

USBCHA – Director’s Meeting

Date: February 11, 2019

5:00 p.m. Pacific Time; 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

MINUTES

Attending: Joe Haynes, Terri Warner, Wyatt Fleming, Kay Stephens, Faansie Basson, Pierce Ward, Mike Neary, Lyle Lad, Linda Tesdahl, Maria Amodei, Mich Ferraro, Frank Smith, David Saunders, Tracy Hinton, John Palmer, Bob Stephens, Milton Scott, Dianne Deal, Laura Vishoot, Marianna Schreeder, Peter Hall, Linda DeJong

Absent: Mary Minor, Stephanie Goracke, Joni Tietjen, Angie Coker-Sells

Quorum achieved

The meeting commenced at 8:00pm EST

1. **Sheepdog 2020 Finals Proposal:** The Board reviewed the proposal for the 2020 Sheepdog Finals, submitted by Sandy Payne. In summary, the trial will be held at Belle Grove Plantation, October 6-11, 2020. The Finals committee will be chaired by Sandy Payne and Tom Wilson. Tom Wilson will also be the trial’s Field Coordinator and Liaison with the USBCHA. No other bids were submitted. After some discussion Linda Tesdahl moved to accept the proposal, which was seconded by Bob Stephens. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **ABCA Grant Request:** A copy of the ABCA Grant Request, which was sent to the ABCA Secretary for electronic distribution to Directors and to Emil Luedecke, President on February 5, was presented to the USBCHA BOD. ABCA will respond to the request after the next ABCA BOD meeting.
3. **Sheepdog 2019 Finals Webcast Grant:** Peter Hall asked to Board to approve a \$4,500 grant toward the 2019 Sheepdog Finals webcast. This grant would match the contribution USBCHA has requested from ABCA. USBCHA is currently awaiting a proposal from 5 O’Clock Films & Media for these services. The cost of the webcast, which has yet to be determined, will depend on existing bandwidth at Strang Ranch. If existing connections are insufficient, a satellite connection may be needed that will increase costs. Pearce Ward made a motion to approve the request, which was seconded by Joe Hanes. The motion passed unanimously.

In relation to the webcast, Peter will follow up on getting fundraising started.

Peter named three USBCHA members to the Finals Committee: Joni Tietjen, Lyle Lad and Dennis Edwards. ABCA had not yet announced their selections to the Committee at the time of the USBCHA BOD meeting.

4. **Financial Report:** The 2018 financial report (P&L) was presented to the board, which included final accounting from Geri Byrne for the 2018 Sheepdog Finals. Net income was slightly less than last year, as expected, due to the smaller gate from the finals.
5. **Investment Report:** Peter presented a performance report from USBCHA’s investments with RBC Wealth Management. The report showed a minor gain, but in the context of the fourth quarter of 2018 – one of the worst performing quarters since the investment fund’s inception (August 2019) – much of our previous gains were lost.

Peter reported that the January 2019 statement showed some improvement, and the investment account is in the black, mostly due to the conservative investment strategy under which the account is managed. The Board discussed whether to keep the fund oversight as presently managed. After discussion, Linda Tesdahl made a motion to keep the account under a conservative strategy and as currently managed. The motion was seconded by Frank Saunders and passed unanimously. Peter will execute an indemnity agreement with the USBCHA's managing agent.

6. **Purina Contract:** Peter reviewed Purina's sponsorship agreement with the Board. The main difference from the previous contract is that the general grant has been increased to \$2,000 per year from \$1,000. The Board expressed concerns with several clauses in the contract, particularly whether terms constrain the use of other sponsors at local trials, whether USBCHA would be required to hand over member information to Purina, etc. The Board affirmed its understanding of Purina's sponsorship to be for the Cattledog and Sheepdog finals only and has no authority over local trials. In addition, the Board agreed that membership information cannot be given or sold to other entities without member permission. Since the terms could be interpreted otherwise, the Board directed Peter to review the contract with Carol Clawson and have Purina revise the contract accordingly.
7. **Purina Awards Committee:** Purina has formed an awards committee for an award to be given at the Sheepdog Final. USBCHA is represented by Bruce Fogt (Chair), Joni Tietjen, Barbara Ray, Faansie Bassone and Scot Glen. The committee, to meet in the near future, will decide on what qualifications will decide the winner, etc.
8. **Paw Print Genetics Partnership:** Peter announced that Paw Print Genetics had renewed their partnership with the USBCHA, and is offering special discounts to USBCHA members. A link to the Paw Print Genetics website that will allow members to receive discounted pricing has been posted on the USBCHA home page.
9. **2018 Finals DVDs:** Peter reported the unreadable DVDs were caused by a reproduction problem. 5:00 Films & Media acknowledged the problem and sent replacement DVD to members who purchased the disk.
10. Bridget checked the timers that were inoperative at the Alturas finals. She reported they appear to work, but she will test them at a local trial this Spring. No action is required at this time.
11. **Committee Assignments:** Peter announced his committee assignments, which are posted on the USBCHA website. Additional committee assignments will be made in the next month or two. If anyone wishes to join a committee or be taken off a committee, please contact Peter.
12. **Conflict of Interest Guidelines for Finals Judges (Pearse Ward):** Pearse reported that there had been 75 views of the proposed guideline and 2 comments. Bob Stephens made a motion to accept the guidelines as written, seconded by Mike Neary. Discussion then followed, with the Board suggesting a clarification of the guidelines for judges taking judging assignments after accepting a request to judge the Finals, with the guideline amendment to state that judges not take on a new judging assignment if the trial is 30 days or less before the finals. A motion to adopt the guideline with the amendment to suggest judges not take on a new judging assignment if the trial is within 30 days prior to the Finals was put forward by Pearce Ward and seconded by Faansie Basson. The motion and amendment passed unanimously.
13. **Grievance Committee Recommendations (Bob Stephens):** The committee had nothing new to report other than to say it had two grievances pending that will be addressed in the next month.
14. **Website Reorganization:** Peter reported that the email address of the President had been hacked and had been used to distribute spam, malware and ransomware emails.

He suggested a reorganization of the website that puts officer, direct and most member information, including grievance documentation, behind a firewall, essentially a members-only section that is password protected. He proposed a web committee take up the issue regarding what should go behind the wall, versus what should be publically accessible, how to roll out the changes, etc. The committee would also look into member comments about upcoming trials. The committee is composed of Maria Amodei, Pierce Ward and Kristi Oikawa.

15. New Business

- a. NCA co-sanctioning:** Peter received a request from a member asking if there was any opportunity for co-sanctioning cattledog trials with the NCA. Prior to meeting with the Board, Peter contacted several cattledog handlers to review the history of the schism with the NCA, get opinions, etc. After presenting the feedback from these consultations to the Board, there was general consensus to put the issue to a committee outside of the Cattledog Finals Committee for presentation to the Board at a later time, and that no change (if any) should be instituted during the current points year. The committee is composed of Mike Neary (Chair), Frank Smith, Joni Tietjen, Dwight Parker, Rich Hall and Wyatt Fleming. The committee will update the Board at the next BOD meeting.
- b. Judges:** Terri Warner suggested formation of a committee to explore additional training opportunities for judges and members interested in becoming judges. At this time, the committee consists of Terri Warner (Chair), Mich Ferraro and Linda Tesdahl. The committee will report to the Board and the next BOD meeting.
- c. World Trial:** Rules for qualifying for the World Trials need to be clarified and, particularly, how Young Handlers will qualify to represent the United States. Peter will reformulate the World Trial Committee and add World Trial to next BOD meeting agenda.
- d. Next BOD Meeting:** Peter announced the next BOD meeting will be held within the next 60 days to deal with outstanding grievances, the indemnity agreement, and other matters of concern to the HA.

16. Adjourn: With no other business to discuss, Bob Stephens moved to adjourn at 9:20pm.