AGM 2015 Minutes

Attendees: Judy Miller, Jeanne Shaw, Sarah-Jane Petti, Brian Smith (ON), Anthea Young Miller, Bonnie Mountenay, Natasha Matthews, Leanne Hurl, Glenda Harris, Jennifer Oldfield, Barb Burgess, Debby DaCosta, Gail Lockstead, Tanya Strom (representing KAOS Dogsport), Avril Tatterson

1. Establish Quorum

   At the beginning of the meeting it appeared that there was not a quorum (i.e. a minimum of 3 executive members and 8 VOTING members). It was then realized that those present included members from KAOS Dog Sports, a professional member with the right to vote and therefore a quorum was present at the meeting.

2. Open Meeting – 7:29PM

3. Introductions

4. Reading and Approving of Minutes

   Brian Smith moved that the minutes be accepted as presented on the website. Seconded by Gail Lockstead. Motion passed

5. Reports

   - Secretary
     - No report
   - Treasurer
     - Brian Smith moved that the financial records be accepted as presented. Seconded by Bonnie Mountenay. Motion passed
   - Website
     - Presented by Brian Smith (ON) on behalf of Brian Smith (BC) the current webmaster
     - Brian Smith (BC) is standing down
     - Jennifer Oldfield has contacted Brian Smith (BC) regarding the position
     - Request for more photos / brags
     - Discussion about rss feed on News page which can deliver updates to mail box. Discussion about how to use. Sarah-Jane offered to research and provide more information to the members.
   - Membership / Dog ID / Trials / Judges
     - Brian Smith presented membership information:
       - 181 active members made up from across Canada:
         - BC – 32, AB – 19, SK – 30, MB – 17, ON – 72, QC – 3, NB – 7, NS – 1
       - 61 associate members, 36 regular members, 84 professional members
       - 26 new members to date in 2015

- Judy Miller presented dog registration information on behalf of Bev Hurst
    - In 2014 – a total of 320 new IDs issued
    - So far in 2015 – a total of 140 new IDs presented
    - Since 2002, 4826 dog IDs issued
- Anthea Young Miller presented information on trial applications
    - In 2013 – 82 approved trials
    - In 2014 – 75 approved trials
    - In 2015 – 61 approved trials thus far
- Judy Miller presented judge information:
    - Judge number 069 has been assigned
    - Roughly 40-42 active judges
- Judy Miller presented on behalf of Bev Hurst title information
    - Approximately 3700 regular runs (including team) with 88 working runs
    - Approximately 800 titles issued in total for 2014
    - 6 Master Champions
    - 5 Working Rookie titles
    - First Versatility Supreme Champion issued in 2013

- Rules Committee
    - Judy Miller was previous chair and has stepped down
    - Debby DaCosta has been appointed as replacement

6. Message from chair – delivered by Judy Miller

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to the AGM/Seminar. I am truly sorry that I am unable to attend due to a critical situation here at home. I was looking forward to being able to put faces to the names of persons who cross my desk and of course, meet the dogs.

It has been a few years since CARO was in this area although the AGM has been held in the Western provinces in odd years and Ontario (different areas in Ontario) in even years. Hopefully there will be sufficient interest and numbers in the near future to hold AGMs in the eastern provinces.

CARO rally O was first introduced in Calgary in 2004 and the seminar and trials were hosted by Laurie Albright of All Bright Dogs.

Since 2002 CARO has moved steadily into the western provinces, and more recently into New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and not to forget our Quebec friends.

I want to also thank you for your support of CARO and all that it stands for and hope that you will continue to do so in the years to come no matter who is in office.

It has been a privilege to not only be co-founder of this association but to be Chairperson since its inception. It is a responsibility that I do not take lightly.

Recently there have been some remarks on FB pertaining to CARO and how it is run and that the Chair is to blame and that a new chair will change everything. Only the members and the competitors can ask for changes and it is the board that implements them.

To Clarify: The board is comprised of 2 members from Ontario, Judy Miller – Vice Chair, Brian Smith – Treasurer, 1 director from BC, Jeanne Shaw and Secretary Sarah-Jane Petti from AB and myself. I am but the messenger and the person who organizes the committees and chair meetings. I do not vote unless there is a tie.

Old Business

7. Reviewed that all Old Business from 2014 meeting was complete and their resolution were in 2014 minutes.

New Business

8. Elections – Chair – update

Brian Smith explained that the voting period was still open, with 51 votes cast out of the possible 79 voting pool. Survey monkey does not allow him to see how individuals are casting their ballots, and is a truly anonymous system.

Brian will send out a reminder in May that voting will be closing soon. He is not sure if the program will re-send it to all eligible voters, or just those left to vote.

Question from Tanya Strom about the nomination process.

Discussion took place regarding the process of voting and why certain members had lost the right to vote and others who should not have the right were allowed to vote.

After checking the database the following was discovered:

-When a membership lapses for a period of time (not just a very late renewal), the current process is to use the old membership number and not issue a new one. The database has a field called 'Join Date' and this date is used to calculate the present two-year requirement for voting. Therefore a person who has not been a member for a long period could, upon rejoining, immediately be able to vote. There are two solutions to this problem:

- Change the database so that there is a 'rejoin' date that would be used to calculate the required voting time period. This would require some reprogramming of the database and a means for changing existing data.

- The second option is NOT to reissue the same membership number. This would certainly be the cheapest and, probably the easiest method to use. It will probably be necessary to have some additional programming to transfer dogs from one membership number to another.

Finally we have to consider where a business is a professional member (in the name of the business) and the owner of the business stops running it .The owner then applies for membership and has to wait a further two years before being allowed to vote. This has to be rectified. I do not know if we can override the join date in the database. This would be a minor program override. In addition any dogs owned in the business name would have to be transferred. Another programming problem.

A discussion was started informally on Facebook regarding how long membership should be required for voting. Suggestion to send out a more formal survey to members to find out the general consensus on how long someone needs to be a member before voting.

Observation was also made that someone could be a member for less than a year, but be a judge and not be able to vote.

9. New Rules Committee Chair and Director introduction

Jennifer Oldfield asked who else is on the committee. Currently there are 5 members. If anyone is interested, please send an email to a member of the executive.

10. Request from Michele Rand-Shaw in BC – discuss options for more higher level titles.

Many competitors, especially from the 'non-competition' community, i.e. the general public, either do not have the skills or the interest to proceed beyond the existing Novice level and work their dogs off leash or to jump their dogs. CARO is potentially losing revenue and involvement because of this. There are organisations which have, for example, Novice 1 to whatever level is available. Some organisations allow dog s that have obtained higher titles to compete in the lower levels in which they have not previously competed. There was also discussion regarding having an intermediate Novice class which could include some stations from the Advanced level. A further suggestion was that there could be an 'anything goes' level where stations from all classes could be included. Titles need to consider that not all dogs are capable of earning 190s. Suggestions were to look at other organizations to look for new ideas.

11. Location and Date of 2016 AGM
    - Red Barn Barrie, ON in April or May of 2016
    - Tanya Strom expressed interest in KAOS Dogsport in SK hosting the next western AGM

12. Open to the floor

a) Debby DaCosta introduced the idea of adding a form to the website that would send information to all of the executive at one time.

b) A restructure of the bylaws was discussed, led by Brian Smith

Using the existing membership (both actual and voting as a basis) four areas of operation was discussed.

- British Columbia and Alberta
- Saskatchewan and Manitoba
- Ontario
- The rest of the country

This could be expanded so that BC, AB, SK and MB each have their own director.

Each area of operation would hold their own elections to appoint a Regional Director who would serve on the board as an active director. Because the 'Rest of the Country' has only about seven members then either Ontario would include them or a director at large would be appointed.

The present director structure would be abolished and would become administrative assistants who receive a stipend for the work they perform.

The Board of Directors would therefore consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer and the four regional directors for a total of eight persons. If the Ontario and the rest of the country was represented by one region, there would be seven persons. Ideally there should be an odd number of persons on the Board of Directors in order that the Chair may have a vote in the case of a tie (otherwise the Chair cannot vote).

Consequently if there are eight on the Board an additional 'Director at Large' should be appointed.

Tanya Strom suggested that a judge representative on the board could also be an interesting idea to explore.

c) Discussion took place regarding the various levels of membership and it was suggested that there could be a Corporate or Club Membership. Such membership would have the same rights as a Professional membership but not the right to vote.

d) Debby DaCosta started a discussion about how to build more of a community for judges, to allow for better communication, consistent judging, and for staying up to date with rule changes. What is the requirement for keeping judge's license? Does there need to be requirements that, if not met, results in a lost license? Other venues do this, and there are lots of possible options for requirements that could be met.

   Debby mentioned that Judy Miller used to send out emails to the judges that she found helpful.

The idea of having a video library demonstrating correct versus incorrect for exercises was raised as something that would be helpful. Clips need to be short, demoing with a variety of different people, dogs, sizes. Rally-free does this very well and it is very helpful.

Tanya asked whether there was a forum that might be possible. Judy used to do "what if" scenarios to the judges and then email out the responses to those that answered.

d) Brian Smith thanks Debby DaCosta for an amazing seminar

13. Close meeting

- Anthea Young Miller moves the meeting close. Seconded by Sarah-Jane. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:49PM