

## **USBCHA – Director’s Meeting**

Date: Tuesday January 26, 2021

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

### **MINUTES**

1. **Roll Call: Officers: Peter Hall, Linda DeJong, Marianna Schreeder, Pearse Ward  
Directors: Mary Minor, Jamie Spring, Jan Stebbins, Bob Allen, Wyatt Fleming, Russell McCord, Mike Neary, Jennifer Boznos, Bob Washer, Lori Cunningham, Mich Ferraro, Sue Schoen, Frank Smith, Marianna Schreeder, Tracy Hinton, Amanda Milliken, Milton Scott, Louanne Twa, Scott Glen, Laura Vishoot, Cy Peterson  
Guest: Diana Sylvestre**
2. **President’s Opening Statement**
  - a. **Welcome to Incoming Directors**
  - b. **Diana Sylvestre presentation:**
    - i. There is a lot optimism right now despite the current number of cases in the US which is in excess of 24 million. We should be able to get a couple of million vaccinated in the coming months. The current modeling indicates that the COVID pandemic will be substantially minimized by the end of July. It is going to take some time to roll out all the vaccines. Social distancing is still extremely important and there are lots of disparities among different regions implementation of policies.
    - ii. There are concerns with the new variations showing up around the world but currently the vaccines seem effective for the new variations. Moderna is currently working on making a new booster.
    - iii. We may see more extensive travel bans. Current travel bans are impacting trialing already.
    - iv. On the positive, Diana was very impressed with how well trials are keeping things safe and would encourage keeping current restrictions in place. Future is still very unpredictable
  - c. **Secretary Linda DeJong:** Having shoulder surgery this week and will be staying with a friend. Will not be able to process U.S. mail, probably for a couple of weeks until able to drive again. Will be able to process and keep up with emails and electronic submissions. (Note Marianna has suggested mailing checks directly to her in the next few weeks.) Linda will be able to confirm if post office delivered mail via return address.
  - d. **Finals Updates**
    - i. **Sheep**
      1. Finals scheduled for Belle Grove, Middletown VA, October 5-10, 2021, with or without spectators- Peter will be keeping in contact with Sandy Payne and will keep board informed.
      2. Peter is asking for a new bid from 5:00 Films & Media, and feels it is particularly important to webcast the finals this year given the unpredictability of having spectators
    - ii. **Cattle**
      1. Finals at Sandeen Farm, Blakesburg IA October 21-24
      2. Sandeen Farm interested in hosting 2022 Finals as well
      3. Current proposed budget is less than 2020 budget
  - e. **President’s Annual Report**
    - i. In lieu of annual report presented at annual meeting during sheep finals, report has been posted on the website.
3. **Financial Report**

- a. End-of-2019 P&L was posted on director forum and attached to email invitation to all directors
  - b. Balances as of 2019 were also posted
  - c. 2020 preliminary financials were distributed to Directors. Preliminary because they haven't been audited by accountants
  - d. Income and costs declined significantly in CY 2020 but the HA did not post a loss
  - e. World trial committee money is househanded in the USBCHA investment account as a separate line item.
- 4. Insurance**
- a. Option for trial hosts to be an additional insured on USBCHA GL policy was withdrawn due to limited coverage under USBCHA insurance umbrella.
    - i. This is discussed in President's Annual Report
  - b. President is in the process of compiling resources for trial hosts that will be posted on the website. The goal is to publish by the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. Lori Cunningham is helping find the resources.
- 5. Interim Rules**
- a. Part II A: Interim Rules Pertaining to Covid-19 Pandemic
    - i. Adopted July 8, 2020; extended to January 31, 2021. Interim rules remain in effect for 90 days from the date of adoption unless extended by a majority vote of the USBCHA Board of Directors
 

While interim rules pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic are in effect, USBCHA will reimburse trial hosts for refunds of sanctioned class entry fees (Open and Nursery) made to handlers who withdraw within 14 days of a trial's start date due to COVID-19 symptoms or suspected exposure to COVID-19. Per Board motion and approval in November, mitigation refunds must be requested within 21 days after trial ends.

      - 1. Statistics – Marianna
        - a. There is a blanket \$150 per trial host. We have issued about \$5850 which comes out to about 39 trials. About half the hosts have requested it.
        - b. Entry fee refunds- most of refunds occurred between November and January- \$1300, with \$482 between August and October
      - ii. Covid-19 Mitigation Grant
        - 1. Available while Interim Rules in Effect
      - iii. Submission of trial sanctioning requests remain at 30 days before entry open date, although relief may be granted by District Directors or President
  - b. Discussion
    - i. Extend or remove: Peter commented it seems to be working well.
  - c. Motions
    - i. Moved: Amanda Milliken moved to extend 120 more days
    - ii. Second Mary Minor
  - d. Approved unanimously
- 6. Finals judges:**
- a. Judges selected for 2020 Finals have been contacted and given right of first refusal to judge 2021 Finals.
  - b. Peg Anderson, Jean Gellings, Michael Gallagher (sheep), Bob Salmon (cattle) have expressed interest in judging 2021 Finals. Mosse Magnusson has declined.
  - c. Member notification to nominate judges has been posted on website. Electronic nominations enabled. Nominations must be received by Secretary no later than February 15.

- d. There have been only 2 nominations submitted at this time, which are posted on website.
  - e. Directors ballots due back to Secretary by March 1
  - f. A second group email will be sent out towards the beginning of February. Pearse will put the notice more prominently on the website. Directors will encourage members to submit more nominations and stress the importance of having multiple well qualified judges nominated to have alternatives, given the uncertainty of travel restrictions.
  - g. The deadline for nominations and voting will be extended if we are still short of nominations by February 15
- 7. New Business**
- a. Question was raised about looking at budget for finals regarding payouts and alternate sources of funds.
  - b. Point was made that current USBCHA payout is an estimated 88% of entry fees.
  - c. Recognition was made of role ABCA has had in supporting the finals.
  - d. Discussion tabled. A Finance Committee has been formed to look at all the factors and make recommendations
- 8. Adjourn**
- a. Motion: Bob Washer  
Second: Jennifer Boznos

**Adjourned 5:55 PM PST**

# USBCHA DIRECTORS MEETING

## May 19, 2021, 5 PM PST

### Attending:

**Officers:** Peter Hall, Russell McCord, Linda DeJong, Marianna Schreeder

**Directors:** Amanda Milliken, Bob Washer, Cy Peterson, Jamie Spring, Jan Stebbins, Jennifer Boznos, Joe Haynes, Kay Stephens, Lori Cunningham, Louanne Twa, Marianna Schreeder, Mary Minor, Mich Ferraro, Mike Neary, Milton Scott, Russell McCord, Sue Schoen, Wyatt Fleming

### President's Opening Statement

#### Finals:

Sheepdog Finals: Peter has been in contact with Sandy Payne. Scheduled for Belle Grove, October 5-10. Sandy is chair of finals committee. Current confirmed judges are Michael Gallagher, Peggy Anderson, Linda Fogt, Aled Owen subject to restrictions current at the time. Peter has contacted contingency judges in the event any of current judges are subject to restrictions

Cattledog Finals: Finals committee chair is Lyle East with help from Rich Hall. Will be held at same place as previous finals, Sandeen Farm, Blakesburg, IA, October 21-24. Judge will be Bob Salmon.

Note: Judging list has been posted on USBCHA website.

### Grant Request to ABCA

Peter posted the grant proposal to be submitted to ABCA.

\$4500 from ABCA request for webcast

Peter will submit it based on directors' approval of current proposal.

Passed by voice vote.

### Finals Finances

Finance Committee Report has been posted for directors.

Recommendations: Not recommending increase amount requested from ABCA.

ABCA already paying \$65,000 towards payout.

Payback- top 17 get 60% payback and use 100% of entry fee.

Finance Committee agree on leaving 40% of payout for preliminary round, 10% for semi-final and 50% for final. Payout increased based on going to using 100% of entry fees towards payback.

Note: in 2019: highest payout to one competitor was \$2948 based on 2 dogs in each round. Second highest \$2552 with 1 dog who was 1<sup>st</sup> in final run.

### Webcast

5 O'clock Films & Media submitted a proposal with a variety of options for BOD approval.

Options included coverage of nursery final day, additional cameras, coverage of preliminary rounds. All options included would be \$50,000 but BOD needs to determine which options to accept.

Unit costs are a little lower based on better internet coverage and less travel for the company.

Discussion: Difference between dedicated cross drive camera vs. calling it a 3<sup>rd</sup> camera to increase coverage of whole trial- could be used to get better angle on lift, not just head-on view of cross drive. Single camera coverage of nursery finals would be \$6200. Added camera would be \$1260 more. Question raised whether it would be possible to live stream and make available for viewing for longer time. Answer was that it is an issue of our platform used to deliver the live stream and making sure it supports this

option and whether it would involve additional cost. Also might be a way of putting it behind a pay wall. Point was made 2019 finals on YouTube.

Peter will research the issue bearing in mind that the objective is to broaden the ability of interested people to watch and the ability to watch regardless of time zones and other factors would be of benefit to members and finals. Will talk to Pearse about this. Also worth discussing is increasing promotion so more people know about options.

Proposed: open qualifying, semi-finals and finals plus a third camera and what else to add

Motion: Amanda Milliken: Commit to 5 O'clock shooting the Finals with a 3<sup>d</sup> camera total price of \$22,000

Second Mich Ferraro

Passed via voice vote- no objections

Suggestion was made to assign someone to work with video company to improve quality of film. Comment made that Heather Nadelman did a good job mentoring them at previous final in VA and that Jennifer Glen was helpful at the last finals. Peter will contact Heather to check for her level of interest.

Suggestion also made that liaison go through previous finals with 5 O'clock to point out areas of improvement. Comment made good reason to stick with same video company as they improve with experience with venue.

### **Nursery qualifying rule**

Question was raised about whether Canadian bred dogs were considered imported in rule about dogs imported after 1 year of age not being eligible. Canadian dogs have not been treated as imported in the past but issue raised whether it would be useful to have ruled more clearly stated.

*i. Imported dogs, meaning dogs bred in countries other than the United States or Canada are eligible for the USBCHA Nursery ONLY if imported BEFORE they reach one (1) year of age.*

Discussion: Rational behind the rule- When nursery was first introduced the impetus was to encourage domestically trained dogs. The result was an increase in such dogs resulting in better domestic training. This is a clarification rather than a rule change. Point was made that Canada and United States have always been considered domestically trained for purposes of USBCHA.

Motion: Joe Haynes: Accept the wording change

Second: Jennifer Boznos

Passed without objection

### **Closing date for Sheepdog Finals**

It was noted that Cattledog finals has explicit date while Sheepdog Finals does not have it explicitly noted although July 31 is the accepted date.

Discussion: how to handle trials that bridge July into August trials. Differentiating between a class that start in July and runs over into August vs. a class within a trial that starts in August although the trial started in July. Peter will write a clarification of guidance to present to the board.

### **Insurance**

Research is still ongoing. Have been unable to find an insurance company that USBCHA can expand to covering individual trials without undue number of requirements for host. Suggestion was made whether USBCHA could help hosts cover part of their insurance. Need to examine economic impact on USBCHA. \$75 copay issue was raised and was pointed out this is no longer in effect due to it not really covering the host.

## **Interim Rules**

Discussion whether to extend rules to July 31 (end of finals year) or let it lapse at the end of this year. Pros and cons discussed. Marianna reported there have been no request for entry fee refunds since the last meeting. Only 9 requests for grants with slowly decreasing requests. Apparently the need is slowly decreasing.

Motion: Amanda Milliken: extend to July 31

Second Jaimie Spring

Passed with no objection

**Adjourn: 6:25 PM PST**

# USBCHA DIRECTORS MEETING

## Aug 4, 2021 8 PM EDT

**Attending:** Amanda Milliken, Bob Allen, Bob Washer, Cy Peterson, Frank Smith, Jamie Spring, Jan Stebbins, Kay Stephens, Laura Vishoot, Lori Cunningham, Louanne Twa, Marianna Schreeder, Mary Minor, Mich Ferraro, Mike Neary, Milton Scott, Russell McCord, Scott Glen, Sue Schoen, Tracy Hinton, Wyatt Fleming

**Officers:** Peter Hall, Linda DeJong, Pearse Ward, Russell McCord, Marianna Schreeder

**Director Nominations:** Nominations are now closed. Ballots will be posted as soon as possible. We need to encourage members to vote. Winners will be announced at annual meeting.

**Archives:** Linda received several boxes of materials, primarily copies of VHS tapes of previous finals and audio tapes of a conference by Francis. Suggested converting them to a digital format. Will follow up after finals to make final decisions as archives are important to organizations such as ours.

### **Finals:**

**Sheepdog Finals**-Open is full with a waiting list and over 100 entries in nursery. We have purchased new countdown timers, one for each field. Most of cost was covered by a grant from Purina.

USBCHA finals reps will be Tom Wilson, Linda Tesdahl and Lori Cunningham

ABCA has been notified but has not yet named their reps.

Sandy Payne has passed on a preliminary schedule.

The two overseas judges are still good to go at this time. Peter has contacted other nominees and received affirmative answers from many of them that they could step in in the event Michael Gallagher and Aled Owen are not able to come due to covid restrictions. Important to make a decision on date to make final determination so replacement judges have time to make arrangements. Suggested decision day when U.S. President's current executive order is due to expire (Aug 21).

Canadians ability to come to finals is still up in the air. Board is agreed that refunds will be extended if Canadians are unable to cross the border to attend finals.

Issue was raised about plan to care for judges that doesn't involve individual contestants taking care of them. Particularly important due to new judge guidelines. Peter will remind Sandy of having a factotum for transporting judges. Also need to consider hospitality such as food and drinks and areas for judges to be in when not judging that is not necessarily in middle of handler area.

Webcast: Heather Nadelman is involved in planning of webcast production. Meetings are ongoing how best to improve the coverage. Peter will be sitting in on future meetings.

**Cattledog Finals:** Pearse is contacting Lyle East and has offered to set up a website for them that can be used in subsequent finals.

Entries are beginning to come in and entries will be posted on USBCHA website.

**2022 Finals:** Proposal from Mary Minor has been submitted.

Motion: Marianna moved to accept finals proposal.

Second; Amanda

Board did voice vote and approved the proposal with no negatives.

**Financials:** Taxes have been filed.

Finances very complex for 2021 due to having only partial year in 2020. Directors were encourage to contact Marianna about any specific questions. Bottom line is that revenues exceeded expenditures.

We have made a first down payment to Five O'Clock Films for the webcast. It was noted that currently membership is down but the point was made it is typical for membership to vary depending on where Finals is held. Frequently members chose not to join if Finals is on other coast, then rejoin when new trial year begins.

Investments: Our last bonds matured a couple of months ago so we are sitting on a lot of cash in the investment account. Peter received a proposal from Ameriprise and passed it on to the Finance Committee. It is basically a mixed portfolio that is typically set up for not-for-profits such as USBCHA.

Motion made by Cy to accept the proposal

Seconded by Marianna

Voice vote approved with no negatives.

**Interim Rules:** Discussion was held about whether to extend rules, end them or modify them. Point made that currently very few requests coming in.

Motion: Amanda to extend for another 90 days (to October 31).

Seconded

Voice Vote-passed with 5 negatives.

**Misc.** A trial host requiring handlers show proof of Covid vaccination to participate in a trial does not violate USBCHA Rules and such trials can be sanctioned. Directors agreed that requirements such as this are not contrary to II.4.a.

Concern expressed about trials with first-come, first-serve on-line entries (only) that fill in first half hour and whether this was fair to handlers who do not have access to internet during that very short window. Question raised whether we want to micro-manage how hosts handle their entries. Conclusion was that USBCHA does not condone the practice and needs to continue monitoring situation before making changes.

Question raised about how to handle situations where a non-member owner wants to receive the points a dog earned with another handler when they do not intend to run the dog in the future. Conclusion that this is not currently a problem. If owner is not a member, points cannot be transferred.

**Motion to Adjourn- 9:30 PM EDT**



USBCCHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
DECEMBER 1, 2021, 6 PM CST

Attending:

Directors: Amanda Milliken, Bob Allen, Bob Washer, Cy Peterson, Jamie Spring, Jan Stebbins, Joe Haynes, Lori Cunningham, Louanne Twa, Marianna Schreeder, Mich Ferraro, Mike Neary, Russell McCord, Stephanie Goracke, Steve Rhidenour, Sue Schoen, Tracy Hinton, Wyatt Fleming

Officers: Russell McCord, Marianna Schreeder, Linda DeJong, Pearse Ward

Guest: Mary Minor

**Approval of Minutes**

**USBCCHA President Resignation:** Peter Hall submitted resignation effective Nov 25, 2021 due to health concerns

Russell expressed willingness to complete term of president until the next election and recommended Lori Cunningham as vice president for same period.

**Motion:** Amanda Milliken made motion for Russell as president and Lori as vice president

**Second:** Cy Peterson

Discussion: Thank you to Russell and Lori for willingness to assume posts

**Motion Passed** by unanimous voice vote

Russell made statement that he would like to get caught up with USBCCHA business and be ahead of any potential problems. He requested that directors send him a brief email stating strengths and interests to be considered in committee assignments. Russell asked for support and help during the transition.

**Reports:**

**Finance Report:** Marianna Schreeder

Finance Committee will be needing to be updated as Russell will be moving off. Marianna requested that directors let her know if interested in Finance Committee.

Previous decision was made to keep about \$50,000 in accounts for immediate expenses. As a result, \$20,000 will be moved to the investment account.

**As of November 30, 2021**

Checking account balance = \$72,495.73

Savings account balance = \$50,007.54

Ameriprise account balance = \$300,438.00

Current Net Income = \$7,107.81

## **COVID-19 Interim Rule Programs**

2020 PPPP Grant Funds to Hosts = \$4,950.00

2020 Entry Fee Refunds to Hosts = \$1,372.00

Total 2020 Funds = \$6,322.00

2021 PPPP Grant Funds to Hosts = \$6,000.00

2021 Entry Fee Refunds to Hosts = \$1,820.00

Total 2021 Funds = \$7,820.00

2020-2021 Total COVID-19 Funds Issued to Trial Hosts = \$14,142.00

## **2021 Webcast Financials**

Total Cost = \$21,940.63

Less matching by ABCA & USBCHA = \$9,000.00

Less Donations = \$4,051.63

Net Cost to USBCHA = \$8,889.00

Note: Report from the 2021 National Sheepdog Finals was not submitted as of this meeting.

A few requests under guidelines were refused based on concerns about circumstances. Marianna noted the number of requests for the grants and reimbursements have decreased in last half of 2021.

Marianna asked that any director, with questions about the report, contact her.

## **Old Business:**

### **Report on Webcasting at National Finals:**

Webcast appeared very popular with the membership. Quite a few viewers livestreamed from the beginning and the YouTube viewing has also been high. In summation the webcast is worth the costs to USBCHA.

### **Interim COVID guidelines**

Directors discussed various options for continuing, stopping or modifying the current program. Program, in principle, expired Oct 31 but Marianna has continued processing requests received before the end of December since BOD has not been able to meet prior to Dec 1.

**Motion:** Amanda Milliken: Extend current policy until May 31 without further extension

**Second:** Tracy Hinton

**Motion failed** via role call vote: 5 yes, 11 no votes

**Motion:** Lori Cunningham:

If a trial host incurs a monetary loss that he/she cannot otherwise recover because of a Covid related entry withdrawal after the trial refund date, the host may submit a request for reimbursement of that cost to the HA. Requests must

include all supporting documentation related to the amount of the loss and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

The option to submit these requests will expire on July 31, 2022.

**Second:** Jamie Spring

**Motion passed** via voice vote with 2 no votes.

**2022 National Finals:** Mary Minor briefing

Sheep, property, infrastructure basically set up at this time. Planning on a tour at the beginning of the year to settle final choice of venue

Patrick Shannahan will be sheepdog trial committee chairman

Wyatt Fleming will be Cattle dog Trial Committee chairman

Other member will be assigned at the beginning of the year.

**New Business:**

**2023 USBCHA National Finals:** Bridget Strang is offering to do the finals in Colorado again. Agreement will be presented at the next BOD meeting.

**Purina Contract:** Ends Dec 31. Purina is willing to do a 2-year contract which is the same as the current contract.

**Motion:** Mike Neary: Accept Contract, authorize president to sign

**Second:** Cy Peterson

**Motion approved** with unanimous voice vote

**Rule change proposed by Kay Stephens.**

The secretary will be allowed to fill vacancy openings until 3 hours before the scheduled run time of the person with- drawing.

If anyone scratches a dog and fails to inform the secretary at least three hours prior to their scheduled run time, they will be fined \$100 unless the withdrawal is due to an emergency or health issue for owner or dog.

**Motion:** Marianna Schreeder: Accept Kay's proposal but increase fine to \$250- rescinded motion based on discussion

**Second:** Cy Peterson

**Discussion:** After discussion it was decided to table the proposal. Russell will assign an ad hoc committee to study the proposal and recommend wording to present to BOD for decision.

**Cattle Dog Finals 2022 proposal to have 2 judges**

**Discussion:** Several issues were discussed relating to the issue Mike Neary made a recommendation to let both trial committees from USBCHA and ABCA come back with a recommendation. Russell McCord will report back with the trial committee's recommendation.

**2022 Cattledog Finals**

Russell will organize committed to determine place and date of the finals.

### **Finals Disqualification guidelines**

Discussion about the directions given judges at 2021 Sheepdog Finals and relation to the guidelines as written by USBCHA. It was determined that the system used did not materially affect the outcome of any runs but general feeling was that the way disqualifications are handled needs to be clarified and not changed by the trial committee at the time of finals. Handlers need to have a clear understanding of how DQs are handled.

Determined that rules committee need to review the current rules and recommend any changes to the board.

### **Silent Gather Proposal**

Tabled and sent to Finance Committee for recommendation.

### **Other Business**

#### **Finals Judge Nominations:**

**Motion:** Mich Ferraro: Extend nomination period to Feb 28

**Second:** Marianna Schreeder

**Motion passed** unanimous voice

**Motion to Adjourn:** Cy Peterson

**Second:** Milton Scott

**Passed** unanimously

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:32 CST