Canadian Association of Rally Obedience

Board Meeting Minutes for the Month of March 2026

In Attendance:

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

Absent:

Prairies Director – Vacant
Quebec and Atlantic Provinces – Saundra Clow

Key Dates:

March 7 – Board meeting via Zoom

Discussion Points:

- Treasurer presented a financial update.
- Database is continuing to be updated to accommodate the virtual trial.
- Executive At Large shared Social Media update.
- Discussed potential membership perks.
- Decided that ET will be the standard written time for all CARO documents for all CARO documents and posts use going forward, for clarity and consistency.
- Western Director presented notes on recent judge clinics.
- Discussed who is responsible for updating clinics slides to maintain their accuracy with current handbooks and amendment documents.
- Judge's Program to be reminded of offset Figure 8 clarification on page 13 in Trial Official's Guide. (Teams must complete one of 4 possible patterns as selected by the designing judge; entering and exiting at the correct points, as well as completing the specified number of passes. Extra passes through the middle is an NQ.)
- Judge's Program requests discussed.
- The number of obstacles listed in the handbook is the number of obstacle signs permitted on the course, for both regular rally and team. Note: Using the same sign twice counts as 2 signs/obstacles.

Motions:

2026 023 To approve Spring VT 2026 Premium

2026 024 That the February 2026 minutes be approved and published.

2026 025 Obstacle selection to be written on the checklist as:
EXCELLENT (3 minutes)

- One team – one of 311-314.

- Other team – one of 303, 304, 305, or 311-314. (same obstacle may be used for both teams)

VERSATILITY (3 minutes)

- One team – one of 311-314, 439-442.
- Other team – one of 415 or 416.

2026 026 That Erika Eden be granted permission as part of the small ring pilot project to host a trial at a venue with a ring size of 27'x 45' at the Eden Dog Academy Team, in Belwood, Ontario.

2026 027 That Joanie Genest be accepted as a NAE judge.