

**AMERICAN BORDER COLLIE ASSOCIATION, INC.
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**Minutes of Annual Membership Meeting
September 24, 1999
Middletown, VA**

President Dave Arnold welcomed everyone following dinner and called the meeting to order. Dave asked Hubert Bailey to give the invocation.

Dave then asked for the Proof of Mailing from Secretary, Patty Rogers. She presented the notice of the Annual meeting and the proof of mailing from Alexander, Van Loon, Sloan, Levens & Favre, PLLC. Dave announced that with the 442 ballots received out of the 3200 mailed and the 19 ballots distributed at the meeting, a quorum was present.

Patty Rogers read the minutes of the 1998 Annual Meeting. Motion was made by Hubert Bailey to approve the minutes as read. 2nd by Ralph Pulfer. All approved.

Dave then introduced the head table to the membership. They were Dave Ellison, Sally Lacy, Don McCaig, Elizabeth McClung, Ethel Conrad and Patty Rogers.

Dave then asked to depart of the planned agenda and move to the Hall of Fame first. Dave stated that since 1983 we had been registering dogs in the United States and Canada and began the Hall of Fame program last year to recognize the dogs and handlers that had made significant contributions to the Border Collie breed. There were 2 divisions, one was for the dogs themselves and the other the handlers/breeders. Dave stated that it is hard to quantify greatness.

Dave then called Barbara Ligon to make the first presentation. Barbara came to introduce Nan owned by Alasdair MacRae. Barbara stated that Nan is the most remarkable dog on the trial field and on any farm today in the U.S., Canada, or Great Britain. She has given her all to Alasdair. In 1993 she won the International Championship in Great Britain not long after being seriously injured. She won the International Farmer's Cup from the One Man and His Dog TV series. Then she came here in 1995. She has won the Meeker Classic twice, the Texas Olympics twice, the USBCHA Handlers' Association National Finals twice, the Purina Dog of the Year twice, and has been featured in the Wall Street Journal. Dave then called Alasdair to come forward to accept the medallion for Nan.

Dave then introduced Ralph Pulfer to make the next presentation. Ralph wanted to recognize Bill Dillard for his contribution as the original push and financial support that began ABCA. Ralph and Bill requested \$100 checks from each of 25 people to begin the registry. For that \$100, they received a life membership and \$50 in services. Bill was the positive force in many areas of the Border Collie world. He was the founding President of ABCA. Bill was instrumental in the formation of the Southern Stockdog Association and the Southern Stock Dog Journal in 1982. He hosted the American Grand Finals in Dothan, Alabama, for many years. There was usually at least \$4,000 added money to that trial. He had many imported dogs, but his most notable was Shep who was inducted into the Hall of Fame last year. He was unselfish and a simple "Thank You" for the work was adequate compensation for him. He was serving as President of ABCA at the time of his unfortunate death.

Ralph asked Lena Bailey to accept the award for Bill. Lena stated that she was honored to accept the award for her good friend. Bill was a good friend of many and it was a great personal loss to many. What was important to Bill was the versatility of the Border Collie and the trials. He was such a promoter. Trials went from only 1 in his area to over 14 at one time. Dave presented the medallion to Lena.

Next Dave called to Doug Winslow to make the final presentation. Doug Winslow stated that Ethel Conrad was a real pioneer in the Border Collie trialling world. Doug told several stories about Ethel, only to leave the audience with a warm understanding for the great contribution of the this outstanding lady. Ethel came forward to accept the award and explained the pictures that were displayed on posters from 1945. Following an ovation for Ethel, Dave asked to take a quick break for pictures of the Hall of Fame inductees and then we would resume with the business meeting.

Before beginning the meeting again, Dave read the running order for the top 50 to begin on Saturday.

Financial statements were distributed and Ivan Weir made a motion to accept the financial statement as presented. Barbara Ligon 2nd. All approved.

Dave gave a brief update on the registry. He stated that from 1983 to 1997, 100,000 dogs were registered. We had registered over 50,000 in just the last 2 years. He stated that the office staff included Leona Dedeaux, Karen Dedeaux as well as the Secretary.

Dave reported that bids had been secured on the proposed computer program for ABCA that should carry us into the next 15 or so years. The Board of Directors would be reviewing those in their meeting on Monday.

Dave then asked for reports from the committees.

Sally Lacy reported on the Eye Committee's work. She wanted to give credit to those Border Collie owners that trial for having lowered the incidence of proven eye defects down to 0 this year. Dr. Acland had seen 158 dogs in 2 days at the Finals and found no CEA, a few scars and about 15% having some scars or lesions that the owner needs to be aware of. There was one multiple retinal folds, 1 with bilateral retinal degeneration that most may diagnose with PRA, and he would not disagree with that. He wants to look at the offspring of that particular dog. 5% - 10% had lens scars that were usually attributed to trauma. ABCA had made it possible for Dr. Acland to use stored DNA and the \$25,000 was critical. One benefactor with a one time donation of \$20,000 had also come forward. They had hired someone to sequence the data. It was a student from St. Petersburg, Russia. There should be significant data of interest to us within a year. The equipment was also coming to organize this info.

Sally stated that the Eye Committee had written an article about what is going on in the United States and sent it to the Working Sheep Dog News in the U.K.

Dave wanted to announce that work was being done on a new web page for ABCA and the Hall of Fame should be up soon.

Dave called for the Nominating Committee's report from Bill Berhow. Bill had left so Dave read the nominations from the Ballot. The top three vote receivers were Patrick Shannahan, Rusty Child, Sally Lacy. The top nominee from Eastern Canada was Bruce Smart.

Dave asked if there was any other new or old business to be discussed. Motion was made by Ralph Pulfer to adjourn. 2nd by Linda Fogt. All approved and the meeting was adjourned.