Canadian Association of Rally Obedience

Board Meeting Minutes for the Month of January 2026

In Attendance:

Chair - Patricia Hunt
Vice Chair - Kate Zinggl
Secretary - Maria Adams

Treasurer – Debby DaCosta Debby

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:

January 3 – Board meeting via Zoom

Discussion Points:

- Social Media update, we are building community and have received positive feedback on latest posts. Planning to start a Tips Tuesday to highlight useful information in the Handbooks and on the website.
- Board file scheduling system to be updated to improve workflow and future proofing
- Judges program requests a pause on accepting new judging applicants in order to revamp the certification process. The board is currently discussing it but needs the judge's program to submit a scope of work and timeline for the proposed project before any decision can be made. If the board approves the request, membership would be notified a minimum 3 months before the applications are temporarily not accepted.
- Vice Chair presented Spring Virtual trial Timeline, Judge application process, and course map approval process.
- Reviewed the Trial Official Guide. Finalized document to go out this month.

Motions:

2026 001 That the December 2025 minutes be approved and published.

2026 002 That the 2026 AGM be scheduled for April 11, 2026 at 3pm PT.

2026 003 That the 2027 AGM scheduled March 13, 2027 at 3pm PT.

2026 004 That all future AGMs will be on the second Saturday in March.

2026 005 That judge candidates are required to have a earned a Versatility with at least one dog, in order to obtain Versatility / Versatility Excellent Judging Certification. To be effective with the relaunch of the Judge's Program.

2026 006 That all both the Chair and Vice Chair (or Treasurer, in the case of financial applications) have access to all CARO related software applications and systems, for future proofing of Board operations.

2026 007 That Barb Burgess can order ribbons (10 Master Champion, 10 Grand Master Champion, 5 Working Champion, 5 Supreme Champion) from Centaur - approximate cost $1075.00.

2026 008 To publish the "Trial Officials Guide CARO.pdf" stored on Sharepoint.

2026 009 To approve shredding trial records and correspondence regarding trial records from 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024. With cost totaling up to $60.00 including tax.

2026 010 That Katie Manning be accepted as a NAE judge.