

2023 American Brittany Club Board of Directors Meeting
Booneville, Arkansas 11-19-2023

President Robert Rankin called the meeting to order at 8:09am on November 19,2024.
Executive Secretary J. Brooke Burlingame called roll directors present in the room were, Robin Tomasi, Joe Droel, Darlene Dow, Burton Wice, Bret Lindbeck, Ed Tillson and Leslee Masolotte. The directors present on Zoom were Karen Hanson, Linda McCartney, Ron Gulembo, Jim Stevens, Vincent Anderson, Bruce Heiter, Jim Hammett and Helen Riggle. All directors were present, and a quorum was achieved.

Motion 1: Motion by Jim Hammett, seconded by Darlene Dow to approve the 2022 Board of Directors minutes from 2022. All 15 yes, Motion Passed.

President Rankin started by speaking about all the people retiring from their positions as officers as well as, committee heads including insurance, webmaster, treasurer and legal advisor.

The BOD then started to move through the list of agenda items and reports. If there were no questions or discussions, we moved on to the next report after questions were recognized.

The reports were not all given in order, as some people showed up in person and wanted to give reports and get on the road to home or other areas.

Motion 2: Motion by Helen Riggle, seconded by Linda McCartney to approve the reinstatement of the Golden Empire Brittany Club and the Sunland Brittany Club. All 15 yes, Motion passed.

Jackie spoke about membership and that the BOD could read her report in the agenda book. That right now membership is holding at a steady line. She explained how the %'s could be off due to members that hold a membership in more than one regional club.

Motion 3: Motion by Bret Lindback, seconded by Ed Tillson I move to raise entries fees for national events from 200 to 225. 11 Yes (Hanson, Dow, McCartney, Droel, Heiter, Wice, Tillson, Masolotte, Lindback, Tomasi, Hammett) 4 No (Gulembo, Stevens, Anderson, Riggle) Motion passed 11 YES/4 NO

4th VP Mike Poehler also spoke about needing more help with the Walking Gundog nationals, the drive was very long, and cost quite a bit. President Rankin made the suggestion of appointing someone closer to the area where the event is being run to help with the coordination of the event.

Sandy spoke next about the magazine and that she is trying to get all the information updated and back on track. She is worried that deadlines are being ignored and this causes a lot of problems.

She spoke about the problem with reformatting and typing up all the field, specialty show results to get into the magazine. Another thing is that the results can be missing information. (this was heard about from other various committees including Mary Karbiner and other field trail secretary) Sandy also spoke about changing to a new printer to help save on the cost of the printing. The BOD wanted more specific information and requested that a proposal be put together for the zoom meeting on December 15, 2023.

Third 3rd vp Joy came on by zoom so say that the National Specialty show went well and to let the board know the new mats and gates worked well. Also, to let them know that the storage unit had been cleaned out and redone. There was talk about the catalog and the yearbook and making them 1 again. The process for that to happen. The other talk was a reminder that all show entries must be made through the superintendent only. Also, that all materials pertaining to the show entries and catalog must be handled with AKC rules in mind. Also, the NSS would like to have their own bank account to handle all the monies and receipts while having good tracking of the account. It would be handled by a volunteer CPA willing to be the NSS treasurer. The BOD was also informed of some changes that are being made with the National Specialty Show BOS trophy.

Terry Hillard was next with the Delegates report. She spoke about needing better access to the membership when questions for voting arise. That there is a lot of information that needs to go to not only the DOB but the whole membership as the information being presented can affect lots of people in different venues. Right now, the ABC website does not have the needed capabilities for this role. There are talks in progress to help find a solution for the ABC delegate to reach out to the membership.

Deb Rubert came in to talk about the problems she is having with people renewing their memberships. PayPal has changed their policies and does not include the information needed to keep her lists up to date.

Next up was Nancy Clendenen with the Dual Dog Award information. There are some changes that she wants to make to update the point system. This would allow the show points to be more consistent with the field points. Allowing for the select dog/bitch to get points toward the dual dog award. This will be discussed again in December.

Next president Rankin spoke about the retiring of the current webmaster. Mark Claypool then presented a proposal for updating and implementing a new website. There was a lot of discussion and more questions needed to be answered. The BOD will be in contact with Mark for the next few weeks figuring out the information needed for an update. This will be discussed again in December.

Next was executive Secretary J. Brooke Burlingame, the information for Parent Club Approvals was discussed. Also, the updating of all the ABC trophies for the insurance company. The next thing discussed was the way that the voting for the Directors of the ABC is handled. After the discussion of the website is completed if voting can be handled through the website that will be an option. Otherwise, the Ex. Sec. will contact other voting agencies to find the best protocol. Paper votes will be available to those that request them, but after all the mailing issues a different way should be found. This is another thing that will be discussed at the zoom meeting in December.

Next up was Mr. Chuck Lawrence, the new head of the finance committee. He received lots of praise for all the work he has done since taking over the finance committee. The current treasurer is retiring, and no one has stepped up to take the position. Mr. Lawrence has been checking into bookkeeping companies to take over the position of treasurer. He also let the BOD know the current situation on the ABC's audit.

Mary Karbinger came forward and kept the BOD abreast of stats and problems she is facing with incomplete information. Bad handwriting is also a constant problem for her while trying to read results.

Jessica Carlson came forward to speak about making the newest book of Brittany. She has let the BOD know that she does not have time to do it all herself. The BOD has made suggestions to help find her some help to lighten the load on 1 person. This will be brought up for further discussion.

Leslee Masolotte presented the futurity report with the following motions. (If more information is wanted about the futurity numbers please see the Agenda book in the NEWS section of the website)

Motion #4, Leslee Masolotte I make a motion to remove the sentence, "Placement without bird work on the course is permissible". Motion #4 was withdrawn.

Motion #5 made by Bret Lindback, seconded by Robin Tomasi I move to remove the paragraph (policy book page 117) to be replaced by "Futurity will run under AKC special derby rules". 14 YES Hanson, Dow, McCartney, Gulembo, Stevens, Anderson, Droel, Heiter, Wice, Tillson, Masolotte, Lindback, Tomasi, Riggle. 1 NO-Hammet (14 YES 1 NO) Motion passed.

Motion #6 Leslee Masolotte, seconded by Jim Hammett, I move to change the futurity costs in 2024 for the litter nominations to go from \$40.00 to \$50.00 and the final forfeit fees from \$30.00 to \$40.00. 15-YES, motion passed.

Motion #7 Leslee Masolotte, seconded by Robin Tomasi, I move to change the event fees for the futurity events. For the field events from \$60.00 to \$70.00 and the show from \$40.00 to \$50.00. 15-YES, Motion passed.

The board went to lunch at 12:20

Meeting resumed at 12:50

President Rankin also let everyone know the outcome of the director's election.

East Coast-Philip Thayer Jr.

East Central-Ron Gulembo

Central-Joe Droel

Midwest-Shawn Macleod

West Coast-Robin Tomasi

Linda McCartney gave the East Coast Directors report with the following motion.

Motion #8 Linda McCartney, seconded by Helen Riggle, I move that going forward that ABC National and classic events premiums not only include the qualifications for the stake but include an entry form that includes a line to list the qualification of the dog for the stake entered.

YES-Hanson, McCartney, Gulembo, Anderson, Heiter, Riggle. NO- Dow, Stevens, Droel, Wice, Tillson, Masolotte, Lindback, Hammet, Tomasi. YES-6 NO-9 Motion Failed

She also spoke about making Brittany a ramp optional breed, the board decided to move that over to the breed standard committee.

Helen Riggle came on to do the West Coast directors report with a few motions. Including housekeeping of the policy book for updating DNA. There was also the discussion on the splitting of the breed and moving into FCI.

Motion #9 Helen Riggle, seconded by Linda McCartney, I move to seek membership approval to get the American Brittany sanctioned into the FCI as a standalone breed.

Motion #10 Joe Droel, seconded by Burton Wice, I make a motion to postpone this (motion #9) indefinitely. YES- DOW, Gulembo, Stevens, Anderson, Droel, Heiter, Wice, Tillson, Masolotte, Lindback, Tomasi, Hammett NO-Riggle, McCartney NO VOTE-Hanson (due to tech problems)

Motion #11 Helen Riggle, seconded by Karen Hanson, I make a motion that going forward ABC use AKC DNA for dogs after January 1, 2024
Motion withdrawn.

Motion #12 Helen Riggle seconded by Robin Tomasi, I make the motion that the policy book update the DNA policy on page 33 to include: All ABC events requiring DNA profiles that only AKC DNA will be accepted for dogs born on or after 101-01-2024.
Yes 14 Abstain-1 (Hammett) Motion passed.

Robin Tomasi and Jim Hammett spoke on the problem of low numbers in the All Age field trails out west and the cancellation of field trails for low numbers. Jim spoke about how difficult it is for them to qualify for National events without a lot of travel and time.

Motion #13 Robin Tomasi, seconded by Jim Hammett, I move that the qualifying criteria for both the national amateur and open all-age stakes be modified by also allowing 1 dog to qualify for 6-13 started in any all-age stake (amateur and open) held at a Brittany trail, provided that the dog places 1st.

YES 4 Tomasi, Hammett, Riggle, Gulembo NO-11 Hanson, Dow, McCartney, Stevens, Anderson, Lindback, Wice, Droel, Tillson, Masolotte, Heiter, Motion failed.

Ed Tillson also spoke about voting and a way to make it more transparent. Also how to follow the policy more correctly so voting is also more secure.

It was also stated that clubs must be a club within AKC to run field trails, they cannot be run under the ABC banner. The associations need to work to become clubs within the AKC to run their own events. They can only run under the ABC banner if this is an approved event. This was stated by President Rankin and backed by the board. President Rankin stated "If there is a problem they can call me".

The Board then went into executive session.

On returning to the general meeting, it was announced that Joe Droel would be taking over as president come the new year.

It was also announced that Jacqui Campbell will stay on as 2nd VP, and at this time a treasurer has not been announced.

No people or dogs were voted into the hall of fame this year.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Brocke Burlingame

ABC Executive Secretary