

AMERICAN BORDER COLLIE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING

October 7, 2021

Eileen Stein welcomed everyone to Belle Grove Plantation, Middletown, VA, and called the meeting to order.

Debbie Bailey presented proof of mailing of the notice for the Annual Meeting. Debbie stated 2,370 ballots mailed to eligible voters, 19 ballots returned undeliverable. Patricia L. Smith, CPA, tallied the ballots, reporting 342 validly cast ballots. This represents more than a quorum of 10% of eligible voters. The result of the election: 3 Directors were elected for 3 year terms; Mike Neary, Mary Minor and Steve Rhidenour.

The minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting were distributed to the Directors. A motion was made by Mike Neary to approve the minutes as presented. Jaime Spring made the second and the motion was approved.

Eileen Stein gave the President's Report. Eileen stated that ABCA registered more than 15,000 dogs, including dog #500,000, and recorded 2100 transfers in 2020.

In 2020, the Board approved and paid out \$12,588 in promotional and educational funds to local and state organizations and individuals for working Border Collies events. This was roughly half as much as that is generally approved for distribution in a year, but the balance was unused because of trial cancellations caused by Covid.

The Board of Directors approved a total of \$44,185 to help sponsor the National Sheepdog Finals and the National Cattledog Finals during 2020, but these funds were not expended because the finals were cancelled due to Covid. The Board included \$16,500 to support webcasting the sheep Semi-Finals and Finals, contingent on assurance that the footage of the semi-finals would be archived for access on YouTube. This reflected an intention to build a library of the runs of all dogs included in the yearly semi-finals.

In 2020, on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Board voted to transfer management of ABCA's investment funds from US Trust to the firm of Edward Jones.

The Registrar's contract, due to expire in February of 2020, was renewed for another two years.

In accordance with our disciplinary rules, Seth Lins (PA), Karin Robertson (NS) and Tony McAlister (KY) were expelled or barred from membership. Further details can be found on the ABCA website.

With the much-regretted passing of former ABCA President Emil Luedecke in 2020, the Board voted to contribute \$1,000 toward the building of the Shepherd's Memorial located at the Meeker Classic, to honor him.

Beginning in 2020 and throughout the current year, the Board has been considering ways we can provide more benefits to our members. The Promotional Money program, which has been a feature of the ABCA since its beginning, is a valuable source of funds to support trials and other methods of promoting our dogs. Because it is based on the number of registrations from each state or province, however, the pot from which we can allocate money is very small for some of those states and provinces. We hope that in early 2022 we will have established a system for providing more support for trials, as well as a system for recognizing and supporting our members who do not trial.

Eileen Stein also provided an update on behalf of the ABCA Health & Education Foundation (HEF). Further research on the HEF-sponsored EAOD project was brought to a standstill early in 2020 as a result of the Covid pandemic. It has resumed in 2021 but is still at a reduced level due mainly to dog owners' reluctance to bring their dogs to the Helsinki lab for testing, and also to some personnel having been reassigned to Covid research. There is nothing new to report on the EAOD project at this time. The HEF did support an investigation into whether a gene variant which has been linked to aggression and seizures in Belgian Malinois, and which has been found in 60% of Border Collie test subjects, might be associated with the same behaviors in Border Collies. This modest study, with a total cost of \$3,000, found no such association in Border Collies. The study is reported in the journal *Animal Genetics* as "Association analysis of dopamine transporter gene (SLC6A3) variants with risk for seizures and aggression in Border Collies." The HEF currently has assets of approximately \$108,000 on hand.

Debbie Bailey presented the 2020 Financial Statement. Cy Peterson moved to accept the report. Barbara Ray made the second, motion approved.

Eileen Stein reported that Amanda Milliken has been named to the ABCA Hall of Fame, and Beverly Lambert spoke eloquently of Amanda's accomplishments and contributions to the breed while presenting her with the Hall of Fame medalion.

Eileen Stein asked if anyone had comments or further business. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.