

November 2021

American Border Collie Association, Inc.

Newsletter

www.americanbordercollie.org



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Amanda Milliken - 2021 Hall of Fame Inductee

At this year's annual membership meeting, Amanda Milliken was inducted into the ABCA Hall of Fame, in recognition of her accomplishments as a breeder and handler, and her record of service to the breed and the Border Collie community.

Beverly Lambert, longtime ABCA member and past Director, made the presentation. Here are some of the thoughts she shared:

When I began trialing dogs in the Northeast there were about a half a dozen fair trials and a small number of farm trials. Anyone who could get to most of them was a serious handler. We didn't look beyond our region for more events and except for occasional imported dogs we were satisfied with breeding the dogs we had in a fairly haphazard manner. Amanda's appearance on the scene changed that within a year. She had no more than appeared at one of our local events than she was hosting a trial at her parents' farm in Ontario. Recognizing that the still fledgling sport in Eastern Canada would benefit from the inclusion of the more numerous and experienced albeit regionally constrained Eastern Americans, she urged us North, enticing us with British handlers we had only read about. Amanda brought them to Canada as judges and teachers. Not content with these efforts she helped form the Ontario Border Collie Club which aided in organizing trials all across Eastern Ontario.

A year or two later in 1998 she convinced her home town of Pittsburg to host a trial at a local park. She worked to find a series of sponsors, organizing the Grass Creek Park Dog Trial that has grown to one of the most successful trials in North America.

When ABCA was doing battle with AKC over the future of the Border Collie in the United States, the Canadian Kennel Club decided it wanted to be the registry for the Border Collie in Canada. Canada has laws about how animal registrations are controlled. Amanda along with a group of supporters used those laws to form the Canadian Border Collie Association. They took on the CKC in a national referendum over which organization should be the official Border Collie Registry in Canada, and won. Using the USBCHA and ABCA as an example, the CBCA organized itself as both the registry and the governing body for trialing in Canada. Amanda was one of the primary founders of the organization and served as President for many years. She has also served on the Boards of ABCA and USBCHA to the benefit of both organizations.

Amanda's most lasting influence is going to be her impact upon the Border Collie breed itself. She continues to produce from the line that goes back to her Hazel (2012 ABCA Hall of Fame) whose greatness can be measured by her contribution to the breed in the US and Canada. Additionally she imported dogs from the UK, including Stuart Davidson's Craig and Star, to use in her breeding program.

Given Amanda's success as a Handler, her contributions to the organization and governance of CBCA, USBCHA and ABCA, her hosting of numerous trials over 30 years, her mentoring of new handlers, and the proven line of dogs she has bred, there can be no doubt she deserves inclusion in ABCA Hall of Fame.



Photo credit Werner Reitboeck



Hall of Fame Nominations

Due To ABCA by June 15, 2022

Application forms available from the office or online at www.americanbordercollie.org

AMERICAN BORDER COLLIE ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting

October 7, 2021

Minutes

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 those in attendance. A motion was made by Mike Neary to approve the minutes as presented. Jamie 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 is generally approved for distribution in a year, as a result 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 those 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 medallion.

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



"Hemp"

Photo credit Jenny Glen

Annual Memberships Due before January 1, 2022

Annual Memberships expire on December 31st of each calendar year. To be eligible to vote in the 2022 elections, your membership must be paid **prior** to January 1, 2022.

Annual Membership fees are \$15. Lifetime Memberships are \$150.

Both Annual and Lifetime Memberships offer the same benefits.

Report from the ABCA Health & Education Foundation, Inc. (HEF)

After being virtually shut down thanks to Covid-19 throughout 2020, the major research project into EAOD that HEF has been funding has now been gearing up again, although there are no new developments to report at this time.

In the meantime, HEF undertook to support a small project investigating a possible lead to genetic causes of aggression and seizures in Border Collies. In contrast to the EAOD research which is very broad in scope, this investigation was narrowly focused and required a limited expenditure of time and money.

Basically, two genetic variants in the dopamine receptor gene are associated with seizures and aggression in Belgian Malinois. These same variants also exist in Border Collies, giving rise to the question whether those variants might also be associated with seizures and/or aggression in our breed.

The research, conducted by Dr. Eva Furrow and colleagues at the University of Minnesota, compared two groups of Border Collies. The first group included 47 Border Collies with a history of seizures, aggression, or both. The second group -- the control group -- included 100 healthy Border Collies at least 8 years of age with no history of seizures or aggression. The researchers found that the gene variants were present in both groups at similar frequency, and therefore did not significantly increase the risk for seizures and/or aggression in Border Collies. The effect of the variants on seizure risk might be affected by genetic background and only occur in certain breeds, like the Malinois.

At first glance this may seem like the research was unsuccessful, since it didn't result in identification of a genetic cause of seizures/aggression in Border Collies. But a negative result like this is also valuable -- it eliminates one possible avenue of causation, and demonstrates that genetic testing for dopamine receptor variants in Border Collies cannot be used to predict or understand the origin of epilepsy in the breed. There are many "blind alleys" on the way to finding the genetic causes of diseases or disorders in our dogs, and this result -- from a relatively modest expenditure of \$3,000 -- closes off one of them.

The research is published in *Animal Genetics* under the title "Association analysis of dopamine transporter gene (SLC6A3) variants with risk for seizures and aggression in Border Collies."

WAYS THAT YOU CAN SUPPORT ABCA HEALTH & EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Gifts to the HEF are fully tax deductible. 100% of donations will support the activities, programs and grants of the HEF. None goes to paid fundraisers or salaries. You may make a gift online or by mail. Contact information below. A gift to the HEF may be made in memory of a family member or friend. The HEF will send a card to the recipient, letting them know of your thoughtful gift.

If you shop at Amazon, next time please go to www.smile.amazon.com and choose the ABCA Health & Education Foundation as your charitable organization. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% for every purchase. This is a loyalty program and there is no extra cost to us or to you. You'll have access to the same products, features, services and prices as on Amazon.com. The shopping experience is identical to Amazon.com with the added benefit that the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% to our Foundation!

Please remember to log on to www.smile.amazon.com each time you shop at Amazon — it uses your same Amazon log in. And please choose the ABCA Health & Education Foundation as the organization you wish to support.

Finally, please tell all your friends and family. This is a wonderful way to support our mission at no extra cost to anyone.

Contact Eileen Stein, President, ABCA Health & Education Foundation, Inc
212 Long Hill Rd • Hillsborough, NJ 08844 • eileen@bordercollie.org • www.bordercolliefoundation.org



"Brit"

Photo credit Jamie Spring

Division of Labor

It has been twenty thousand years since man and dog formed their partnership. That we have altered the dog genetically is well understood; it is hardly known how they changed us. Since dogs could hear and smell better than men, we could concentrate on sight. Since courage is commonplace in dogs, men's adrenal glands could shrink. Dogs, by making us more efficient predators, gave us time to think. In short, dogs civilized us.

These words were written by the late Donald McCaig, a Virginia sheep farmer and trial handler who introduced Border Collies to the general public through his novels *Nop's Trials* and *Nop's Hope*. But are they true? Did dogs really change us humans, helping to sustain us by taking on the

roles they could do best, and thereby giving us scope to develop the skills and abilities that we were more capable of?

I suppose we will never really know, although it's plausible that our close relationship over the centuries influenced how both our species developed, in ways both intentional and unintentional.

What is undoubtedly true is that the partnership between livestock producers and their working stockdogs relates closely to this model even today. Through breeding and training, stockmen and women have developed Border Collies into helpers that can read stock better than we can, have superior speed and stamina to manage them, and are willing and eager to play that role. In turn, the human partner is freed up to spend more time on the "brainier" functions needed to develop and maintain a successful livestock operation.

The ABCA originated to foster and serve that way of life. We are dedicated to preserving the working ability of Border Collies and facilitating their use in the management of livestock. In addition to the many farmers and ranchers who depend on their dogs for this work, we believe there are many more that don't use dogs in their operations but would benefit greatly from doing so. We continue to brainstorm about ways to make contact with them, to show them the value of the dogs, and to help them learn the means of training and handling that will make these dogs willing and useful partners.

If you, our members, have suggestions about how we can do this more effectively, we would very much welcome your ideas.

**AMERICAN BORDER COLLIE ASSOCIATION, INC.
STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND OTHER
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS - MODIFIED CASH BASIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020**

REVENUES	2020
Annual Memberships	\$ 29,820
Duplicates and corrections	6,493
Lifetime memberships	28,657
Registration fees	243,355
Transfer fees	28,216
Miscellaneous	12,207
Investment income	34,211
Total revenues	<u>382,959</u>

EXPENSES	
Program Services	
Prize monies awarded	500
Promotional support to members	12,588
Research support	-
Trials sponsorship	-
Total program services	<u>13,088</u>

Supporting Services	
Annual Meeting expenses	-
Bank fees	6,851
Computer expense, technical support, and web expense	5,982
Depreciation and amortization	134
File storage	1,388
Insurance and bonding	1,589
Investment fees	11,488
Office supplies	1,935
Postage and delivery	13,260
Printing and reproduction	5,965
Professional fees	4,145
Office Manager/Registrar fees	82,030
Telephone	2,327
Travel	-
Other office expenses	2,113
Total supporting services	<u>139,207</u>
Total expenses	<u>152,295</u>

OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE)	
Realized loss on investments	346,015
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	<u>576,679</u>
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>1,271,484</u>
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 1,848,163</u>

Promotional Money Available through ABCA

Promotional money is available upon a request from any ABCA member to promote the working Border Collie in their area. Funding for these projects comes from a designated fund at the rate of \$2 per dog registered. Funds are allocated to the state or province of the Breeder. Events often include trials, clinics, fun days, school projects, etc. A Promotional Money Request Form is available on the website or through the office. The request must be submitted to the office prior to the deadlines of February 15 and July 15 of each year. Following is the amount available as of November 2021.

STATE	AMOUNT AVAILABLE	STATE	AMOUNT AVAILABLE
AB	\$701	NB	\$95
AK	\$412	NC	\$1,176
AL	\$3,700	ND	\$752
AR	\$1,615	NE	\$2,232
AZ	\$2,092	NH	\$1,116
BC	\$400	NJ	\$1,885
CA	\$3,033	NM	\$284
CO	\$323	NS	\$28
CT	\$913	NV	\$1,318
DC	\$2	NY	\$645
DE	\$92	OH	\$5,532
FL	\$1,418	OK	\$504
GA	\$2,246	ON	\$986
HI	\$5	OR	\$2,265
IA	\$274	PA	\$5,209
ID	\$653	PR	\$48
IL	\$647	QC	\$1,261
IN	\$4,887	RI	\$206
KS	\$4,545	SC	\$2,397
KY	\$332	SD	\$2
LA	\$5,014	SK	\$224
MA	\$1,352	TN	\$1,205
MB	\$379	TX	\$3,646
MD	\$439	UT	\$445
ME	\$1,593	VA	\$2,079
MI	\$3,276	VT	\$575
MN	\$600	WA	\$1,201
MO	\$1,032	WI	\$814
MS	\$1,523	WV	\$2,925
MT	\$934	WY	\$853

Grant funds are also available from the ABCA. Grants are generally made for scientific research and educational projects, and grant monies are not allocated by state. A Grant Request Form is available on the website. The deadlines for grant requests are January 15 and June 15 each year.



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"Hope"

Photo credit Jamie Spring

Prize Monies Paid at the National Finals Each Year

**Handler must be a current American Border Collie Association Member to compete in the USBCHA Finals.
Dogs must be ABCA registered to collect ABCA prize monies.*

Sheep Finals - Nursery Top 30 Qualifying - \$100 each
Open Top 50 1st Go Round - \$100 each
Open Top 20 2nd Go Round - \$100 each
Breeder of the Top ABCA registered Nursery and Open Dogs - \$500 each

Cattle Finals - Nursery - 1st - \$300, 2nd - \$200
Open - 1st Go Round - 1st - \$200, 2nd-4th - \$100 each
Open - 2nd Go Round - 1st - \$200, 2nd-4th - \$100 each
Open Finals - 1st-\$500, 2nd-\$400, 3rd-\$300, 4th-\$200, 5th-10th-\$100, 11th-20th-\$50
Breeder of the Top ABCA registered Open and Nursery Dogs - \$500 each