AGM 2020—Minutes
Teleconference May 9

1. Meeting was opened at 7:00 pm EDT

2. **Roll Call (and identification of voting members)**

Debby DaCosta, Jeanne Shaw, Sarah Jane Petti, Barb Burgess, Kelly Ladouceur, Deanna Abbot, Brenda Zeng, Sarah Delariux (non voting), Julia Schwark, Melody Murray, Julia Maclean (non voting), Joan Richard, Kathleen Cullen (associate), Neil Slack, Lilian Cook, Kimberly Masiak, Chantal Rioux, Lisa Hasebe (non voting), Emma Bell, Darlene McCuaig, Leanne Hurl, Christine Ryder (associate), Sarah Hughes, Danielle LeVangie, Paula Webber, Dove Cresswell, Tanya Strom, Judy Miller

3. **Chair's Opening Statement.**

Welcome to everyone that is able to attend our teleconference AGM 2020. It is unfortunate we were not able to have an in person AGM due to COVID-19, and as this year's host I was disappointed to have to cancel. This is my first AGM as Chair, I have learned a lot and still have a lot to learn, I look forward to working with everyone as we move forward.

"We must always remember the purpose of Canadian Association of Rally Obedience.

-Encourage ALL Dogs, purebred, mixed breeds, pets, companion dogs or titled champions to participate in the fun and exciting sport of Rally-O
-Provide a venue for dogs to earn Rally-O Obedience titles in Canada
-Qualify and certify judges in Canada, so that trials may be held
-Maintain a registry of dogs, eligible for competition
-Establish a database of training classes, clinics etc.
-Use the guidelines of CARO to promote Rally-O to the fullest."

Also remember "Bud (Charles) Kramer's wish that as more advanced levels are added to Rally-O, that Rally-O titles will remain based on individual scores and not on the idea of defeating other teams. We will continue to encourage and reward individual dog and handler teams so that Rally-O remains a sport, much in the way agility is a sport."

Always keeping in mind "that ATTITUDE is more important", "Rally-O is a venue for those who desire an activity that is fun and games, it is not simple or easy, but challenges handlers and dogs in a partnership that improves heeling and teamwork."

To achieve success we must ensure our exchanges and discussions are constructive and productive. This is how we continue to move forward, grow and get better as a team. We will get there by striving to eliminate blaming, complaining and defending. Work together for the betterment of CARO. While we

won't agree on everything it is okay to agree to disagree. Everyone's opinion is valid.

Before we move forward I would like to thank all members and competitors for making CARO what it is! I have been a judge for ten years, each and every run is appreciated, I gasp at some performances and hold my breath for others. All mean a lot to me personally. Watching teams grow is very rewarding to me.

I would like to take a moment to thank our executive. We are very busy behind the scenes and as we are out of sight you may not know everything we are doing. Believe me we have been busy and will continue to work hard for the betterment of CARO. Please be patient with us while we carefully and thoughtfully rollout new things.
I would like to personally thank……

Judy Miller our vice president
Jeanne Shaw our secretary
Barb Burgess our Treasurer and responsible for Data Entry
Lilian Cook, Ontario Director
Julia Schwark, West Director
Jennifer Oldfield, Prairie Director and Website
Emma Bell, Executive at large
Sara-Jane Petti, Past President.
Ayoka Bubar, Trial Approver
Honourable Mention to Judy again for course approval and judges
Also need to acknowledge Sherri Gourlie our Document Management Volunteer and Alexandra McGowan, our Volunteer Translator

Now let us proceed and let the meeting begin.

4. **Review of previous minutes** (2018 because no quorum in 2019)

5. **Acceptance of minutes**

In 2019, we did not have quorum; the minutes from 2018 have been posted on website for over a year. Motion to accept Kelly/SarahJane passed unanimously

6. **Matters Arising from the minutes**

none

7. **Reports**

a) Secretary (Jeanne)

No report

b) Treasurer (Barb)

Financial statements have been presented to the board
2019 profit was $4,411.48

This is about 1,000 less than 2018 because renewals were lower, mostly because the reminder was sent out late and many of the renewals came in early 2020
Dog registrations are also down. Trial fees are down. There have been the same number of trials but over less runs…many trials with under 40 runs so no fees required.
Expenses for 2019 were $4,695 lower because there was no AGM but there were 2 sponsored trials which was an additional $2,106 expense
Basically the 2019 financials are consistent with other years.

In 2020, there are going to be some major expenses in making the website more secure…at a cost of $3,000.
In early 2020 there were a good rate of renewals and registrations but nothing since March because of COVID. We may have a loss for 2020 because of these expense with little revenue.

We don't believe that people are having smaller trials just to pay no trial fees—many evening trials, stat holiday trials etc.-so overall small trials. They seem to be a mixture of working and regular.

Motion to accept: Jeanne/Judy passed unanimously

c) Website (Jenn)
No report

d) Membership / Dog ID (Barb)
In 2019 there were 61 new members (64 in 2018).
Renewals were up overall but some will appear in 2020 because of the late reminder to renew.
In 2019 there were 275 dog registrations vs 321 in 2018
There were some for 2020 but of course that has stopped.
Same number of trials in 2019 as 2018

e) Trials (Ayoka)
No report

f) Judges (Judy)
We now have issued Judge's Number -096.
We have 45-51 active judges listed at this time.
Our decision to change the method of shadow judging has been a good one. I am seeing a much more rapid completion of the NAE exam following a session of shadow judging. The candidates are able to complete the required number of runs to qualify for the exam and they are getting better feedback when they can discuss what they are seeing on the spot.

g) Rules Committee (Debby)
There is a list of rules to review with the rules committee and we have made a proposal to the executive to revamp the committee, making it bigger and a better distribution East/West and across the provinces. Stay tuned, rules will be rolled out shortly.

h) Signs Committee (Kathleen)
There has been much discussion. They are proposing 6 new signs in novice, 8 in advanced, 6 in excellent , and 1 in versatility. Some of this is because if there is a change of direction, it has to be both left and right, creating 2 new signs. They suggest that the offset figure 8 and send to jump be moved to excellent and modified in advanced. They are also suggesting a modification for change of pace. They are in the process of writing descriptions and note that this is a proposal, and must be presented to the board for final decisions.

i) Document Management Report (Sherri)
Original document storage (google drive) suggestions:
• Reorganize forms and documents within folders; forms in *Current Documents* folder
• New folder(s) to store archive documents
• Form inventory summary; includes last revised date, other details

Forms and Documents suggestions:
• Standard header/footer for forms; consistent location for title, form #, revised date
• Archive previous copy when revised to preserve history
• Include Revision Log within documents to track changes
• Remove reference to WPT from active forms and documents
• Update Handbooks for easier navigation and to reduce duplication

j) other

7. Old Business

a) Additional titles for working level (Julia)
Proposed new titles based on individual q's within exercises eg. Title (3 expert q's), bronze (5), silver (5) gold (5); bronze honors-bronze title in 3 exercises for example. The passes from prior levels count for upper levels so for directed jumping for example you would need 3 expert q's for your title, 8 for bronze, 13 for silver, etc. NOT proposing getting rid of subdivisions. Certificates would be sent from CARO but hosts could offer title ribbons (flats/rosettes) if they wish. This would encourage more people to be involved in working class.
Julia is presenting a proposal

b) opening up C stream earlier
Rules say you can't start c stream until excellent finished. Could it be after advanced. One still cannot title without getting additional q's until they finish

excellent and versatility; it would encourage competitors and provide additional revenue. If someone entered advanced 1 and 2 and they q they would be able to do the second run in c stream.

c) standardization of judges' fees?
So when someone is setting up a trial, they would have a ball park amount and also when new judges come on board they know what to charge. This would be a good thing to survey. Would Judy be willing to take this on and perhaps we should do a survey every 2 years….fees might also depend on the area and size of trial. It would be great to have a ball park figure and then flexibility within that.

d) Rally games (Tanya)
Dawn Flemming and Tanya put together a proposal but have not submitted it yet. Originally the game was snooker. They are not ready to make a proposal yet. Suggestion to post to fb page and see if anyone is wanting to go forward. They have a concept video that they could finish and then present to people. Suggestion that they look at some of the C-WAGS rally games as well.

e) clarification to rules committee about dog sitting in 360 and 270 (Tanya)
The rules do not say that the dog cannot sit. Julia has already submitted this to the rules committee. Query as to whether it would be an additional cue or a loss of forward motion or an automatic NQ.

f) versatility—can we promote earlier since it's based on novice signs?
If it were open earlier, might be able to get more entries for hosts and CARO and more people would be able to participate. Reminder that in novice people can use food and redo. In versatility they cannot use food, there are no redos. Also is the dog ready for this? Perhaps it's better to have after advanced? So once people have finished advanced, they would have the opportunity to enter both excellent and versatility. What are the implications for team? This should be brought up for further discussion on the CARO page or the judges page before it goes to the rules committee.

8. New Business

a) Pause on Walk Around (Sarah Jane)
It doesn't say in the rules if a competitor can pause or not and other organizations have a pause at the end of an exercise. Julia has submitted this to the rules committee.

b) Score sheets (Julia)
Not necessarily easy to write and watch at the same time…could the boxes be bigger? There is extra info on them (eg, deductions) that aren't necessary. The form is just a guideline, there could be variations

Action Item: sent to Forms and Document Manager (Sherri) to create options.

c) Deductions for heeling between signs
Example given: pivot right into the jump….dog sniffs out of position and is recalled after the pivot but before the jump. Dog then gets -10 on the jump but finishes it. If the deductions for the sniffing are added to the jump station, the dog is nq'd but if added to the pivot station, the dog q's. Perhaps there could be a section on the score sheet for heeling deductions between signs?

Action Item: Take forward to the Rules Committee

d) Video Trials (Neil)
A very lengthy discussion….many organizations are offering video judging, why has CARO not started this…..we need the revenue stream and we need to keep competitors involved.
Concerns from members have been expressed about video q's being easier, people not having adequate space for a trial. We don't know how long COVID protocols are going to be in place and many of us have aging dogs and we really just want people to keep training their dogs and have the ability to complete titles.
There have been 3 proposals:

a) A COVID trial proposal open for 3 months whereby people would earn q's towards regular titles.
b) A 'small spaces' proposal which would be a different titling stream for people with small spaces.
c) A 'weekly' trial from CARO using the regular processes and procedures.

We all agree that we need revenue coming in, we want people involved in CARO. We need to make a decision for a temporary process and fine tune later based on the lessons we have learned.

It was not decided whether this was an executive decision but the general agreement of the discussion was 'let's get it off the ground for a test period and then make changes'

9. Location and Date of next AGM
Debby sent in a Motion and is proposing The Poodle Farm, it is important to have the in person AGM. A date is to be decided.

10. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn Jeanne/Tanya 9:15 pm EDT