CARO AGM March 17, 2024
Via Zoom

Board Present: Patricia Hunt, Barb Burgess, Jeanne Shaw, Verlaine Murphy, Kimberly Masiak, Julia Schwark, Alexandra McGowan

Members Present:
Julie Prusila, Kathern Rockwell, Brenda Zeng, Andrea Giffen, Lisa Hasebe, Chelsea McCormack, Joan Richard, Martha Fortier, Kate Zinggl,, Maria Adams, Sandra Clow, Lilian Cook, Deana Abbot, Shianna Fairley, Jess Cohen, Anne Fletcher, Christine Mandy, Valerie Archibald, Amanda Pollack, Shelly Lyck, Debby DaCosta, Patricia Tschanen, Donna Lewis, Joyce Baker, Tanya Strom

Non members Present: Jessika Harding

Meeting Opened at 4:09 PT, 5:09 MT, 6:09 CT, 7:09 ET, 8:09 AT

1. **2023 AGM minutes**

Move acceptance of the 2023 AGM minutes as published to the website
Patricia/Jeanne—passed unanimously. (Motion 2024-045)

2. **Chair's message:**

Thank you all for coming tonight. All the joy is in the journey…Let's continue the journey moving forward.
Shown the list of 2024 parade of champions…congratulations everyone—2 pages (master champions, working champions, working honours champion, brace champions, and Lifetime Achievement Awards!!!!!

3. **Reports**
   a. **Secretary Report: NTR**

   b. **Treasurers Report:**

Assets looks higher than 2022 but liabilities also higher because bills came in at beginning of January…Less profit this year than last year.

Question: where do sponsorships go in (next page)

Virtual Trial entry fees are down this year but misc. income is higher because of the sign project (but this was also an expense because of purchase/shipping/etc)
Pretty much the same as last year.
Sponsored trial is higher in 2023 because only started in late 2022
And audit took place in 2022 as well
Website hosting is higher –had to invest in platform for sharing files
More memberships means more membership cost.
Trial Certificates have gone up a lot, because of individual certificates in working

Expenses are up 10,000 from last year but still in a profitable state but less so because more money is going into website/database/sponsorship trials etc.
Move acceptance of the treasurer's report
Jeanne/Patricia—passed unanimously (Motion 2024-046)

c. Eastern Director—Alexandra McGowan

2023 Amazing year—CARO has bloomed in Quebec and the Atlantic Participants of all kinds including blind and deaf dogs. Trios Rivieres—very first trial. Thanks to caro for all the good work that is done for this area.

d. Ontario Director--Donna Whitmore

Thanks to everyone and congratulations to all who participate in CARO
38 in person trials
20 current judges

e. Prairies—Kimberly Masiak

6 judges, 2 judge candidates
12 trials in 2023.
Congrats to new judge Lauren Hope, just had first trial
Working is growing and expect to have more working trials this year.

f. West Director—Julia Schwark

24 trials in BC
7 in AB
BC—20 judges
AB—4 judges
Julia is working on Merch project and video project
Yukon has been added to West Director and Yukon is looking at hosting their first trial
Groups on Vanc Island need to get together to host trials—looking for groups/people who want to do this

g. Memberships and Registrations—Barb Burgess

Shaken off effects of covid shut down, back to upward trends that we were on prior to covid
2023 had record numbers for new members, renewals and dog registrations
Approx. 52 dogs a month being registered so far in 2024 which is way up from 2023
1 450 certificates sent out in 2023—up from the average of 700 previously (many of these were individual titles in working)
Revenue from VT has decreased slightly, as in person trials ihave ncreased
2023 had the most trials we've ever had—99 trials were applied for and 93 trials were held
2024 will be another strong year for the number of trials

h. Judges Certification Program--Kimberly

Excited that there is so much interest
4 new working judges
5 new rally judges including the first in the Atlantic provinces

1 new versatility judge
Candidates
Presently have 3 working candidates, 15 rally candidates and 1 versatility candidate

i. Virtual Trials--Patricia

Learning lessons from each one
With new DB hopefully will be more automated
Prep for spring trial is underway

j. Course Design Program--Julia

Another update is coming; always being tweaked—Julia waits for a number of changes before she goes in to change things and goes through approval process
Questions: Why is it mandatory to have border around the ring; reference point for course approvers; allows people to make sure that equipment is far enough from ring boundary
Why wait boxes for the teams (to keep dogs 15' apart); safety feature, helps judges as well
Concern noted that they should not be mandatory

Thanks to Julia for all the updates

4. Upcoming Projects—Patricia

New working and new rally handbooks in 2025
Target Date for the new website and database is Jan 2025

5. Ratification of Amendments to Bylaws--Barb

Most of the changes have been for the database—decided on several months ago but needed to be in bylaws and most won't come into effect until 2025 with the new database

Memberships category—will be just 2 levels—with new database—all competitors will be able to see dog records—no concerns from membership present

Membership year—typically allowed a grace period for memberships lapsed--shrinking it down by 1 month (until end of February); new or returning members who are applying after October will receive a discount for THAT year and then renew for the NEXT year—no concerns from membership present

Discipline—in the rules as well as bylaws, so have been struck from bylaws.
Question: how are we tracking that? Will be tracked in new database, currently incident reports are just compiled -- no concerns from membership present

Outgoing Exec members—new board members will be invited to participate in board meetings without voting rights prior to taking office— no concerns from membership present

Terms of office—tweaked to add Exec at large and added Yukon (to West), Nunavut and NorthWest Territories (to Prairies)— no concerns from membership present

Wording clarified--Election nominees must be 18 years of age or older and must reside in the region being presented--no concerns from membership present

Calendar—cleaned up and made wording consistent.— no concerns from membership present

Question—when are regional directors up for election? Same as before…in the bylaws

Motion to ratify bylaws as presented: Barb/Alexandra/carried unanimously (Motion 2024-047)

6. **Questions / Comments from the Floor:**

1. VT—are we going to have the opportunity to raise the rounds to 3 rounds of each….for fall trial.
   Action Item: Board to discuss this for the fall trial

2. Plan for how we, as an association, are going to handle the growth we have made…becoming more across country…communications to members …how are we getting info out to people as effectively as possible; Knowing the board is run by volunteers, is there currently someone on the board that has a communications or marketing background who would have the expertise to communicate effectively.
   Action Item: will be having a lengthy discussing at our next meeting; want people to feel a part of the organization/community

3. Expenditures: as a working competitor…do we need to send out individual title certificates for all the working titles
   Response….new database—it will be a choice of receiving paper/emailing/etc

4. Judges Continuing Education program—doesn't say what the minimum number of runs is for CE
   Response: wording changed to judging a trial once every 2 years in each sport (working or rally) in which you are qualified to judge. Trial is a trial regardless of the number of runs.

5. Can Trial Approver send automated response….
   Response: new DB may have that option, not at this point.
   Action Item: Will look more into this

6. Judges Certification Process: like the fact that criteria was raised. Can it be title or number of trials under your belt, rather than only title. Shadow judging—can this be virtual?
   Response: Open to listening to alternatives; some of our judge candidates ARE completing their shadow judging virtually
   Why is an excellent title needed?
   Response: feedback from judges who felt over there head in judging excellent….that's why the criteria was raised.

7. How do you become a course approver?
   Response: Send email to course approvers—there is a document.

8. Are judges chats coming back?
   Action item: Need to share hosting duties…..will go onto board agenda.

9. Path forward for the Working Exercises?
   Response: On hold because the path of the community was not clear.

10. What are the projects that are running right now? Can an email go out and let people know what priorities are?
    Response: Database and Handbooks are priority. Merch—Julia is working on this.

11. Since we are doing new MGH, we do not have diagonals and loops in signs…..can we poll membership to bring in those signs.
    Action Item: to be discussed by the board

12. Some of the MGH is now inconsistent and unclear…is there going to be a reach out to members and ask for inconsistencies etc.
    Action Item: Also needs an index. Send email to Patricia.

13. With Working, any chance of going with what it was? So that 'people don't have titles taken away'.
    Response: No titles were taken away

14. Is intermediate class being considered
    Response: Passed and will come into effect with new handbook and database.

It's an election year (as is every year). Nominations will go out in June—West, East, Secretary, Vice Chair. We will need a volunteer for chairing the nominating committee.

7. Closing Statement

Thank you for all coming out this evening and taking time from your busy lives to be part of this

Motion to adjourn—Verlaine/Martha/passed unanimously (Motion 2024 048) at 5:29 PT, 6: 29 MT; 7:29 CT; 8:29 ET, 9:29 AT