

**2009 ABC Membership Meeting
Club House, Blue Mountain WLA, AR
Thanksgiving, November 26, 2009**

Call to Order and Welcome: President Hank Hartnek

President Hartnek called the meeting to order and welcomed people to the Membership Meeting of the American Brittany Club. He then introduced 1st Vice President and National Field Trial Chairman Tom White.

Welcome from 1st Vice President: Tom White welcomed everyone and went over some of the ground rules for the National Championship since water has flooded parts of courses two and three. Part of course three unavailable during the Amateur will be used during the Open. He introduced members of his field trial committee and announced the winners of the National Amateur Championship. Larry McAnally, Site Superintendent and Red Bailey were introduced.

The Invocation was given by Executive Secretary, Mary Jo Trimble.

Necrology Report: The Secretary read the list of names of ABC members, former members, and friends who had passed away since the last Membership Meeting. Those names included: John Hancock, WI, 12/08; Bob Hamner, CO, 6/09; Carl Robeson, MN; Dale Shores, CA; Tom Tivan, NJ, 12/08; Chuck Sherer, CA, 12/08; Cliff Boggs, CA, 09; Bob Donnell, WA, 2/09; John Koegler, WA, 5/09; Ken Corley, OK, 5/09; Mary Ellen Mercer, FL, 5/09; Norval "Nib" Trimborn, MO, 5/09; Louie Miller, MO, 09; Kathy Capstick, MO, 10/09; George W. Pottle, Jr., ME, 09; John Soley, PA, 09; Judy Tillson, AZ, 09.

Recognition of Officers and Directors: President Hartnek introduced Officers and Directors present at the meeting. Officers present: President Hank Hartnek. 1st Vice President Tom White, 3rd Vice President Chris Ward-Weber, Secretary Mary Jo Trimble, Treasurer Janet Chase. Directors present: East Coast: David Smith & Lisa Pollock; Central: Jim Chase; Ed Janulis, Jim Brigham; Midwest: Mary Karbiner; West Coast: Bill Landress. AKC Delegate Judith Tighe was also in attendance as was Membership Chair Linda Langford, and Webmaster Steve Ralph.

Recognition of Life Members: Life Members in attendance: Mary Jo & Ray Trimble, Francis Clasen, Janet Chase.

Recognition of ABC Hall of Fame Members: ABC Hall of Fame Members in attendance: Wade Haines, Francis Clasen, Janet Chase, Mary Jo & Ray Trimble.

Recognition of 1st time national attendees: Hans Borgman, PA & VA; Tina Travis, TX; Justin Kalina, NE; and Bob Powell, WI.

Recognition of Special Guests: President Hartnek introduced Ken Windom, National Specialty Sweeps Judge. Judges for the Open Championship were recognized: Bill Stubblefield, Jim Cohen, and John Kline.

Thank yous: President Hartnek took this opportunity to thank the Buttons who stepped in at the last minute to provide our food service during the nationals. Their presentation of the food, their professional attire, and outstanding “healthy” dishes has certainly added a touch of class to this National Championship. They were given a big hand of applause.

LaReine Pittman, Missouri Brittany Club Awards: Rosco Staton made the presentation of the LaReine Pittman Award to Steve Ralph. This award is presented to an individual who has given years of distinguished service to the Brittany both on the local and national levels. Steve has served in many capacities and is currently doing an outstanding job as ABC Webmaster.

Nomination of Life Member: Ken Seifert presented the group with a petition of required signatures nominating Leslie Andreas for Life Membership. He outlined the years of dedication to the breed since she was a very young girl. Rosco Staton added comments telling of his first associations of picking up a young lady who hitched a ride to her first nationals from Canada to Oklahoma. Leslie has reported several national championships, hour stakes, and Classics over the years as well as being an active participant. A vote of the members present was taken and Leslie was elected to Life Membership in the ABC.

Brittany Field Trial HOF announcements: Jim Chase, ABC Liaison to the Bird Dog Museum and Director of the Brittany FT HOF in Grand Junction, TN, announced the upcoming induction ceremonies in February for newly elected dogs and people: Bazooka’s Brandy and Dr. Bob Rankin. He also outlined plans and presented a brochure and slide presentation promoting the construction of an additional wing to the museum which would house memorabilia of the Continental Breeds and the Brittany. Donations are tax-exempt. A Patron Plaque has been donated in honor of Ron Curtis recently. He announced that Lloyd Conable had donated a bound set of Brittany Magazines to the museum in Ella’s honor.

Awarding of 2009 ABC People & Dog Hall of Fame Plaques: President Hartnek presented the prestigious HOF Awards to Paul & Lisa Pollock for Paul’s Dog 2X **NFC/FC/AFC Diamond Hill Dan**. Dan was a 15 X American field Champion with 3 Runner-Up titles as well. He had 45 Lifetime placements (28 firsts) and 16 of his 26 hour placements were firsts. Dan sired 16 litters during his short lifetime.

Margaret Horstmeyer accepted the award for Clem & Marilynne Little’s **FC/AFC Shady’s Chik-N-Little**. The Littles were unable to attend this year. Chikie had 47 total placements with 18 firsts. She produced 6 litters by four different sires and due to their success, has become known as a “blue hen” producer. She has produced 1 NFC, 1 NAFC Runner-Up, 7 American FC’s and 12 one hour winners with 63 one hour placements.

She also produced 12 FC's, 3 AFC's, 1 DC, 2 CH's, and 28 field winners with 525 total placements.

Rosco Staton of Missouri was awarded the 2008 HOF People Award. Rosco is a familiar person to most of the American Brittany Club members. For many years he campaigned as an amateur and then turned professional. During his retirement, he has served as a judge for numerous clubs and national and regional stakes. Many recounted stories of Rosco and his help to newcomers to the sport, his regional club, and his willingness to help out when needed whether it is to rescue someone in trouble or serve as an auctioneer, judge, or in whatever capacity he was needed.

Board of Directors Election: Secretary Trimble announced the results of the Directors' Election. East Coast: Darlene Dow (new); East Central: Tom Robin (new); Central: Jim Brigham (incumbent); Midwest: Bob Rankin (incumbent); West Coast: John Henderson (incumbent). Secretary Trimble informed the group that these were very, very close elections and that every single vote does count. Remember this every year when ballots are sent out. Make sure you vote.

Legislative Report: Mary Jo discussed the movements nationwide by HSUS and ASPCA to enact state legislation regarding number of dogs one can own, breed, and kennel requirements, esp. for commercial kennels, definitions of hobby breeder, commercial breeder and standards for each. She encouraged all members to pay attention to bills in their respective states and to seek help or advice if needed on how to make sure that we are going to be able to own and breed dogs and continue our sport. Be particularly aware of tethering bills as many times these will require long tethers which are not possible to use on field trial stake out chains. Make sure that engineering standards imposed for commercial kennels such as sanitation with 180 degree water temps or no grating in kennel cages don't also apply to hobby breeders.

3rd Vice President Chris Ward-Webber: Chris discussed possible options for the 2010 National Specialty Show Site. She discussed how the judges are selected. She has asked for input not only from Show Committee Members but from the ABC membership. If you have suggestions for anything regarding the National Specialty Show, please contact Chris and share your suggestions and ideas for consideration.

Since the ABC Officers and Committee Reports and Action Items are now printed in the November issue of the magazine and Action Items for BOD consideration are posted on the website, they are no longer read in full at the Membership Meeting. November magazines were available for reading during the Amateur Championship prior to the BOD Meeting.

Hearing no further items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Trimble, Secretary