Minutes for the CARO Annual General Meeting
Held April 11, 2026 at 6PM ET via Zoom

Board Present:

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

Voting Members Present:

Alexandra McGowan, Andrea Giffen, Barb Burgess, Brenda Zeng, Chantal Rioux, Christine Mandy, Cindy Quigley, Deana Abbott, Deanna Muise, Elizabeth Kozoriz, Jennifer Dunn, Joan Richard, Kimberly Masiak, Lisa Hasebe, Lois Hammond, Lorraine Perron, Martha Fortier, Nancy Wightman, Nicole Wiebe, Pat Saito, Peggy McCallum, Shelly Lyck, and Verlaine Murphy.

Meeting brought to order by the Chair at 6pm ET

1. Determination of quorum

1.1. We have Quorum with 8 board members and 23 voting members

2. Chairperson's Opening Statement

3. Approval of minutes from AGM 2024:

3.1. **Motion 2026 032 to** accept the minutes of AGM 2025 as posted on the website. (Motioned by Ontario Director, seconded by Vice Chair, motioned carried with 30 votes.)

3.2. A member noted that times listed did not include Newfoundland Time (NT). *-- Going forward, CARO will exclusively use Eastern Time (ET) in all documents and social media posts.*

3.3. A member also noted that Newfoundland is not part of the Martimes provinces and is often left out. *-- Going forward CARO to refer the Atlantic provinces rather than Maritimes for better accuracy and inclusion of all members.*

4. Secretary's Report

4.1. Minutes for Board meetings and AGMs are available, in English and French, on the CARO website.

4.2. Members and all competitors are welcome to email the Board with questions, requests, constructive feedback, and rally celebrations.

5. Treasurer's Report

5.1. Balance sheet stable and consistent with 2024; overall financial position remains healthy.
5.2. Total assets and equity: $9,809; minimal liabilities.
5.3. Revenue increased in 2025 (~$105K vs $95K in 2024), driven by memberships and virtual trials.
5.4. Slight decreases in dog registrations and trial run fees (not a concern).
5.5. Expenses in line; major investment in website/database improvements.
5.6. 2025 deficit: ~$5,866; projected 2026 deficit: ~$12,000 (due to ongoing website costs).
5.7. Overall financial position remains stable and close to budget expectations.

6. Regional Summary

6.1. East (Quebec and The Atlantic Provinces)
- Growing region.
- 3 new judges and few more judge candidates.
- 21 trials across all regional provinces, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, PEI, and Newfoundland & Labrador.

6.2. Ontario
- 20 judges in the region, 14 of which judge Rally and Working.
- 31 trials held, increase from last year.

6.3. Prairies (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Northwest Territories)
- Looking for a new a new director for this region.
- 9 trials held.

6.4. West (British Columbia, Yukon, and Alberta)
- 5 new judges in the region.
- 43 trials were held, include the first trials on Vancouver Island and in the Yukon, thanks to the CARO sponsorship program.
- Taught 13 virtual clinics across the country; 6 Rally, 4 Working, 3 Course design clinics.

7. Ongoing Projects

7.1. Summary from Vice Chair
- 11 projects completed; Rally Handbook update, Working Handbook update, app update, Virtual Trial handbook published, Trial Official Guide published, 3 Virtual Trials, judge surveys, new website, phase 1 of the new database, and CARO merch.

7.2. Virtual Trials
- Registration numbers increasing 3-5% year-over-year.
- In addition to the annual Spring and Fall trials, last year summer C Stream Rally trials were held.
- We held a pre-trial chat for judges and sent out a survey after trials to improve processes for our judges.

7.3. Website Features & Updates

- New website launched October 2025, with new database integration.
- All competitors, members and non-members, can now create accounts to track their dogs' progress.
- New content: FAQs for Judges & Hosts and Competitors, Clinic and AGM pages

7.4. Database Update

- Multiple members expressed appreciation for the new database.
- All competitors can now view their dogs' results.
- Ongoing enhancements to existing features.
- Online virtual trial entry and automated paperwork targeted for fall, goal to streamline judge's records and reduce administrative workload amid increasing virtual trial entries.
- Trial applications now available in database (distance calculations still require some manual processing at the moment).
- Printable certificates now available via login dashboard; approx. $11,000 in cost savings.
- Additional features planned for future development phases.

7.5. Small Ring Pilot Program

- Trial hosts with venue smaller than 1500 sq ft may send a proposal to the Board to be granted to use a smaller trial space.

7.6. Social Media

- Working to build an online community through social media.
- 4 Facebook groups; CARO Competitors Corner, CARO Virtual Trials, CARO Trial Officials, and CARO Judges.

7.7. Sponsorship Program

- Financial support for new communities and remote areas, as well as to assist judge candidates complete their shadow judging.

7.8. CARO Merchandise

- Designs for t-shirts, hoodies, and tote bags, featuring the CARO logo and rally themed graphics, available in English and French.
- Merchandise will be made by Need Some Sun in Ontario; you will be able to order directly from them, and items will be shipped approximately every 6 weeks.
- Merchandise will be available before the end of 2026.

7.9. Course Design Template

- Next Course Design Clinic for judges will be May 24th.

- Consolidated the numbers of pages and icons in the template.
- We are working on creating an advanced course design clinic as well.

7.10. Collar Examples

- Flat buckle collars, snap collars, or fixed harnesses are allowed.
- Jewels, studs, or hanging attachments (such as tags) are disallowed; however functional rivets are permitted.
- Embroidered, painted, written on, or vinyl applique are allowed; only physical pieces that may come apart are disallowed.

8. Parade of Champions

CARO Lifetime Achievement Awards

Tango & Kathleen Cullen
Lueca & Elizabeth Kozoriz
Maia & Barb Burgess
Luna & Sarah Learn
Trilly & Laurie Glencross
Shimmer & Sandy Harris
Gem & Shelly Lyck
MaiTai & Christine Ryder
Jimmy & Andrea Giffen
Willow & Beatrice Yiu

Supreme Advanced Champions

Rook & Kimberly Masiak
Rylee & Sarah Knight
Kaela & Lorraine Perron
Bazyl & Debby DaCosta

Supreme Excellent Champions

Hektor & Paula Webber
Lueca & Elizabeth Kozoriz
Hattie & Naomi Robertson
Bazyl & Debby DaCosta
Dreamer & Jacquie Hansford

Supreme Versatility Excellent Champion

Kaela & Lorraine Perron

Working Honours Champions

Kona & Lisa Hasebe
Samwise & Christine Minshall

Grand Master Champions

Mocha & Chantal Rioux
Rook & Kimberly Masiak
Katie & Judy Soltesz
Hektor & Paula Webber
Lueca & Elizabeth Kozoriz
Rylee & Sarah Knight
Arrow & Kimberly Masiak
Kona & Lisa Hasebe
Kaela & Lorraine Perron
Addy & Hildi Steuart
Samwise & Christine Minshall
Q & Patricia Tschanen
Baz & Michele Parkes
Peekaboo & Aleesia Chow
Sage & Christina Shalaby
Soxx & Sue Yost
Seeya & Sarah Knight

Master Champions

Stryder & Gwen Little
Tab & Lora Pronger
Casey & Beth Cybulski
Rogan & Beth Cybulski
Maia & Barb Burgess
Polka & Arianne Arseneault
Shimmer & Sandy Harris
Little Abby & Maggie Bird
Alfie & Lauren Hope
Gem & Shelly Lyck
Eloise & Saye Clement
Brass & Stephanie von Eggers

MaiTai & Christine Ryder Isla & Gina Visentin **<u>Working Champions</u>** Tango & Kathleen Cullen Lueca & Elizabeth Kozoriz Luna & Sarah Learn Trilly & Laurie Glencross Jordyn & Leslie Burns Tigger & Judy Soltesz Fancy & Marilou Dobie Charlie & Louise Gordon Seeker & Melissa Jackson Torvin & Linda Voss Willow & Beatrice You	MaiTai & Christine Ryder Azog & Cloe Poulin Collins Jimmy & Andrea Giffen Sammy & Trinity Blais Bailey & Stephanie King Red Rover & Lois Hammond Dreamer & Jacquie Hansford Whisper & Kathleen Cullen Willow & Beatrice You Gene & Lily Jackson Reba & Heather Trudell Styx & Joanie Genest Fantasia & Martha Fortier

9. New Business

9.1 Ratify New Bylaws

- Motion 2026-032 to adjust from four (4) regions to five (5) regions. The five new regions would be comprised of approximately 150 members each:
  - West (British Columbia and Yukon)
  - Prairies (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Nunavut)
  - Ontario West (LMNP)
  - Ontario East (postal codes that start K)
  - East (Quebec and Atlantic provinces)
- Questions from the floor:
  - The bylaws currently have the dates when the different regions are up for election, how are you adjusting for Ontario? *-- We are going by term of office, which states all positions shall be for a term of two years. So West and Ontario will be even years, and Prairie and East will be odd years.*
- (Motioned by the Chair, seconded by Vice Chair motioned carried with 26 votes.)

9.2. Motion 2026-032 to adjust one of the Treasurer's duties from presenting a financial report at each Board of Directors meeting to "Shall present a financial report quarterly."

- (Motioned by the Vice Chair, seconded by Executive at Large, motioned carried with 28 votes.)

10. Open Floor

- Is there a problem with Championship ribbons? *-- Delayed in shipping out ribbons due to Spring Virtual Trial registration, ribbons will be shipped this week.*
- Could the new database show judges when they are due for continuing education clinics? *-- That is one of the features planned for Phase 2 of the update.*
- Is it possible to allow late registrations for the Virtual Trials? *-- Right now, everything needs to be entered manually so late registration is not possible.*
- Which executive positions are up for election this year? *-- Vice Chair and Secretary.*
- When will the judge's manual be available? *-- This is already available on the website; it is titled Trial Officials Guide.*

11. THANK YOU

11.1. Thank you to all our hardworking volunteers and committee members who keep CARO running in addition to the Board Members; Barb Burgess our data entry specialist, Verlaine Murphy our bookkeeper, The Judges' Program, and Course Approvers.

11.2. Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting. Congratulations to our draw winners, Lois and Lorraine.

12. Adjournment

12.1. Motion to Adjourn by the Chair, seconded by the Vice Chair. Meeting adjourned at 7:08PM ET.