CARO AGM MARCH 16, 2025 via Zoom

Board Present: Patricia Hunt, Verlaine Murphy, Val Archibald, Julia Schwark, Jeanne Shaw, Alexandra McGowan, Lillian Cook, Barb Burgess (regrets: Kimberly Masiak)

Voting Members Present: Deana Abbott, Maria Adams, Joan Adler, Adrienne Almey, Joyce Baker, Carolina Bergonzoni, Leslie Burns, Saundra Clow, Jessica Cohen, Debby Dacosta, Martha Fortier, Andrea Giffen, Jacquie Hansford, Donna Lewis, Shelly Lyck, Kathrin McMath, Joan Richard, Chantal Rioux, Alycia Rogal, Corinne Rogers, Karen Share, Tanya Strom, Tricia Waples, Nancy Wightman, Nicole Wiebe, Brenda Zeng
Non Voting Members Present: Cindy Quigley, Kate Manning
Non Members Present: Jessika Garding; Jocelyn Egan

Meeting brought to order at 4:07 PT, 5:07 MT, 6:07 CT, 8:07 ET, 9:07 AT

1. **Determination of quorum**
    a. We have Quorum with 8 board members and 26 voting members

2. **Welcome**
    a. From Patricia with a slide about the importance of mutual understanding, empathy and that inclusion goes hand in hand with respect.

3. **Approval of minutes from AGM 2024:**
    a. **Motion 2025 022 to** accept the minutes of AGM 2024 as posted on the website
    Verlaine/Barb passed unanimously

4. **Listing of Parade of Champions** from 2024 --2 pages

5. **Treasurer's Report**
    a. Much of the money out is due to database and website. Considerably more revenue coming in from trials and there were 4 extra summer virtual trials. More interest income as well.
    b. Also more expenses because more trials and working trials are expensive because entered manually
    c. Graphs show what has been happening since 2017—increase revenue but also expenses, especially because of database and purchasing digital platforms, etc.
    d. Costs have gone up and until this year prices have not increased for memberships/dog registrations. Lowered costs now for members and increased for non-members.

Questions from the floor:

1. Do we expect the same expenses going forward? Next year will look the same because database will still need to be covered; Budget one year at a time because hard to anticipate because we've changed membership structures.

2. Has CARO considered using Cdn webserver and host servers?
Yes, but no point in changing until it's ready to go.

6. **Regional summary**
    a. **East—Alexandra McGowan** Thanks to the judges who rose to the challenge and supported the judges who grew the judges that are judging; CARO trial in every one of the Eastern Provinces

"What a year for Quebec and the Atlantic region! I cannot thank the judges, hosts and participants for the tremendous work they've put in the past year in promoting CARO and Working - you are all doing amazing! I see the phenomenal trials and clinics hosted across our provinces and I cannot be prouder of you. With the website and the database in the works, the bilingualism group is on standby, and we will provide an estimate when the translation will be ready once it's launched. It's still time to get added to the translation group, by the way! If you would like to host a trial but don't know where to start, or who to contact, please contact me, I would be so happy to help you out!"

    b. **Ontario—Lillian Cook** many of the new judges have come into our area. Would like to get out into areas she hasn't gone to yet so she can bring forward praises and concerns.

"Since I took on the position of Ontario Director in October, I am proud to be a part of the work that the Board of Director's had been working hard on regarding exciting updates to the Rally Handbook and to the Working Handbook with many new signs to challenge competitors to some nifty new moves. As you know the handbooks have been completed and are in effect starting on April 1st, and the majority of the new signs become effective April 1st as well. Personally, I'm finding the new signs to be a fun way to challenge my young dog and myself to "new" moves, and I'm excited to be getting back into competition again. People that I have been talking to are enjoying working through the challenges of the new signs. Recently, we have had quite a few individuals complete the requirements to become Rally and Working judges in Ontario – which is very exciting for the growth of CARO in our region. Welcome to the new judges! I'm hoping to get to some rally trials in the region and get people's views on what they like and what positive changes they would like to see in the future. I welcome input from members."

    c. **Prairie—Kimberly Masiak**

"Working on new judge certifications and overseeing course approvals. Have one new judge from Winnipeg; Hosted Regional Handbook review"

    d. **West—Julia Schwark**

"Merchandise Project: In final stages, with digital samples ready for approval.
Course Designer Program: Multiple updates completed to improve functionality and incorporate rule changes/new signs.
Regional Handbook Review: Hosted a meeting to gather input from the Western region on handbook clarifications and proposed rule changes. Key suggestions included allowing Team rounds to be 16, 18, or 20 stations (instead of just 20) and increasing

flexibility in Versatility and Versatility Excellent by allowing 3-4 side changes instead of fixed numbers.
Trial & Judge Support: • Ran course design clinics and judges clinics to support judge development. • Flew to Nisku, AB, to support a sponsored trial and shadow judging—now a thriving rally community. • Flew to PEI for judges clinics and shadow judging, fostering rapid community growth. • Assisting Yukon club with their first trial (July) and judging Courtenay, BC's first trial to support new clubs"

7. **Special Project & Committee Reports**

a. Registrations and memberships (Barb)

Since 2019, the trials and dog registrations have doubled and working has grown even more than that.
Steady growth in memberships
In 2024 9 of 10 provinces had trials (2025 will have trials in all provinces and one territory)
Increase of 33 trials over 2023
Those trials numbers will drop in 2025 because we now have one trial number for 2 day trials

b. Judges Program

13 new judges added and a number of existing judges added to their judging portfolio.
Overhead included names of new judges.

c. Virtual Trials

Jotform seems to be appreciated. Improvements to accommodation section. Opening for spring VT will be earlier than usual so that the Database can be tested.
Plans for 2 VT in the summer for C stream only, so that people can finish titles under the old titling structure

d. Database—presentation from Verlaine

Response: very nice, well done; no questions

8. Bylaws

Changes:

- Membership categories ratified at last year's AGM
- Membership year was ratified at last year
- Quorum: would like to change size of quorum to 20 voting members at a meeting
- Change of wording of proxies to accommodate virtual meetings
- Terms of office: propose the wording to say 'odd year' and 'even year' rather than delineating the years for both board and directors
- Removed dates that were revised to reflect the new membership dates

Motion (2025 023): to change the bylaws as proposed
Alexandra/shelly: Passed unanimously

9. Open Floor

1. Is there any interest from the executive to have in writing how to become a course approver? And clarity of how rule changes are made (like collar rules.

Patricia: most of this is already existing
Action Item: Have the info on the new website.

2. Questioning of collar vote: didn't give enough information in the actual vote. In hindsight it didn't go well, is there a way to formalize it and have another vote.
Patricia: input from community on rules during regional meetings; board put the info in the new handbooks; and had the vote,
From the floor "Membership did not know what the criteria was".
Action Item: Do better next time.

3. When will Host handbooks and Judges Handbooks will be released?
Action Item: This week.

4. People are disappointed that they can't use their new fancy collars in the ring—this turned into a discussion. People disappointed that it just came out in the handbook with no precursor…..How to get the membership involved to contribute…many messages in the chat to have a volunteer communication specialist……should not be a member of the board but a go between.
Action Item: To discuss further how to make this work because of sensitive issues etc. Alexandra to contact communication specialists from the US to flesh out processes and see what is viable for CARO and bring it to the board
Suggestion to make this a non-voting member.
Also suggestion that this could be part of the Executive at Large position.
People want to talk about what they want changed.
What we are doing is not working so need to look at something else—PR person or non-voting board member may be the way to go.

5. Question about how we are implementing new rules and the timing of new rules…..
Plan going forward: the intent has always been the handbooks are the rule changes and we try to give at least a 3 month lead time…unless it's a safety issue. Looking at every 3 years like CKC does.

6. Question about judging Virtual Trials
When you pay your entry fee, the judge only gets paid for the videos they see.
What is the rational? The judges are being paid for the work they are doing, if someone doesn't send in their video, the judge doesn't get paid.
CARO keeps this money, the same as any trial host.

7. Video Trial Question—it is a lot of time to design and then only one or two entries….now get a flat fee of $25 if you have less than 5 runs.
Action Item: To discuss this further when the database is done; maybe there are judges who really want to get their feet wet in VT judging and can use the small classes to try it out.

14. Adjournment at 5:52 PT, 6:52 MT, 7:52 CT; 8:52 ET; 9:52 AT
Motion to adjourn
Verlaine