

# 2019 American Brittany Club

## Board of Directors Annual Meeting

The meeting was held November 24, 2019 at Kay Rodgers Park, 4400 Midland Blvd., Fort Smith, AR. The meeting was called to order at 8:10 am by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Kent Patterson who was filling in for the injured President, Ed Janulis.

The first order of business was to seat the new Directors: West Coast - Jim Hammett; East Central - Jack Alexander.

**Motion 1:** Motion by S. Ralph, second by B. Crain: **Move to formally seat the Directors elected in the 2018 BOD Election.**

**All 13 Yes - Motion Carried.**

**Roll Call:** Directors in attendance: East Coast - L. Hunt, B. Fleury, D. Dow; East Central - R. Gulembo, J. Alexander; Central - S. Ralph, J. Droel, B. Crain; Midwest - A. Christensen, E. Tillson, M. Karbiner; West Coast - M. Brown, Jim Hammett. Absent Directors: West Coast - R. Tomasi; East Central - Brian Hendrickson. **13 Present 2 Absent**

Kent laid out his Order of Business after distributing a short list of Robert's Rules of Order. Kent requested that everyone participating in the Meeting be courteous and considerate of each other. Kent also explained there would be a couple of speakers brought in out of the order listed in the ABC 2019 Agenda Book. Those speakers would be Leslee Masolotte chair of the Futurity Committee and Randy Meester, President of the *UKC sanctioned Club de L'Epagneul Breton of the United States, Inc.*

**Leslee Masolotte Chair of the Futurity Committee.** Leslee reported the Committee had noticed an increase in interest and participation since the Magazine had started publishing the Futurity Litter Nomination form again. She also reported the 2020 Regional Futurity events were all good to go and that several Clubs were already on board to host the 2021 Futurity events. Leslee then presented two Action Items for the Board's consideration:

**Action Item:** *Institute payment of Futurity nomination fees through an ABC PayPal account.*

**Action Item:** *Reinstitute the National Futurity Run off for Show and Field.*

Kent stated these two action items would be considered by the Board later in the meeting.

**Motion 2:** Motion by S Ralph second L Hunt: Activate the Membership Promotion Committee and add the additional duties into the ABC Policy Book under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.

**All 13 Yes - Motion Carried**

**Action Item – Steve Ralph - Allow Beeper Collar in Grouse & Woodcock field trials.** Action withdrawn pending more information from regulating agencies.

**Action Item – Joe Droel Discontinue support of American Brittany Rescue (ABR).** Action dropped against ABR as they have addressed and rectified all ABC concerns regarding International and other Breed Rescues. Advertising support will continue at current level.

**Motion 3:** Motion by J Alexander second A Christensen: Move to refer to the ABC Breed Standard Committee the desire to remove the verbiage “Tri-colors are allowed but not preferred” from the Breed Standard, page 22 in the Policy Book. **12 yes, Fleury, Ralph, Karbiner, Hunt, Dow, Gulembo, Alexander, Christensen, Tillson, Brown, Hammett, Crain. 1 no Droel, Motion Carried.**

**Motion 4:** Motion by J Alexander second by A Christensen: Move to remove item “3. Cash prizes are prohibited.” from TROPHIES Section, page 102 of the Policy Book. **5 yes 8 no Motion Failed (This was not a roll call vote).**

**Action Item Magazine Covers, Bob Fleury**

**Motion 5:** Motion by S Ralph second J Alexander: Move to run the 10 National Event Covers (NFC, NAFC, NOGD, NAGD, NOWGD, NAWGD, NSS, N High in Trial Obedience, N High in Trial Agility, N Best Junior) 2 remaining covers to be reviewed by the Magazine Committee and presented to BOD.

**12 yes Droel, Ralph, Karbiner, Hunt, Dow, Gulembo, Alexander, Christensen, Tillson, Brown, Hammett, Crain. 1 no Fleury Motion Carried**

**Action Item Ron Gulembo Multiple Revisions to ABC Constitution and By Laws** (For the record AKC has to approve changes to the ABC Constitution and By-Laws before membership can vote on it.)

**Motion 6:** Motion by S Ralph second B Crain: Move to send back to Policy Committee for further cleanup then presented back to Board for action. **All 13 yes Motion Carried**

Next order of business was the West Coast Directors Report and Action Items. Mary Brown started with a request to allow teleconference input. Kent Patterson stated that would not be allowed per the ABC Policy Book. When Mary asked for further explanation, Kent recognized Steve Ralph who explained the Policy Book history of teleconferencing as it relates to the yearly ABC BOD Meetings. In 2014 the Board voted to allow teleconferencing under special circumstances during future ABC BOD Meetings. In 2015 that decision was reversed and teleconferencing during future ABC BOD yearly meetings was removed from the ABC Policy Book. Mary stated she wanted to change that decision. 1st VP Kent Patterson stated it was not a 2019 action item so the teleconferencing issue would have to be formally introduced as an action item for the 2020 ABC BOD annual meeting. The meeting then moved forward to the 2019 Action Items received from the West Coast Directors.

**Action Items West Coast Directors Robin Tomasi, Mary Brown, Jim Hammett**

*Actions 1-3 were put forth by Robin Tomasi who was absent so unable to present them.*

**Motion 7:** Motion by M Brown second J Hammett: Move for the ABC to recommend to the AKC to remove the required condition of awarding a FC/AFC only to those Brittany's who have a 3 point or better major under Open & Amateur FC/AFC (OGD, AGD, OAA, AAA, OLGD, ALGD, OLAA, ALAA Stake\*) in a licensed or member field trial held by a Brittany Club. (\*AKC Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds-FC page 26 & AFC page 28) **9 yes – Dow, Gulembo, Alexander, Ralph, Crain, Christensen, Tillson, Brown, Hammett. 4 no Hunt, Fleury, Droel, Karbiner Motion Carried**

**Motion 8:** Motion by S Ralph second M Karbiner: Move to continue donations to the Sportsmen's Alliance and NAIA (National Animal Interest Alliance). **All 13 yes Motion Carried**

**Motion 9:** Motion by B Fleur Second R Gulembo: Approve Kent Patterson for another 5 years on the Finance Committee. **All 13 yes Motion Carried**

**Presentation by Randy Meester – President of Club de L'Epagneul Breton of the United States (CEB-US), Inc. (CEB-US is a UKC Club not recognized by AKC).** Mr. Meester was introduced and began a short talk about his Club including its organizational roots and current activities here in the United States. At the conclusion of his presentation, Mr. Meester said the CEB-US was not in favor of the AB/EB split at this time even though they identify the American Brittany and the Epagneul Breton as separate breeds.

Pending Motion 15 was for tabling the discussion of the AB/EB split carried over from 2018 until further input was acquired from all concerned entities. Joe Droel was then appointed Chairman to the Separation of Breeds issue to seek further information on the ramifications of this issue.

**Motion 10:** Motion by R Gulembo B Crain AB - Table EB split issue for 5 years

**3 yes Hunt, Fleury, Gulembo; 10 no Dow, Alexander, Ralph, Droel, Crain, Christensen, Tillson, Karbiner, Brown, Hammett Motion Failed**

**Motion 11:** Motion by S Ralph second J Droel: Form EB Committee of no less than 5 members to research EB America progress for a year **4 yes Fleury, Ralph, Droel, Karbiner. 8 no Hunt, Dow, Gulembo, Alexander, Christensen, Tillson, Brown, Hammett. 1 Abstain Crain Motion Failed**

**Executive Session was called for further discussion and Roll Call vote on Split of AB and EB**

**Motion 12:** Motion by D Dow second B Crain: Move to Split the American Brittany and Epagneul Breton into two separate breeds. **5 yes Dow, Droel, Crain, Christensen, Brown. 8 no Hunt, Fleury, Gulembo, Alexander, Ralph, Tillson, Karbiner, Hammett. Motion Failed**

## **Executive Session Ended and Open Meeting Resumed**

**Motion 13:** Motion by S Ralph second B Crain Move to approve 2018 BOD Meeting Minutes  
**All 13 yes Motion Carried**

**1<sup>st</sup> VP Report Kent Patterson** – Kent reports everything is set for the 2019 National Open & Amateur Championships. Grounds are ready; birds planted; operationally things are in place. The dog wagon driver is out with gall stones so drivers will be ABC volunteers. The Field Trial committee is on board and the Judges are all set. Initially the budget was challenging but after getting the expenses all sorted out and corrected the budget was approaching the positive zone. From a revenue perspective the increase in entry fees provided more revenue than projected so Kent now believes the trials are in good shape budget wise. Kent also believes the Horseback Gun Dog move to Booneville helped increase the All Age entry. On the question of ATV use for the National stakes at Booneville, the State has approved ATV use for handling only. There will be no ATV's allowed in the gallery. Upon completion of his report a big round of applause went out to Kent for his leadership through the 2019 Board of Directors Meeting as well as the NFC & NAFC Field Trials.

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP Jeri Conklin** – Membership up; email dues reminders appear to be working. Continuing to reach out to inactive clubs to see what can be done to reenergize their membership. Top of Texas Brittany Club was recently reactivated and are looking forward to holding a field trial and Hunt Test soon. Focus for the upcoming year will be to reach out to breeders to see why they are not encouraging their puppy buyers to join the ABC.

**4<sup>th</sup> VP Bob Burchett** gave a report on the 2019 National Walking Gun Dog Open and Amateur Stakes held in Ionia in October. Bob felt it was a Class Event in spite of the low entry. There were only 13 entries in both the Open and Amateur Championships. Because only 12 dogs started in the Open stake the AKC withheld the National Championship designation because the AKC regulations state there must be at least 13 starters to be awarded a National Champion title. Judges were positive and understanding of the small budget. AKC does not allow an Amateur National Stake without an Open Stake. Bob is recommending next year's National Walking Championship be one Open Stake. Bob feels more walking handlers need to be approached about participating in this National event. Bob has been working with a group of enthusiastic EB owners who have reached the pinnacle of what their dogs can achieve in stakes offered by their Parent Organization and would perhaps be receptive to entering American Brittany style field trials to quince their competitive juices. In spite of low attendance and challenging budget numbers the bird work in Ionia was outstanding. There was a total of 49 clean covey finds spread over all courses worked in the Open and 42 covey finds from all courses worked in the Amateur. Moving on to the National Horseback Gun Dog Events in Booneville there was a marked uptake in the entry. The bird expectation for the National Horseback Gun Dog Championships is much less here in Booneville. Statistics from all the Breeds holding field trial events in Booneville average 2 finds per hour. Bob encouraged everyone to stay around for the two National Gun Dog events being held for the first time right after the National All Age events in Booneville, Arkansas to make opinions about the move for themselves.

**3<sup>rd</sup> VP Dawn Droel** – Dawn believes 2019 was a very successful year for the National Specialty Show. She was pleased to announce that every Region was represented at the Banquet. The new NSS Pictorial featuring previous NSS Best of Breed winners was a big attraction and will be enjoyed for many years to come. There was some confusion on the funding of the trophies for the Summer Specialty but the issue has been clarified. Dawn requested BOD permission to enlarge the base of the NSS trophy so more names could be added. It was explained no BOD vote was required for this item so the trophy will be enlarged to handle more name plates as necessary. The National Agility event was small but there is a very dedicated group of competitors who did all their own work and raised all their own funds. Same with the national Obedience contingency. The banquet and auctions were both very successful and the final budget numbers will be submitted shortly.

Lunch Break. Back at 12:45

### **Financial Chair, Judy Graves**

Judy lead a discussion of the 2018 Financial Reports which included the Event Detail, Operating Activity Statement and Comparative Balance Sheet for the year ending December 31, 2018.

**Motion 14:** Motion by S Ralph second R Gulembo: Accept the 2018 Financial Reports as submitted.

**All Yes 13 Motion Carried**

2020 Budget Request – The 2020 Budget Request consisted of a Consolidated Budget Recap Summary. There were cost breakdowns for the General and Administrative Items, Membership, Magazine, Year Book and 2020 Futurity. The Big picture is positive. There is a vital need to find a new Treasurer or investigate other options for handling the Treasurer's many duties. A stipend of \$9,600 a year for the Treasurer position has been added to the Corrected 2020 Budget Request.

**Motion 15:** Motion by R Gulembo second M Karbiner: Adopt the Corrected 2020 Budget Request Administration & Futurity plus \$500 for the AKC Health Fund **All 13 Yes Motion Carried**

**Action Item Margaret Horstmeyer, Chair of the Health & Genetic Defects Committee requested use of the ABC Membership List to distribute a "Brittany" specific General Health Survey managed by OFFA.**

**Motion 16:** Motion by S Ralph second D Dow: Move to allow use of the ABC membership list for a Brittany Health Survey. **All 13 Yes Motion Carried**

***Futurity Action Items: Not acted on.***

### **Dog of the Year Award**

**Motion 17:** Motion by S Ralph B Crain – Move to have President Ed Janulis assign a new Chairman for the Dog of the Year Committee. **Yes 12 No 0 Abstained 1 Dow, Motion Carried**

**Executive Session Items: People and Dog ABC Hall of Fame, Elect Officers, Announce Newly Elected Regional Directors**

**Elected to the ABC People Hall of Fame:** Delmar Smith

**Elected to the ABC Dog Hall of Fame:** FC/AFC Blaze Dakota Trucker

NFC/DC/AFC Ru-Jem's A Touch of Bourbon

**2019 BOD Elected Officers:** President Ed Janulis, re-elected

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Jeri Conklin, re-elected

Treasurer – Position Open

**2019 Membership Elected Directors:**

East Coast Leslie Hunt, re-elected

East Central Vincent Anderson

Central Burton Wice

Midwest Bret Lindback

West Coast Mary Brown, re-elected

The Meeting adjourned at 3:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Kilpatrick, Executive Secretary

American Brittany Club