AMERICAN BRITTANY CLUB

2025 AGENDA BOOK

AGENDA
2025 ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
OF
THE AMERICAN BRITTANY CLUB, INC.
NOVEMBER 23, 2025
FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS

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Members contribute to the success of a meeting when they:
1. Come to order at once when the President opens the meeting.
2. Give thoughtful attention throughout the business meeting and the program.
3. Rise to address the chair and wait to speak until recognized by the chair.
4. Sit down at once when someone else has been given the floor.
5. Rise to make a motion but remain seated in small assemblies when seconding the motion.
6. Write a long or involved motion and give to the assistant, when asked to do so.
7. Rise when a rising vote is requested and remain standing until the vote is taken.
8. Vote on every question.

9. Limit their remarks to their rightful share of the time of the meeting and do not infringe upon the right of others. The floor should be given to one who has not spoken on the question, in preference to one who has spoken, if there is any question as to precedence.
10. Rise to make reports, remain seated during the discussion of the report.
11. Refrain from conversation during the meeting.
12. The courtesy of the floor may be granted to one who is not a member when it is desired to have such one speak during a business session.

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Red Page Numbers Action Items or Action Items in Report
Blue Highlight Page Numbers Indicate a correction to Report or Action Item(s)
NR = No Report

2024 ABC Board of Directors Minutes
November 24, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 8:18am by President Joe Droel, after so difficulty getting the internet to work correctly. In attendance in person for the meeting was Darlene Dow, Linda McCartney, Matt Wedele, Leslee Masolotte, Shawn Macleod, Robin Tomasi and Joe Droel. As part of the Zoom meeting, we were joined by: Jim Hammett, Helen Riggle, Bret Lindback, Bruce Heiter, Burton Wice, Jim Stevens, Vincent Anderson, Ron Gulembo, Phillip Thayer Jr. A full quorum was achieved for the Board Meeting.

The first order of business was to approve the minutes of the 2023 ABC BOD meeting. Bret Lindback made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as they were written. The motion was seconded by Jim Hammet. The directors approved the motion unanimously.

The first discussion was from Richard Beaver about the ABC Derby Classic. That it is hard to find dogs to run it as the dogs are either too young or aging out too fast. The first choice was to stop having the Derby Classic all together. After discussion of the change of the Derby Classic from an American Field event to an AKC event saw it change under the rules. More discussion was had about changing the event from AKC to ABC and opening more options to revamp it. Motion made by Director Darlene Dow

MOTION 1: Motion by Darlene Dow, seconded by Leslee Masolotte I make a motion to Discontinue the current Derby.
Director Dow then withdrew her motion and made a new one.

MOTION 2: I make a motion to discontinue the current derby invitational and have the president appoint a special committee to either re-establish the derby invitational or having some alternative.
VOTE YES 13: Dow, McCartney, Thayer, Stevens, Anderson, Heiter, Wedele, Masolotte, Lindbeck, Macleod, Hammett, Riggle, Tomasi.
VOTE NO 2: Wice, Gulembo
MOTION PASSED

Richard Beaver mentioned information about the club taking a more reactive stance on the grounds, there have been several big changes at Booneville. The grounds are being managed quite differently. The mowing is being done different, and the fire prevention is not as conducive to the club's needs. Trapping and hunting are also allowed on the grounds while the field trails are being held. There are also more levels of approval for changing things on the grounds. The state of Arkansas has also made it so the people at the field trail are required to have a hunting license for the field trails. The discussion was made to task the future grounds committee to find the most viable option to carry the national events forward. Whether they stay at the Booneville grounds or choose to find more viable options at different grounds.

2nd VP Jacqui Campbell came on and discussed that a lot of the problems with membership will be solved once the new website comes online. The current membership software is outdated and cannot be updated anymore. After the new website goes online the membership lists and

reminder information will be more accessible and organized better making renewal and reminders easier.

3rd VP Joy Crisler and Tim Smith the NSS account came on and spoke about the updating of the electronic payment systems that have helped with a lot of stuff and the advantages of using it. He gave the projections for the income from the show. They also spoke of the videographer that was hired and brought in and how it was streamed for those at home. Joy spoke about the adding of the independent specialty and the other new events that were added at the NSS. This includes the grooming seminar and the breeder's showcase. There was also discussion of the Top 20 event and that it falls under the 3rd VP and is not part of the policy book. Due to this a motion was made.

MOTION 3: Director Robin Tomasi, second by Director Shawn Macleod: I make a motion to strike the reference to the entry fee to NSS Top 20 in appendix 1 in the policy book.
VOTE YES: 15- Dow, McCartney, Thayer, Stevens, Anderson, Gulembo, Heiter, Wice, Wedele, Masolotte, Lindback, Macleod, Hammett, Riggle, Tomasi.
MOTION PASSED

4th VP Spoke about how successful the walking gun dog was in Ionia. There was discussion about the increase in the entry fee for the events to cover the changes in cost to use the grounds and other fees that they are being assessed with during their events. There was more discussion on the ground's conditions and possible changes will need to be made.

The Ex. Sec. spoke about the problem of paper ballots again and that the voting numbers are low. 1329 ballots were mailed and only 423 came back. Hopefully with the new website it will allow us to vote online. The next discussion was about the filing of the 990 forms for the regional clubs. The updating of information from the regional clubs is a problem and why some clubs are not getting their forms done. It was also discussed that the clubs could file their own 990 forms. There was a discussion of the finance committee regional leaders to file the forms for their regions.

The finance committee spoke about the changes in the club dues and the new ways that will be available to pay for things on the new website.

There was a discussion about making it easier for the AKC delegate to communicate with the BOD faster and make fast decisions on critical information put forth by the delegate.

The committee chair for the Breeders education committee spoke about how the program will go forward and what is needed to start that and what AKC wants from the club. This will include ethical breeding practices. What each parent club requires for health testing and other helpful information. The committee will need to add a full committee and will need to submit something to the policy book chair to be added to the current policy book.

The book of the Brittany is still behind but hopefully the chair can start handing out pieces of this and other members of the club can step up and help her with this chore.

East Coast report
Director Dow spoke about updating the policy book wording for the 1,3 and 4 VP. At this time, it states that they have 30 days to get the monies to the bank after the national events.

MOTION 4: Darlene Dow seconded by Helen Riggle, I make a motion to change the wording from 30 days to be in the bank account to 7 days for the money to be deposited in the ABC bank account. And no monies shall be passed through personal bank accounts.
VOTE YES 15- Hammett, Riggle, Tomasi, McCartney, Lindback, Macleod, Heiter, Wice, Wedele, Stevens, Gulembo, Dow, Anderson, Masolotte, Thayer.
MOTION PASSED

Director Linda McCartney spoke about the Preservation bank that AKC is proposing (more information can be found on the back of the agenda book) There was a lot of discussion on the good and bad things that could come from this in the future.

MOTION 5: Burton Wice Second by Bret Lindback, I make a motion the ABC is not interested in participating in the AKC preservation bank.
VOTE: YES 14- Dow, McCartney, Thayer, Stevens, Anderson, Gulembo, Heiter, Wice, Wedele, Masolotte, Lindback, Macleod, Riggle, Tomasi
NO 1-Hammett
MOTION PASSED

The next thing that Director McCartney spoke about was adding the suffix WT (Water Test) as an available suffix through AKC for the Brittany. This is for Dogs that pass a water retrieving test, including dogs that do NAVHDA testing. The next is to add NBOB as a recognized Prefix for the National Best of Breed winner at the National Specialty Show.

MOTION 6: Phillip Thayer Jr seconded by Linda McCartney, I make a motion to accept and recognize the WT suffix with AKC for the Brittany.
VOTE: YES 8-Tomasi, McCartney, Heiter, Wedele, Stevens, Dow, Masolotte, Thayer
NO 7-Hammett, Riggle, Lindback, MacLeod, Wice, Anderson, Gulembo
MOTION PASSED

MOTION 7: Linda McCartney seconded by Robin Tomasi, I make a motion to add NBOB (National Best of Breed) prefix as an acceptable prefix through AKC for the Brittany.
VOTE: YES 15-Dow, Heiter, Hammett, McCartney, Wice, Riggle, Thayer, Wedele, Tomasi, Stevens, Masolotte, Vanderson, Lindback, Gulembo, Macleod
MOTION PASSED

Next was the discussion of the Dog of the Year awards and having a $500.00 budget for the awards. Director Burton Wice made a motion to stop the awards.

MOTION 8: Helen Riggle seconded by Linda McCartney, I made a motion to revert the DOY back to its original format and put it in for review by the BOD. This motion was withdrawn by both of the directors, and a new motion was put forth.

MOTION 9: Robin Tomasi seconded by Leslee Masolotte, I make a motion to review the point system and awards for revision by the DOY committee to be presented to the BOD prior to the close of the 2024-year end.
VOTE: YES 15- Hammett, Dow, Riggle, Masolotte, Thayer, Tomasi, McCartney, Lindback, Macleod, Stevens, Anderson, Gulembo, Heiter, Wice, Wedele.
MOTION PASSED
Next was a discussion about information from the agenda book addressing a letter from the Heart of Illinois Brittany Club and other clubs from that area. Concerning the DNA purity of some dogs running and competing in various events.

MOTION 10-Helen Riggle seconded by Jim Stevens, I make a motion to form a committee to look at implementing breed specific DNA for all national championship winners. Motion withdrawn.

MOTION 11-Helen Riggle seconded by Linda McCartney, I make a motion to form a committee to explore the possibility of breed specific DNA testing for breed purity.
VOTE: YES 11-Riggle, Dow, McCartney, Thayer, Masolotte, Heiter, Wedele, Stevens, Anderson, Gulembo, Mcloud
VOTE: NO 3- Hammett, Lindback, Wice
MOTION PASSED

Next discussion was with Nancy Clendenon and the dual dog award. She wanted to update the point system to the chart she had presented in the agenda book. There was also discussion on adding the National Walking gun dog to the National point system.

MOTION 12: Robin Tomasi seconded by Leslee Masolotte I make a motion to approve the new point system for the dual dog award as presented.
VOTE: YES 10- Dow, Thayer Hammet, Riggle, Tomasi, Masolotte, Lindback, Heiter, Wedele, Gulembo,
ABSTAIN:1-Wice
VOTE NO 4-Macleod, Stevens, Anderson, McCartney
MOTION PASSED

Next Matt Wedele made a motion from a discussion that was had previously. Since it is very hard to open up the by-laws another option was found to help out the 4th VP. Rather than adding a 5th VP and opening the bylaws.

MOTION 13: Matt Wedele seconded by Darlene Dow, I make a motion to amend the duties of the 4th VP to include. The 4th VP may appoint a separate chairman and/or secretary for horseback/walking gundog national championships.
VOTE: YES 15- Hamett, Masolotte, Heiter, Stevens, Riggle, Lindback, Wice, Anderson, Tomasi, MacLeod, Wice, Gulembo, Dow, McCartney, Thayer
MOTION PASSED

Further on Director Shawn MacLeod will look into what it takes to open the by-laws of the club to update more information on the 4th VP information or to add a 5th VP.

A further discussion was about the magazine and why the Field Trail results are behind. A large problem is that the results are not being done correctly or missing information. The time it is taking to track down the information or find the correct information is putting the results so far behind. The magazine committee is looking at a form to streamline the process to help this happen faster.

Leslee Masolotte came to talk about a problem that has been happening in nominating litter for the futurity. People are waiting to nominate long past the 180-day mark and then want to pay a fine. She requests that the sentence under late litter nominations in the policy book that states "Nominations after 180 days will be accepted at the discretion and decision of the futurity committee." And replaced with "Litter nominations after 180 days will not be accepted."

MOTION 15: Leslee Masolotte second Darlene Dow, I make a motion to change the wording for the futurity nominations in the policy book from "Nominations after 180 days will be accepted at the discretion and decision of the futurity committee." And replaced with "Litter nominations after 180 days will not be accepted."
VOTE: YES 14- Dow, McCartney, Thayer, Stevns, Gulembo, Heiter, Wice, Lindback, Wedele, Masolotte, Macleod, Hammet, Riggle, Tomasi
MOTION PASSED

There was a discussion about the town hall meeting at not only the show but the walking gun dog. The use of the ramp was brought up and will be going onto the breed standard committee.

There was talk about setting up the next zoom meeting to finish discussing the DOY awards and any end of the year business.
Executive session was called at 2:57pm there was a 20-minute break during session.

The meeting wrapped up at 4:27p.m and everyone headed out.
Minutes respectively submitted by:

Jennifer Brooke Burlingame
ABC executive secretary

NEW DIRECTORS FOR 2025
East Coast- Darlene Dow
East Central- Jim Stevens
Central-Bruce Heiter
Midwest- Leslee Masolotte
West Coast-Steve Cosgriff

1st VP- Richard Beaver
3rd VP-Open
4th VP-Teresa Richmond
Treasurer-Tim Smith

Hall of Fame-People Lyle Johnson Mary Crawford

2024 ABC President, Joe Droel

It has been a very productive year. We have been updating outdated systems and are finding out how many areas are now being affected by this effort. I'm very proud of the teams we have put together to handle these upgrades. Although we have filled many positions there are still some we need to fill. The new website is up and running and in progress to finish up. The magazine is now going out to all Brittany field trial judges in digital format. We have signed a new contract with Garmin. As president these last two years I have felt so blessed with the number of great volunteers ABC has and it has been a pleasure to work with them.

Positions to fill. Please reach out to club members in your region that you feel have talents in these areas.

Finance MidWest
AKC Pointing Breed Parent Clubs Liaison
Donations
Breeders Education
National fundraising chair
Yearbook
Junior Handlers AKC
Webmaster
Long Range/Future Grounds Ex2,EC,W
Legal Advisor
AKC Breed Referrals

Positions filled. Please take the time to welcome them into their new positions.

Finance Chair: Doug Tighe
Book of the American Brittany: Dawn Droel
Policy Book: Shawn McCloud
National Grounds: Scott Johnson
Statistics: Harlene Hoyt-Johnson

2026 Nomination Committee
Chair: Darlene Dow
E: Darlene Dow
EC: Jim Stevens
C: Bruce Heiter
MW: Leslee Masolotte
W: Steve Cosgriff

Items for discussion with possible motions.

1. Blue Mountain Group's increase of $5.00 per year will take $20.00 of our $25.00 increase.

2. Raise membership dues.
3. How to offer a digital copy of the magazine to membership.
4. DNA for breed purity at ABC national events.
5. Storage Unit in Illinois.

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ABC HOF Dog:The Whiz Kid

//////////////////////

ABC HOF distinguished member: Dorothy Macdonald

Joe Droel
ABC President
jldeci96@gmail.com
651-260-3273

2025 ABC 1st Vice President, Richard Beaver
No report submitted

2025 ABC 2nd Vice President, Jacqui Campbell

This year has presented significant challenges in supporting our regional clubs as they work to retain existing members and grow their base. These challenges stem from a variety of factors, including:

- The launch of the new ABC website
- The transition of membership signups and renewals to an online process rather than through regional club secretaries
- The discontinuation of mailed postcards that many members still expect, replaced by email reminders
- Difficulties merging the new ABC website membership database with the old system into one unified, reliable database accessible to club secretaries, the magazine committee, myself, and others who rely on it for membership actions
- Changes in the management of the membership database and a misalignment between the Board of Directors (BOD) and ABC volunteers working to resolve related issues
- Limited visibility and inconsistent communication of updates, new procedures, and changes from the ABC Board to officers—resulting in delays in relaying important information to regional club secretaries and their members

Another prominent concern heard from many regional clubs is declining engagement among younger generations, new puppy buyers, and even existing members. Many no longer see the value in joining or remaining in a club for reasons such as:

- Lack of interest in current club activities
- Low engagement throughout the year compared to expectations
- Perceived loss of social connection in a hybrid (online and in-person) club environment

- Financial constraints, where a $50 membership fee is deprioritized against household needs
- A broader societal trend of declining participation in organized clubs and associations

Currently, more than 50% of our regional clubs fall into a danger zone with fewer than 10 members. Many have as few as 2–5 members, leaving them vulnerable if additional members leave and making recruitment difficult, especially when these clubs exist primarily to host specific events such as field trials or specialty shows. Even clubs with more than 10 members often rely on the same few active individuals, leading to volunteer fatigue and burnout.

These challenges are not unique to our ABC regional clubs—they mirror broader issues faced by all membership-based organizations, both within and outside the dog community, in the post-COVID era. While the list of issues is long, many can be solved if we work collaboratively to find solutions rather than operate in opposition, as has too often been the case this past year.

Looking ahead to 2026, if I am reappointed to the role of 2nd Vice President, I plan to implement several new communication strategies to better support our clubs:
- Quarterly regional Zoom brainstorm sessions for club secretaries and membership chairs to discuss successes, challenges, and ongoing needs
- Improved communication flow through regional directors, who will serve as the first point of contact for key announcements, supported by ready-to-send email templates to ensure secretaries can quickly and clearly inform their members
- Monthly membership newsletter summarizing key updates and highlights relevant to all clubs
- Regional club spotlights in the magazine to showcase innovative retention and recruitment efforts and inspire others through shared success stories

Respectfully,
Jacqui Campbell
2nd Vice President

2025 ABC 3rd Vice President, Joy Crisler

We started 2025 with finding a host for the Summer Specialty and had Hudson Valley Brittany Club become the host for our event in West Springfield Massachusetts. HVBC along with Central New England Brittany Club, Anthracite Brittany Club & Southern New England Brittany Club all hosted designated specialties to offer five days of specialties. The event was an overall success, and I thank all the people who worked on this event and all of the specialties.

Our National Show Committee for 2025 has the following members: Leslie Ann Stalker, Reva Pietrazk, Tony Morabito, Doug Tighe, Linda McCartney, Tim Smith, Elizabeth Smith, Rebecca Hulstein, Sara Taylor, Alex Findlay, Hailey Gould, Lilli Wert, Kim Brown, Abbey Engler, Julio Rodriguez, Karen Livingston, Helen Riggle, Nancy Hewitt, Sara Jacobs, Emily Fuzette.
We will again have an Independent Specialty with Sweepstakes this year on Wednesday November 19. Our committee voted with a full majority to move the banquet to Thursday evening following the Top 20 event. This year the Top 20 winner will be announced the same

evening as the event which will be very nice to have the judges in attendance. This will also assist in the breaking down of the show site and getting the equipment back to the storage locker. This will also give time to do a full inventory of items in storage locker as well.
We look forward to November and the upcoming events.

Joy Crisler
3rd Vice President
American Brittany Club

2025 ABC 4th Vice President, Teresa Richmond
No report submitted

2025 ABC Executive Secretary Report, Jennifer Brooke Burlingame

Another year has come and gone, while I feel that I am getting a better handle on this position. I definitely still could not do this without the help of those around me. The new website has been a great thing, but a curse at the same time. I am frustrated by the fact that so many people want instant results for things. We have been working on getting the basics of the website up and running. I can't thank Rip and Julio Rodriquez enough for all the work they have done. Julio has volunteered 100's of hours to this project. I don't think we would be nearly as far without all his hard work. Not to mention the patience he has for all the questions. Thank you Julio.
I still struggle to have people get their insurance in for their field trails. Please, Please, Please get your dates checked off and send in your insurance when you send in your Parent Club Approvals. I hate having to chase these forms down. It has been the same procedure for years it has not changed. Also please pay attention to your dates to meet the deadlines for both ABC and AKC to avoid late fees.

The other big change this year is the voting being moved online. We have been working on this for a while and it was a big change and a lot of work. Hopefully next year will go better, now that everything is entered into the program it should be better next year. The amount of money and time the club is saving makes a big difference. If you did not receive a ballot please check your information to make sure it is up to date.

Last but not least we have lots of people complain about how the club is, the only way to fix that is to volunteer. We have lots of positions and committees that can always use more help.

Here's to another year,

ABC Executive Secretary
J. Brooke Burlingame

2025 ABC Recording Secretary Report, Jacqui Campbell

We again have numerous missing reports for the 2025 agenda book even after numerous requests to committee chairs and directors. There needs to be a better way to get these reports submitted

in a timely manner so that book can be compiled and published for the membership's awareness before the board meeting, since multiple email requests are not working.

Additionally, this year, we have had a larger number than normal request for the large size bronze medallions for use in creating trophies. At this time, we do not have any of this left in our inventory and need to get a new batch ordered for fulfillment going forward.

2025 ABC Treasurer Report, Tim Simth

Conversion of our club's tax-exempt status from a 501c7 to a 501c3
During this year our club received a notice from the IRS that we would need to separate revenues between Member and Non-Member sources and pay unrelated business income taxes on the revenues from non-members. This highlights one of the issues related to our current tax 501c7 tax exempt status. I will present the reasons for changing to the traditional 501c3 tax exemption and the additional costs for remaining a 501c7.

Updating the Financial Planning Process and timing of budget approval
The current planning process does not allow for the planning of all revenues and expenses for the calendar year before events and expenditures begin. This makes recognition of structural financial issues more difficult to recognize and correct. This is especially worrisome in times of declining membership, declining entry fees and rising cost. I will present the arguments for this change and answer.

2025 ABC Membership Data Chair (TBD) Report- Submitted by Jacqui Campbell, currently helping with membership

The past year has brought major transitions to how ABC handles membership (new and renewals), reflecting the move toward modernized systems and digital communications. While progress has been made, several challenges have affected operations and member engagement.

Website Launch and Online Signup/Renewals: The launch of the new ABC website introduced technical and user challenges. Transitioning membership signups and renewals from the old website and local club secretaries to an online process required significant changes in processes and member adoption. Some members, especially long-time participants, have found the shift difficult.

Communication Transition: Replacing mailed renewal postcards with email reminders has reduced costs and increased efficiency but caused confusion among members who still expect physical notifications. This highlights the need for increased communication and transitional support during changes.

Database and Coordination Issues: Merging the new website's membership database with the legacy system has proven complex, resulting in data inconsistencies and limited access for club secretaries, the magazine committee, and administrators. Additionally, changes in database management created misalignment between the Board and ABC volunteers, slowing issue resolution and causing procedural uncertainty.

Next Steps

- We have already established a Task Force comprised of Linda MacCarney, Joe Droel, Rip Noel, Julio Rodrigues, Peggy Aguilar and Jacqui Campbell to work on identifying the areas that need to be addressed to support the different ways regional secretaries are handling memberships, communication between the BOD and regional secretaries, and combing the membership databases into one unified database that can be accessed by all that use it.
- Continue to engage technical support from Rip Noel to complete the full migration to a unified, accessible membership database.
- Looking into reinstating optional physical renewal reminders for members who prefer traditional communication.
- Provide a clear, ongoing communication plan that includes the regional directors to inform regional secretaries and all members of progress and upcoming changes

Despite these challenges, thanks to dedicated volunteer efforts we will continue to strengthen collaboration and communication with the ultimate goal of retaining and growing ABC membership as a whole.

2025 ABC Statistician Report- Harlene Hoyt **See Action Items 1-2, page 40**

ACTION ITEM 1: Agenda Items for Discussion/Changes:

- ABC Statistician's and Statistics Committee Duties – Page 171 of policy book. The following updates should be made:
    - #6: List of Qualifying Dogs for the National Open & Amateur All Age, the National Open & Amateur Gun Dog Championships and send to National Event Secretaries….
        - I am happy to do this as it is part of the statistician responsibilities moving forward. I've created a process of recording this information as I receive event reports and will provide the information to the National Secretaries, ABC website and ABC magazine. Due dates for publication may be established upon agreed time frame.
    - #7: The last sentence – I propose to say; The event results are due to the ABC Statistician postmarked or electronically submitted within 10 days from the end of the event.
    - #8: Late event reports within time frame specified by policy. The Penalty should be enforced as written in the policy.
    - #9: The Statistician will notify the Executive Secretary of payments in arrears in order that approvals for future events are withheld until paid. I suggest that this also be enforced as written in the policy.
    - #11 – Change to read: The Statistician will record and deposit all event fees to the ABC bank account. All Transactions will be reported to the Treasurer and Executive Secretary.

ACTION ITEM 2: Motion: I propose an increase in the monthly Stipend, due to the amount of time (hours) spent reviewing and verifying reports, internet usage and computer /printer

equipment maintenance. I am proposing to increase the stipend to $600.00 per month.

2024 Reports from Committees and Others:

2024 AKC Delegate Report, Terry Hilliard

I once again thank you for allowing me to represent the American Brittany Club as your Delegate. While there is often times that it is difficult to communicate with the President over the year, I have made the Delegate report available to the members by submitting it to the magazine for publishing.

AKC is changing and the biggest issue is with reduced revenue due to declining registrations, both dog and puppy and also the decreased entries at most all events. In the next issue of the ABC Magazine, I have listed decreased entries in Field Trials and Hunt Tests as well as conformation through July 2025. AKC has had to do some restructuring in an attempt to change the revenue balance for the AKC. PLEASE encourage your puppy people to register their dogs, or better yet, register the entire litter as the breeder.

AKC has started a new branding campaign, and you will see the branding in AKC TV and likely in the information that they disseminate the new brand is "Everything We Do, We Do For Dogs".

The time frame for Field Trial judges to complete the Darkness to Light program will end on September with no plans to extend the time frame. Each judge who has an email address has been contacted by the AKC with instructions on how to complete the instruction. If the course is not completed and passes by September, you will no longer be able to judge a field event, Field Trail or Hunt Test. The Field judges were the last group to be instructed in the course and timing of the completion. All other judges have had the same test and time frame to complete the course.

There will be more to come on the recent suggestion of Limited Registration dogs permitted to show in conformation. IF this passes, it could move on to the field as well.

I would be amiss if I did not include the new AKC Sportsmanship and Civility Code of Conduct. It has been distributed to all clubs and Delegates, and I will tell you that it will be strictly enforced at all events. We need to be kind to everyone but some do not know how to do that. Take your attitude off the grounds if you cannot be civil to the club, judges and fellow exhibitors or you will be brought up on charges with suspensions and fines if found guilty.

Again, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I'd be happy to listen to and help you solve problems or find a solution for you.

Terry Hilliard

2025 AKC Gazette Report, David Webb
No report submitted

2025 AKC Judges Education, Jessica Carlson

I attended the 2025 DJAA Advanced Sporting Institute in Houston in July and rather than the 12 people I was told had signed up, we had 20 attendees. I continue to encourage judges to attend the breeds' National Specialties for the best opportunity to see a large number and wide variety of the breed represented, as well as now having such small attendance at these events it gives us a much better opportunity to work with each individual. Unfortunately, whether due to time, finances or other reasons, most people seem to prefer the opportunities to get a bunch of breeds done at once in the same location. We don't have large Brittany entries at the shows these are held with, so I struggle to find enough suitable dogs (preferably not currently campaigning as specials) to have available for hands-on. My appreciation to the people who made their dogs available for this in Houston, including a couple who brought dogs that weren't being shown on the day.

I have not been able to get scheduling for the national specialty show in time to advertise this for judges who do want to attend that. We are given a day but no time, which makes it hard for people to make travel plans.

I have no action items at this time, other than to encourage clubs to host small judges groups when possible and please feel free to contact me for any questions or inquiries on judges education!

Jessica Carlson
jcalar@gmail.com

2025 AKC Legislative Liaison, Sportsmen's Alliance Liaison Report and National Animal Interest Liaison Report, Mary Jo Trimble

I have continued during the last several years to work with both the Illinois Federation for Outdoor Resources and Illinois Federation of Dog Clubs and as well as representing Field Trial Clubs of Illinois on the BOD of these organizations. The Dog Federation is affiliated with AKC, and we work with them on legislation both in Illinois and across the country. This year the IFOR Lobbyist has worked with the Dog Federation and AKC on legislation as well which has been a big help to me as I underwent 4 surgeries since January. IFOR also works with the Sportsmen's Alliance on Federal legislation for dogs. I plan to continue working with both groups as long as I can help and attend meetings in Springfield or by Zoom. Be looking for someone who can take over these jobs in the future as I have done it since the 1970s and would like to help someone learn the ropes.

I encourage the ABC BOD to continue to support both the Sportsmen's Alliance and the National Animal Interest Alliance who work for us on federal legislation. The import/export legislation has had attention from these groups this year.

Being an election year, it was a slower year than normal. However, it will certainly pick up in the future. Clubs need to start paying attention to the AKC legislative site for updates on the

bills in their states. If we don't, our sport, particularly field dog activities and hunting will become a thing of the past. We need more than a few staying on top of things. Be sure and thank those people who do care about the sport and contribute their efforts to protect it.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Jo Trimble

2025 Book of the American Brittany, Dawn Droel

I was asked to take this over from Jessica Carlson. She compiled the previous book edition 1990-2010. Jessica has been helpful in turning over any information she has from the previous version (which is limited due to her hard drives being destroyed). I'm hoping to have the book completed by next Summer 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dawn Droel

2025 Breeders Education, Dawn Droel **See Action Item 3, page 40**

ACTION ITEM 3: I was asked (and elected by the BOD) last November (2024) to be the ABC's Breeders Education Coordinator.

I worked with the new Webmaster to develop a page on the website for Breeders Education and started filling the page with information.

I have yet to receive any recognition from AKC as to my position. When I reached out to AKC they said they did not have my name listed, and they needed the ABC President to submit my position/name. Joe sent AKC an email to that affect, so I reached out to AKC again, at which time they said the ABC secretary needed to submit my position/name to AKC, which Brooke did. I have since learned that Terry Hilliard (our AKC delegate) submitted Robin Tomasi's name to AKC as Breeders Education Coordinator.

I am confused and would like clarification from the BOD.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dawn Droel

2025 Breed Standard, Mary Brown

WE, the ABC Standards Committee members would like to Remember and recognize our beloved Co-Chair, sage, Breed resource, Chris Ward Webber who died suddenly on She led the committee well until her untimely death in April 2025.

The Breed Standards Committee met intermittently starting in Jan, 2024 with Committee members from all 5 US regions. The Committee discussed several areas of potential Scrutiny, interest, concern, and with a possible need to consider for change of our Breed Standard. Two issues of particular interest emerged for further consideration.

1. Use of the" Ramp" Optional Status for judging the Brittany at AKC shows. Approval would allow the Breed Judge at a particular show to elect use of the ramp for judging purposes and would therefor include ramp use for Breed, Group, and BIS judging that day.
2. The second issue addressed is that the Tri color is allowed but not preferred. The suggestion to remove the "Not Preferred" is the issue. Do we want to keep the Not Preferred Statement or remove it?

The two issues above generated further discussion as well as Informal Surveys conducted by Committee members. Results were generally inconclusive across the country. Plans for the ABC membership poll was initiated with a questionnaire placed in October issue of the ABC magazine with results collected by Standards Committee members and reported to the ABC Board when available but in a timely manner. The Standards will continue to meet to the conclusion of these two issues.

Respectfully submitted by ABC Standards committee.
Mary Brown, Chairperson ABC Standards Committee
September 15, 2025

2025 Derby Invitational Report, Bob Rankin
No report submitted

2025 Dog of the Year, Linda McCartney

The ABC Dog of the Year Awards went through a revamp process since last year's annual meeting. All but two awards are now based on AKC standings and AKC top dog reports. Awards are no longer applied for other than those highlighted in red. Several have been recategorized as special recognition awards.

You do still have to be a current ABC member to qualify for ABC dog of the year awards!

The committee hopes you like all the changes (see item A, page 44 in Appendix) and I look forward to seeing you all in November!

Linda McCartney
ABC DOY

2025 Dual Dog of the Year Committee Report, Nancy Clendenen
No report submitted

2025 East Coast Director's Report, Darlene Dow **See Action Items 4 & 5, page 41**

ACTION ITEM 4: ABC breeder options for health checks –

The Board of Directors of the American Brittany Club, Inc recommends that the AKC use the following guidelines for the AKC online breeder classifieds and health checks.

The ABC recommends OFA or PennHip evaluation for hip dysplasia.

ACTION ITEM 5: The ABC would like breeders to consider options for Brittanys:
1. Eye exam by boarded ACVO Ophthalmologist each year from age 2-8 years of age
2. One of the following health exams submitted to OFA:
    a. Cardiac evaluation or
    b. Elbow dysplasia or
    c. Patellar luxation or
    d. Thyroid evaluation from an approved laboratory

American Brittany Club website –
www.theamericanbrittanyclub.org

2025 East Coast Director's Report, Linda McCartney **See Action Item 6, page 41**

ACTION ITEM 6: To make a change in policy to "Require ABC parent club approval for all ABC club designated concurrent and independent specialty shows" to begin on a "date to be determined" in 2026.

Rationale: By current policy all these event results and fees are supposed be sent to the ABC statistician. Designated specialty shows are currently exempt from fees if they don't wish to be published in the magazine.

Results are not being sent in to the statistician for events by all of the clubs that are holding these events. This makes the job difficult to not only track results but also the subsequent fees due to the ABC. By current ABC policy our field trials are required to do so, as should our specialty shows. (Of note: Most other breeds do require parent club approval for their clubs specialty show events.)

A Parent club approval process will help the statistician better keep track of results and fees. Those approved dates and results can be sent over to the magazine for publication in a timelier fashion. Approved events can be added to the specialty calendar currently being published in the magazine. This will also streamline this process for the ABC magazine as they are currently searching for the AKC Calendar themselves for these events.

With ABC parent club approval in place AKC will police the mileage and conflict requirements between events so there would be no need to have a dates coordinator.

A suggestion has been made to have a flat rate fee for designated specialty results. This fee also, would allow for results to be published in the ABC magazine. These clubs realize no real income from designated specialty events and in many times are held at a loss to the clubs. The all-breed club hosting these events for them to realize all income. Some do offer a nominal dollar per dog back to clubs. With declining numbers this is in most cases an inconsequential amount of money.

I have taken the liberty to attached (see items B in Appendix, page X) a suggested approval form that may be used for the approval process going forward.

This motion is supported by Harlene Johnson statistician, Colleen Walsh ABC Magazine Chair &Joy Crisler ABC 3rd VP

Linda McCartney
East Coast Director

2025 Field Trial Dates Committee Report, Steve Ralph
No report submitted

2025 ABC Finance Committee Report, Doug Tighe

I was appointed to the ABC Financial Committee Chair at the beginning of March. Our committee hit the ground running by establishing annual goals. Committee members include: myself, Joe Droel ABC President), Tim Smith Treasurer, Chuck Lawrence, Billy Jones, Mary Karbiner, Mike Magnuson, and Henry Wierzbicki. We have a great group who bring a lot to the table. We have had a total of 5 meetings from March to November.

Our accomplishments include:

- The IRS suggested that the ABC convert to a 501c3. We have reviewed research and have presented it to the ABC Board for review. It is our committee's recommendation to the ABC Board Members that we move forward with this.
- Prepared and presented event budgets to the ABC Board for their approval.
- We reviewed the results form the external audit report from Wieland Wallace, Inc. This committee has moved forward with implementing their recommendations.

This committee self-prepared and electronically filed federal tax form 990 (saving preparation fees). We encourage the ABC to collect all local club's Federal Identification Numbers, Name of Club Secretary and mailing addresses EVERY YEAR to attach to the 990 tax return.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas Tighe, ABC Financial Committee Chairman

2025 ABC Futurity Committee Report, Leslee Masolotte, Chair

The Host club for the Western Futurity Section was the Sahuaro Brittany Club. The show venue was January 10, 2025 at the Sonoita Vinyards winery in Sonoita, Arizona. The field events were on January 11, 2025 at Las Cienegas WMA, Empire Ranch, Sonoita Arizona. There were 4 All Age starters and 12 Gun Dog starters. There were 7 dogs and 7 bitches shown. The western income was $2380.00, expenses were $4052.72 showing a loss of $1672.72.

The Host club for the Central Futurity Section was the Iowa Brittany Club. The field events were on April 3, 2025 at the Bird Dog Ranch in Thayer, Iowa and the show was at the Union County Fairgrounds on April 4, 2025 with 10 dogs and 12 bitches shown. The Iowa Brittany Club also hosted their specialty show at the same venue. In the futurity field, there were 11 All Age starters and 16 Gun Dog starters. The Central income was $3036.30. The expenses were $3080.68 showing a loss of $44.38.

The Host Club for the Eastern Futurity Section was the Kentucky Brittany Club. The show was April 10, 2025, at the Harrisville, Pennsylvania Volunteer Fire Company building. There were 18 dogs and 15 bitches shown. The Kentucky Brittany Club also hosted a specialty show at the same venue. The futurity field events were at the Oak Ridge Pointing Dog Club on Friday, April 11, 2025, Harrisville, Pa. There were 11 All Age starters and 18 Gun Dog starters. The Eastern income was $3597.24, the expenses were $ 3072.56, showing a profit of $524.68.

2024/2026 Futurity with 47 litter nominations:

The California, San Diego and Northern California Brittany Clubs are joining to host the 2026 Western Futurity with the show on Thursday February 12, 2026 at the All About Dogs Training Center in Grass Valley, Ca. The Futurity field events will be on Friday February 13, 2026 at Jones Corral, Spenceville, California Wildlife Refuge.

The Anthracite Brittany Club will host the 2026 Eastern Show Futurity on Wednesday, April 15, 2026 and the Futurity field on Thursday, April 16-17, 2026 at the grounds of the English Setter Club of Medford, New Jersey.

The Minnesota Brittany Club will host the 2026 Central Futurity with the Futurity show on Thursday, April 30, 2026 and the Futurity field on Friday, May 1, 2026 at the Bird Dog Ranch, Thayer, Iowa.

The ABC Futurity Committee thanks the hardworking host club volunteers for each of the three futurity section events. We are successful because of all you do. Thank you to our futurity committee volunteers that are working nationally year round for our futurity events: Colleen Walsh for the outstanding ABC Magazine coverage of the

events and Darleen Dow for the Facebook coverage. Thank you to Sue Lehosky for her secretary, treasurer and bookkeeper tasks, Leslie Andreas for rewriting the futurity handbook, Diane Hedstrom for proofreading, Amanda McGavin for writing the Central Futurity report and proofreading, Jacqui Campbell for verifying eligibility, membership and assisting the host clubs in event premium design, Michelle Millette for proofreading and Joy Ory for proofreading and retyping results for magazine coverage. Please thank all these volunteers!

Purina Pro Plan has been our consistent sponsor for our futurity events nationwide. We are appreciative for all they do to support our organization and futurity activities.

Action Item 21: I make a motion that the Futurity secretary / treasurer and ABC treasurer consider and develop an online payment plan to allow credit card payments for futurity litter nominations and final forfeits.

Rationale: The USPS has consistently been slow or mailed items never received so that Futurity participants have been negatively impacted. Often the Canadian members are unable to mail from Canada to the USA. With today's technology, an online contract, online payment option to include a processing fee could be easily managed. Futurity payments are time sensitive, and an online option would be welcomed by the Futurity secretary and treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslee Masolotte, Chairman

2025 Hall of Fame (People) and (Dog) Committee, Joe Droel

One name for a person and one name for a dog has been submitted to the ABC Hall of Fame. Voting on these nominations will occur and be completed at the Board Meeting in November. The results will be announced by the President at the November 2025 meeting.

ABC HOF Distinguished Person: Dorothy Macdonald

ABC HOF Dog: The Whiz Kid

Please note that anyone wishing to nominate a person to the ABC Hall of Fame must submit that name and that person's qualifications to the President by April 1st of any year. There is a form located on the ABC website and a magazine ad is printed during the months of February and March of any year.

2025 Health and Genetics Committee, Margaret Horstmeyer DVM

1. Monthly contribution of health information/article to ABC magazine
2. Annual contribution to Canine Health Foundation for research support through ABC's Donor Advised Fund. See listing of contributions in January 2025 ABC magazine page 40.
3. ABC supported Dr. Margaret Horstmeyer's attendance at the 15th biannual 2025 AKC CHF National Parent Club Canine Health Conference. See ABC magazine for synopsis of research reports.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Horstmeyer DVM

2025 Long Range Planning Committee Report, Bob Rankin
No report submitted

2025 ABC Magazine Committee Report, Colleen Walsh, ABC Magazine Chair **See Action Item 7, page 41**

The *American Brittany Magazine* continues to be one of the club's most valued member benefits. Member feedback this year has been very positive, with recognition for the style, readability, and balance of content.

The groundwork laid by Sandy Malloy and her committee has been vital to the success this year, and the partnership with Bonnie Hill of Think Big Marketing has strengthened layout, production and advertisement. Her experience with other pointing dog magazines has provided an important perspective for the ABC. We are also still using the printing services of Modern Litho as well as the relationship that Sandy built with the printer.

Financial Snapshot (Jan–Aug 2025)
A detailed financial report covering January–August 2025 was presented to the Board at the September meeting. In summary:

- Total Advertising Revenue: $14,827
- Total Expenses: $51,417
- Net Cost per Issue: $4.16–$5.71
- Average Issue: ~1,000 copies, 44–48 pages

Content
We have also established a monthly feature calendar, which not only helps balance and plan content but also allows us to offer advertising specials throughout the year. This has created new opportunities to engage members and support advertisers while adding variety to each issue. The gallery style ads continue to bring in member support and we look forward to ending our year highlighting our dual champions.

We continue to try to stay strict to our 1st of the month deadline. This allows the Chair to transfer information to the proper place and our editing team to work on the proper layout. The magazine then goes through a tight turnaround proofing process by the Magazine Committee before it is sent to the printer.

While proofing is underway, the team is often already working on the content for the next month, and in some cases two months ahead, to help maintain consistency and ensure that upcoming issues are prepared. Timeliness has remained a priority, and while a few issues have encountered minor challenges, overall we are much closer to being on schedule compared to prior years. Many members have stepped up from different facets of the club to contribute, most notably with our Junior Showmanship issue and our Performance issue. These focused editions showcase the depth of talent and passion across our membership while helping the magazine reflect the full scope of the Brittany community. We are especially grateful to the Health Committee Chair, who has been so dependable in providing a monthly column. These articles consistently bring forward pertinent and timely information, adding real value for members.

We continue to work closely with Regional Clubs on result submissions. It is essential that clubs send typed results to the magazine email. To ensure accuracy and timeliness, we ask each Regional Club to designate a results contact and submit electronically at the same time they submit to the statistician (within two weeks of their event). We have been successful working with many clubs to make this happen and hope to continue to build this connection.
At this time, as space allows, we are also publishing photos submitted from winners of each stake (field) and conformation winners (BOB, BOW, BOS, WD, WB) to accompany results and make the content more engaging and readable for members. We try to be creative with page layout so that events are highlighted while still keeping within space restrictions.

This year, we also saw member inquiries about missed magazines. In most cases, these are tied to membership renewal lapses or outdated addresses. We also had a delivery problem with the January issue (that may be holiday related) and September issue (post office related). While frustrating for members, it is also encouraging to see how valued the magazine is as members are quick to reach out when they miss an issue, showing the publication's importance to our members.

Looking Ahead
The option for a digital magazine is now included on membership applications. Before moving forward, however, the club must determine the format, hosting platform, and delivery process to make this option functional. It is my recommendation that the digital edition remain independent of our current editorial contract. For example, the club should not rely on our editor's personal paid subscription to AnyFlip or similar platforms. The American Brittany Club should maintain its own digital hosting account so that access, ownership, and long-term management remain fully under club control. This should be treated as a priority so that members selecting digital access receive the same consistent and high-quality experience as the print edition - it is more than emailing a pdf file.

ACTION ITEM 7: Since the digital magazine option is already listed on membership applications, determine the format, hosting platform, and delivery process so it can be implemented effectively. Approve establishing an ABC-owned hosting platform/account for the digital edition (rather than using personal/editor subscriptions).

- Budget for digital platform costs beginning in 2026 to ensure long-term sustainability of the digital edition (e.g., AnyFlip, Issuu, or similar).
- Support continued emphasis on timely typed results submission from Regional Clubs.
- Update forms to clubs in packets and on the website.
- Continue working on membership/address coordination and delivery of member magazine labels.
- Explore solutions for membership/address coordination to reduce missed magazines

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2025 ABC Midwest Region Report, Shawn MacLeod, Director **See Action Items 8 – 13, pages 42-43**

This past year has given me the opportunity to listen closely to the membership of the Midwest region and reflect on the future direction of the American Brittany Club. The voices I've heard

consistently return to three central themes: the need for stronger communication, a demand for complete transparency in the Board's work, and a desire to ensure that our club bridges—not widens—the generational divide as we seek to grow.

The Midwest membership has expressed concern that communication from the ABC to its members is not consistent, timely, or easily accessible. In particular, issues have been raised regarding the handling of electronic voting, uncertainty around membership status, and differences in how regional clubs manage renewals for those who are not computer-savvy or lack reliable internet access. These challenges highlight the importance of maintaining a process that is inclusive of all members, regardless of age or technical ability.

Members have also pointed to the ongoing website transition as an area where greater stakeholder input is needed. Before this project is finalized, it is critical that the voices of our membership be actively solicited, not only considered. The website is a public-facing tool that should serve as a unifying resource for the Brittany community, and members must see their input reflected in its final form.

Transparency is another recurring theme. In addition to timely reporting of Board actions, the membership would like to see special committees created by the Board or President publish their findings in the magazine so that decisions can be clearly tied back to the best interests of the club. Concerns have also been raised about the financial impact of both the website development and magazine publication—perceived as two of the largest cost drivers for the ABC. Members are asking for more clarity and accountability in how these investments are managed.

That said, there has also been much to celebrate this past year. The 2024 ABC Nationals were a resounding success across show and field. The independent specialty added to the Nationals calendar was well-received, with many members praising the work of Midwest member and 3rd VP, Joy Crisler, and her committee. Members also commended the ABC National grounds in Booneville, AR, and expressed appreciation for Midwest member and 1st VP, Richard Beaver, whose team delivered a satisfying All Age Championship despite challenging entry numbers. Additionally, the efforts of the magazine committee to eliminate the backlog of overdue field trial results while adding features to broaden representation across the Brittany community have not gone unnoticed or unappreciated.

Finally, a deeply concerning issue raised by members is the increasing tendency to attack or question the breeding of Brittanys competing in the field. This type of behavior is divisive, harmful, and counterproductive to the goals of the ABC. Our focus should be on bringing members together in shared commitment to the breed, not creating barriers through suspicion and exclusion.

The ABC did not arrive at its current challenges overnight, and it will not solve them overnight. But the work of the Board, guided by the voices of its membership, must remain focused on honest communication, transparent accountability, and building a culture that values both tradition and innovation. Only by working together can we secure a strong future for our club and the Brittany breed.

Follow-up on Board Action Item: By-Laws Process

At the last Board meeting, I was tasked with reviewing the process for opening and amending the By-Laws of the American Brittany Club.
According to the ABC Policy Book (Revised 2024), amendments to the By-Laws may be initiated in two ways:

- **By the Board of Directors** – The Board may authorize an amendment, or
- **By petition of the membership** – A petition signed by at least 10% of Active Members in good standing (with no more than 50% of signers from the same region) may authorize an amendment.

Once authorized, the Executive Secretary is responsible for mailing the proposed amendment and ballot to all Active Members eligible to vote. Members must return ballots by the specified deadline, which must be at least 30 days after mailing. Only "yes" or "no" votes are counted. For an amendment to pass, at least two-thirds (2/3) of returned ballots must be affirmative. If approved, the amendment takes effect immediately. All procedures follow *Robert's Rules of Order* unless inconsistent with the By-Laws.

Summary: By-Laws may only be amended by referendum vote of the Active Membership, either initiated by the Board or by member petition, and require a two-thirds favorable vote of ballots returned to pass.

Action Item 8: Appointment of Committee to Review Magazine Costs
Proposed Motion: This proposal is to request that the President appoint a committee to conduct a detailed review of the costs associated with the ABC magazine. The goal of the committee shall be to develop recommendations that ensure the average cost of printing and mailing the magazine per member does not exceed the annual cost of membership dues. In doing so, the committee's review should also prioritize preserving or lowering current membership dues.

The committee's review should include consideration of:
• Offering the magazine in digital format to all members at no additional cost.
• Providing a printed magazine as a separate, optional subscription available for an additional fee.
• Ensuring that all current members are grandfathered into their existing magazine subscription until their next membership renewal.

The findings and recommendations of the committee shall be published in the ABC magazine for transparency and membership awareness.

Rationale: Preliminary analysis suggests that current magazine costs exceed the dues collected from individual members. Since the magazine represents one of the largest recurring expenses of the club, this imbalance raises concerns about long-term sustainability. A focused review is necessary to identify cost-effective models that balance financial responsibility with continued member value, while also maintaining or improving affordability of membership.

Action Item 9: Committee to Investigate Amendments for Communication and Term Limits

Proposed Motion: This proposal is to request that the President appoint a committee to investigate amending the By-Laws of the ABC. The committee shall examine the addition of a new **Article V, Section 10: Communication**, which would require each Director to provide **quarterly updates** to their regional membership on the affairs and business of the ABC. This amendment is intended to enhance transparency, ensure members are better informed, and create clear pathways for membership input to their Board representatives.
In addition, the committee shall review an amendment to **Article V, Section 4: Term of Office** to establish term limits. Specifically, no Director shall serve more than **three (3) consecutive terms**.

The committee shall present its recommendations to the Board, and findings shall be published in the ABC magazine for membership awareness.

Rationale:

1. **Communication and Transparency**: Adding Section 10 under Article V ensures that communication is a defined duty of Directors. Quarterly updates will strengthen the relationship between leadership and membership, ensure members are well-informed, and provide greater opportunity for feedback.
2. **Term Limits**: Implementing a three-term limit mitigates complacency, brings fresh perspectives, and lowers barriers of entry for future leaders. It ensures that experienced Directors can continue to contribute while making room for the next generation of members to actively participate in governance.

Action Item 10: Appointment of Committee to Review and Improve Website Usability

Proposed Motion: This proposal is to request that the President appoint a committee to develop recommendations for improving the usability and effectiveness of the ABC website. The committee shall include professional handlers from both the **field** and **show** communities, and also members representing a range of **backgrounds and generations** within the ABC membership.

The purpose of this committee is to ensure that the website serves as an effective communication and information hub for all members. To date, much of the website has been developed with minimal to no input from the membership at large, and concerns have been raised about its usability. The committee's review and recommendations should be completed and presented before the website design is finalized to ensure necessary updates are incorporated. The committee's **findings and recommendations shall be published in the ABC magazine** for transparency and to keep the membership fully informed.

Rationale: The website is a critical tool for communication, transparency, and membership engagement. Concerns expressed in member feedback and regional reports highlight that the current design has limited usability and effectiveness. Without structured member input—particularly from those who use the site most heavily such as professional handlers—the risk is that the site will not adequately meet the needs of the membership. By involving a diverse committee early in the process, the ABC can ensure that the website is member-driven, user-friendly, and aligned with the club's long-term communication and growth goals. Publishing the

committee's work in the magazine further reinforces transparency and gives all members an opportunity to review and provide feedback.

Action Item 11: Amendment to Classics Policy to Permit Released Birds

Current Policy (Classics – Birds): The ABC shall be assured that there are sufficient numbers of native birds of the named species on the grounds to allow for proper running of the continuous courses. Native birds may, however, be supplemented with released birds in such an approved manner as to reasonably assure birds on every course and in as natural a condition as possible. Should the named bird population be too low to allow proper judging a second series with released birds, or on a "marked" native bird, if this is possible, may be run at the discretion of the judges.

Proposed Policy (Classics – Birds): The ABC shall be assured that there are sufficient numbers of native birds of the named species on the grounds to allow for proper running of the continuous courses. While every effort should be made to host Classics/Championships on grounds where the named gamebird is native, **Regional Clubs may apply to host a Classic/Championship using released birds when suitable grounds with sufficient native populations are not available.** Applications must document the bird source, release method, and grounds preparation to ensure fairness, quality, and the prestige of a national event. Should the named bird population be too low to allow proper judging, a second series with released birds, or on a "marked" native bird, if this is possible, may be run at the discretion of the judges.

Rationale: The continuity of Classics, particularly the Chukar Classic, is at risk due to limited access to grounds with adequate native bird populations. Allowing clubs to apply to host Classics with released birds ensures the preservation of these historic stakes, provides flexibility to rotate them into new regions, and may renew member interest and participation. This amendment balances the long-standing tradition of running on native gamebirds with the practical need to safeguard the sustainability and national prestige of ABC Classics.

Action Item 12: Independent Review of the 2025 Board of Directors Election

Proposed Motion: This proposal is to request the appointment of an Independent Election Review Committee to examine the conduct of the 2025 ABC Board of Directors election. The committee shall be comprised of former ABC Officers and former Board members who are no longer active Directors, ensuring impartiality.

The purpose of this committee will be to:

1. Confirm that the election process was conducted in accordance with Article VIII, Sections 1 and 2 of the By-Laws regarding the Committee on Nominations and ballot preparation.
2. Specifically review whether the process was followed with respect to ensuring at least two (2) nominees per region on the ballot.
3. Provide recommendations for safeguarding the integrity of future elections, including policies to address situations where fewer than two nominees are presented in a region.

4. Report findings and recommendations to the Board of Directors, with the final report to be published in the ABC magazine for transparency and membership confidence.

Rationale: Concerns have been raised by members regarding the 2025 Board of Directors election, where the East and East Central regions each had only one nominee on the ballot. Article VIII, Section 2, explicitly requires that each Regional ballot contain at least two nominees whenever possible. Failure to adhere to this requirement fosters perceptions of reduced transparency and raises questions about the integrity of the election process. An independent review will provide accountability, restore confidence, and produce recommendations that strengthen future elections while ensuring compliance with the Policy Book.

Action Item 13: Committee on Membership Growth and Retention

Proposed Motion: This proposal is to request that the President appoint a Committee on Membership Growth and Retention to investigate the barriers to attracting and retaining members of the American Brittany Club. The committee shall be comprised of members representing all regions, multiple generations, and diverse backgrounds, and shall also include former ABC volunteers, officers, and Board members to ensure institutional knowledge and practical experience are included in the process.

The committee's responsibilities will include:

1. Investigating barriers that are limiting membership growth and retention at both the regional and national levels.
2. Gathering feedback from members and former members to identify areas of concern, unmet needs, and opportunities for improvement.
3. Developing actionable recommendations to strengthen recruitment, retention, and overall member engagement.
4. Preparing a comprehensive report of findings and recommendations to be submitted to the Board of Directors and published in the ABC magazine for transparency and member awareness.

I, Shawn Macleod, Midwest Director, respectfully nominate myself to serve as Chair of this committee.

Rationale: Membership growth and retention are fundamental to the long-term health of the American Brittany Club. Reports and member feedback, including concerns raised in regional letters, indicate that barriers exist which discourage new member recruitment and lead to attrition among existing members. By appointing a committee with diverse representations across regions, generations, and backgrounds, the ABC can ensure its recommendations are well-informed and practical. Involving former officers, Board members, and volunteers will further ground the work in the realities of past governance and lessons learned. A clear, published report of findings and recommendations will demonstrate transparency, accountability, and a commitment to building a stronger, more sustainable membership base.

Respectfully submitted,
Shawn R Macleod
Midwest Region Director
American Brittany Club

2025 ABC Midwest Region Report, Leslee Masolotte,, Director **See Action Items 14 – 19 & 21, pages 43-44**

My goal is to improve communications with all the Brittany clubs and their members. Trying to be alert to the concerns of the 20 Brittany clubs in the Midwest is my duty. I have called and emailed many, and the question to me is often "why does the ABC not share more news from the national level discussion"? How can we be more transparent when that word is frequently heard?

A major task has been the building and launching of a new official website following the retirement of Steve Ralph. We are thankful for his years of service as our webmaster and Steve worked diligently to help with the transition. The website was a source of history. We are now being rebuilding and with new club history, we are adding new information. Thank you to the website committee and Julie Rodriguez for working to merge our old and new membership database. I know many members have questions about membership status.

The use of electronic balloting was an important launch with the ever-mounting costs of printing and mailing. A paper ballot is still available to those who request. We are aware that many of our members do not have constant computer access that is commonplace for our younger members. We are learning from the younger generation in new ways to communicate. Yes, we want to bridge that generational gap. We have a website committee that is working diligently to update email and mailing addresses for all members. Social media is often the only manner in which some members communicate with other members. I read many posts and am dismayed that some choose to message with negativity on social media. I am hoping that members contact me personally. I can then better explain some decisions that are necessary to be made in our leadership. My email and phone is always available and I enjoy an opportunity to share ideas as well as concerns. We need more ideas! We are also burdened with reducing the costs of printing and mailing our official magazine. Colleen Walsh and her committee have done an outstanding job of upgrading the printing and sharing content that is relative to members.

A major concern is the diminishing numbers of field and show entries in our events that do not reflect the number of Brittany litters still being produced and registered. We understand that event participation is not for every owner, but we look for ways to enable owners to enjoy their pets. When I see Brittany owners on various field Facebook pages I reach out to the owners with information about our organization.

ACTION ITEM 14 – reevaluate the qualification standards for the National Field Championships by the field trial committee.

Rationale: more efforts to encourage and increase entry numbers.

ACTION ITEM 15 – discuss the issue of implementing the ramp with our breed standard committee.

Rationale: town hall discussion from 2024 NSS has not been resolved.

ACTION ITEM 16 – a Kansas club member has asked about the funding and function of the Young Sportsman Scholarship Fund.

Rationale – I request the committee to respond to requests and I will supply the name of an interested party in applying for a scholarship.

ACTION ITEM 17 – establish a committee to maintain a list of our Brittany members who have recently passed away.

Rationale - Ray Trimble, Lyle Johnson, Dr John Webb, Christine Ward-Weber. Dave LaChance, Janet Berneathy, Pam Clark Baird and there may be others. I would like to have a moment of silence during our events and possibly a corner of the show building where photos and obituaries can be displayed.

I am making a motion to form such an honor committee.

ACTION ITEM 18 – I encourage discussion with the field trial date committee to carefully evaluate how extending dates are conflicting with attendance at trials in neighboring states. With the understanding that clustering field trials and adding additional Championships is extending the time that attendees are in one field trial location, which then reduces the expenses of traveling and the time to change locations. However, the impact on other field trials has significantly reduced field entries by overlapping into other club field trial dates. With the shrinking of volunteer work force in smaller club field trials, many clubs may not have the ability to remain as active clubs, when their volunteers want to participate and compete at a neighboring championship. Additionally, the number of dog entries continues to diminish at the smaller field trials.

Rationale- My discussion is not to discourage implementing more Championship field stakes, I am encouraging the field trial date committee to take a closer look at how adding dates can impact neighboring states. On a similar note, an application was submitted for a Chukar Classic to be hosted in Oklahoma, and the host club was not granted permission. The application process should be discussed and updated. We only have so many days on the calendar, and we must make the best use of those dates.

Action Item 19: I make a motion that the field trial committee be invited to a zoom meeting to address scheduling issues.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslee Masolotte, Midwest Director
303-791-1813 landline or 303-868-9605 cell/text
leslee@windtuckfarm.com

2025 Nominating Committee Report, Robin Tomasi, Chair

Director Candidates:

- East Coast Candidates – Linda McCartney (incumbent)
- East Central Candidates – Paul Renius
- Central Candidates – Burton Wice (incumbent) & Ed Janulis
- Midwest Candidates – John A. Perry & Niclaus "Nic" Taulai
- West Coast Candidates – Helen Riggle (incumbent) & Bob West

Officer positions to be appointed by BOD:

- 1st VP
- 2nd VP

2025 Non-Field Performance Committee, Cindy Miller

The Non-Field Performance Committee thanks the Magazine Committee and the beautiful layout of the monthly magazine. With the new committee, editor and publisher the quality of the magazine is superb. The May 2025 (Agility) and September 2025 (other non field performance events) were outstanding. I received lovely emails from the non-field performance exhibitors thanking the magazine for dedicating pages to events that they participate in. Thank you to the Magazine Committee and Colleen Walsh on a job well done!

AKC Statistics published for 2024 indicates that Brittany owners love competing in non-field events with their dogs!!! Percentages stated are comparing number of titles earned in 2024 to 2023. These events include agility (+2%), obedience (+2%), rally (+15%), dock-diving (+18%), trick dog (-1%), barn hunt (-41%), scent work (-12%), coursing (+50%) and Fast Cat (-27%). Agility exhibitors continue to earn the most titles, with a total of 410 agility titles awarded in 2024. One dog achieved the top agility title in 2024 – Agility Grand Champion.
Obedience had 42 titles awarded. There were three OTCH (Obedience Trial Champion) earned last year. Rally had 98 titles awarded, including 4 RACH (Rally Champions). 13 titles in dock diving; 94 titles in Trick dog; barn hunt had 10 titles awarded; Scent work had 190 new titles; coursing ability had 12 new titles and fast cat had 86 titles awarded, including 29 Brittanys obtaining the highest award offered in fast cat (FCAT). Four Brittanys obtained the Farm Dog Certified title.

Eight Brittanys passed the Temperament Test; Three Brittanys earned their Therapy Dog title; and 110 Brittanys obtained a Canine Good Citizen title.

AKC offered a new titling program this year. Fetch is a pass-fail test with four levels assessing the ability of the dog to retrieve. In the higher levels, the dog must respond correctly to signals and there is a memory component because a bumper/ ball is dropped behind a blind. We had 16 Brittanys earn a Fetch title.

There are two clubs, Northern Virginia Brittany Club and Susquehanna Brittany Club, that have continued to have trials using ABC licenses to raise funds for obedience/rally/agility Nationals in Arkansas. We are grateful that these clubs support our exhibitors so that we can have these events at our Nationals.

The owners of these companion/non-field performance Brittanys want to thank the American Brittany Club for their support in promoting all events.

I have enjoyed my time serving the American Brittany Club as the chair of this committee, but it is time for someone new to be named to this position and continue to support all of the Brittany non-field performance exhibitors and their best friends. I will be stepping down at the end of 2025. I will work with whoever the President/Board appoints to this position.

Submitted
Cindy Miller

2025 Policy Book Committee, Shawn Macleod

Overview
This is my first year serving as Chair of the Policy Book Committee. I come into the role with the clear understanding that our Policy Book is out of date and needs to be modernized. I accept that challenge and look forward to working with the Policy Book Committee, the Board, and all other committees to bring the document current and ensure it serves as a strong foundation for our club's governance.

The Policy Book Committee is charged with ensuring that the American Brittany Club (ABC) Policy Book accurately reflects Board-authorized actions, aligns with current club operations, and serves as a clear and authoritative reference for our membership, committees, and leadership. A core focus of our work going forward is to update the Policy Book in a way that not only reflects how the club operates today but also fosters transparency and strengthens communication between committees, the Board, and our membership.

2025 Committee Activities
- During the past year, the committee has:
- Reviewed the Policy Book for outdated or conflicting provisions.
- Identified areas where Board-authorized actions were not yet reflected.
- Outlined a structured process to engage committee chairs and officers in reviewing and updating their applicable sections.
- Prioritized the need for clarity, transparency, and better communication in policy documentation.
- Established a timeline leading into the 2025 Annual Board Meeting and Nationals to begin compiling redlines and input.

Update Process
- To bring the Policy Book current and increase its value as a governance tool, the committee has adopted a three-part approach:

- Committee Review & Delegation
- Each committee chair or officer will review their section (or assign a delegate).
- Redlines and recommended changes will be submitted to the Policy Book Chair for compilation.
- This process encourages open communication between committees and the Policy Book Committee to ensure accuracy.

Minutes Audit
- A Policy Book Committee volunteer will cross-reference Board meeting minutes to ensure all authorized motions and decisions are reflected.
- This step increases transparency by aligning the Policy Book with documented Board actions.
- Gap & Conflict Identification
- Volunteers will identify inconsistencies, outdated provisions, or policy gaps requiring Board attention.
- Bringing these issues forward enhances visibility and ensures thoughtful, well-communicated decisions.
- Timeline
- November 16, 2025 – Begin compiling inputs the week prior to Nationals and the Annual Board Meeting.
- November 23, 2025 – Provide an updated progress report to the Board, including early findings, barriers, and challenges.
- Nationals Week (Nov 2025) – Available to meet in person or virtually with committee chairs or delegates to review draft redlines and issues, promoting direct communication.
- Early 2026 (TBD) – Compile and present all proposed changes for Board consideration, with the intent of targeting a Board Meeting (tentatively February 2026) to review and incorporate updates into the Policy Book.

By-Laws vs. Policy Updates
It is important to note the distinction between policy updates and bylaw amendments:
Policy Book updates – Operational rules; may be revised through Board approval and incorporated under Robert's Rules.

Bylaw amendments – Hard rules; require approval of the Active Membership through mailed ballot and passage by a 2/3 majority of ballots returned.

Because the bylaw amendment process is significantly more complex, the committee will compile all potential bylaw amendments together for future presentation to the membership. Doing this in one package will provide clearer communication and greater transparency around the changes being considered.

Next Steps
- Collect and compile committee and officer input.
- Ensure all BOD-approved actions are reflected in the Policy Book.
- Prepare a comprehensive package of proposed revisions, including both operational updates and candidate bylaw amendments.

- Return to the Board in early 2026 with recommendations and next steps for formal adoption.

Closing
As a new chair, I recognize both the importance and the urgency of this work. I am committed to leading this process in a way that promotes modernization, transparency, and communication across the ABC. I look forward to working closely with the Policy Book Committee, the Board, and our committees to deliver a Policy Book that is accurate, current, and valuable for the governance of our club.

Respectfully submitted,
Shawn R Macleod
Policy Book Chair
American Brittany Club

2025 Registry of Merit Committee, Colleen Walsh

The Registry of Merit (ROM) program continues to recognize sires and dams whose progeny have earned AKC titles in conformation, field, hunt tests, obedience, agility, or rally. Fees remain $10 for members, $35 for non-members. In 2025, a PayPal payment link was added to make submitting fees more convenient for applicants.

Since the last Agenda Book report, the Registry of Merit program has continued to grow. Over the past year, six new recipients have been added to the program, recognizing the ongoing contributions of outstanding sires and dams to the Brittany breed. With recent publication in The American Brittany magazine, we have also seen increased interest, as members have reached out seeking more information about the ROM process and eligibility.

Looking ahead, the committee will focus on reformatting and updating the ROM section of the American Brittany Club website. These improvements will enhance usability, provide clearer information for members and applicants, and ensure that the program's history and standards are preserved and accessible. In 2026, we also hope to review the ROM point schedule and update it if needed to reflect new AKC titles that have become available. The Registry of Merit supports the American Brittany Club's mission by promoting the advancement of the breed, recognizing excellence in conformation and performance, and encouraging responsible breeding practices that contribute to the Brittany's future. We look forward to continued participation and recognition in the year ahead.

Summary
2024 - 2025 - 6 new recipients of the ROM
2025 - Added PayPal payment option for ROM application fees.
2026 - Reformat and update the ROM section of the ABC website.
2026 - Review and update the ROM point schedule to reflect new AKC titles.

Thanks,
Colleen Walsh
ABC Rom Chair

2025 Trophy (Field) Committee, Linda Thomas

For many reasons, people inside and outside of the ABC believe that since our National Field events do not occur until late fall it is not a priority to complete requests for component parts/support in a timely manner. The process of creating our National Field Trophies starts in late January of each year due to the long lead times on several of the component parts. This year, due to multiple delays from our internal and external suppliers the last trophies will not be completed until the end of September, adding a full month or more to the process. Every part of the process saw delays causing the need for additional time and attention to coordinate each task, increasing both labor and production costs. While we have little control over external suppliers, we can control our own actions and the internal support from the ABC. I ask that in the future we help each other to complete tasks in a more efficient and timely manner.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Thoma

2025 Social Media (Facebook) Committee Report, Darlene Dow

With a new/renewal of committee members the ABC Facebook page is being managed effectively. Messages are responded to in a timely manner. Everyone chips in posting content and responding to questions. Each committee member has a focus on what they post. I can't thank them enough for their contributions.

When the Facebook page was first approved by the BOD, it was intended that the page be informational about ABC events and non-confrontational. It was not intended to be a page for discussions. That focus continues to this day. Of late, given the onslaught of changes within the ABC there has been notifications to the membership. Unfortunately, that precipitated some members to feel this was the venue to disparage against the club, its officers and the BOD. Given that there is over 8,000 people who follow the page it is not helpful or encouraging for these potential members to join. What needs to be figured out is how to convert those people into becoming members of the ABC.

Darlene Dow
Facebook Chair

2025 Versatile Dog Committee Report, Jacqui Campbell

There were 9 Versatile Dog titles awarded, and 5 Versatile Dog Excellent titles awarded. The ABC website page has been updated to ensure the new application and information is correct. Additional promotion/visibility of the award and how to apply in the magazine, club website, and our social media channels would be helpful to encourage more to apply for these titles.

The Versatile Dog (VD/VDX) program continues to recognize those Brittanys that have earned AKC titles in conformation, field, hunt tests, obedience, agility, rally, or Fast Cat.

Over the past year, eight new recipients have received their Versatile Dog title and 3 have received their Versatile Dog Excellent title. With recent publication in The American Brittany magazine, we have also seen increased interest, as members have sent in applications for their titles.

Looking ahead, there will be a focus on reformatting and updating the VD section of the American Brittany Club website. These improvements will enhance visibility, provide clearer information for members and applicants, and ensure that the program's qualification standards are preserved and accessible. In 2026, we also hope to review the VD title as currently it is an American Brittany Club title, not recognized by AKC, and see if changes can be made so that those who earn the tile can have it reflected on their pedigrees. look forward to continued participation and the ability to award more tiles in the year ahead.

2025 West Coast Director's Report, Steve Cosgriff, **See Action Item 20, page 44**

ACTION ITEM 20: Motion submitted by Steve Cosgriff to review and suggest potential changes to the qualification requirements for the National Open and Amateur All Age stakes.

Current Requirements By Other Breeds:

Weimaraner
Open to any Weimaraner which, at the time entries close for this stake, is a Field Champion or an Amateur Field Champion, or has placed first, second, third or fourth in any AKC broke dog stake such as an Open or Amateur All Age stake or an Open or Amateur Gun Dog stake.

At 2024 AKC gun dog nationals, the qualifications were an FC, AFC, or a dog with a placement with at least 13 dogs. The changes mimic those rules.

GWP
For the GWP National Grand Open Championship and National Amateur Championship Stakes open to any GWP that, prior to the running, has placed in any Open Gun Dog, Amateur Gun Dog, Open All Age or Amateur All Age Stake at an AKC licensed or member field trial.

GSP
For the GSPs, they require a placement in any two (2) point or greater Amateur or Amateur Limited, All Age, Open or Open Limited Gun Dog stake or is currently a Field Champion or Amateur Field Champion of record in the United States or Canada.

Pointer Nationals at Ames
Any dog with a first-place finish in any qualifying event in its lifetime is qualified for the 2025 National Championship. Any dog with two placements in any of the qualifying events in its lifetime is qualified for the 2025 National Championship.

Current Qualifications for National Amateur All Age Stake

1. Open to any Brittany six (6) months of age or over which in any preceding year placed first in the National Amateur All Age Championship for Brittanys or ;
2. which in the preceding year placed second, third or fourth in the National Amateur All Age Championship for Brittanys, or;
3. which during the period from previous year's close of entries and the close of entries for the stake in the current year has placed in an Amateur All Age or Amateur Limited All Age stake or placed in an All Age or Limited All Age Stake, when handled by an Amateur, in the following (or more) dogs started: 1st place with 13 starters, 2nd place with 15 starters, 3rd place with 17 starters, or 4th place with 20 starters, or;
4. has placed in any hour All Age or Limited All Age Stake in an AKC Licensed trial held by a Brittany Club and handled by an Amateur in which 13 or more dogs started, or;
5. has qualified for the current year National Open All Age Championship for Brittanys when handled by an Amateur, or;
6. A dog winning first place in the National Open All Age Championship when handled by an Amateur will also be qualified for life in the National Amateur All Age Championship.
7. or has qualified in a preceding year and during the period from the previous year's close of entries to the current year closing of entries has a placement in an All Age or Limited All Age Stake when handled by an Amateur in a 13 or more dog stake in an AKC licensed trial held by a Brittany Club.
8. All dogs entered in the ABC National Championships must have a DNA profile, either permanent or temporary, on record with the AKC or Field Dog Stud Book. The DNA number must be included on all entry forms. All placed dogs shall be required to have DNA on file with Field Dog Stud Book for those Championship placements to be recorded in the Field Dog stud Book.

Change to Qualifications for National Amateur All Age Stake
1. Open to any Brittany six (6) months of age or over;
2. A dog winning first place in the National Open All Age Championship when handled by an Amateur will be qualified for life in the National Amateur All Age Championship, or;
3. A dog winning first place in the National Amateur All Age Championship will be qualified for life in the National Amateur All Age Championship, or;
4. A dog that has earned the title of Amateur Field Champion, or;
5. A dog that has earned the title of Field Champion, or;
6. During the period from previous year's close of entries and the close of entries for the stake in the current year, has placed in an Open, Amateur, Limited, or Grand Limited All Age stake with 13 or more dogs, when handled by an Amateur, at an AKC Licensed trial held by a Brittany Club.
7. All dogs entered in the ABC National Championships must have a DNA profile, either permanent or temporary, on record with the AKC, per the current ABC standards. The DNA number must be included on all entry forms.
8. Entries will be limited to the number of dogs that can be run in the days allotted for the event.

Current Qualifications for National Open All Age Stake
1. Open to any Brittany six (six) months of age or over which in any preceding year, placed first in the National Open All Age Championship for Brittanys, or;

2. which in the preceding year placed second, third or fourth in the National Open All Age Championship for Brittanys, or;
3. which during the period from the previous year's close of entries to the current year's closing of entries has placed in an Open All Age or Open Limited All Age Stake of 30 minutes in an AKC Licensed trial held by a Brittany Club in which the following (or more) dogs started: 1st place with 13 starters 2nd place with 15 starters, 3rd place with 17 starters or 4th pace with 20 starters, or;
4. has placed in an Open All Age or Open Limited All Age Stake of one hour or more in an AKC Licensed trial held by a Brittany Club in which 13 or more dogs started.
5. or has qualified in a preceding year and during the period from the previous years close of entries to the current year closing of entries has a placement in an Open or Open Limited All Age Stake with 13 or more dogs at an AKC licensed trial held by a Brittany Club.
6. All dogs entered in the ABC National Championships must have a DNA profile, either permanent or temporary, on record with the AKC or Field Dog Stud Book. The DNA number must be included on all entry forms. All placed dogs shall be required to have DNA on file with Field Dog Stud Book for those Championship placements to be recorded in the Field Dog Stud Book.

Change - Qualifications for National Open All Age Stake
1. Open to any Brittany six (6) months of age or over;
2. A dog winning first place in the National Open All Age Championship will be qualified for life for the National Open All Age Championship, or;
3. A dog that has earned the title of Amateur Field Champion, or;
4. A dog that has earned the title of Field Champion, or;
5. During the period from previous year's close of entries and the close of entries for the stake in the current year, has placed in an Open, Amateur, Limited, or Grand Limited All Age stake, with 13 or more dogs, at an AKC Licensed trial held by a Brittany Club.
6. All dogs entered in the ABC National Championships must have a DNA profile, either permanent or temporary, on record with the AKC, per the current ABC standards. The DNA number must be included on all entry forms.
7. Entries will be limited to the number of dogs that can be run in the days allotted for the event.

2025 Yearbook Committee, Jessica Carlson/Aziliz Martinez
No report submitted

	2025 ACTION ITEM LIST-Listed in order received		
Action Item	Subject	Originator	Page
1	ABC Statistician's and Statistics Committee Duties in Policy Book Update	Harlene Hoyt	14
2	ABC Statistician Monthly Stipend Increase	Harlene Hoyt	14
3	ABC's Breeders Education Coordinator Role Official Clarification	Dawn Droel	17
4	ABC breeder options for health checks	Darlene Dow	19
5	The ABC would like breeders to consider options for Brittanys	Darlene Dow	19
6	Change in policy to "Require ABC parent club approval for all ABC club designated, concurrent and independent specialty shows	Linda McCartney	20
7	Approve establishing an ABC-owned hosting platform/account for the digital edition of the magazine	Colleen Walsh	22
8	Appointment of Committee to Review Magazine Costs	Shawn MacLeod	25
9	Committee to Investigate Amendments for Communication and Term Limits	Shawn MacLeod	26
10	Appointment of Committee to Review and Improve Website Usability	Shawn MacLeod	26
11	Amendment to Classics Policy to Permit Released Birds	Shawn MacLeod	27
12	Independent Review of the 2025 Board of Directors Election	Shawn MacLeod	28
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14	Reevaluate the qualification standards for the National Field Championships by the field trial committee	Leslee Massolotte	30
15	Discuss the issue of implementing the ramp with our breed standard committee.	Leslee Massolotte	30
16	Discussion and review the function of the Young Sportsman Scholarship Fund.	Leslee Massolotte	30
17	Establish a committee to maintain a list of our Brittany members who have recently passed away	Leslee Masolotte	30
18	Discussion with the field trial date committee to carefully evaluate how extending dates are conflicting with attendance at trials in neighboring states.	Leslee Masolotte	30
19	Motion to have the field trial committee be invited to a zoom meeting to address scheduling issues.	Leslee Masolotte	30
21	Motion to consider and develop an online payment plan to allow credit card payments for futurity litter nominations and final forfeits.	Leslee Masolotte	22
20	Review and suggest potential changes to the qualification requirements for the National Open and Amateur All Age stakes.	Steve Cosgriff	38

Action Items by ABC Statistician Harlene Hoyt

Proposed Motion: Agenda Items for Discussion/Changes:

- ABC Statistician's and Statistics Committee Duties – Page 171 of policy book. The following updates should be made:
    - #6: List of Qualifying Dogs for the National Open & Amateur All Age, the National Open & Amateur Gun Dog Championships and send to National Event Secretaries….
        - I am happy to do this as it is part of the statistician responsibilities moving forward. I've created a process of recording this information as I receive event reports and will provide the information to the National Secretaries, ABC website and ABC magazine. Due dates for publication may be established upon agreed time frame.
    - #7: The last sentence – I propose to say; The event results are due to the ABC Statistician postmarked or electronically submitted within 10 days from the end of the event.
    - #8: Late event reports within time frame specified by policy. The Penalty should be enforced as written in the policy.
    - #9: The Statistician will notify the Executive Secretary of payments in arrears in order that approvals for future events are withheld until paid. I suggest that this also be enforced as written in the policy.
    - #11 – Change to read: The Statistician will record and deposit all event fees to the ABC bank account. All Transactions will be reported to the Treasurer and Executive Secretary.

Proposed Motion: I propose an increase in the monthly Stipend to $600.00 per month

Rationale: Due to the amount of time (hours) spent reviewing and verifying reports, internet usage and computer /printer equipment maintenance. I am proposing to increase the stipend to cover these items.

Action Items by Breeders Education, Dawn Droel

Proposed Motion: Clarification from the BOD on role as ABC's Breeders Education Coordinator

Rationale: I was asked (and elected by the BOD) last November (2024) to be the ABC's Breeders Education Coordinator. I have yet to receive any recognition from AKC as to my position. When I reached out to AKC they said they did not have my name listed, and they needed the ABC President to submit my position/name. Joe sent AKC an email to that affect, so I reached out to AKC again, at which time they said the ABC secretary needed to submit my position/name to AKC, which Brooke did. I have since learned that Terry Hilliard (our AKC

delegate) submitted Robin Tomasi's name to AKC as Breeders Education Coordinator. I am confused and would like clarification from the BOD.

Action Items from East Coast Director, Darlene Dow

Proposed Motion: ABC breeder options for health checks –The Board of Directors of the American Brittany Club, Inc recommends that the AKC use the following guidelines for the AKC online breeder classifieds and health checks. The ABC recommends OFA or PennHip evaluation for hip dysplasia.

Proposed Motion: The ABC would like breeders to consider options for Brittanys –
1. Eye exam by boarded ACVO Ophthalmologist each year from age 2-8 years of age
2. One of the following health exams submitted to OFA:
    a. Cardiac evaluation or
    b. Elbow dysplasia or
    c. Patellar luxation or
    d. Thyroid evaluation from an approved laboratory

Action Items from East Coast Director, Linda McCartney

Proposed Motion: To make a change in policy to "Require ABC parent club approval for all ABC club designated, concurrent and independent specialty shows" to begin on a "date to be determined" in 2026.

Rationale: By current policy all these event results and fees are supposed be sent to the ABC statistician. Designated specialty shows are currently exempt from fees if they don't wish to be published in the magazine.

Action Items Futurity Committee Chair, Leslee Masoltte

Proposed Motion: I make a motion that the Futurity secretary / treasurer and ABC treasurer consider and develop an online payment plan to allow credit card payments for futurity litter nominations and final forfeits.

Rationale: The USPS has consistently been slow or mailed items never received so that Futurity participants have been negatively impacted. Often the Canadian members are unable to mail from Canada to the USA. With today's technology, an online contract, online payment option to include a processing fee could be easily managed. Futurity payments are time sensitive, and an online option would be welcomed by the Futurity secretary and treasurer.

Action Items from ABC Magazine Chair, Colleen Walsh

Proposed Motion: Approve establishing an ABC-owned hosting platform/account for the digital edition (rather than using personal/editor subscriptions).

Rationale: Since the digital magazine option is already listed on membership applications, determine the format, hosting platform, and delivery process so it can be implemented effectively.

Action Items from Midwest Director, Shawn MacLeod

Proposed Motion: This proposal is to request that the President appoint a committee to conduct a detailed review of the costs associated with the ABC magazine.

Rationale: Preliminary analysis suggests that current magazine costs exceed the dues collected from individual members. Since the magazine represents one of the largest recurring expenses of the club, this imbalance raises concerns about long-term sustainability. A focused review is necessary to identify cost-effective models that balance financial responsibility with continued member value, while also maintaining or improving affordability of membership.

Proposed Motion: Motion to request that the President appoint a committee to investigate amending the By-Laws of the ABC.

Rationale:

1. Communication and Transparency: Adding Section 10 under Article V ensures that communication is a defined duty of Directors. Quarterly updates will strengthen the relationship between leadership and membership, ensure members are well-informed, and provide greater opportunity for feedback.
2. Term Limits: Implementing a three-term limit mitigates complacency, brings fresh perspectives, and lowers barriers of entry for future leaders. It ensures that experienced Directors can continue to contribute while making room for the next generation of members to actively participate in governance.

Proposed Motion: This proposal is to request that the President appoint a committee to develop recommendations for improving the usability and effectiveness of the ABC website.

Rationale: The website is a critical tool for communication, transparency, and membership engagement. Concerns expressed in member feedback and regional reports highlight that the current design has limited usability and effectiveness. Without structured member input—particularly from those who use the site most heavily such as professional handlers—the risk is that the site will not adequately meet the needs of the membership. By involving a diverse committee early in the process, the ABC can ensure that the website is member-driven, user-

friendly, and aligned with the club's long-term communication and growth goals. Publishing the committee's work in the magazine further reinforces transparency and gives all members an opportunity to review and provide feedback.

Proposed Motion: Amendment to Classics Policy to Permit Released Birds

Rationale: The continuity of Classics, particularly the Chukar Classic, is at risk due to limited access to grounds with adequate native bird populations. Allowing clubs to apply to host Classics with released birds ensures the preservation of these historic stakes, provides flexibility to rotate them into new regions, and may renew member interest and participation. This amendment balances the long-standing tradition of running on native gamebirds with the practical need to safeguard the sustainability and national prestige of ABC Classics.

Proposed Motion: This proposal is to request the appointment of an Independent Election Review Committee to examine the conduct of the 2025 ABC Board of Directors election.

Rationale: Concerns have been raised by members regarding the 2025 Board of Directors election, where the East and East Central regions each had only one nominee on the ballot. Article VIII, Section 2, explicitly requires that each Regional ballot contain at least two nominees whenever possible. Failure to adhere to this requirement fosters perceptions of reduced transparency and raises questions about the integrity of the election process. An independent review will provide accountability, restore confidence, and produce recommendations that strengthen future elections while ensuring compliance with the Policy Book.

Proposed Motion: This proposal is to request that the President appoint a Committee on Membership Growth and Retention to investigate the barriers to attracting and retaining members of the American Brittany Club.

Rationale: Membership growth and retention are fundamental to the long-term health of the American Brittany Club. Reports and member feedback, including concerns raised in regional letters, indicate that barriers exist which discourage new member recruitment and lead to attrition among existing members. By appointing a committee with diverse representations across regions, generations, and backgrounds, the ABC can ensure its recommendations are well-informed and practical. Involving former officers, Board members, and volunteers will further ground the work in the realities of past governance and lessons learned. A clear, published report of findings and recommendations will demonstrate transparency, accountability, and a commitment to building a stronger, more sustainable membership base.

Action Items from Midwest Director Leslee Masolotte

Proposed Motion: Reevaluate the qualification standards for the National Field Championships by the field trial committee.

Rationale: more efforts to encourage and increase entry numbers.

Proposed Motion: Discuss the issue of implementing the ramp with our breed standard committee.

Rationale: town hall discussion from 2024 NSS has not been resolved.

Proposed Motion: A Kansas club member has asked about the funding and function of the Young Sportsman Scholarship Fund.

Rationale – I request the committee to respond to requests, and I will supply the name of an interested party in applying for a scholarship.

Proposed Motion: Establish a committee to maintain a list of our Brittany members who have recently passed away.

Rationale - Ray Trimble, Lyle Johnson, Dr John Webb, Christine Ward-Weber. Dave LaChance, Janet Berneathy, Pam Clark Baird and there may be others. I would like to have a moment of silence during our events and possibly a corner of the show building where photos and obituaries can be displayed.

I am making a motion to form such an honor committee.

Proposed Motion: Encourage discussion with the field trial date committee to carefully evaluate how extending dates are conflicting with attendance at trials in neighboring states.

Rationale- My discussion is not to discourage implementing more Championship field stakes, I am encouraging the field trial date committee to take a closer look at how adding dates can impact neighboring states. On a similar note, an application was submitted for a Chukar Classic to be hosted in Oklahoma, and the host club was not granted permission. The application process should be discussed and updated. We only have so many days on the calendar, and we must make the best use of those dates.

Proposed Motion: I make a motion that the field trial committee be invited to a zoom meeting to address scheduling issues.

Action Items from Steve Cosgriff

Proposed Motion: Review and suggest potential changes to the qualification requirements for the National Open and Amateur All Age stakes.

Appendix A

Linda McCatney, East Coast Director ABC National Dog of the Year Awards (2025)

DOY Awards will run from January 1st to December 31st and start in 2014.

- The National DOY committee will consist of a Chair and a committee member with expertise in each of the DOY categories (field, show, obedience, agility, juniors, NSTRA, and NAVDHA)
- **All owners of a dog must be current members (full or associates) of the American Brittany Club by March 1st of the current calendar year for the dog to be eligible for the National Dog of the Year Awards. (Please note: the associate membership is only available to individuals who reside in the same household as a current full member. Also, Associate Memberships do not include voting privileges in club matters.)**
- If an individual obtains ownership of an eligible dog during the calendar year they have 30 days to join the American Brittany Club, and the previous owner(s) must have met the membership requirements for the dog to be eligible for the DOY award.
- If an owner's membership lapses during the year, they have a 30-day grace period to bring their membership current or their dog will be dropped from the eligibility list. Example: If an individual's membership expires on June 1st, they have until July 1st to renew.
- If there are no eligible dogs in a category, no award will be given for that year.
- DOY Committee will tabulate results based on AKC Top Dog year end reports in each category or as described below.
- The Dog of the Year program will be evaluated in 2026 for changes to the program starting the 2027
    - DOY award presentation will be held with an ABC event (ABC Summer Specialty, Gun Dog Nationals, National Specialty, or All-Age Nationals) Individuals unable to attend will be mailed their certificates and any trophies. All owners will receive a certificate, but only 1 trophy will be provided per dog. Co-owners of dogs can purchase duplicates of trophies for the price of the trophy, and trophies will need to be ordered ahead of time with DOY Awards Committee.

Field Dog of the Year Awards

DOY awards will be awarded in the following categories based on the following rules:

Juvenile Dog of the Year

Based on dogs defeated in Puppy & Derby stakes at any AKC Field Trial. Dogs defeated points from AKC trials hosted by clubs other than regional Brittany Clubs must be sent into the DOY committee with an attached copy of AKC win record report. In the case of a tie, the dog with the most 1st place wins will be awarded DOY. If a tie still exists then multiple awards will be presented.

NSTRA Dog of the Year

Award is based on the NSTRA Top Performance rankings DOY will be awarded to the Top Brittany in these rankings.

NAVDHA Dog of the Year

- Will be Awarded to the Brittany which received the highest NAVDHA test level title. In the case of tie or multiple titled dogs the dog with highest points earned at the test level will be awarded. if a tie still exists multiple dogs will be awarded. Eligible titles are as follows:

Eligible titles:
NATURAL ABILITY - NA Prize I, II, III
UTILITY- UT Prize I, II, III
VERSATILE CHAMPION- VC

Conformation Dog Awards

DOY awards will be awarded in the following categories based on the following rules:

Show Dog of the Year:
Award is based on the Year End AKC Top Dogs Report for Brittany breed rankings. The dog with the most dogs defeated will be awarded DOY. In the case of a tie, a dog with the most Best in Specialty wins at ABC Regional Club Specialties will be awarded DOY.

Owner Handler Series Dog of the Year
Award is Based on the Year End AKC Top Owner/Handler series report for Brittany breed rankings. In the case of a tie, the dogs with the most Owner Handler Best of Breed wins will be awarded DOY.

Non-Field Performance Dog Awards

DOY awards will be awarded in the following categories where AKC titles are awarded and AKC Top Dog Rankings Reports are tabulated based on the following rules.

Obedience Dog of the Year
Award is based on the top ranked Brittany Obedience Dog in the Year End AKC Top Obedience Dog Report

MACH Agility Dog of the Year
Awarded to the top ranked MACH Brittany in the Year End AKC Top Dog MACH agility dogs report.

PACH Agility Dog of the Year
Awarded to the Top Ranked Brittany in PACH based on the Year End AKC Top Dog PACH agility dogs report.

RALLY Dog of the Year
Awarded to the top ranked Brittany in RALLY in the Year End AKC Top Dog RALLY obedience dogs report.

BARN HUNT Dog of the Year
Awarded to the top ranked Brittany in BARN HUNT in the Year End AKC Top Dog BARN HUNT scent work ogs report.

DOCK DIVING Dog of the Year
Awarded to the top ranked Brittany based on the Year End AKC Top Dog Report for Dock Diving.

In the case of a tie, multiple dogs will be awarded.

Junior Handler Awards

There will be a Junior Handler award in both the field and the show categories. To be eligible, the Junior or one of their parents/guardians must be a full member of the American Brittany Club. For all the events the junior be compete with a Brittanythat is owned or co-owned by the Junior Handler or a member of the Junior Handler's family who is a member in good standing of the ABC (father, mother, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, grandfather, grandmother, including step and half relations). For all Junior Awards, in the case of a tie multiple awards will be presented.

Show Junior Handler
This award is based on the Year End AKC Junior Top Handler Report for Brittany Junior h handlers. In the event of a tie multiple handlers will be awarded.

Field Junior Handler: The Field junior will get 5 points for every event in which they participate per dog. This includes AKC Field Trials, Hunt Tests, NVDHA, and NSTRA. A form must be signed by judges or event secretary indicating their participation in the event and the name of the dog they competed with. The Junior must compete in at least 4 events during the calendar year to be eligible for this award.

Performance Junior Handler: The Performance Junior will get 5 points for every event in which they participate per dog. This includes all AKC performance events that Brittanys are eligible to compete in (obedience, rally, agility, fly-ball, barn hunt, etc.). A form must be signed by judge(s) or event secretary indicating their participation in the event and the name of the dog they competed with. The Junior must compete in at least 4 events during the calendar year to be eligible for this award.

Special Recognition Categories

These accomplishments will be Acknowledged at the DOY ceremony & listed in the ABC media DOY presentation:

Dual Champions

UD, UDX, OGM, & OTCH
Obedience High in Trials & High Combined

MACH
PACH

RACH

MH MHA MHX

NAVDHA Versatile Champion

AKC Best in Show Winners

Owner Handler Series Best in Show Winners

Best Junior Wins

Wins at AKC Pointing Breed Championship