

The meeting started at 6:12 pm CST

Roll call was done by the executive secretary, in attendance was:

Linda McCartney, Darlene Dow, Jim Stevens, Bruce Hieter, Matt Wedele, Paul Renius, Robin Tomasi, Bob West, John Perry, Steve Cosgriff, Ron Gulembo, Leslee Masolotte, Ed Janulis. Both Shawn Macleod and Philip Thayer came in later to the meeting.

Non-Board of director attendees included: Doug Tighe, Richard Beaver, Peggy Aguiar, Teresa Richmond, Jacqui Campbell, Julio Rodriguez, Mary Brown and Collen Walsh.

First order of business was put forth by

Darlene Dow seconded by John Perry: I make a motion change the word with AKC from “recommended” to “optional” on health testing for the Brittany.

Bob West put forth a motion to table the vote until others have looked at the wording of the changes. Linda McCartney seconded the motion.

**YES:** Robin Tomasi, Leslee Masolotte, Linda McCartney, Bob West

**NO:** Ron Guleumbo, Matt Wedele, Darlene Dow, Jim Stevens, Steve Cosgriff, Ed Janulis, Bruce Heiter, Paul Renius, John Perry, Paul Renius

**The motion to table the issue does not pass.**

The board then voted on the original motion to change the wording with AKC.

**YES:** Darlene Dow, Matt Wedele, Jim Stevens, Bruce Heiter, Ed Janulis, John Perry

**NO:** Linda McCartney, Ron Gulembo, Robin Tomasi, Leslee Masolotte, Steve Cosgriff, Bob West, Paul Renius

**The Motion did not pass.**

Next to give a committee report was Mary Brown, head of the Breed Standards Committee. She read the report which read as follows.

The Breed Standards Committee was looking at two issues before us. The first was the removal of the word “not Preferred” when looking at the tricolor Brittany.

The second was making Brittany a ramp optional breed. After following the policy books rules and doing an informal poll. The committee has come to the conclusion that no changes are recommended at this time. Mary also informed the BOD that she is stepping down as the head of the Breed standard committee.

Julio then provided an update on MailChimp usage, explaining that while it’s currently licensed for online voting, additional opt-in processes would be needed for marketing communications and other ABC voting.

Colleen came on and she and Julio demonstrated the upcoming digital magazine rollout, which will include members-only digital library accessible through the website. This would allow the ability of members to access past magazine issues as well. And for a cost saving the members can switch to a digital only magazine.

We had both Richard Beaver and Teresa discuss the field trails and current situation. The Blue Mountain Group will increase dog fees by \$5 this year, bringing the total to \$50 per dog, with further increases planned over the next 5 years to reach \$75 per dog. The group also learned that Arkansas is considering designating Blue Mountain as a WMA, which would prevent future field trials if approved in July. The meeting discussed ongoing efforts to secure Blue Mountain as a field trial grounds, with the Blue Mountain Group planning to approach the governor for a favorable response. The Future Grounds Committee is actively working on alternative plans in case the current location is not secured, having already evaluated one property.

On membership matters, Peggy reported progress in migrating members from the old database to the new one, with 698 members now on the new system and efforts underway to help members transition, including an advertisement in the upcoming magazine and outreach to regional clubs. Anyone who needs help with membership can reach out to Peggy and she will help to get the member logged in a switched to the new membership list, if a member wishes to go digital, she will also help them with that.

The meeting focused on a proposed policy book change to allow the Chukar Classic to be conducted as an open limited gundog or open limited all-age stake. Robin moved to add this option, but Shawn expressed concerns about the restrictive language regarding "Chukar country" in the proposal. Richard and John argued that changing the event from an all-age championship to a gundog championship would undermine its original purpose and suggested retiring the current trophy if it becomes a gundog event. The discussion highlighted debates about regional restrictions, financial impacts, and the intent of classic championships.

Robin Toamsi made a motion seconded by Leslee Masolotte- I make a motion to allow the Chukar Classic to be run as an Open limited Gun dog or an Open limited all age.

**YES:** Philip Thayer, Ron Gulembo, Ed. Janulis, Robin Tomasi, Leslee Masolotte, Steve Cosgriff, Linda McCartney, Paul Renius, Bob West

**NO:** Matt Wedele, Shawn Macleod, Darlene Dow, Jim Stevens, Bruce Heiter, John Perry

### **Motion Passes**

Darlen Dow made a motion seconded by John Perry- I make a motion the All-Age Chukar Classic trophy goes to the Brittany Hall of fame.

Discussion was made about the history of the trophy and the Chukar Classic. There was then some talk about what happens when things go to the bird hall of fame and are they owned by ABC still or do they become property of the museum?

The second motion was then made by Robin Tomasi and seconded by Bob West- I make a motion to table the chukar classic trophy decision until April 15.

**YES:** Ron Gulembo, Matt Wedele, Robin Tomasi, Leslee Masolotte, Steve Cosgriff, Linda McCartney, Paul Renius, Bob West

**No:** Philip Thayer, Shawn Macleod, Jim Stevens, Darlene Dow, Bruce Heiter, Ed. Janulis, John Perry

### **Motion Passes**

This will be decided in April after the question about the bird dog museum is settled.

The board discussed concerns about the number and location of championships, with Ron raising questions about whether too many championships are benefiting trainers rather than amateurs. The group agreed to review statistics at the next meeting, with Ron offering to provide detailed data.

Teresa Richmond discussed with the board having an AED for the National Walking Gun Dog Event. The cost to purchase one is \$800-\$1200.00. Someone then suggested renting one, Teresa is going to look into the cost of renting one. She also has to check if there are any available to rent in the area of the WNGD event. She will come back to the board with her results.

Leslee Masolotte discussed allowing the Brittany to have an ATT after their name with AKC. This would be with the American Temperament Test Society.

Leslee Masolotte made a motion seconded by Steve Consgriff- I make a motion that the ABC grant parent club approval for the TT title to be used through AKC.

**YES:** Bob West, John Perry, Paul Renius, Linda McCartney, Steve Cosgriff, Leslee Masolotte, Bruce Heiter, Jim Stevens, Darlene Dow, Robin Tomasi, Matt Wedele, Ron Golumbo, Philip Thayer

**NO:** Ed, Janulis, Shawn Macleod

### **MOTION passes**

Next was.

Linda McCartney made a motion seconded by Robin Tomasi- I make a motion the BOD approves the independent specialty show to be held with the national specialty show for the 2026 season.

**YES:** Philip Thayer, Linda McCartney, Ron Gulembo, Matt Wedele, Shawn Macleod, Robin Tomasi, Jim Stevens, Bruce Heiter, Leslee Masolotte, Steve Cosgriff, Paul Renius, John Perry, Bob West

**NO:** Ed Janulius

**Abstain:** Darlene Dow

### **Motion Passes**

Robin Tomasi then made the motion to go into executive session seconded by Leslee Masolotte at 9:25pm

Bob West took over as the host of the zoom meeting.

At 10:49pm Ron Gulembo took the Board out of executive session seconded by Leslee Masolotte

During executive session the following changes were made:

Darlene Dow made a motion seconded by Robin Tomasi- I make a motion to eliminate the data chair position. Move all membership responsibilities to be under the 2<sup>nd</sup> VP.

### **Unanimous pass**

Leslee Masolotte made a motion seconded by Ed. Janulis- I make a motion to adjourn the meeting.

End time of the meeting was 10:50 pm CST.

Next BOD meeting will be June 9, 2026

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,  
J. Brooke Burlingame  
ABC executive Secretary

