

*American Border Collie Association, Inc.
Annual Membership Meeting
Lebanon, Tennessee
November 15, 2002
6:00 p.m.*

The Annual membership meeting of the American Border Collie Association, Inc. was held at the East-West Building of the James E. Ward Agricultural Center in Lebanon, TN. The meeting was called to order by President, Bruce Smart. Patty Rogers, Secretary, presented the proof of mailing of the notice of the meeting by letter from Alexander, Van Loon, Sloan, Levens, and Favre, PLLC that stated that 3,682 ballots and notice of meeting were mailed to eligible voters and that 641 ballots were returned casting votes for the election of directors for 2002. This represents a quorum of over 10% of the eligible voters of the Association.

A packet of handout materials had been prepared and distributed and included minutes from the 2001 Annual Meeting. Beverly Lambert made a motion to accept those minutes as presented. Motion was 2nd by Dan Gill. Motion carried.

Bruce asked Leslie Scruggs, a Director, to tally the votes from the members present at the meeting to add to the votes received by mail. These would be presented later in the meeting.

The financial statement was also distributed for the membership. No action was taken on the financial statement.

Bruce then gave the President's update on the activities of the Association this past year. Those events were as follows:

- 2 Dogs accepted in the Register on Merit program*
- An auditor was hired*
- Increased the registration and transfer fees to \$8 with \$1.00 of that fee going into a National Finals fund*
- Expense account policy for the Association was written*
- Updated the promotional money allocation process*
- Developed 2 brochures – one a general information and one on health issues*
- A pilot study began on the Hip diseases on Border Collies*
- An advertising policy was developed*
- A discussion on ABCA/AKC dual registrations*
- Approved a new breeder award for the National Cattle Dog Finals*
- Modified the prize money for the Nursery Class of the National Sheep Dog Finals to include the top 30 qualifying runs*

Next were committee reports. Don McCaig reported from the Advertising Committee that they had attempted to do more than the routine advertising for the Association. He had asked for nominees for directors in the advertising. Most of the money was spent there and added into cattledog programs. "The Bark" was used to test response from a non-traditional group of potential members, but very little response was received. That ad had been cancelled. Don stated that he would welcome any new ideas for advertising.

Mike Canaday said that he would like to thank the Association for the \$2,000 that had already been donated to the 2003 National Cattle Dog Finals and that ABCA would have representation at the Red Bluff Sales and at the Klamath Falls Sales this spring. That money would be well spent and was much appreciated and would include some ads in magazines.

Bruce asked Patty to report the results of the election as tallied by Alexander, Van Loon, Sloan, Levens and Favre and Leslie Scruggs for ballots presented at the meeting. Patty read the results as follows:

New Directors for 2003-2006 would be Larry Burkes of Afton, TX; Robin Nuffer of Emmett, ID; Gary Westbrook of Benton, AR and Bruce Smart was re-elected from Eastern Canada.

Bruce stated that there was no other announced business.

Old business was the audit. A copy of the independent audit report was also presented in the packet distributed. There were no questions.

Bruce asked if there was any business from the membership present. There was none.

Bruce said that he would like to open the floor for discussion on the issue of ABCA/AMC dual registration. Much discussion followed members representing both sides of the issue. Notes of that discussion will be attached to the minutes.

After much discussion, Bruce Fogt made a motion to adjourn. Motion was 2nd by Don Gill. Meeting was adjourned.

Discussion Comments on AKC issue at Annual Meeting

Chuck O'Reilly first asked how many dollars would the Association lose by banning dual registry. Bruce stated that there was no way to predict that.

Don McCaig said that we don't know how many dual registered dogs there are now. No way to be sure, but he doesn't think a tremendous number.

Chuck asked why we haven't take a poll to see what the outcome would be. It was agreed to put the issue up for discussion on the internet since we don't usually get much return on surveys.

Chuck then asked if this is a vendetta?

Beverly Lambert stated there was no reason to see the AKC issue in the future.

Joyce Geier stated that AKC breeders would always look to ABC gene pool for breeding.

Myra Soden said that she agreed with Beverly and that it was really a responsible breeding issue. We shouldn't limit what we can do with our dogs.

Ralph Pulfer stated that ignoring it would be the best way to deal with the issue since it was not a problem now.

Joyce stated that we are so small compared to AKC and we would not be able to fight them. Is there anything we can do to encourage breeders to keep them toward the working lines?

Beverly stated that she agreed with Ralph. Let them do their own thing and we'll do ours.

Don McCaig stated that AKC is starting to impact us now. Our registrations are down and theirs are up. We'll lose pups going to AKC. If we wait 5 years and we have deeply dual registered dogs, there will be lots more problems.

Bruce Fogt stated that he had had quite a few contact him in response to the discussion issue and they agree with Beverly and Ralph. There was agreement with Joyce that we should work on ways to promote our breed.

Eileen Stein stated that good planning is to foresee problems before they happen. If we would recall how ABC's position was in the original fight with AKC. Some attempt should be done to copyright the name. AKC kept their stud books open and the owners would be the ones to make the real choice.

Patrick Shannahan stated that he had had quite a few contact him also and got similar feedback to Bruce. It's now a issue of educating our members.

Beverly stated that the reason ABC fought AKC originally was to fight their breed recognition. Really now that that's done, education is the only issue.

Dan Gill stated that Patrick had a great point on what he said about education. Any move we make will open a door.

Paul Tucker stated he had talked to a lot of folks. On the money side – we'll loose if they have to choose. Most thought that this should have been done when AKC started recognition, not now. ABC had spent \$25,000 on a lawsuit to fight AKC.

The Border Collie Society of America's president had written AKC's drive to siphon from ABC...

Leroy Boyd stated that he wanted some clarification on the \$25,000 spent toward a lawsuit.

Don McCaig wanted to agree with Paul's point of why we didn't do anything before. The reason was that it was not a problem, so let's wait.

AKC doesn't care about ABCA. They are going to do their own thing. Most AKC people don't come to ABC dogs.

Eileen Stein stated that AKC does want to increase border collie registrations and has asked BCSA to work on it.

Paul stated that BCSA has asked AKC to keep it so that ABCA would always be acceptable.

Advertising versatility dogs is a big problem.

Eileen Stein stated that the proposal would not keep them out, only the next generation would be out.

Paul stated that agility didn't take brains or working ability away.

Don stated that one thing he's noticed is that when people don't want to face an issue, they talk education. How can we afford to educate.

Myra stated she had heard a lot of folks saying "Why should an organization be able to tell people how they can use their dogs." The solution is to sell with spay and neuter contracts.

Sylvia said that the British Kennel clubs sell on a non-breeding contract.

Ralph stated that he wanted to thank the registry for the way they distributed the \$3000 to the Nursery this year.

Eileen stated that those that select for conformation will destroy the breed and we can't educate them.

Chuck stated that trials have always proven dogs. That will continue to occur.

Paul stated that he sees AKC would ruin ABC. Some already have 2 lines within ABC now.

Leslie asked for a show of hands of how many wanted it to change and how many wanted it to stay the same. The majority by far wanted it to stay the same. Only 4 or 5 voted to change the policy.

More discussion continued until Bruce Fogt made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. 2nd by Dan Gill. The meeting then adjourned.