

**2008 American Brittany Club Board of Directors
Annual Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2008
The Meeting Place, Booneville, Arkansas**

The 2008 Annual Meeting of the ABC Board of Directors was **called to order** at 8:10 A.M by President Hank Hartnek at The Meeting Place, Booneville, Arkansas.

Roll was called by Executive Secretary Mary Jo Trimble. Fourteen Directors were present: D. Smith, B. Sigmund, R. Gorman from the East Coast; K. Patterson, B. Ackerman, M. Stout from the East Central Region. J. Chase, E. Janulis, J. Brigham from the Central Region. M. Karbiner, B. Rankin from the Midwest Region. Gary Smith, Midwest Region, absent throughout the entire meeting. R. Wire, B. Landress, J. Henderson from the West Coast Region.

New Directors were introduced and officially seated on the Board.

Motion # 1. Motion by Rankin, Seconded by Sigmund. ***I move to seat 3 new Directors: Mary Karbiner, Midwest Region, Robert Wire, West Coast Region, and Bill Landress, West Coast Region, to the ABC Board of Directors.*** 14 yes votes, G. Smith absent, **Motion Passed.**

Motion # 2. Motion by Rankin, Seconded by Stout. ***I move to approve the 2007 BOD minutes as published in the ABC Agenda Book and ABC Magazine.*** 14 yes votes, G. Smith absent. **Motion Passed.**

The BOD discussed location for the next 3 years running of the ABC National Championship. **Motion # 3.** Motion by Rankin, Seconded by Ackerman. ***I move to extend the dates at Blue Mountain, Booneville, Arkansas, for the next three (3) years.***

(2009-2011). 14 Yes Votes, 0 No Votes, G. Smith absent. **Motion passed.** The bird release was discussed. Tom Milam, ABC representative on the Blue Mt. Grounds Committee, said the birds were released somewhat later this year because of the deer hunt on the grounds. The Southland Championship ended 10 days before we start. Directors felt bird work was much better this year but would prefer birds be released 7-10 days ahead of our Nationals or right after the Southland if weather permits.

Hank Hartnek went over his **President's report**. He reported the Howard Johnson's Motel had comped rooms for **National Specialty Show Judges** and the Roy Jones Show Superintendent. This was a savings of over \$1000. He discussed his desire to do a complete revamping of the **ABC Policy Book** during the next year. We should do this a few sections at a time. Each Director and/or Committee Chair was asked to review the pages pertaining to their activity and begin re-formulating the wording to update material and typographical errors. Secretary Trimble explained that dates changes are made should be left in to track how policy has developed. When changes affect more than one category, the same wording is inserted in each section to assure continuity. A schedule should be established for which sections should be redone in which order.

Tom White, 1st Vice President made comments about the All Age Championships and grounds. We need to make it clear that anyone owing money for **food or camping fees** should pay this before leaving the grounds. We rent the camp grounds across the road and fees need to be paid to Linda Milam before the end of the event. Hank reported that a new stove would be added to the clubhouse kitchen. Tom went on to discuss **entries, entry fees, and costs to run a dog**. Entry fees do not cover the cost of running the dog. In 2006, the cost was \$239 a dog. The extra has been covered by other things like the auction and raffle. Tom would like to maintain 60 dogs per stake. 72 dogs were qualified in the AAA, 50 were entered, and 46 dogs ran which means 1/3 qualified did not show up. Several factors influenced this. He proposed that entry qualifications be altered to drop the additional placement requirement for the AAA. This could have added around 10 more dogs this year. He also proposed dropping the # for second place to qualify in the Open All Age to 20 instead of 40. Since we had 66 in the OAA some Directors felt that the Open numbers were satisfactory as it is and this year may be an anomaly due to the economic and gas situation. The Secretary read statistics compiled by the Nat. Field Trial Secretary Steve Ralph regarding the number of dogs entered in AAA stakes during the fall trials and told which clubs had or did not have AAA stakes.

Motion # 4. Motion by Chase, Seconded by Rankin. ***I move that the additional placemnt requirement in the National AAA Championship Qualifications be removed.*** 8 Yes Votes: Gorman, Sigmund, Brigham, Chase, Rankin, Wire, Landress, Henderson. 6 No Votes: D. Smith, Stout, Ackerman, Patterson, Janulis, Karbiner. G. Smith Absent. **Motion Passed.**

The BOD discussed the wording in the qualifications regarding that dogs could not run in both the Gun Dog and the All Age Nationals. At this time, a dog that runs in the All Age Nationals would have to wait almost 2 years before it could run in the Gun Dog Nationals. Now that the two nationals are run within a month of each other, it is easier to know if a dog is qualified in one or both stakes. **Motion # 5.** Motion by Brigham, Seconded by Chase. ***I move that the wording in all Qualifications say that a dog cannot run in both the All Age Nationals and the Gun Dog Nationals in the same calendar year.*** 12 Yes votes, 2 No Votes: Gorman & Karbiner, G. Smith absent. **Motion Passed.**

Tom White was told that the contract with the wrangler would be left up to the 1st Vice President to negotiate. **Wrangler** should have liability insurance and contract should be reviewed by Gene Isaac, ABC Attorney.

Marilynne Little, 2nd Vice President reviewed the paperwork submitted by the Montana Brittany Club who is asking to be accepted as an ABC Club pending AKC approval. They have 42 members and a good treasury.

Motion # 6. Motion by Sigmund, Seconded by Henderson. ***I move to accept the Montana Brittany Club as a provisional ABC Club.*** 14 Yes Votes. G. Smith Absent. **Motion Passed.** Marilynne reported she had also sent some other individuals information on procedures to form a new club in the Midwest Region. She then turned the floor over to David Smith to discuss his proposal for a puppy program with Breeders to encourage new memberships. Details of the program are outlined in the Agenda Book which can be viewed on the ABC webpage. David suggested that Hank appoint a committee to work on refining this proposal. Breeders should be at the forefront of bringing in new members to the club. The President asked David Smith to Chair a committee to further work on this breeder Puppy Program.

National Specialty Show: The sudden movement of the National Specialty Show to a different location in the middle of the year was brought before the BOD. It was pointed out that there is no statement in the 3rd Vice President's section of the Policy Book to notify or be approved by the BOD of the show site as there is in the sections for determining the National Field Trial Sites. The Secretary encouraged Directors and Committee Chairs to bring all major changes before the Board and allow time for input from the membership in order to provide for smoother transitions for any major decisions of the Board, Officers, or Committee Chairs. . **Motion # 7.** Motion by Gorman, Seconded by Brigham. ***I move that the 3rd Vice President should present to the Board of Directors as part of their Agenda Report each year the proposed show site for the next 2 years.*** 14 Yes Votes, G. Smith absent. **Motion Passed.** Brigham asked if the Directors could get some type of report regarding the outcome of this year's show from the 3rd Vice President.

Secretary/Executive Secretary Action Items: Mary Jo thanked the Board for their nomination and support for the AKC Lifetime Achievement Award for Performance Events which she did receive and will be accepting December 16th in Long Beach, CA. Last year the BOD asked me to come up with a new proposal for individuals requesting the Board to consider their action items. After BOD discussion and suggestions the following motion was accepted. **Motion # 8.** Motion by Gorman, Seconded by Landress. ***I move that agenda item section of the policy book, page 77 #4 read as follows: Items must be submitted six (6) weeks prior to the Board meeting. Items must be from an ABC officer, committee chair, a Board member, or a Regional Club who has first voted on the item by that club's members. Items from individual members should first be discussed with one or more of that person's Regional Directors before being submitted. The individual's item should be supported by fifteen (15) different actual signatures of ABC members. Since agenda items need to be presented by someone to the board, one of the regional directors shall present the Agenda Item to the Board of Directors.*** 14 Yes votes, 0 No Votes, G. Smith absent. **Motion Passed.**

Ed Tillson has asked that the BOD remove the Southern New Mexico Club as an ABC Regional Club due to lack of members. We did discuss keeping them on the books but he and Wade Worrell had both decided this is what they wanted and they would disperse any remaining funds to other Brittany Clubs as per their Constitution mandates.

Motion # 9. Motion by Rankin, Seconded by Chase. ***I move to dissolve the Southern New Mexico Club as an ABC Regional Club.*** 11 Yes Votes, 3 No Votes cast by Gorman, Brigham, and Karbiner. G. Smith Absent. **Motion Passed.**

Trimble asked that the Board add a **Dual Dog Chairman** to the list of single appointments made by the President, page 28 of the Policy Book. This person is needed to track the potential recipients and winners of the Dual Dog Award, order trophies, and maintain records of winner, etc. **Motion # 10.** Motion by Rankin, Seconded by Sigmund. *I move that the President add a Dual Dog Chairman to the list of single appointments on page 28 of the Policy Book to be made by the President in order track placements of National Field Trial stakes & National Specialty Show , order trophies, and maintain records of winners of the Dual Dog Award.* 14 Yes Votes, G. Smith absent. **Motion Passed.**

Janet Chase gave the Treasurer's report. She asked the BOD to review the contributions made to organizations from the Breed Issues Fund and determine if any changes should be made in 2009. Jim Chase reported on the activities of the Bird Dog Foundation and the Marvin Nelson fund at UC-Davis. Mary Jo reported on activities of the National Animal Interest Alliance. This year Anne Short of the Central Maine Club represented the ABC at N.A.I.A.'s annual conference and her report was distributed to the Directors. This report will also be published in the ABC magazine.

Motion # 11. Motion by Jim Chase, Seconded by Rankin. *I move that \$1000 be added to the donation to the Bird Dog Foundation and the Marvin Nelson Fund from the Breed Issues Fund.* 6 Yes Votes made by Sigmund, Stout, Ackerman, Chase, Rankin, Wire. 8 No Votes made by D. Smith, Gorman, Patterson, Brigham, Janulis, Karbiner, Landress, Henderson. G. Smith Absent. **Motion Failed.**

David Smith discussed legislation that had been proposed throughout the United States dealing with dog issues. He encouraged all Directors to encourage clubs in their regions to get involved in legislative issues. The Breed Issues Fund can be used to fight bad legislation as needed as well as promoting the breed at events like the Pheasant Fest.

Janet also reported that we continue to have problems getting proper receipts provided for futurity expenses. She also suggested that the Budget item for the Agenda Book needed to be increased.

Motion # 12. Motion by Rankin, Seconded by Landress. *I move that the Agenda Book budget be increased to \$500.* 14 Yes Votes, 0 No Votes,

G. Smith absent. **Motion Passed.** Janet also discussed the deficit at the Gun Dog Nationals. Hank said he and others would work with the Treasurer to see how expenses could be cut in order to keep the Gun Dog Nationals in the black. Janet reported she had not paid the Fence Donation to the Ionia Grounds Committee from last year since no construction was slated on the Fence at the present time. Additional funds can be voted on when construction resumes.

Marilynne Little asked that her budget for the All Age National Hospitality be increased from \$500 to \$800 to cover rising costs and unexpected expenses.(last line of Policy Book, page 73) She reported income from the National Open & Amateur Calcuttas. Amounts are listed in Agenda Report. **Motion # 13.** *Motion by Landress, Seconded by Sigmund. I move to increase the National's Hospitality Budget from \$500 to \$800.* 14 Yes Votes, G. Smith absent. **Motion Passed.**

AKC Delegate Report: Mary Jo relayed to the BOD that our new AKC Delegate, Judy Tighe, had hit the ground running. She had attended an AKC open house in NC. She has met with Robin Stancell of the AKC Show Department. She has been working on trying to make AKC aware of how the new requirements to host an AKC Specialty Show have impacted our clubs. The President and Secretary have also written letters and made calls to AKC trying to explain to them that our clubs are regional clubs with territories larger than most AKC All Breed Clubs. Most of our clubs who hold specialty shows outside their home base are required to do twice as many promotional activities as are clubs who have a more closely knit territory. Judy will be working with our clubs to help them work through these new regulations. So far this has not extended to the hosting of field trials.

Judges' Education Committee Report: Hank reported that our judges' education seminar is very good. This committee would like to see AKC require judges to take this seminar every five years. Chairman Diana Kubitz submitted 4 Action Items relating to the Judges' Education Program. **Motion # 14.** Motion by Sigmund, Seconded by Landress. *I move to approve Action Item # 1: We would like board approval for the new ABC ringside Mentor Criteria as published in the Agenda Book.* 1 Yes Vote by Sigmund, 14 No Votes, G. Smith absent. **Motion Failed.** Directors then worked on revising the Ringside Mentor Criteria. This was tabled until after lunch.

Motion # 15. Motion by Landress, Seconded by Brigham. **I move to accept the Ringside Mentor proposal as revised by the Board of Directors.** 14 Yes Votes, 0 No Votes, G. Smith absent. **Motion Passed.**

Revised Ringside Mentor Criteria:

The ABC Breeder 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 Brittanys.

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.

We thank judges for taking the time to attend Brittany events, judge’s education and turning to the American Brittany Club for ringside mentoring. According to AKC anyone having twelve years experience may mentor and sign mentor’s slips. AKC’s requirements for becoming a judge are lengthy and costly, so we appreciate your efforts on our behalf.

These criteria will be sent back to the Committee and now becomes ABC policy.

Motion # 16. Motion by Rankin, Seconded by Sigmund. **I move to accept Action Item # 2 which states: We would like board approval to have ABC’s list of Ringside Mentors be by invitation from the judges’ education committee. They would be added to the mentors already approved by the committee.** 0 Yes Votes, 14 No Votes, G. Smith absent. **Motion failed.** The BOD wanted the Committee to understand that if people meet the criteria as defined, they may be approved as ABC Mentors.

Motion # 17. Motion by Wire, Seconded by Sigmund. **I move that the ABC recommends that regional clubs hire judges who meet the five year judges’ criteria whenever possible.** 14 Yes Votes, 0 No Votes, G. Smith absent. **Motion Passed.**

Motion # 18. Motion by Brigham, Seconded by Henderson. **I move that ABC recommend that judges for the Summer Specialty and National Specialty meet the five year judges’ education requirement.** 14 Yes Votes, 0 No votes, G.Smith absent. **Motion passed.** The Board indicated they knew this was not always possible but

every effort should be made to hire judges who had attended a breed seminar within the last 5 years.

Legislative Report: Mary Jo once again encouraged every club to appoint one person to help monitor legislation in their area. Anne Short of the Central Maine Club will set up an ABC list of people interested in monitoring legislation. Local information should be passed on to Mary Jo or Anne for dissemination. Mary Jo encouraged all groups to work together to oppose bad legislation rather than taking totally separate courses. Marvin Stout pointed out the outstanding efforts of the Doberman Club in fighting bad legislation particularly in the crop and dock issues.

American Field Liaison Report: Mary Jo reported that in conversations this week with AKC Vice President of Performance Events Doug Ljungren, he had indicated that he would recognize the **45 minute derby stakes** run in conjunction with the ABC Classic/Championships and sponsored by the Parent Club as AKC Derby stakes. This would enable these stakes to carry AKC Championship points and qualify dogs for adult limited stakes.

National Auction/Raffle Committee Report. Mary Karbinger discussed the difficulties of getting clubs to support the ABC Raffle. Money is now divided between the 5 National events but ticket selling has not reflected an equal amount of effort to support the sale by the various groups. Mary said if these five venues are going to share in the profits there needs to be bigger ticket items offered. **Motion # 19.** Motion by Henderson,

Seconded by Sigmund. **I move to increase the budget of the raffle committee from \$1500 to \$3000.** 14 Yes Votes. 0 No Votes. G. Smith absent. **Motion Passed.**

Motion # 20. Motion by Henderson, Seconded by Rankin. *I move to add to the duties of 1st, 3rd, and 4th Vice Presidents to assign a member of their national event committee to promote the ABC fund raisers including the national auctions and raffle ticket sales to offset expenses of their events.* 14 Yes Votes. 0 No Votes. G. Smith absent. **Motion Passed.**

Futurity Report. Marvin Stout and his futurity committee have redone the entire Futurity section of the ABC Policy Book. Directors were asked to use the final draft sent out by President Hartnek after the Policy Books were mailed in determining their considerations as some last minute revisions were made. Mary Jo presented an additional proposal from Final Forfeit Futurity Secretary Judy Graves and supported by Futurity Committee Member Mary Jo Trimble to change the wording on when the final forfeit would be accepted from 90 days to 180 days after whelping. A check of some other parent breed clubs indicated some do use 180 days as their cutoff date. She felt we needed to encourage entries, even if late, in order to promote futurity entries as much as possible. This proposal was submitted by Judy Graves but had been left out of the agenda book originally sent out. **Motion # 21.** Motion by Brigham, Seconded by Landress. *I move to accept Judy Graves' proposal to change the wording on late litter nominations but change the June 30th date to 180 days after whelping.* The proposal as amended would read: *Late litter nominations will be accepted with the following current fee schedule: Late fees are \$30 for 31-60 days, \$60 for 61-90 days and \$100 for any nomination received more than 90 days after whelping. No nominations will be accepted past 180 days after whelping. Additional late fees may be imposed from time to time by the ABC Board of Directors. The postmark will determine the fee for late nominations.* 14 Yes Votes, 1 No Vote by Sigmund, G. Smith absent. **Motion Passed.**

Other changes were then discussed. **Motion # 22.** Motion by Sigmund, Seconded by Rankin. *I move to accept the changes to the Futurity Policy as proposed with the following amendments in addition to the previous motion:*

1. *page 44 L, Leave the wording regarding ties in the Futurity Dual Dog award as it was. "If there is a tie, the highest placing field dog shall be declared the winner"*
 2. *Page 44 E, Delete the line, "The futurity may be held during the fall or the spring."*
 3. *Page 44 N, Remove the words "quartering and" from the line currently reading "Futurity Dogs shall be judged as to their potential for developing into championship gun dog Brittanys. They exhibit a keen desire to hunt, a bold attractive style, intelligence in" quartering and" seeking objectives, eagerness, and desire with the obvious intention of finding birds."*
- 14 Yes Votes, 0 No Votes, G. Smith absent. **Motion Passed.**

President Hartnek complimented Marvin and his Committee for the large amount of work that had gone into revising this policy. Some wording conflicts existed on Agenda Book page 44 E & page 44 F regarding billing of expenses, budget, etc. These will be worked out between the ABC Treasurer & Futurity Chair and submitted during the policy book revision this next year.

Magazine Report: Hank complimented Dee Hempfield on the good job she has been doing this year as Managing Editor of the Magazine.

Purina Program. Ray Gorman questioned how the distribution of support money to clubs was figured. The Secretary went over some of the basics of what Purina wanted for supporting the various events and what could be allocated to benefit the most clubs while still working within a set budget.

Statistics Report. The Statistician Mary Karbinger had an action item to reflect what is currently being done in who determines qualified dogs for the 4 national stakes. At the present time the Statistician is determining the All Age Stats and not the Gun Dog stats. She wanted this changed in the policy book. Both the Secretary and the President spoke against this proposal stating that the official Statistician should remain as the person determining qualifications while working in conjunction with the two National Field Trial Secretaries in order to catch errors or omissions that might occur. No changes were made in the official policy.

ABC Yearbook Report. Jessica Carlson, yearbook editor, submitted 4 action items for the Board's consideration. All were adopted.

Motion # 23. Motion by Sigmund, Seconded by Karbinger. *I move to approve all 4 yearbook action items as outlined on page 57 of the Agenda Book.* 14 Yes Votes, 0 No Votes, G. Smith absent. **Motion Passed.** They are as follows:

1. Amend the line stating "One copy of such program may be forwarded without charge to each advertiser in that year's edition."

Since several advertisers purchase more than one page of advertising, we would like to amend this line to state: "One copy of the Yearbook per full-page ad purchased may be forwarded without charge to each advertiser in that year's edition."

2. Amend the line stating "No unpaid or gratis advertising shall appear in such program, in effect, at the cost of the ABC."

We do allow for full-page ads for the official ABC Sponsors (Purina, Tri-Tronics, Tracker, Christie) as well as for our Wrangler and Cover Artist. We would also like to allow advertising for significant donors to the Nationals, so our suggested amendment would read: "Full-page black & white ads shall be offered to all official Sponsors of the ABC Nationals, the Wrangler, and the Cover Artist for the Yearbook. Companies or individuals donating \$300-499 worth of goods to the National events may be offered a half-page black & white ad in the Yearbook at no cost, and those donating \$500 or more may be offered a full-page black & white ad."

3. Amend the next to last paragraph, regarding distribution and sales, to read: "The distribution and sales shall be as follows: On the first day of the Nationals, prior to commencement of the drawing, if possible, all printed copies (less those to be provided each paid advertiser without charge) shall be delivered to the site headquarters for the National All Age Championships. Sufficient copies shall be made available for sale at the National Specialty Show site where it shall be the responsibility of the Show Chairman, Show Secretary, or their designates to distribute and sell copies of the Yearbook and record the number of sales. All other sales and distribution shall be the responsibility of the Yearbook Chairman, ABC Secretary, or their designates. Appropriate records shall be maintained and all receipts for printing and related expenses delivered to the ABC Treasurer."

4. Delete the last line, stating "One copy of the Championship Program Yearbook should be mailed to each club secretary each year. (1992)".

Dual Dog Award. Bob Rankin, Chair of the Committee to review and submit changes to the Dual Dog Award section of the policy book gave the Board a history of the last two years discussion of this award as well as a history of the W.E. Stevenson, Sr. Memorial Dual Dog Award since its inception. The committee gave the Board two options for changing the award. One was to have two awards, one for the All Age Dogs and one for the Gun Dogs. The other was to maintain a single award with a new point distribution for field events. Show points remained basically the same with some clarifications and one addition for points for judge's Award of Merits. Chairman Rankin asked that Jessica Carlson be kept as the person in charge of the award. The Directors relayed to each other the many comments they had received from constituents. The Single Award proposal was adopted.

Motion # 24. Motion by Patterson, Seconded by Wire. *I move to adopt the Single Proposal, the W.E. Stevenson Sr. Memorial Award, as written on page 41 C of the Agenda Book. Motion to become effective immediately.* 12 Yes Votes, 2 No Votes by Gorman & Chase, Sigmund abstained, G. Smith absent. **Motion Passed.** This award may also be found in the *News Section, 08 Agenda Reports, Dual Dog Award* on the ABC Website.

Motion # 25. Motion by Brigham, Seconded by Landress. *I move to approve all email votes taken since the last annual meeting.* 14 Yes Votes, 0 No Votes, G. Smith absent. **Motion Passed.**

The Board went into executive session to discuss People and Dog Hall of Fame Awards and Election of Officers.

After coming out of Executive Session the Board affirmed by a unanimous vote those dogs and people to be inducted in the ABC Hall of Fame and the Officers

Elected. Motion by Rankin, Seconded by Landress. *I move to elect the people and dog Hall of Fame and officers as follows: People HOF: Rosco Staton;*

Dog Hall of Fame: 2x NFC/AFC Diamond Hill Dan and FC/AFC Shady's Chick-N-Little. Officers: 1st Vice President Tom White; 3rd Vice President Chris-Ward Weber; Secretary Mary Jo Trimble. 14 Yes Votes, 0 No Votes, G. Smith absent.

Motion Passed.

Meeting adjourned.