Canadian Association of Rally Obedience

Board Meeting Minutes for the Month of February 2026

In Attendance:

Chair – Patricia Hunt
Vice Chair – Kate Zinggl
Secretary – Maria Adams
Treasurer – Debby DaCosta
Western Director – Julia Schwark
Ontario Director – Lilian Cook
Quebec and Atlantic Provinces – Saundra Clow
Exec at Large – Jessica Cohen

Absent:

Prairies Director – Vacant

Key Dates:

February 7 – Board meeting via Zoom
February 9 – Rally Judge's Clinic
February 28 – Rally Judge's Clinic
February 28 – Work Judge's Clinic

Discussion Points:

- Going forward, trial hosts cannot reserve trial dates, but they can put TBD for the judge. If a TBD is listed for a judge, eligible judge(s) must confirm a minimum of 6 weeks before the trial date.
- The Western Director gave an update on CARO Swag.
- Discussed Small Ring Pilot Program – Information to go out to membership.
- Discussed course design checklist update, matches amendment. Also adding team path should not angle more than 45 degrees without using a diagonal sign. Courses may use up to 3 of each diagonal signs.
- Social Media update from the Executive at Large
- Reviewed criteria for judges to be reinstated if their certification lapses.
- Judge's Program proposes a new Cooperating Judge Form - Approved
- A couple judges not currently listed on the website; Data base team to add them, as long as they are judges in good standing.
- Hosts can choose to allow armbands.

Motions:

2026 011 That the January 2026 minutes be approved and published.

2026 012 To invest $10k into a GIC to take advantage of special rates being offered by the bank. We currently have more than enough funds in the bank to cover ongoing costs and have a spring VT approaching that will provide further income.

2026 013 Maria is approved to host the Feb 9th Rally Judge's Clinic.

2026 014 That the judging panel as presented be accepted (see email "Motion to accept Judges selection for the Spring VT 2026" for details).

2026 015 That Karen Share be accepted as a NAE judge.

2026 016 That the Course Design Checklist V11-2026-02 be approved for use.

2026 017 That the Virtual Trial Course Design Checklist V6-2026-02 be approved for use.

2026 018 That Cloe Poulin Collins be granted permission as part of the small ring pilot project to host a trial at a venue with a ring size of 36'x36'

2026 019 That the finish/forward sign following the Call Front 123 Steps backwards is required to be 5-7 feet back from the Call front sign.

2026 020 That the Left Turn Back up 2 steps and the Right turn back up 2 steps must have at least 10 feet clear of any obstructions in the back up direction.

2026 021 Updated Rally Course Designer, Virtual Trial Rally Course Designer, and Virtual Trial Working Judges selections files be approved for use.

2026 022 That Chantal Rioux be accepted as a NAE judge.