

ABC meeting 7-13-2026

Start time 7:07pm CST

Those in attendance were Leslee Masolotte, Jim Stevens, John Perry, Bruce Heiter, Shawn Macleod, Linda McCartney, Phillip Thayer, Bob West, Paul Renius, Matt Wedele, Darlene Dow, Ed Janulis, Robin Tomasi.

Also in attendance were Richard Beaver, Scott Johnson, Teresa Richmond and Collen Walsh.

The meeting focused on resolving the location and logistics for the upcoming Nationals due to issues with the previous venue, Boonville. Scott presented options for both the Gundog and All-Age Nationals, with the board voting to move the Gundog Nationals to Grove Springs in early November. The decision for the All-Age Nationals was tabled until a reconvened meeting on July 17th, with directors tasked to consult their constituents on the choice between Grove Springs and Pyramid. Colleen then provided a detailed financial report on the magazine, highlighting significant annual losses and presenting options to reduce costs, including transitioning to digital format and increasing membership dues.

- Board Members: Contact constituents in their regions to solicit input on the All-Age Nationals venue options (Grove Springs vs. Pyramid) before the reconvened meeting on July 17th.
- Finance Committee (Doug, Shawn, Bob, Linda, Phil): Meet to develop scenarios and recommendations for dues increase and additional print magazine fee, to be presented to the board as soon as possible, ideally by Friday.
- Board: Reconvene on July 17th at 7 PM Central to vote on the All-Age Nationals venue.
- Peggy and Julio: Work on transitioning members to the new membership renewal system (annual, January 1st) and provide current membership data to the Finance Committee.

National Championship Venue Selection

Scott presented the committee's findings on venue options for the national championship, explaining that Boonville is no longer viable due to restrictions on mowing, public access, and bird releases. The committee identified two main options: running both the gundog and all-age championships at Grove Springs in November (with potential conflicts with the National Specialty Show and Annual Meeting) or holding the gundog at Grove Springs and then moving to Pyramid for the all-age event in December. The committee recommended proceeding with the gundog portion at Grove Springs from November 6-17, though this would require removing the venue from the schedule for that period.

Gundog Trials Venue Decision

The board voted unanimously to move the gundog trials to Grove Spring in early November. While the gundog dates were set, the board agreed more discussion was needed regarding the all-age trials, which had multiple venue options including Grove Spring. Scott clarified that venue dates had already been reserved, and the board decided to proceed with the gundog decision first to allow time for further discussion on the all-age trials.

National Championship Location Discussion

The board discussed hosting the national all-age championship, with two main options: Grove Springs (co-located with the specialty show) and Pyramid. While the committee slightly favored Grove Springs for convenience, concerns were raised about parking, clubhouse space, and deer

hunting season restrictions at both locations. The group debated whether to make a decision quickly or seek membership input, though timing constraints around judge hiring and bird procurement were noted. The conversation ended without a final decision, with further discussion planned to resolve the location choice.

All-Age National Event Location Decision

The board discussed three options for the All-Age National event location: proceeding with a vote on Grove Springs, amending to Pyramid, or tabling the decision to gather more member feedback. After debate about whether to involve social media or keep discussions private, the board voted to table the decision and reconvene on July 17th, with directors contacting their constituents in the meantime. The Gundog event has already been scheduled, and the board noted that Pyramid would maintain the same timeframe as previously planned vacations, though there were concerns about potential weather delays at Grove Springs.

Motion #1

Motion made by Matt Wedele seconded by John Perry

I make a motion to move the Gun dog nationals to Grove Spring, MO for the beginning of November 2026.

YES: Shawn Macleod, Paul Renius, Darlene Dow, Linda McCartney, Philip Thayer, Matt Wedele, Leslee Masolotte, John Perry, Jim Stevens, Bruce Heiter, Ed Janulis, Ron Gulembo

NO: Robin Tomasi, Bob West

Motion Passes

Motion #2

Motion made by Shawn Macleod and seconded by Darlene Dow

I make a motion to hold the national all age at Grovesprings, MO following the gun dog for 2026.

After discussion Shawn withdrew his motion

Motion #3

Motion made by Shawn Macleod seconded by John Perry

I make a motion to reconvene the 17th of July to vote for the All Age after conferring and speaking to the boards constitutes

YES: Matt Wedele, Bruce Heiter, Robin Tomasi, Jim Stevens, John Perry, Leslee Masolotte, Philip Thayer, Paul Renius, Bob West, Darlene Dow, Linda McCartney, Shawn Macleod, Ron Guleumbo

NO: Ed Janulis

Motion Passes

Next, for discussion was the ongoing loss of ABC funds with the magazine.

Print to Digital Magazine Transition

The board discussed the transition from print to digital magazines, with Colleen reporting that about 190 members still lack email addresses in the old database. The group explored options for providing print copies, including on-demand printing at approximately \$12 per issue, which

would cost members an additional \$144 annually. The board considered implementing a transition year with a reduced-cost print option while working to understand member demand and potentially adjusting dues to subsidize the print cost. Key decisions needed include determining the start date for the transition, managing the print order process, and assessing how many members would pay for print copies.

Magazine Production Cost Increases

The team discussed cost increases for magazine production, including a \$208 monthly cost for poly bags and a 6-7% postage increase effective July 12th. They explored options to offset these costs, including raising membership dues by \$10 across all membership tiers (which would affect approximately 1,200 members) and increasing magazine fees to \$25 while offering digital-only options at \$60. Colleen noted that ad specials and gallery advertisements were the most successful in 2025, raising concerns about potentially raising ad fees too high and losing advertising revenue.

Print to Digital Magazine Transition

The group discussed transitioning from print to digital magazines, with Colleen sharing current membership statistics showing 536 members selecting print only, 261 selecting print and digital, and 139 selecting digital only. Copley suggested maintaining a \$195 advertising rate below \$200 to avoid barriers, while the group debated how to handle existing Lifetime and Hall of Fame members who value their printed copies. Dar emphasized that while raising dues should be part of a broader discussion, the group needs to make decisions about the magazine transition plan, though no formal motion was taken during this meeting.

Motion #4

Motion made by Robin Tomasi and seconded by Jim Stevens

I make a motion to change the regular dues to \$60 per year and Associate dues to \$20 per year, to start September 1, 2026.

YES: Leslee Masolotte, Steve Cosgriff, Paul Renius, Jim Stevens, Ron Gulembo, Darlene Dow, Shawn Wedele, Robin Tomasi, Ed Janlis, Matt Wedele, John Perry, Bruce Heiter, Linda McCartney, Philip Thayer,

Motion Passes