age dogs.

2015 HALL OF FAME (DOG) REPORT

**Kent Patterson, Chair.
July 6, 2015**

The ABC Dog Hall of Fame committee has completed its process with the following to add to the Board Agenda book for this fall. Many thanks to the committee members for their timely participation.

July 6, 2015

The ABC Dog Hall of Fame committee reviewed 3 nominations submitted per ABC policy:

Bourbon XIII

Mon Petite Whiz

Buck's Hit the Road Jack

Based on the review criteria and voting process outlined in the ABC policy, the following dog received a majority vote through two rounds and is submitted to the Board of Directors as an ABC Dog HOF candidate.

Bourbon XIII

Kent D. Patterson

ABC Dog HOF Chairman

AGENDA REPORT- HEALTH AND GENETICS COMMITTEE

**Margaret Horstmeyer, Chair.
September 9, 2015**

The Health & Genetics Committee directed \$3,001.44 from the Donor Advised Funds (earned through the Purina Pro Club weight circle submission) to support the AKC CHF Epilepsy initiative in 2014.

Midyear 2015 Donor Advised Fund balance is \$3017.39. Grant support yet to be determined.
Send in those weight circles!!!

Margaret Horstmeyer, DVM

AGENDA REPORT- JUNIOR PARTICIPATION SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

**Robert Wire, Chair.
September 18, 2015**

The Junior Participation Scholarship committee received and approved one application for a scholarship grant and stipend. The recipient is Melissa McCloskey. She lives in Jackson, N.J. and is a member the North Jersey Brittany Club. A stipend of \$250.00 has been paid to Melissa and a scholarship grant of \$500.00 will be paid to the collage of her choosing.

Robert Wire, Chair.
Junior Participation Scholarship Committee

AGENDA REPORT- MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

**Bob Fleury, Chair.
September 14, 2015**

Along with the daily process of producing a monthly magazine, this year's efforts were focused on working with the ABC Treasurer and Finance Committee Chairwoman to research the magazine financial procedures and come up with ways to save money and control costs while continuing to produce a quality publication. The elimination of color photos for ABC National events this past year was a large savings as expected.

We have also recently begun charging mailing costs for the Primers and Judges books that are sold at Marshfield to offset that expense.

The acceptance of American Express credit cards for payment to ABC has been discontinued because the cost of their processing fee in comparison to the other credit cards is high and their payment procedures are also different.

Changes are being prepared to print the new membership fees that will begin in January. We are also working updating that same information on the club brochure that AKC sends to all new Brittanys registered under the parent club program that we are enrolled in.

We are still working in coordination with Judy Tighe our AKC delegate on attempting to get this same brochure program expanded to include mailings to all Brittany litter applications.

Work is also continuing on updating the file photo inventory system to make it more efficient.

Producing a publication in a timely fashion necessitates receiving material in sufficient time to process it. We still struggle at times to get needed and fully completed publication material from the people and committees in charge of the events.

The magazine is still seeking columnists for the following areas, general and show grooming, show training and handling, veterinary issues, equine, junior handling and hunt test.

Producing the magazine requires the help and efforts of many people. I want to recognize and thank the magazine and proofing committee, the contributing editors and the staff at Webster County for all of their hard work and dedication.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Fleury

Action Item:

**From Darlene Dow, East Coast Director
September 17, 2015**

Magazine discussion:

1. Bringing back an editor.
2. Add Facebook banner to the magazine much like the website banner. This was talked about and the magazine chair agreed to add this, but to date I have not seen it in the magazine.

Action Item:

**From Brian Hendrickson, East Central Director
September 18, 2015**

Discuss ABC magazine editor position. Also explore budget cuts for magazine expenses, move it from general expense under general fund to a specific magazine budget.

2015 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

**Bryce Novotny 3rd V.P.
Diana Kubitz, Chair.
September 17, 2015**

This will be our first complete year of data regarding new members for the membership committee. My main function this year was to send out emails to the new members, follow up with new member letters with the membership magnets and answer questions for new members. I continue to get good responses from the new members and many keep me apprised of their activities within ABC. I copy club secretaries on the new member emails so that they can contact the members as soon as possible to get them involved in club activities.

New Members August 2014 – August 2015

August 2014	45
September 2014	19
October 2014	24
November 2014	17
December 2014	12
January 2015	26
February 2015	47
March 2015	33
April 2015	20
May 2015	20
June 2015	33
July 2015	11
August 2015	26

3rd VP Bryce Novotny will have any agenda items in his report.

Respectfully submitted:

Diana Kubitz

Action Item:

**From Bob Fleury, East Coast Director
September 17, 2015**

I would like to have a board discussion at the meeting to go over the process of receiving, recording and distributing the membership, both as a membership list and/or a mailing list. The reason for the discussion would be to explore ways to make this process run more efficiently. Presently the program and site that is being used for membership is not owned by the ABC and that should be discussed also.

Action Item:

**From Brian Hendrickson, East Central Director
September 18, 2015**

Initial dues renewal notice should be sent via email by the membership data chairperson and an additional follow-up phone call or email after the post card from the membership committee.

2015 NATIONAL ALL-AGE TRIAL SECRETARY REPORT

**Steve Ralph, Chair.
July 29, 2015**

National All-Age Field Trial Secretary

All of the required National All-Age Field Trial Secretary responsibilities have been completed to-date for the upcoming ABC National All-Age Championships. The Ads, Judges Bios, and information have been sent to the AB Magazine, ABC Website & American Field for publication. The premiums will be distributed to qualified dog owners/handlers. This year the start date of the Open has been moved up to start on the Saturday following the completion of the Amateur Championship to prevent numerous down days and also to cut cost. We are again looking forward to great ABC National All-Age Championship events this year in Booneville, AR.

Steve Ralph, Chair.

2015 Non-Field Performance Committee Report

**Cindy Miller, Chair.
September 1, 2015**

Non Field Performance

We are continuing our research into venues and agility equipment providers so that we can bring agility to the Nationals. Input from agility exhibitors, especially in the Fort Smith area, would be greatly appreciated.

Cindy Miller

2015 POLICY BOOK REPORT

Hank Hartnek, Chair.
September 9, 2015

The Policy Book was modified during March and April to reflect changes approved by the Board at the 2012 Board meeting. The latest version of the Policy Book was also posted on the ABC website in April.

During 2012, I continued to correct misspellings and other text issues which were created by the conversion process from a PDF format to a Word format (A never ending job it seems.). Multiple font styles, varying indentations and other inconsistencies throughout the book were corrected. If any are found in the most recent edition of the Policy Book, please let the committee know.

Respectfully submitted,

Hank Hartnek
Policy Book, Chair.

Action Item:

1. Once again I am recommending the entire Book be reviewed and revised. This is slowly happening but if all officers and committee chairs would participate, we could accomplish the revision much sooner. I would therefore like the BOD to authorize the Policy Book Committee to formally request a review and update of their particular areas of responsibility.

2015 ABC PURINA PROGRAM AGENDA REPORT
RAY TRIMBLE, PURINA COORDINATOR
September 14, 2015

trimblemarvioray@gmail.com



1. One thousand four hundred and twenty eight (1428) entries competed in Field and Show Events supported by Nestle-Purina Pet Care over the period of September 2014 through June 2015. This number included both show and field events with 395 show entries and 1033 field entries.
2. The Purina Coordinator at the end of the Spring and Fall session will submit to Purina a summary of events funded and the total amount of monetary funding to be paid in one check to the ABC Treasurer. I will then furnish the treasurer a list of events sponsored by Purina and the treasurer will issue the individual checks to the host clubs.
3. Clubs, whose events are sponsored by Purina, must also furnish the Coordinator a signed copy of the judges' sheets. Ads, entry blanks or premiums, brace sheets, and write-ups should include the Purina Logo or otherwise give credit to them as a sponsor. Some reporters are not aware of this and the field trial committee should make sure they know to do so. We can add a Thank-You to the ABC Magazine reports if a club fails to acknowledge Purina, but we do not see the ones you send to the American Field before they are published.
4. The current card system for applying for support and reporting results will continue. To receive the monetary support, you must return the cards and a copy of the official results to the Coordinator.
5. If you have a problem with the delivery of the dog food or the amount received, you must notify the coordinator immediately in order to possibly correct it.
6. In summation, the number of field events showed a decrease of 7% while the number of show entries, showed a decrease of 6%. Apparently inclement weather was a major factor in this decrease of entries overall. Many events had to be cancelled due to poor travel conditions and snow and ice on field trial grounds.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Trimble

2015 STATISTICS COMMITTEE REPORT

**Mary Karbiner, Chair.
August 8, 2015**

In reviewing the numbers – there is a decline in comparison to previous years not only our breed but other pointing breeds also.

Many opinions have been made heard in the last year with the discussion of membership decline and budget of the ABC. We all need to step up in some fashion and organize to show support for the ABC.

Attached is the 6 year comparisons for various venues with in AKC and ABC 2014 found many field trials canceled (19) because of weather conditions.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mary Karbiner, Chair
Rheta Cartmell
Mary Jo Trimble
Pam Baird

2015 AGENDA REPORTS

STATISTICS COMMITTEE

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
BRITTANY'S Per AKC							
Dual Ch	15	16	18	14	10	9	
Field Ch	56	64	55	50	56	43	
Amt Fld Ch	47	28	29	32	33	27	
GCH new title			57	52	60	71	
CH	149	163	163	162	156	167	
JH	150	132	108	126	122	113	
SH	25	23	23	28	19	15	
MH	15	20	17	16	16	16	
# dogs in comp., not # entered at Nat'l Spec Show	140	134	117	145	158	161	
Carline Good Citizen Award					72	58	
CGC Advanced					3	8	
BRITT Regist with AKC							
Litters # registered	1843	1680	not found	not found	n.f.	1476	
Dogs # registered	5382	4834	not found	not found	n.f.	n.a.	
AKC Prg. Br'd F.T's # event	434	446	431	431	416	490	
Total # dogs entered	34213	32791	not found	32380	31362	n.a.	
FUTURITY Region & Starters- EAST	A-6 G-18	A-18 G-16	A-15 G-20	A-11 G-28	A-15 G-26	A-6 G-23	A-5 G-14
CENTRAL	A-15 G-17	A-16 G-7	A-21 G-18	A-10 G-16	A-20 G-26	A-13 G-14	A-8 G-9
WEST	A-13 G-19	A-14 G-17	A-9 G-20	A-8 G-15	A-12 G-30	A-6 G-26	A-11 G-17
# Fld Trl Events Clubs- #active #held	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
by Regional Clubs- East Coast- 17/16	S-20 F-10	S-23 F-9	S-22 F-10	S-21 F-6	S-23 F-10	S-18 F-7	S-3
E. Central-13/11	S-13 F-9	S-13 F-9	S-14 F-8	S-18 F-8	S-12 F-9	S-11 F-8	S-3
Central-16/13	S-19 F-8	S-17 F-8	S-12 F-10	S-17 F-11	S-15 F-8	S-13 F-6	S-3
Midwest-18/15	S-22 F-14	S-18 F-13	S-18 F-12	S-16 F-13	S-19 F-14	S-19 F-11	S-4
West Coast-20/13	S-17 F-10	S-15 F-13	S-12 F-12	S-13 F-13	S-14 F-12	S-13 F-10	S-2
Total Clubs w/ HR Stk	S-29 F-17	* S-36 F-14	S-20 F-7	S-21 F-4	S-18 F-8	x	S-13

*spring is longer seas.

STATISTICS
Comm
RGA.

Original Gambird Classics		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
# starters	Pr.Chicken	66	66	54	52	48	47	15
	Chukar	14	18	26	17	18	24	15
	Gun Dog	30	28	26	29	17	23	36
	Grouse/Wdck	13	18	canc	16		21	
	Pheasant *CA	46	45	45	47		52	
	Quail	47	58	57	56		59	
National All Age		57	48	48	74	65	e 52	
Champs	Amateur	54	47	47	43	43	e 32	
National Gun Dog	Open Start	54	54	45	52	50	59	
Champs	Amateur	43	38	30	36	36	32	
Non Game bird Classics								
Hr Stks Starters#	Illinois OAA	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	AAA	st 13	st 17	st 15	28	29	20 OIaa - 25	
	AAA	8	18	20	13	16	15	21
Double Registr'd & Inten'l	OAA	38	33	20	canc		22	GOL-20
recog. In 2007	AAA	22	18	10			15	GAI-20
	O gun	20	20	20		20	28	GOLg-23
(*as s.ill OIAA)	Mid South OAA	* 13	10	20	*36	14	17	canc
	AAA	0	0	17		0	0	
	Mich CH OAA	20	20	17	24	22	canc	GOL-25
	O gun w	17	17	16	15	14		GOLg-13
	Prairie Sts OAA	33	35	40	40	28	37	canc
	AAA	13	22	20				
	O gun	13	24	29	not run	not run	not run	
	South, Op OAA	17	21		canc		22	20
	AAA	17	17		canc		26	14
	Reg 19 AAA hr		31		F-canc		16	
	J Holman C15 OAA		37		canc		canc	

STARTS COMM
gb

		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
N.E. Grouse/Wdck		22 st 1hr		0	14	16	18		
N.E. Open Shootg	O gun	25st 1hr		st 22	17	13	16		
N.E. Amat Shootg	O gun	12st 1hr		st 18	17	15	13		
Penn Op	O gun		20	st 19	26	25	32	29	
Tar Heel	Olim gun	22 st 1hr	29	st 19	30	21	20		
HR STKS BY REGION									
EAST COAST									
	Op All Age		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	Op gun	8, am2	7	2	1	0	1	0	
	Olim gun			2	1	1	1	1	S-1
	OAA		1	1	3	3	2	G-3	S-G2
	OLAA		1	1	2	1	3	0	
	AAA		2	0	0	1	1	0	S-G1
	Allm AA		2	0	1	1	1	0	
	O gun		1	1	1	1	1	1, G-1	S-G2
	Olim gun		1, olg-2w	2	2	2	1	1	1
	OAA		3	3	1	0	1	G-1	S-G1, ALg1
	OLAA		2	2	2	2	1	1	S-2
	AAA		1	1	2	3	1	G-2	S-Gal-1
	O gun		0, 2, oWG-1	1	2	2	0	0	
	Olim gun		2	2	0	1	1	0	S-1
	OAA		6	3	1	4	2	4	1, G-1
	OLAA		3	3	4	4	2	2	1
	AAA		2	3	4	4	5	5	1, G-3
	O gun		0	3	2	1	1	1, G-1	S-1 GAL-1
	OAA		1	0	0	0	0	0	
	OLAA		1	1	1	1	1	1	G-1
	AAA		1	0	0	0	0	0	
	ALAA		1	1	1	1	1	1	G-1
	O gun		1	0	0	0	0	0	
	Olim gun		1	1	1	1	1	1	S-G1
MIDWEST									
	OAA		2	2	1	2	4	4	1, G-1
	OLAA		6	3	1	4	2	2	S-G1
	AAA		3	3	4	4	5	5	1, G-3
	O gun		2	3	2	1	1	1, G-1	S-1 GAL-1
	OAA		0	3	2	1	1	1	S-1 GAL-1
	OLAA		1	0	0	0	0	0	
	AAA		1	0	0	0	0	0	
	ALAA		1	1	1	1	1	1	G-1
	O gun		1	0	0	0	0	0	
	Olim gun		1	1	1	1	1	1	S-G1
WEST Coast									
	OAA		1	0	0	0	0	0	
	OLAA		1	1	1	1	1	1	G-1
	AAA		1	0	0	0	0	0	
	ALAA		1	1	1	1	1	1	G-1
	O gun		1	0	0	0	0	0	
	Olim gun		1	1	1	1	1	1	S-G1
TOTAL Hour Stks									
		(+2)	34	(-7)	32	31	31	24	19
			33+2+						

STATS Comm
Rgc

2015 VERSATILE DOG REPORT

**Karen Hanson, Chair.
September 10, 2015**

With little fanfare, the Versatile Dog Program rolled out the beginning of this year. To date, response has been strong and comments very supportive.

In order to obtain a VD or VDE title, a dog has to show proficiency in the field, show, and performance events. Owners of the dog must be ABC members. A full list of qualifications and application are on the ABC website.

The following dogs have been awarded the Versatile Dog title:

Versatile Dog

CH. Labyrinth Read All About It, RN b/o Karen Hanson

GCH Sunquest Wind Dancer of Starvue, BN, RN, CGCA b/Dee & Hank Hartnek o/ M Barwick, K Barwick & L. Hartnek

CH. Triumphant Logan Razin Kane, RN, JH b/L. McCartney & K McCartney o/Sandra Moruzzi

CH Goldstar's Hot Attraction, JH, OF,OA,NAJ, NJP b/M Walker & Z Walker o/Pat John

CH Diamond Creeks Whoa Nellie,CD, RN,JH,NAJ, CGC b/o David & Amy Budke

CH Diamond Creeks Country Boy From Copley, RN, BN, JH, CGC b/R Tomasi, B Dayton o/ David & Amy Budke

CH Dogwood Hollow Strike The Gold, SH, RAE b/G & G Clements & C Mika o/ Helen Marie Capps

CH. Far Out Field's Lunar Eclipse, CDX, BN, GN, GO, JH b/J Arnold o/Lou Ann McGahey

CH. N. Penn's Electric Magic, CD, RN, JH, NA, NAJ, CGC b/R Williams o/David & Amy Budke

CH. Mt View's Calamity Jane, CD, RN, JH, NA, NAJ, CGC b/J Saranchak, M Breinniger, A Gulycz o/David & Amy Budke

CH. Triumphant's Too Hot To Touch, CD, RN, JH, CGC b/Linda McCartney Roy o/David & Amy Budke

CH. Swift River's Believe I Can, JH, BN, RE, NA, NAJ, OFP, NAP, NJP b/o Patricia John

CH. Swift River's Firsttime Round, CD, RN, JH, NAJ, NAP, NJP b/F & D Phillips o/Mary, Jennifer & Laura Walker

GCH Ginjac-Magic Me I'm The One, JH b/Gina Currier & Nichole Otterson o/Michele Martin

CH Diamond Creek's Guns N Roses, CD, RN, JH, CGC b/o David & Amy Budke

GCH Diamond Creek's Sugar Rush, RN, JH, CGC b/o David & Amy Budke

Versatile Dog Excellent

GCH Illusion's Hot Topic, JH,MX,MXB,MXJ,MJB, MXF b/o Abbie & Charles Hanson

CH. Top Shelf's Simple Pleasures, SH,CDX,RN, MX,MXJ,MXF b/W Archinal & N. Morabito o/Wendy Archinal

DC Sunquest's Marsport Manhattan CD, RAE3, SH, RATO, CGCA b/J & K Marsman o/Hank & Linda Hartnek

CH MACH Mariad That's My Point Bigoak, JH, MXG, MJC, MXF, T2B b/L Brown o/Mariann & John Jackson

CH RJ's Symply Divine RN, JH, OA, MXJ b/o Connie Strom

CH Swift River's Solo Attraction,JH,BN,RE,AX,AXJ,OAP,OJP,NF b/F & D Phillips o/Frances Phillips and Patricia John

CH Requet's Pistol Britt, CD b/B Burchett o/Diane Requet

GCH Sandstone Iz I Adorable, MH,NAJ b/J & M Rainey o/Linda Allen

GCH Triumphant Absolute Liberty of Kinship, JH, MX, MSJ, MJB, OF, T2B b/L McCartney-Roy o/Kimberly Hatton

GCH Sunquest Cimmaron Catch The Wind, MH, RN, CGC, RATO b/ J Marsman o/Linda Dee& Hank Hartnek

The following dogs have been awarded the Versatile Dog Excellent title:

Karen Hanson, Chair.

2015 WEBSITE REPORT

Steve Ralph, Chair.

July 29, 2015

Website

The ABC website continues to be an up to date source for up-to-date Calendar of events, National/Futurity/Summer Specialty/Regional/Club information, News items, ABC & Regional Club Premiums, Event Results, Downloadable forms, Historical write-ups, and much more.

Steve Ralph, Chair.

Old Business

FORMAL APPROVAL OF BOD E-MAIL VOTING

ABC Motion & Vote - To Perform External Audit with Substitute Amendment

ABC Motion & Vote – To Accept 2015 Revised Operating Budgets

ABC Motion & Vote – To Add the CKC to List of Futurity Recognized Registries

ABC Motion & Vote – To End First Class Mailings to Contributing Editors

New Business Agenda Items

Action Items:

From Darlene Dow, East Central Director
September 17, 2015

A. Duties of Directors:

Current: Directors should be committed to attend all possible trials in their region and visit with the members in order to stay in touch with the people of their region.

** change the wording from “to attend all possible trials” to attend all possible events in their region and ABC sponsored events.”...in keeping with the mission of a dual breed.

B. Remove the requirement that regional clubs must hold an all age stake at their field trial.

C. A timely way to communicate to members instituting the 2007 AKC language for e-mail communication. Date changes like obedience and open all age that happened this year should be communicated. A member shouldn't have to search and stumble across the changes.



D. The above 2007 motion that was never put into the policy book. Since it wasn't put in the policy book, but seems to have become accepted operating practice, it should be revisited.

Re-address the original motion: Compensation to webmaster, accommodations for all age nationals for executive secretary and compensation to membership data chair. This was on my agenda last year and was never addressed.

- E. Change language from wives to spouses any place it appears in the policy book i.e. judges for AA & GDN guidelines.
- F. Have a vote of the standing BOD to approve the current year BOD meeting minutes prior to Dec. 31 of that year.

Action Item:

**From Brian Hendrickson, East Central Director
September 18, 2015**

ABC requires all ABC clubs when running a trial to have AA stake. Not all clubs and grounds are capable of this. This requirement should be removed.

**From Ron Gulembo, East Central Director
September 7, 2015**

After much thought, I would like this BOD to consider having a ½ hour workshop, presenting items for the next year's BOD to be discussed prior to the official start of each BOD meeting. I'm thinking that there might be items missing from the official agenda, which could be introduced during the year between meetings, and with internet, conf calls, Skype, etc., the BOD could discuss, and possibly resolve those items.

Some items that might not show up for the 2015 meeting:

1. Communication between Directors – responses out of respect
2. Communication with membership
3. Policy Book updating
4. Information on Events
5. Handbook for Directors, Officers, and VP's

**From Steve Ralph, Central Director
ABC Policy Book Changes & Additions
July 29, 2015**

Email Motion Guideline: (pg 15 - add after POLICY ON CONFLICTS OF INTEREST)

- a. Email Motions are for emergency, time sensitive and housekeeping issues only, all other issues should be added to the agenda for the annual meeting of the Board of Directors.
- b. Issues considered for Email Motions should first be presented to the Board of Directors for discussion and determined if a Motion is necessary.
- c. If Email Motion is determined to be necessary, then a Second is required and the President will announce to the directors & executive secretary that the Email Motion discussion & voting process should proceed.

**From Robin Tomasi, West Coast Director:
Bylaw & Policy Updates from AKC
September 15, 2015**

Motion: Approve use of email notification guidelines provided by AKC following instructions in AKC memo dated January, 2006.

"Clubs may send members notification of club meetings (also included would be dues notices; minutes and newsletters) and board members notification of board meetings via email provided that: The member or board member has signed an authorization agreeing to this method of communication. Such authorization, which is revocable, will also release the club from any liability should the notification be received late or not received by the member or board member due to circumstances beyond the club's control."

Motion: Update policy to incorporate AKC approval of e-mail communication for use by Parent Club Board of Directors, and follow procedures to update the bylaws. See AKC memo dated February, 2007.

Motion: Update policy & bylaws to incorporate AKC's procedure on Electronic Balloting for AKC Parent Clubs. See AKC memo dated September, 2013 regarding Electronic Balloting for AKC Parent Clubs.



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM

**EMAIL NOTIFICATION FOR
BOARD MEETINGS AND GENERAL CLUB MEETINGS
AND OTHER CLUB NOTICES**

Effective January 1, 2006

Unless the laws of your state prohibit the use of email in general or for specific purposes, please be advised of the following change in policy which is effective January 1, 2006:

Clubs may send members notification of club meetings (also included would be dues notices; minutes and newsletters) and board members notification of board meetings via email, provided that:

The member or board member has signed an authorization agreeing to this method of communication. Such authorization, which is revocable, will also release the club from any liability should the notification be received late or not received by the member or board member due to circumstances beyond the club's control.

Clubs adopting this method of communication must send us a copy of the minutes of the meeting and at some future time make the appropriate bylaw amendments to the applicable sections as soon as it is practical.

Revised (2/07)

260 Madison Avenue New York, NY 10016 Tel 212 696-8237 Fax 212 696-8309 E-Mail clubrelations@akc.org



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ELECTRONIC BALLOTING FOR AKC PARENT CLUBS

Effective: September 1, 2013

Unless the laws of your state prohibit the use of electronic balloting in general or for specific purposes, please be advised, effective September 1, 2013:

Parent clubs may conduct elections, votes on breed standard revisions, bylaw amendments and any other specific questions a club's board of directors shall determine, via electronic balloting. Such balloting must be conducted by an independent organization which specializes in electronic balloting.

A member must sign a written authorization agreeing to this method of balloting, which is revocable, which agrees to release the club from any liability should the ballot be received late or not received by the member, due to circumstances beyond the club's control. Members not providing written authorization will continue to receive all materials via USPS.

Clubs wishing to adopt this method of balloting must add the appropriate language to the applicable sections of their bylaws the next time other bylaw work is considered.



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Electronic Balloting Q & As

How does my club see if this is permissible?

The club must check with the Office of the Secretary of State in the state where the club is incorporated or check the law governing not-for-profit organizations incorporated in that state.

Can my club do this now and make the Bylaws change later?

The bylaws require that ballots be "sent" / "mailed" and that they be secret. As long as these components are met, the bylaws can be amended at a later date.

How does my club handle those members who want a paper ballot or who do not return a signed consent form?

Those members will continue to receive ballots via USPS.

Where does the club keep the signed consent forms?

The Secretary (or Recording Secretary) should keep the consent forms.

Is it necessary for the club to have the consent forms signed each year upon membership renewal or is the one consent form sufficient for as long as the member is in good standing?

No, but the member has the right to "opt-out" provided the request is received by the club in advance of any election deadline.

How does the club combine the two voting methods - paper and balloting for the total?

If the electronic balloting service does not include the counting of paper ballots the club must conduct the non-electronic balloting in any of the ways currently prescribed in the bylaws

Does the club have to report the votes separately to the membership or just the totals?

The club should report just the totals but obviously the club's internal records should include both counts

How does the club ensure that a member did not vote both electronically and by paper?

The club will have two lists of members: one sent to the e-balloting firm and the other maintained by the recipient of ballots received via USPS.

From Robin Tomasi, West Coast Director September 10, 2015

Deadline: March 1st

Information on the program:

THE AKC OUTSTANDING SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

<http://www.akc.org/clubs/promote/akc-outstanding-sportsmanship-award/>

Participate in the AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award, and establish protocol for membership to nominate members for this award, and other AKC awards which currently include; Breeder of the Year, Lifetime Achievement Awards (Conformation, Companion Events, and Performance)

Outstanding Sportsmanship Award

In 2006 the American Kennel Club established the AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award Program in an effort to recognize and celebrate its volunteer club members. Each member club is provided with an AKC Medallion to award to one of its own on a yearly basis. This award honors those individuals who deserve special recognition that have made a difference in the sport of purebred dogs, embodied the AKC Code of Sportsmanship

Lifetime Achievement Awards

The American Kennel Club Lifetime Achievement Awards were established in 1998 to honor our Fancy's best. The purpose of the awards is to celebrate those individuals whose many years of dedication have led to significant contributions to our sport on a national level.

Breeder of the Year

Each year, The American Kennel Club recognizes and celebrates an outstanding purebred dog breeder with the Breeder of the Year Award. The award honors those breeders who have dedicated their lives to improving the health, temperament and quality of purebred dogs. At a special presentation held during the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship show, a breeder, or pair of breeders, is recognized in each of the 7 Groups. At the conclusion of the presentation, one of the 7 Group recipients is chosen as the Breeder of the Year.

Criteria

- ABC and AKC member in good standing for the recognition year, as well as the year in which the individual is being nominated.
- Medallions are awarded solely at the club's discretion.
- Active and valued member of the ABC who has made an outstanding contribution.
- Must be involved in and a made a difference in the sport of purebred dogs in AKC events.

Nominations

Please submit nominations for the individual you feel embodies an Outstanding Sportsman to the ABC Secretary prior to March 1st with a bio and photograph of the nominee.

Bio's will be distributed to board members for review. The Board will review all applications and seek clarifications from endorsers if necessary. The Board reviews and discusses all submissions and votes on the nominees. The individual receiving a majority of the votes will be deemed the recipient of the award. There is only one recipient of this annual award. The decision of the board is final.

Sample AKC Award Submission Form

Award:

- Outstanding Sportsmanship Award
- Breeder of the Year
- Lifetime Achievement Awards (check one)
 - Performance
 - Conformation
 - Companion Events

Nomination submitted by (please print): _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

ABC Member Nominated: _____

In a brief summary, using the criteria above, please write a 500 words or less summary on why you feel this candidate should be considered for this award. Attach any supporting documents to this form.

Return this form and recommendation to:

ABC Secretary: secretary@TheAmericanBrittanyClub.org

**From Robin Tomasi, West Coast Director & Karen Hanson, East Coast Director
September 11, 2015**

Action Item:

MEDIA & ARCHIVE COMMITTEE

Establish a committee with the objective of investigating the feasibility and practicality of effectively and economically archiving records of the ABC and the Brittany breed.

The archives committee assists and advises the American Brittany Club (ABC) on all archives and records-related matters to ensure the preservation of and public access to information of historical value held by ABC.

Determine what needs to be archived, what to retain for a limited period of time and what to purge.

Develop a list of possible archive items and procedures/protocol.

Develop program and procedures to collect information valuable to the ABC Archives.

Create a list of pictures, and print items that we do not have record of and find catalog and archive these items.

Get rid of the antiquated idea that we need to be the purveyors of all Brittany records and that some places out there already have the information and we can search it. Also that we should be contributing to these sites and making sure they are correct.

Standardize templates, programs, and design so that all media productions have a format conducive to their respective audience and production (social, print, web)

Help regional Clubs to standardize and publish information in a timely manner and be able to transfer this information to National publications (social, print web). Explore digital submission of results in an attempt to establish database and decrease errors and omissions.

Create a single place, for patrons, to search for information about the breed.

**From Joe Gower, West Coast Director
September 16, 2015**

Action Item:

I have been urged to explore a rotation or change of venue for the Gun Dog Nationals by many in the west coast constituency with consideration for the following rationale: Consider a more central and neutral site or, a rotating venue that allows for greater access to amateurs across the country that are a predominant participant base in gun dog stakes, and consideration for a late spring running rather than fall that is in close conflict with the All-Age National venue.

From Robin Tomasi, West Coast Director September 19, 2015

Motion: Update ABC Pay Pal account to remove Janet Chase's email from invoices. Recommended deadline of January 31, 2016

Motion: Add Quarterly BOD videoconference or teleconference to annual meeting schedule.

Motion: Change the distribution of the dues increase between the National and Regional Clubs. The \$50 shall be distributed \$35 to ABC and \$15 to the regional club.

Agenda Item: All memberships to run from July 1 through June 30th, and establish transition fees.

- Moving to this method would simplify the record keeping for ABC and Regional Clubs and provide an idea of the annual dues revenue in time for budgeting purposes for the annual November meeting.

Motion: Page 29 of policy book delete: "Each regional date's coordinator shall receive a stipend annually, subject to the approval to pay for printing and postage to send dates schedules to their regional clubs."

- Utilizing email delivery will be a cost savings of \$300 a year.
- The schedule is also printed monthly in the ABC magazine as well as being posted on the ABC website. The ABC Facebook periodically posts a link to the ABC calendar.

Motion: Page 91 of policy book: Any expenses incurred by ABC for the Classics/Summer Specialty are to be deducted from any corporate sponsor funds received by the host club.

- Cost savings
- This brings policy in line with the Futurity as all ABC incurred expenses are charged against the host club of the event prior to reimbursement.
- This policy change would not impact ABC providing a one page ad free of charge to host clubs, or the recording fees clubs for publishing of results in magazine. Host clubs are not charged recording fees for the events.

Motion: Provide digital version of the magazine to be available to club members. Members may opt out of receiving their magazine via USPS.

- I have received numerous requests from members requesting digital delivery option
- Costs would be minimal to make digital magazine web friendly