

**USBCHA ANNUAL MEETING  
SEPT 14, 2016, 6:30 PM**

1. WELCOME

Carol updated the membership regarding the accident involving Dennis and Jean Gellings' daughter. It was a serious accident but Dennis was very positive about her prognosis.

Carol acknowledged all those who contribute to the success of the Finals, including the Strang family, Directors of the USBCHA and ABCA, sponsors, volunteers, set out crew, exhaust, and the sheep provider, among others.

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Marianna presented the financial report. The full report will be on the web site but, in summary, the USBCHA is doing better financially than last year. Plans were announced to invest reserves in a better producing fund to bring in more income.

3. RULE CHANGES

Sheepdog and Cattledog rules were merged and are available on the website. Other changes are available on the website.

4. ELECTION RESULTS

- a. BYLAW AMENDMENTS -- All passed
- b. DIRECTORS

New directors announced.

District 1: Joe Haynes	District 6: Linda Tesdahl
District 2: Terri Warner	District 7: Beverly Lambert
District 3: John Holman	District 8: David Saunders
District 4: Faansie Basson	District 9: Amanda Milliken
District 5: Lori Perry	District 10: Scot Glen
At Large: Stephanie Goracke	

5. ETHEL CONRAD AWARD PRESENTATION

Carol presented this year's award to Shauna Gourley for her contribution to sheepdog training, trailing and breeding in the Intermountain area.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Carol divided the room in to groups and asked them to consider various topics. Specifically, groups were to consider both sides of an issue, not to take a vote, but to come up with ideas or thoughts in support of and in opposition of any proposal.

- a. PROPOSED RULE CHANGE FROM HANDLERS IN DIST. 1

Proposed Rule: To post identity of judge prior to trial.

There were diverse opinions presented and discussed. Several groups mentioned that they did not want trials over managed by the USBCHA and that it should be left to the discretion of the trial host. It was felt that handlers could vote by not entering. Difficulties in sometimes finding judges when the entry is out were also discussed. Others suggested that the judge's name be posted prior to last refund date or allowing a window for getting a refund after the judge was announced.

**b. NURSERY IMPORT RULE AND DISCUSSION OF IDEAS TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF NURSERY ENTRIES IN THE FINALS**

Different rationales were discussed in support of or against a change of the import rule. With respect to the Nursery program, suggestions included limiting Nursery dogs to running only once in the National Finals. There was debate about the qualifying system and whether it should go back to a point system or whether it was working just fine. This was not a vote on any particular proposal but a chance to discuss the Nursery program in general.

**c. REFUNDS FOR SCRATCHING FROM THE FINALS OPEN CLASS**

Issue: whether there should be a hard refund date for the Open finals, and not a full refund, if a handler scratched after a set date absent a veterinary and medical reason even if the spot was filled (which there always is). There was strong support for a change in this regard with different ideas on the date and how much would be forfeited. Most felt that it would assist those on the wait list in their planning by encouraging entrants to decide earlier whether they were going to run in the Finals.

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

Carol reminded the members that the Statement of Interest for the World Trial was due by the end of the last day of the Finals and the nominations for Officers is open until October 5.

**8. ADJOURN**