

AMERICAN BORDER COLLIE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING

September 24, 2015

Mike Neary welcomed everyone to York Ranch, Alturas, CA, and called the meeting to order.

Debbie Bailey presented proof of mailing of the notice for the Annual Meeting. Debbie stated 2,054 ballots mailed to eligible voters, 17 votes returned undeliverable. Patricia L. Smith, CPA, tallied the ballots and report 360 validly cast ballots. Additionally, 11 ballots were accepted during the Annual Meeting. This represents more than a quorum of 10% of eligible voters. The results of the election; 4 Directors were elected for 3 year terms including Mike Neary, Allison Jarrard, Patrick Shannahan and Emil Luedecke. Mike thanked the Directors rotating off the Board for their service; Don Helsley, Elizabeth Baker and Barbara Ray.

The minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting were distributed to those in attendance. A motion was made by Derek Fisher to approve the minutes as presented. Mike Goracke seconded the motion and was approved.

Mike Neary gave the President's Report stating that in 2015 ABCA approved \$41,750 to help sponsor the National Sheepdog Finals and the National Cattledog Finals. ABCA is the longest tenured sponsor of both events. Those funds are used for livestock expenses, prize monies and general support. The Board also approved \$11,460 in Promotional and Educational Funds for local and state organizations as well as individuals for working Border Collie events. These funds are provided by the earmarked \$1 per dog registered per state or province.

Mike stated that we had an increase again this year in registrations and transfers. He also noted things have settled at the office after the 2013 move from Mississippi to Georgia and that Debbie Bailey has proven to be a real asset to the ABCA.

Mike reported there was a disciplinary action by the ABCA against Bill and Gloria Barnes of Braxton, Mississippi. After a written complaint and a follow up investigation, it was determined they were submitting falsified registrations and pedigrees. They were permanently barred from all registration privileges. More complete information can be found on the ABCA website.

Mike announced that the Board of Directors approved the creation of a new foundation entitled the ABCA Health and Education Foundation. Mike reported this was a much deliberated and significant decision by the Board. The creation of the Foundation will be supported by an investment of \$100,000 over a four year period. This 501(c)3 Foundation should give advantages in soliciting tax deductible contributions to long term research and education activities to support working Border Collies.

Mike reported, the Board voted to sponsor a BAER clinic at this year's Sheep Finals, and to underwrite the full cost of BAER testing, both as a service to the membership and to aid in accumulating data for research into Early Onset Deafness (EOD) in adult Border Collies. This is the second year ABCA approved the funding. Special thanks to Elizabeth Baker and Suki Dewey-White for coordinating the clinic.

Mike concluded his report with comments on high volume Breeders. He stated the Board has struggled with the difficult subject of high volume breeders. The ABCA has some breeders that are registering up to 75 to 80 dogs per year. These are not working breeders, but people outputting mass number of puppies for the pet market. Many complaints are lodged against these Breeders. This is also the type of Breeder that has been the biggest problem in regard to registration irregularities. More importantly these high volume breeders are not selecting working ability as the first criteria when producing puppies.

After much deliberation the approach the Board has taken for the immediate term is two-fold:

- 1) Developed a publication entitled ABCA Code of Ethics and Best Practices. This is a brochure with the objective of educating current breeders and potential Border Collie owners on the stance of the ABCA regarding breeding practices. Many thanks to Warren Mick and the Communications Committee for their work on this publication. It will be available on the website or by contacting the ABCA office.
- 2) A list of Breeders that have registered more than 30 dogs per calendar year will be posted on the ABCA website. This equates to about 5 to 6 litters per year, a level that good working dog breeders don't produce annually. To be very clear that the ABCA doesn't condone or encourage high volume output of Border Collies, the following statement will appear in conjunction with the list:

The ABCA does not endorse high volume breeders. The main purpose of the ABCA is to protect and promote the working Border Collie. Good working Border Collie Breeders are not high volume Breeders. It is the intent of the ABCA to encourage Breeders to use livestock working ability as the primary criteria to select potential breeding stock. This is very difficult to do when breeding at a high volume rate. For further information on this topic please see ABCA's publication; Code of Ethics and Best Practices.

The Financial Statement was distributed and presented. After brief discussion, Don Helsley made a motion to approve, and Emil Luedecke seconded the motion. It was approved.

Mike Hanley, Chair of the Hall of Fame Committee, was unable to attend this year and in his absence Mike Neary announced Vergil Holland and Alasdair Macrae were this year's Inductees to the ABCA Hall of Fame.

There being no further business Emil Luedecke moved to adjourn the meeting and Dennis Gellings offered the second. Motion was approved.