Canadian Association of Rally Obedience

Board Meeting Minutes for the Month of August 2026

In Attendance:

Chair – Patricia Hunt
Treasurer – Debby DaCosta
Secretary – Maria Adams
Western Director – Julia Schwark
Ontario Director – Lilian Cook
Eastern Director – Saundra Clow

Absent:

Vice Chair – Kate Zinggl
Exec at Large – Jessica Cohen
Prairies Director – Vacant

Key Dates:

August 8 – Board meeting via Zoom

Discussion Points:

- Treasurer provided the 2nd quarter financial update.
- Discussed administrative procedures to improve board efficiency.
- Chair provided an update on Elections
- Discussed educating clubs on flexible virtual trial course setup options to avoid fixed obstacles and unnecessary judge approvals/NQs.
- Discussed clarifying the positioning of the last sign for Team 1 for Team courses to improve course design. Motion 2026-070 made via email.
- Western Director requested a formal scope of work for the database upgrades.

Motions:

2026 066 That Brenda Oliver be contracted to fill the role of Data Entry, as of August 1, 2026.

2026 067 To approve Fall VT 2026 Premium.

2026 068 Update both VT and regular Course Design Checklists to “Min 8’ from boundary before START station, after FINISH station, before Team 2’s first station, and after Team 1’s last station.

2026 069 That the June 2026 minutes be approved and published.

2026 070 That larger topics will start as a discussion before a motion is made, using “DISCUSSION” in the subject line. Once a motion is made, using “MOTION” in the subject line, it will remain open for 5 days or until quorum is met.

2026 071 To pay Barb Burgess a flat fee of $500 to stay on until August 31st to finish training Brenda and assist with a smooth transition of the data entry role.

2026 072 To gift a competitor one Master Champion and one Grand Master Champion ribbon to replace the ones lost in their house fire.

2026 073 Authorize Barb Burgess to ship all remaining ribbons to Brenda Oliver, with insurance. Expected cost approximately $180.

2026 074 That Data Entry can order ribbons (5 Master Champion, 10 Grand Master Champion, 10 Working Champion, 5 Working Honours Champion, 5 Lifetime Achievement Award, 5 Supreme Champion) from Centaur - approximate cost $1625.

2026 075 That Alexandra McGowan be granted permission as part of the Small Ring Project to host a trial at a venue with a ring size of 36'x36' at Evolution Canine in Shawinigan QC

2026 076 That Julia Schwark be given a one-time $50 honorarium to update the Rally clinic before hosting the Sept 27th presentation.

2026 077 That Lois Hammond be accepted as a Ver/VerEx judge.

2026 078 To remove Sandra Barkley from the list of active Working judges on the website.

2026 079 To remove Barb Wright from the list of active Working judges on the website.

2026 080 To remove Paula Webber from the list of active NIAE judges on the website.

2026 081 To cover the cost of hangers for Data Entry to store CARO championship ribbons. These would be transferred with ribbons to anyone in the Data Entry role.

2026 082 That Emily Charbonneau be accepted as a NIAE judge.