

2001 Board Meeting American Brittany Club December 1, 2001, The Meeting Place, Booneville, Arkansas

Call to order Ron Zook 8:30 A.M.

Invocation:

Pledge of Allegiance

Seating of New Board Member: Pat Carney

Roll Call: All present except: Tom Milam finishing up at the grounds with the National Amateur Championship and Pennie Peterson who had a horse accident and will not be here. Those present: Gorman, Oakley, Carney, Marinelli, Kendrick, Lisius, Chase, Trimble, Burroughs, Karbiner, Rankin, Theilen, and Engel.

Motion #1: Motion by Theilen, Seconded by Trimble to modify the agenda and meet for 2 1/2 hours then break and go to grounds for announcements of National Amateur Championship placements, then reconvene. Lunch will be on the grounds.

All present yes, Milam and Peterson absent.

Bill Speck, AKC Vice President for Performance events; Rob Sexton, WLFA (Wildlife Legislative Fund of America), & Tom Honecker, Director Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America were introduced. Ron pointed out that Sherry Ebert had brought an AFTCA 20th Century Fund Print to Your Auction. All proceeds above cost of print will be donated to the 20th Century Fund.

Presidents Report:

Hold Hall of Fame elections until end of meeting when Board goes into Executive Session. **Dates for next year:** Thanksgiving will be last Thursday of November for the next 3 years. Southland flexed last year. This year we flexed. We do not have a 100% positive yes for next 3 years but believe we will be allowed to go back to Thanksgiving. Getting grounds anywhere is going to be harder in the future. We are going to have to work with DNR's and make compromises. We have 35-40 campers on the grounds, 105 Kennels, 60-horse barn, 25-30 trailers and 150 horses for the Amateur. Where else can we find grounds to accommodate us? Actions cause consequences. People going to chamber may not have been the best approach to solving the problem. Running just on 5 week days is a goal. Reducing our entry shows a good faith effort to get trial to manageable numbers. Four factors reduced entry: 1.No gun dog crossover, 2.Tighter qualifications, 3. Events of September 11, and 4. Economy down. **Comments:** Theilen: Don't ever divide nationals. Kendrick: Various reasons given for date change. Rankin: Larry in summer meeting talked about we were just running too many days and caused conflicts with Southland. We were running close to 3 weeks rather than 2. Burroughs: Thought the whole issue was staff not wanting to work on Thanksgiving. Rankin: Committee didn't meet this summer. Trimble: I'm concerned more with bird population which seems to be much better at Conway. Theilen: So much better there with same number of staff. Zook: Bob, please relay to the grounds committee that we are concerned with a lack of a consistent feeding program, feeders are empty. Oakley: Conway truck full of feeders and call back bird pens. Saw big wild bird coveys and also saw staff putting birds out. Chase pointed out how many people were upset because of work that they could not attend the week after Thanksgiving. (Secretary's Note: Prior to the completion of the week, we were advised that the 2002 Nationals Dates to start on November 25, 2002, had been approved.)

TEAMWORK AND LEADERSHIP: Zook: We may personally disagree with leadership and decisions of the Board of Directors, however, once those decisions are made we need to support them and work to help the membership understand why the decisions were made. Divisiveness has no place in the governance of the ABC. Next year, think carefully how we speak on those chat lists. We need to understand our commitment and obligation to the club. If you don't agree, you can say there must have been some reasons the Board voted as they did and go on.

FRENCH BRITTANY REPORT: Motion # 2: Chase moved and Theilen seconded to not support a split with the French Brittany as requested by one of the French Brittany factions. There were 9 yes votes to not split, Engel voted no, Karbiner abstained, Milam and Peterson were absent.

Comments:

Theilen: if a split occurs, we, as American Brittany Club, will just represent the dogs in this country & Canada. We will disappear as the rest of the world controls the rest of the breed. It is greatly against our interest. Other

comments included weakening the gene pool. Mary Jo provided a copy of the French Standard for comparison. Mr. Crowley of AKC in a letter has indicated great difficulty when breeds have split such as the Cockers have done. The Committee appointed to look into the issue voted 3 to 1 to not support a split. The Committee Report and information from the Norwegian Brittany Club had been supplied to the Board. Other information and comments had been distributed via e-mail to the Directors prior to the meeting for study. The Board had listened to comments and the discussion at the Town Meeting and the Membership Meeting. Milam called the question.

Mary Jo spoke about why we should join **NAIA (National Animal Interest Alliance.)** This was supported also in President Zook's report. Pat Carney asked if WLFA ever worked with NAIA. Rob Sexton confirmed that they do work together and share the same goals. NAIA actively works to inform the public and legislators about the fallacies of the arguments put forth by PETA and other similar anti-dog and anti-hunting groups. **Motion # 3: Motion by Engel, Seconded by Oakley to become a supporting member of NAIA for \$250. All present yes, Milam & Peterson Absent. Motion passed.**

IDAHO LETTER: Engel pointed out that this letter had been taken out of context and used inappropriately by some on the internet as fodder for trying to further their own agenda. The Idaho Club was sincere in their comments and were not trying to disparage the National Club, but genuinely sought help in building their own club.

Theilen: issues brought to him at Spring Trial and he has talked with Larry Sandusky and the leadership of the Idaho Club. Concerns widespread in West. The letter went to individuals who oppose the leadership of the ABC, inflammatory remarks started. Chase: He too talked to Larry Sandusky. Got Teresa Richmond, President of the LaSalle Club & Sandusky together. The LaSalle Club has a very active program and is not losing members. They are a good example of what clubs need to be doing to improve membership in the regional clubs.

Theilen: areas in US have problems that you in Central do not understand. Mileage is great.

Burroughs: We do not have a good grasp on statistics of entries in trials. Need more information and statistics to better measure the changes taking place within the club as far as number of trials, entries, etc. Some of the problems mentioned in this letter will be addressed by some of the actions proposed in this agenda. It was pointed out that West Coast Director Pennie Peterson had already been in touch with the Idaho club as well as Secretary Trimble with some suggestions for them to increase interest and members.

Zook: I do believe that some people in the ABC membership have an unrealistic concept of what we as officers and directors can do. We might need a staff of several people and a much larger budget to do all that some would like to see done. We operate with a group of volunteers and are limited by this as to what we can do. I do believe the Idaho group was sincere in asking for help that we are trying to provide with the resources we have. **MOTION # 4: Motion by Theilen and Seconded by Oakley to approve the 2000 minutes with a change to state that an additional important consideration in the date change this year was due to the conflict with the Southland Trial. Add to page 1, Paragraph beginning: President Zook....All present voted yes, Milam & Peterson Absent, Motion Carried.**

Rankin felt this was a given and should be indicated in the minutes. **Bill Speck, AKC Vice President of Performance events:** Mr. Speck was introduced and given time to make comments to the Directors. He discussed the issues with **USFWS (US Fish and Wildlife)** and the threatened imposition of federal field trial guidelines. He emphasized that the fight was not over. He thanked Pres. Zook & Sec. Trimble for helping to get the correct information out to the membership. Some misinformation put out by others made it hard to get job done. The Guidelines have been withdrawn but recent developments in Indiana indicate that Mr. Bradley Johnson, Deputy Director of Region 3 USFWS, says he will enforce the restrictions and the audits already in place in Indiana.

He felt that the Board had taken the right step on **French Brittany issue.** He

is on the Corporate Management committee of AKC. If a petition by a French Club had been presented to AKC, it had not been presented to the Corporate Management Committee for consideration. It was not discussed at all. President Zook told him we had received a petition from the French Brittany Club.

The National Amateur Gun Dog Championship should be passed in 2 weeks at the next Delegate Meeting, Mr. Speck reported. Go ahead and make plans.

1ST VICE PRES. REPORT, JERRY KENDRICK:

Grounds Concerns:

Kendrick discussed the running of the Championships and the courses. Oakley asked about shutting down course 3 if we can't use bridge. Zook: Larry has a request in to reevaluate the structure of bridge. Rankin: Concern over horses came up before any engineering data was written. Theilen: Do we have a plan to buy grounds?

COMPLAINTS: Kendrick: Clubs have expressed difficulty with bureaucracy with AKC. Losing Central Gulf Coast because they didn't want to do all paperwork. Lisius: They had difficulty getting AKC judges and preferred to run under the American Field. Karbiner Talk to AKC. They will approve if judge has any credentials. Speck: Judges approval hasn't changed since he has worked there. It was addressed at Pointing Breed Advisory Committee a few years ago and no changes were suggested for the approval process. Qualifications of 5 American Field trials can be used by AKC but they still have to take test to ensure they are familiar with AKC rules. We leave it up to club to verify that the judge is qualified.

Mary Jo explained about applying for trials a year in advance. Applications are mailed for the trial the next year as soon as that event is processed. The fall trial does not have to be processed before the spring trial application can be submitted. Some clubs do not understand this and think the most current event has to also be processed. Clubs should have applications in hand, one year in advance and may submit anytime after the schedule has been approved by ABC Dates Coordinators.

FUTURE GROUNDS: Kendrick: We need a plan in case we loose Booneville. Things can change at anytime. Burroughs: Discussion last night talked about setting aside money from the starter fees paid to ABC. Need to look ahead. Karbiner: We did do this a few years ago, but had let things slide. This should be a constant thought for ABC and needs to be at a higher level of attention. Zook: If you want to take a long range view...say several years down the road....we may have to look at private land. The people who want us off of public lands will not quit. We may be safe for a few years, but they will be back. Field Trialers are not a big group numbers wise compared to other hunting groups.

We are just buying time now. We need someone who is interested in really setting up a long range plan. WHO? Jim Chase will take on the chairmanship of the long-range grounds committee. Rankin: Will be on committee. Knows someone on Irish setter doing same thing. Looking at corporate sponsorships. Oakley: this is about dogs not facilities. Theilen: Need to sell ourselves. Need publicity. Burroughs: Need to establish a foundation governed by a BOD so funds don't disappear. Harold Brown said we couldn't qualify as 501C3. Burroughs will help Jim on committee. This committee will produce a written report from the committee each year. Short term and long range. Mary Karbiner also volunteered to serve on the committee to look into grounds planning.

BREEDER REFERRALS: Kendrick was concerned with the contacts he has had wanting breeder referrals. He has suggested they join and get the magazine. Kendrick feels we need to put more on web page. Mary Jo asked what he wanted on the web page. We can add anything that the Board o'k's. Kendrick also felt a webpage not connected to AKC would be better. Mary Jo said we had an outstanding web master who would make changes and update the page on very short notice. Theilen: We have enough on our webpage to direct people to other sites. We don't want list of breeders. We need to encourage local clubs to follow the Code of Ethics. Mary Jo pointed out that the Code of Ethics was now on the webpage and people looking for breeders are instructed to read that section first. Theilen: If breeders would encourage the people who buy puppies to join ABC, it would greatly enhance our membership. Karbiner: Regional Clubs have been advertising for sale dogs that are not purebred. Wanted to know if we could ask the clubs to not do this. MJ Trimble pointed out that we have no control over regional club webpages. We could ask them to only post purebred dogs but it would have to be a request and we do not control their webpages or policies concerning them.

Diana Kubitz, 2nd Vice President: Never received a letter from Central Gulf Coast asking that their club be dissolved from ABC affiliation. Kendrick, East Central Director, did get such a letter. **Motion # 5:**

Motion by Rankin, Seconded by Kendrick to dissolve the Central Gulf Coast Club as per their request. All present voted yes, Milam & Peterson absent. Motion carried.

Kubitz on Membership Committee: Asked for a committee to be appointed to work on improving membership numbers for ABC. She volunteered to Chair the committee and write letters to the magazine with articles that might help regional clubs improve methods of attracting new members. Committee to be called **Membership Action Committee**. It will be added to committee list and published in the Magazine.

4th VP Bruce Adkins: Engraved saddle for open and amateur from Tarplin Hill. Working with corporate sponsor. Futurites need to ask for trophy sponsors to cut expenses like we do in the Gun Dog Nationals. Gun Dog has different expenses than all age. Trimble pointed out Purina money would be the same. Adkins: nothing went to grounds last year. Wants 25% to go to grounds no matter what. Marinelli pointed out that this could actually reduce the amount of money going to grounds if a profit were made. 2002 Open Judges selected. Adkins also requested that his name not be submitted for reelection.

Motion # 6 by Karbiner and seconded by Rankin that Recommendation A on page 20 be approved. (Recommendation A: That the NGD Championship Auction be structured the same as the auction in the fall at Booneville, with the proceeds being handled in a like manner. (25% going to grounds). Marinelli voted no, Milam & Peterson absent, 12 yes votes. Motion carried.

Motion # 7 by Karbiner and seconded by Rankin that Recommendation B on page 20 of the agenda book be approved. (Recommendation B: That twenty per cent (20%) of the Calcutta go to putting on the NGD Ch. and the remainder split in a similar fashion as is currently done. Ten per cent (10%) of the proceeds are ear marked for the NGD Ch. expenses at the present time) All 13 present yes, Milam & Peterson absent. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT, JANET CHASE: In addition to the financial statement, I was asked by Velma Tiedeman to discuss the cost of The Book Of the American Brittany--Eighties Edition. We currently still have 200 copies left. Velma suggests that we lower the price and try and sell them.

Motion #8 by Oakley and seconded by Theilen to cut the cost of the hardcover books to \$10 and the paperback to \$5. 13 yes votes, Milam & Peterson absent. Pat Carney suggested we give a copy to new members. Zook suggested that rather than making that Board action that we leave that to the discretion of the new membership committee. Burroughs asked if any work was being done on the book of the Nineties. It was suggested that he ask Rheta Cartmell about that.

M.J. Trimble SECRETARY'S REPORT: Secretary Trimble asked that the policy book be updated to include rules for Internet voting. Her suggestion would be that once a motion is e-mailed to the directors by the Executive Secretary that they have 7 days to transmit comments for and against the proposal to be distributed to other Directors with no votes being taken. At the end of the first 7 days, Directors would then have 5 days to record a yes or no vote. Rationale: It is too easy to case a vote before discussion has taken place unless the guidelines as suggested or something similar are implemented. Engel felt this was a good thing as it would address the concerns he had on voting for WLFA money and would insure discussion and exchange of ideas on issues before voting took place on the internet.

Motion # 9: Motion by Burroughs and seconded by Theilen to adopt the Secretary's recommendation as to internet voting procedure as outlined in the Agenda Book. 13 yes votes, Peterson & Milam absent

Secretary's **Action Item # 2** concerning NAIA has already been acted upon. **Action Item # 3** was to discuss ways to reduce costs or increase funding to the ABC to meet the challenges of animal activists and government agencies, court challenges to our standard, increased postage rates, trial and show expenses, magazine costs, and the need to defend and support our activities and breed. Since it would require a bylaw change and vote of the membership to increase dues, we must look at other ways to increase funding. The last vote passed by a plurality but failed to achieve the 2/3rds majority.

She pointed out that foreign memberships often cost more to mail the magazine than the \$25 membership covers.

Ron Zook asked if the BOD wanted to take action on the suggestion

by members at the membership meeting of increasing the starter fees in trials and shows from \$1 to \$2.

Motion # 10: Motion by Chase and seconded by Marinelli that Starter fees be raised to \$2. 1/2 of the \$1.00 increase to be set aside in a Grounds Fund for future additional grounds. 1/2 of the \$1.00 increase to be set aside for issues of the breed or political action. Funds to be dispensed at the discretion of the Board. 13 yes votes, Milam & Peterson absent.

Ray Trimble pointed out that if the new Championship grounds are developed in Illinois as we hope, that clubs wanting to use the grounds will need to support their development. It was decided that grounds funds could be used on either public or private grounds. Oakley asked if we were limiting ourselves to certain amounts of money for political action, etc. Chase discussed the need to have a source of funding for both grounds and political action. This would not limit us in amounts but would provide a funding source.

ELLA CONABLE, MAGAZINE EDITOR'S REPORT: Dogs over 2 have to have OFA certification to be advertised in the magazine. Last year, a two page ad did not have # on young dogs. She was questioned on this. One congratulatory ad did not have OFA #. We have never required OFA #'s on Congratulations pages or similar pages. Ella was asking if Board wanted to continue this same process or give direction otherwise. Rankin stated that the process had always been to require OFA # for stud ads, dogs for sale, but never for congratulatory ads or other pictures used in the magazine as trial winners, etc. Theilen said he was in attendance when this was decided and concurred with Rankin. If it were extended to congratulatory pages, it would also extend to Club Dog of the Year pages. This was not the intention of the Board. Ella mentioned that OFA is now listing dogs that failed OFA if the owner opts for the open registry listing.

Motion # 11: Motion by Burroughs and seconded by Carney to change Item 14, page 55, second paragraph, add the word "such" before the word Ad and also add "such " in the last line. 13 yes votes, Milam and Peterson absent.

Oakley asked when the Holman use of the back page would run out. Ella stated that Holman had used that page for over 50 years and as long as he continued to pay the required fee, his contract would be renewed. His owners actually pay for the ads. Zook suggested that this be tabled until we get to the section on ad rates.

AKC Delegate, Catherine Murphy's Report: no action. President Zook pointed out that Pat Carney had also worked very hard to get the AKC delegates to not allow the Amateur Dual Championship vote to pass.

Jodi Engel, Judges Education Report: Jodi had requested a sum of \$500 to develop materials to use in the Judges' Education program. Mary Jo reported that she had attended part of the seminar for new judges at the Specialty Show and that it was well received. Theilen pointed out that Jodi had been doing this on her own for several years and deserved the financial support. Mary Jo also presented a petition from ABC members requesting that this program be funded.

Motion # 12: Motion by Engel and seconded by Theilen to grant Jodi Engel funding of up to \$500 for the Judges' Education Committee. 13 yes, Milam & Peterson absent. President Zook pointed out that funding is not given to people in lump sums but paid by the Treasurer as receipts are vouchered and sent to her for reimbursement.

Ray Trimble, Pointing Breed Advisory Board: Nothing to report. Bill Speck pointed out that there are 5 years between meetings and it would be another 3 years before another meeting would take place.

Ray Trimble, American Field Liaison: nothing to report, no action items. **Gene Isaac, ABC Attorney:** had no report. President Zook did report that Gene had worked very well for ABC this year and had responded promptly to inquiries. He had reviewed all contracts. President Zook also took this opportunity to remind the officers and directors that only the President and/or Executive Secretary could sign binding contracts for the ABC. We need to make sure everyone is aware of this.

Ray Trimble, Purina Coordinator: Lisius asked if the Nestle purchase of Purina would have any effect on our contract. President Zook replied that our contract is now on a continuing basis from year to year. Trimble commented that he was concerned that Purina would question funding for Classics such as the Grouse-Woodcock Classic where entries are so low with only 11 participants. We need to encourage more people to run in the Classics that do have small entries in order to justify the outlay of funding. Purina has a new program that material arrived just before leaving home.

This program would award funding for health and genetic research. If people are members of the Purina Pro Club Program and submit weight circles, funds would be given to health foundations. They are asking ABC to support this program to its membership. Theilen also mentioned a grant program with AKC for genetic research.

Motion # 13: Motion by Theilen and Seconded by Gorman to support the Purina Pro Club Program. 13 yes votes, Milam and Peterson absent.

President Zook will have ABC attorney Isaac look over the program and make comments. We can support the program in the magazine but will not be sending individual letters to the membership

President Zook reported that Karen Schreiber will remain the chair of the trophy program

Agenda Chairman's Tom Burroughs said he ran out of patience a long time ago. If people are going to accept the responsibility of being a committee chair, they need to file their reports on a timely basis as required by the policy book. President Zook said he understood his frustrations, but sometimes things could not be summarized as early as the September 15th deadline and had to be submitted later such as the Treasurer's report

Bird Dog Hall of Fame, Ron Zook: I understand there is some controversy going on between the Bird Dog Hall of Fame and the Bird Dog Foundation. Some directors have resigned and the rest of the story is yet to be heard.

WLFA Liaison, Phil Corlew: Phil has provided you with a very extensive report of the activities of the WLFA this year. Those reports were mailed to you individually after the September 15th date because some of the information needed to be confirmed before the report could be published.

Mary Karbner, Auction Report: Last year was a record year. This year way down. Had a request from a Tupperware Dealer wanting to be a vendor at the Specialty Show. Material was presented by Karbner which discussed non-profit corporations allowing individuals to make a profit. Secretary Trimble felt this AFTCA document was entirely different from the ABC. ABC is not a 501-C-3 corporation as is the AFTCA and subject to different regulations as to fundraising. Enforcing a no individual making profit would also eliminate anyone selling tack, jewelry, dog related items, etc. Karbner wanted permission to restrict vendors to people who had dog or horse related items. There is little room in the club house for vendors but people could set up outside the club house if the state permits it. Page 59 in agenda book contains the documents mentioned here. No motion was made and the appropriateness of individual vendors at the specialty show is best left to the discretion of the auction committee.

Classics Committee Report, Ray Trimble: Trimble handed out a revision of the policy book which deals with the Classics. As the wording stands now, it makes no references to the Classics also being American Field Championships. Wording needs to be changed to reflect this and to indicate that dogs need to be both AKC and FDSB registered to run in the Classics or the Championship title will not be awarded by the American Field. Wording changes mainly reflect the addition of the word Championship each time the word Classic is mentioned. Karbner questioned some of the wording both new and old She objected to the word "planted " birds on page 4 and suggested it be replaced with "released" birds. Trimble preferred "liberated". Discussion of what is a "marked" bird took place with Tom Honecker elaborating on what is a "marked" native bird. Original wording was amended to say "released" rather than planted. Page 5, paragraph 2 should be changed to say Championship Points rather than Championship pins. Marked bird to be left as is.

Motion # 14: Motion by Rankin and seconded by Oakley to accept the Classic /Championship proposal as amended. 13 yes votes, Milam & Peterson absent.

Engel wanted to discuss Brittany Rescue at this point. He was asked to wait as Rescue would be discussed later in the meeting following the agenda schedule.

Tom Honecker, AFTCA 20th Century Fund:

Mr. Honecker talked about 20th Century Foundation of AFTCA. It took over 3 years and 3 attorneys to set up. The AFTCA is a 501-C-3. Tried to set it up as a separate entity, but IRS didn't buy that. They are constantly being reviewed. The fund has over \$400,000 in it right now. One of the problems was that professionals were involved in field trialing. They had to show that the dog and the handler work together as a team: Huge issue with IRS. AFTCA was allowed as a 50-1-C-3 to donate to the Conservation Fund of America because they are also a 501-C-3 organization

Recess declared 12:10 AM. The directors went to the grounds for the announcement of the National Amateur Championship winners and lunch.

Following a 2 hour recess, the meeting was reconvened. Director Tom Milam is now in attendance following the conclusion of the Amateur Stake. **Nancy Clendenen 3rd VP's Report:** A survey was conducted of participants at the Specialty Show. The Roast is dead. People prefer cocktail party with cash bar rather than a sit down meal. She elaborated on why entries were down this year. The judge is hired for next year. She has been hired for Thanksgiving weekend. The survey indicated that while they prefer to, be between the Amateur and Open but above all want to stay on Thanksgiving weekend. We can rent an additional ballroom if needed. Do not have to pay for it if not used. Would like to see the ABC policy state that no judge could ever judge the national specialty more than once. Nancy has several changes for the policy book. Regional Clubs have the same required classes as ABC. No problem with FT Class or Veteran Class but did object to having Stud Dog and Brood Bitch Class. They don't have the entries but still have to come up with trophies. Some of the AKC wording in the policy book needs to be revised. Not changing intent but wording to make it clearer. Will work on it and do something in Spring. Will allow time for Board to discuss with members. President Zook asked her to take the policy book and make the changes she suggests and get to Mary Jo to distribute to Board Members. Mary Jo asked if it had to be done this year or could it wait until next year so that Directors could discuss with their constituents. Nancy wanted to do it before next November. She also questioned the policy that a Sweepstakes judge could not judge a Brittany event during the preceding calendar year.

QUALIFICATIONS: Entries are down from last year in the Amateur and Open by 25 %. Difficult to know how many entries will be effected in the Gun Dog Championship right now. Comment was made that it is difficult to qualify an hour dog in a half-hour stake. Rankin wants to cut 3rd from hour stakes. Oakley: we need more hour stakes in the East Coast. If we are going to run a one-hour national championship we need one-hour dogs, not 30-minute dogs. We have difficulty having one-hour stakes on our grounds. Marinelli: Encourage the hour stake, tighten the 30-min. Theilen: Dogs conditioned by roading or running to run in hour stakes not by running in 30-min stakes. I would hate to see the 30-minute stakes tightened up because that is all we have on the West Coast. Trimble: I think we should leave them alone until we've gone full circle to see what the results actually are. We need to encourage the one-hour stake to get dogs better qualified to run here. Zook: We have difficulty having an hour stake in our club. Mary Jo: rewrite to where they are readable when you do change them. Chase: changing every year just isn't cutting it. Rankin elaborated on the reasons they had been changed in the past. Tom Milam called the question. **Motion # 15: Motion by Chase and seconded by Engel to leave both sets of qualifications the same as last year. 14 yes votes, Peterson absent.**

MAGAZINE: President Zook talked about the meeting in Marshfield that he and the Secretary had with the magazine staff. Ron Smith wants & needs our business. I have a different perception of the magazine since the visit. Ron Smith is certainly a "working" owner. Rates have not raised since '94 and he indicated he would not raise them for another couple of years. We had down to earth discussions with the staff. If you want a perfect magazine better figure out how much more you want to pay. After the trip to Marshfield, President Zook went to Orchard Park to talk about action plan with Ella.

Mary Jo reported on her observations of the visit. It was a very valuable experience. The magazine has upgraded their computer and will be doing some things that will make it easier to transmit data for both the magazine and the membership lists. They will be able to accept attachments by email and can receive trial reports by email instead of fax which will reduce costs. The Brittany account has been handled by 7 or 8 people since I've been Secretary. Joyce has been there over a year now and communications have been much improved and much faster. Hopefully Joyce will handle our account for a long time to come. We spent the entire day with Ron Smith, Joyce, and Robert brainstorming. We saw the equipment and discussed the possibilities for improved advertising. Eighth page ads are the most cost effective. We talked about special types of issues. Chris Burchett suggested a Breeders' Issue which would highlight **Breeders**.

Zook: magazine is the one connection people have with ABC. If you are not in show and field activities, there is nothing in magazine for you. Ella has

had to work with a straightjacket based on previous magazine policies. I would like to ask the board to consider item # 4 in the Action Plan which give us some leeway in developing new ideas for improving the magazine. We would like to work with Ella and make the magazine a different publication.

Ella had a set of statistics saying that advertising would raise cost of magazine. Cost of a single page is \$78. She discussed Letters to the Editor getting out of hand in the past when personal attacks were made. Mary Jo has found us an outdoor writer who has supplied us with numerous articles. Rankin asked if the page limitations had hampered the magazine. Ella responded yes. Mary Jo stated that previous magazine policy in the past minutes indicated that the magazine was not to be for the non-trialer or show person. That policy needs to change. Ella questioned the fact that nothing was designated as a source of income for the magazine. Karbiner: The magazine needs to be improved before we consider a dues increase. Carney: magazine needs something for new people. She mentioned the Bob Youngs email that had suggestions for improvements. Theilen figured an \$18,000 loss last year. He asked where income came from. Ella reported that Janet pays it from the general fund. Zook pointed out that this is a bookkeeping anomaly as far as loss is concerned. He wants to see the primary goal to make this a magazine that people want to read and if we have to spend more to improve it then we need to do it. Burroughs: mentioned that delivery dates across the country are not uniform. Objected to the listing of expired members on membership list. He was more concerned with membership than color pages or advertising. Didn't like membership suggestion to allow the magazine to collect dues from people other than MALs. Chase: I see a difference in the leadership on the board and the vision we have for the magazine than in the past.

Motion # 16: Motion by Chase and seconded by Trimble to accept item 4 of the Magazine Action Plan. 13 yes votes, Burroughs voted no, Peterson absent. Motion carried.

Item 4 of Magazine Action Plan: Interim Operating Committee:

- 1. We are recommending that an Interim Operating Committee be formed. This committee would be chaired by the President and include the Magazine Chair, the Treasurer, Executive Secretary, the Magazine Editor, and possibly others such as the person in charge of advertising and the person overseeing the membership list.**
- 2. Committee should be appointed for a period of two years to develop and implement changes that effect the magazine and membership.**
- 3. Policy Book rules concerning the magazine could be suspended during the interim to allow the committee to develop new policy before reprinting the policy book pages. This way things could be tried and/or tested before becoming permanent policy.**
- 4. Disputes that cannot be solved by the committee would rest with the ABC President for a final decision.**

MEMBERSHIP: Ron explained why we want to allow memberships be sent directly to the magazine. Mary Jo related horror stories of trying to get memberships started or renewed when the local secretaries do not send them in or send them in on a timely basis. She related two stories of memberships that took 5 months and one almost a year to get straightened out. She told of one Secretary who failed to send in any memberships for a period of one year. The magazine cannot process memberships they do not receive from the secretaries. Tom Burroughs was opposed because he feels this will delay the regional club's portion of the dues being sent to them. Zook told Tom he appreciated what he was saying, but he didn't realize how many people had been turned off by having to wait months to get their first magazine or to have to miss numerous issues when renewals are late. Many clubs do a great job, but many do not. We have to correct this problem. Very few of the complaints come from the 1/3 rd of the membership (MALs) that is sent directly to the magazine. It is easier to train one or two staff at the magazine to follow procedure than it is to get 85 secretaries to do so. It is easier and faster to track down errors at the magazine than to go from member to secretary, to treasurer, to magazine to find where the hold up is. Mary Jo reported that the magazine would be switching to the Access database which will allow for readable expiration dates and better sorting of lists. Rankin indicated his dues had lapsed due to the secretary not sending them in for a period of 4 months. He would look forward to calling the magazine and paying by credit card and suggested mul-

tiple years' payments.

Motion # 17: Motion by Milam and seconded by Kendrick to allow the change of dues collection by the magazine for regional club members. Dues may be paid for multiple years, up to 3 years and may be paid by check or credit card. 13 yes votes, Burroughs voted no, Peterson absent. Motion carried.

ADVERTISING RATES: President Zook pointed out that magazine rates had not been changed for several years. Theilen expressed his opposition to the same person always having the back cover. In his opinion, the back page should be open. Zook stated that this was a long-term customer who had used that page for 50 years. Zook also told them at one time a few years ago that the back page was offered to others. They were willing to take it for one month but not for 6 months or a year. Rankin thinks that the back cover should cost more. Ron Smith has always donated the color on the front and back cover. Engel felt that if other rates were raised, back cover should be raised accordingly. Carney asked if back page could be at a lessor rate if taken for 6 months or 1 year at a time. Ella said that he does take the ad for one year at a time. Gorman suggested that any ad be given a discount when taken for 6 months.

Motion # 18: Oakley moved and Theilen seconded a motion to make changes as proposed on the handout except the back page or any full page color ad would be \$320. Any full-page ad paid for 6 months will receive 20% discount. 11 yes votes, Marinelli, Chase, Trimble voted no, Peterson absent. (Since exact costs to ABC were not clear at the time, President Zook said he would call the Publishing Editor and get back to the board as to actual expense to ABC for the various ads in case rates needed to be adjusted further.)

After checking with the Publishing editor, Ron Smith, a second set of figures was presented to the Directors for an amended vote. Changes were agreed to as suggested:

Rates as Follows:

Listings: \$60 a year; Show Case: \$50 a year; Stake Out: Member \$10, Non-member \$12. with a maximum of 40 words.

Display Ads, Members only: Full page: \$120, Half page: \$70, 1/4 page: \$50, 1/8 page \$30, Inside cover (front & back with spot color) \$180, Back Cover: \$260, Full-page color: \$260, 1/2 page color: \$220. 10 % discount for 6 months paid in advance.

FUTURITY REPORT, RON LISIUS, CHAIRMAN: Lisius went over the stats for this year's futurities. Gun Dog Futurity went over good this year. The Futurity is a gamblers' stake. The winner gets what is in the pot. Now that the Gun Dog Futurities have been added, the expenses have doubled and the pot has lessened. We've moved back the final forfeit date in order to allow more time to evaluate dogs. Entry blanks reflect this but policy book needs to be changed to read Sept. 15th. The Eastern Futurity was a grand affair this year, but expenses were \$5000 and income was \$2500. My suggestion here is that we need to do some more consulting on expenses and since entry fees have not been raised in 15 or so years, we need to raise them.

The Futurity Runoff has become very difficult to run. We were not allowed to run here at Booneville this year. Trying to run a separate event at Conway was difficult. I suggest we allow the runoff next year but nothing after next year. Clendenen suggested that the same hold true for the show runoff. Last runoff would be 2002. Chase said many of the LaSalle Club members suggested that we go back to one big futurity instead of 3 regional futurities. It was suggested that he might want to write this up for consideration next year.

Motion # 19: Theilen moved and Trimble seconded that the Board adopt the proposals from the futurity chairman as stated in the agenda book page 68. 12 yes, Gorman & Chase voted no, Peterson absent. Page 68 Agenda Book, Futurity Recommendation:

1. Change the policy book to read September 15th instead of September 1st for the September forfeit.
2. Emphasize the advantage of nominating futurity prospects for both the All-Age and Gun Dog events at the September forfeit date. (This will be done on the September forfeit forms that are mailed to all eligible dogs.)
3. Increase the final (starting) fee in both the field and show events. Increase them to \$50 field and \$40 show.
4. Discontinue both the All-Age and the Gun Dog Runoffs after the runoff in 2002.

Dates Coordinator, Gene Salmons: Gene has asked for a \$50 stipend per regional dates' coordinator to pay for printing and postage for sending dates schedules to clubs.

Motion # 20: Motion by Milam and Seconded by Rankin to grant the dates' coordinator what he has requested. 14 yes votes, Peterson absent.

A brief discussion took place concerning Karbiners letter on the Constitution and Bylaws concerning a statement similar to AFTCA's on individuals making a profit. Since ABC is not a 501-C-3 organization, it is believed that the circumstances are different than that of AFTCA. Mary Jo suggested that we have the attorney look at our by-laws and see if there are any things that need to be updated to current laws.

Pat Carney submitted a proposal to award Championship pins to American Field Champions and to the National Champion. Mary Jo explained that the Championship pins currently being given and have been given for years are not given by AKC but by ABC. Comments included that the National Champion gets enough without having a hat pin. End of discussion. No Action

Appreciate Del Val comments but we didn't do what they want in regard to problem of deciding which stakes to enter. We addressed earlier the question of a budget for futurities.

JERRY HOGAN LETTER: Mr. Hogan has some valid concerns. The board took no specific action on his suggestions. Pat Carney felt we needed a committee to work on preventing a split in the show and field people. Rankin asked how many Duals we have. Clendenen pointed out that there are more Brittany Duals than all the other sporting breeds put together. Mary Jo cited the latest stats on one web site which also shows the Brittany leading in the Dual Concept. AKC does not track or report Duals at this time in the Gazette. More statistics in the ABC magazine would help us to deal with topics like this.

Idaho Letter: Feel we covered this earlier and have had discussions with Larry Sandusky regarding their concerns.

At 5:00 P.M. The Board went into Executive Session.

Board reconvened at 5:20 P.M.

Motion # 21: Motion by Oakley and seconded by Rankin to nominate Ron Zook as President. all yes, Peterson absent. Zook elected President.

Two candidates were presented for 2nd Vice President, Diana Kubitz & Pennie Peterson. A written secret ballot was taken.

Motion #22: Motion by Oakley and seconded by Rankin to nominate Diana Kubitz for 2nd Vice President. Kubitz elected.

Motion # 23: Motion by Lisius and seconded by Kendrick to elect Ken Cherry as 4th Vice President. All yes, Peterson absent. Cherry elected.

(The Board of Directors overlooked the election of the Treasurer, Janet Chase. A majority of the Directors were contacted by the President following the formal meeting and she was duly elected to remain as Treasurer of the ABC.)

By-laws state that the final vote for the Hall of Fame be taken by written ballot at the Board meeting. A 2/3rds-majority vote is required for election. President Zook announced that Mary Jo Trimble had received the required 2/3rds vote for election to the ABC Hall of Fame.

ABC Dog Hall of Fame: NFC Microdot was nominated by Lyle Johnson and the Hall of Fame Committee has recommended that he be elected by the Board of Directors. A discussion of the dual concept and how it applied to Hall of Fame selection took place. Some would like to see more of what the progeny had done. He failed to receive the required 2/3rds vote of the Board for election.

Letter from American Brittany Rescue: Hal Engel discussed the letter from American Brittany Rescue that had been sent earlier by e-mail. Rescue would like to have a Raffle Table at the National Specialty Show and would like a reversal of the decision at last year's meeting to not allow this. They would donate 35% of the proceeds to ABC. Show Chairman Nancy Clendenen discussed that we have an ABC raffle. We give ABR a free table at the show. They offered to run the ABC raffle. We do not need anymore raffles at the specialty show no matter who is asking to do it. Theilen said we needed to do something for Rescue. It was then asked if we support both Rescue Organizations with like activities. The legal issue of supporting rescue was again discussed. Mary Jo said she had given the names of members in selected states to Rescue to try and help and will do that for both organizations.

Motion # 24: Motion by Engel and seconded by Theilen to allow ABR to have a raffle table at the National Specialty Show with 35% of proceeds

going to ABC. Carney, Marinelli, Theilen, Engel voted yes, Gorman, Oakley, Kendrick, Lisius, Chase, Trimble, Burroughs, Karbiner, Rankin, Milam voted no, Peterson absent. 4 yes, 10 no, 1 absent. Motion defeated.

Courtesy of the Floor: Motion # 25: I make a motion that starting in one year that we request AKC to require DNA testing on all puppies born to an American Brittany sire and dam. Seconded by ??. Gordon Theilen distributed information to the board concerning alleged breeding improprieties that had been submitted to AKC. DNA testing costs \$40 per dog. Chase: what percentage of cross breedings would change our American Brittany. Theilen: do not have statistics but know that it is changing rapidly. Karbiner: AKC already requires DNA testing would be on any stud dog bred more than 3 times in one year. Milam: one of these days French Brittans will start showing up in trials. This would be a forward step in insuring the integrity of the breed. Theilen: We have a DNA profile on the American Brittany. We need a profile on the French Brittany. They will be close in my opinion but should be different from the setter/pointer genes. Crossbreed blood will skew the profile. Engel: With the DNA profiles we could tell if the black in a nose or coat goes back to a French Brittany or a setter or pointer. Discussion as to whether or not these dogs could be run in American Field if AKC registration is denied. Rankin: Irish Setter club requires DNA testing for dogs run in their national championship. Doesn't cure past ills, but will from this point forward. Karbiner: Don't get results immediately. Tests would have to be ahead of time. Theilen: Two orange and whites cannot produce black. Trimble: Are you saying you want me to spend \$40 a pup before I can sell or register them? Milam: You shouldn't have to DNA the puppy unless someone protests but sire and dam shall be DNA'd. Mary Jo questioned the way the motion was worded. Karbiner:

backyard breeder will not DNA every pup. Theilen: Then they won't be registered. Carney: This will be a deterrent to people who do not compete registering their pups. Kendrick: Maybe we need to address the breeding that the parents need to be DNA'd. Theilen: That might solve the problem. Chase: Asked what would prevent people from sending in false swabs. Theilen: That would come about if a protest was filed and AKC came in and did the tests. There will always be con artists but this will help stop them. Chase: Without DNAing all puppies, it won't stop it. Glendenen: AKC already requires this on stud dogs bred 3 times in a year or 7 times in a lifetime and are moving toward the same for bitches. Theilen: profile not complete enough yet to answer the difference between Brittanys and pointers and setters. Zook: After 3 or 4 generations, the crossbred is assimilated into the regular breed. We are going to drive people away from the American Brittany Club. Theilen: Agree that the crossbred is absorbed after 3 or 4 generations. I will change my motion to read: **Motion # 25 (amended): Motion by Theilen, Seconded by Milam that ABC request that by January 1, 2003, AKC require DNA to be on file for all Brittany parents before a litter can be registered.** Tom Milam called the question. **10 yes votes, Carney, Trimble, Karbiner voted no, Gorman abstained, Peterson absent.**

Gorman felt that having this material brought to a vote with only 15 minutes of discussion was improper. We may know what we are doing but...Karbiner, last year we ignored everything that came in late. (Secretary's note: This motion was contained in an email report sent to directors on October 1, 2001. prior to the meeting but supportive material was not supplied until the end of the Board Meeting just prior to the vote.)

Tom Milam moved for adjournment. Chase seconded.
