

AMERICAN BORDER COLLIE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING

September 15, 2016

Mike Neary welcomed everyone to Strang Ranch, Carbondale, CO and called the meeting to order.

Debbie Bailey presented proof of mailing of the notice for the Annual Meeting. Debbie stated 2,071 ballots mailed to eligible voters, 15 ballots returned undeliverable. Patricia L. Smith, CPA, tallied the ballots and report 379 validly cast ballots. This represents more than a quorum of 10% of eligible voters. The results of the election; 4 Directors were elected for 3 year terms; Peg Anderson, Angie Coker-Sells, Dennis Gellings and Tom Wilson. Mike thanked the Directors rotating off the Board for their service; Jamie Spring and Eileen Stein.

The minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting were distributed to those in attendance. A motion was made by Emil Luedecke to approve the minutes as presented. Mike Goracke made the second and the motion was approved.

Mike Neary gave the President's Report stating that in 2016 ABCA approved \$39,650 to help sponsor the National Sheepdog Finals and the National Cattledog Finals. ABCA is the longest tenured sponsor of both events. Funds have been allocated for livestock expenses, prize monies, and general support. The breakdown can be found in the financial report. 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 registrations were over 14,000, ending 2015 with another increase. The Board is very happy with the job that Debbie Bailey has done as the ABCA Registrar/Secretary. The Board approved a two year contract with Debbie in early 2016.

Mike reviewed the creation of the new ABCA Health & Education Foundation (ABCA HEF) in 2015. The year 2016 found the implementation of the Foundation. Eileen Stein is the President and other Board members include; Mark Billadeau, Denise Wall, Warren Mick and Mike Neary. The Treasurer is Cy Peterson. This 501(c)3 foundation is already giving advantages in advancing the issue of Early Adult Onset Deafness (EAOD) research. The ABCA HEF is the sponsor of the BAER Clinic at the 2016 Sheepdog Finals. The ABCA HEF has some exciting news contained in their report on future direction in EAOD research. (Details can be found in this newsletter, HEF Report)

The ABCA Board of Directors, in conjunction with the ABCA Health and Genetics Foundation, released a joint statement (contained on the ABCA website) on the proposed EAOD Test that was being promoted by projectDog. Both Boards of Directors studied the issue very closely. There were many hours of work invested in the statement and determining the best way forward to deal with EAOD in our breed. The conclusions reached were done thoughtfully and methodically, with input from the projectDog people, and after consulting with well respected scientists and researchers in the U.S. and internationally. There were some questions by the membership regarding the position of the ABCA Board, the offering by projectDog and how the two Boards came to the conclusions reach on the joint statement. Mike detailed for the membership the past efforts with EAOD, the history the ABCA Board and Health & Genetics Committee had with the principal scientists with projectDog, and summarized the way we were going to move forward to develop a test for EAOD in Border Collies.

Mike reported the ABCA Board of Directors released the publication this year entitled, *ABCA Code of Ethics and Best Practices*, a brochure with the objective of educating current breeders and potential Border Collie owners on the stance of the ABCA regarding breeding practices. This is not policy set by the Board, but sensible guidelines and considerations on sound breeding practices. It is included with memberships, registrations and available for download on the ABCA website.

Mike concluded by reporting that ABCA published a list of “High Volume Breeders” on the website. This is a list of breeders who registered 30 or more pups in the calendar year 2014. This policy was announced at the 2015 Annual Meeting and was included in detail in the 2015 Annual Newsletter sent to all members. There was a great deal of support for this policy and there was also some vocal opposition to the policy. The Board had studied the situation of high volume breeders for well over a year and rather than enacting rules on breeding policy being set by the Board, it was determined that an educational approach was the best way forward. Thus, an annual listing of “High Volume Breeders”, coupled with the *ABCA Code of Ethics and Best Practices* publication would help in these efforts. The Board of Directors feel that high volume breeding is detrimental to the long term best interests of the working Border Collie.

The Financial Statement was distributed and presented. After brief discussion, Jamie Spring made a motion to approve, and Sonia Craig seconded the motion. It was approved.

Eileen Stein provided a review of year one for the ABCA Health & Education Foundation. (The report can be found in this newsletter).

Mike Hanley, Chair of the Hall of Fame Committee, was unable to attend and in his absence Mike Neary announced Denise Wall is this year’s Inductee to the ABCA Hall of Fame. Eileen Stein gave a moving induction highlighting Denise’s many contributions to the work Border Collie breed (Details can be found in the newsletter)

Mike Neary asked if anyone had comments or further business. Amy Coapman took the floor to express her thoughts regarding EAOD. Amy disagreed with some of the details presented on

projectDog and the EAOD situation. Amy also had some questions on the HEF and how it was to be run. Mike and Eileen reviewed the plans for HEF and EAOD research going forward.

There being no further business Emil Luedecke moved to adjourn the meeting and Angie Coker-Sells offered the second. Motion was approved.