



**AWMA**  
**General Board Meeting Minutes**  
**October 6, 2024**  
**7:00pm ET**  
**Meeting Held via Zoom**

**Attendees (confirmed via Roll Call):**

- Executive Board Members
  - Vicki Keller, President
  - Helen Trapp, Treasurer
  - Randall Hoadley, Director of Judges
  - Shannon Faltak, Membership Chair
  - Ivan Balabanov, Director at Large
  - Acaia Brewer, Director at Large
  - Katie Smart, Regional Director East
  - Brigitte Dietz, Regional Director North
  - Rachele Lema, Regional Director West
- Club Delegates
  - Anne Camper, Big Sky Working Dogs
  - Jessica Johnson, High Altitude Dog Sport
  - Bill Robinson, Kennebec Working Dog Club
  - Jill Viggiani, Northern Vermont Working Club
  - Steve Billimack, Pleasant Valley Malinois Club
  - Andy Dietz, Seacoast Working Dogs
  - Erick Aguirre, Spirt Working Dog Club
  - Trisha Harper, Underground Working Dog Club (joined after Roll Call)
  - Eva Emmel, Unified Canine Working Dog Club
  - Rebecca Wadsworth, Wheat State Working Dogs
- Club Affiliate Delegate (Non-Voting): Jamie Cesar, Northeast Working Dog Club
- Parliamentarian: Nia Cottrell
- Committee Chairs (Non-Voting)
  - Tyler Peabody, Audit & BOI
  - Beth Golder, WCNE
  - Teri Robinson, Fundraising
- Board or Committee Candidates not in General Board Meeting (joined meeting in the event of questions from the Voting Members prior to elections): Susan Kelly, Director at Large Candidate



**Meeting Started: 7:06pm ET**

**Vicki opened the meeting - Congratulations to Erin O'Shea today.**

**Roll Call:**

- Vicki confirmed that at Roll Call there were 9 officers and 9 voting club delegates in attendance, a voting quorum is present.
- Jamie (affiliate club) and committee chairs were present and non-voting.

**Officer Reports:** Vicki reminded the members that reports were distributed in advance and we would walk through each report and answer any questions.

- President - No questions
- Vice President – Report not received
- Secretary – No questions
- Treasurer
  - Anne asked about the funds raised in the membership fee increase were used. Helen responded with FMBB team reimbursement, Judges' Program and Helper Program.
- DOJ and Judges Committee – No questions
- Membership Chair – No questions
- Regional Directors Reports
  - North - No questions; Vicki also mentioned that Brigitte has been working with the Website Committee on a new website look
  - East – No questions
  - West - No questions

**Old Business:**

MOTION to approve 2023 minutes by Vicki Keller; Seconded by Helen Trapp

No objections from the General Board; MOTION APPROVED to accept 2023 Meeting Minutes

**Committee Reports:**

- BOI: Tyler commented that there were no BOIs this year



- Audit: Tyler updated that audit is not completed for 2023 given issues with PayPal & Quickbooks; Audit Committee will work with Treasurer to complete after Nationals
- Nominating:
  - Brigitte rescinded the by-law change distributed to delegates and officers ahead of the meeting.
  - There was NO OPPOSITION to rescinding the by-law change. The by-law change proposed by the Nominating Committee is rescinded.
  - Brigitte's report also includes the slate of nominations for the elections.
- Helper: Marko was unable to join and Vicki stepping in to review highlights that we held our first regional event in the North Region. The Helper seminar was held on 9/7 with 6 entries for certification – 1 helper reaching regional status, and 3 helpers reaching club status. West Region will host a seminar in October. Vicki will follow up with Eva to get her the details on who was certified.
- Judges: Update from Randall was included in his report
- WCC/NEC: No update
- Social Media: No update
- Fundraising: No update

### **Elections:**

- Candidates joined the General Board Meeting to make brief candidate statements and answer questions.
  - President – No nominations from the floor
  - Vice President – No nominations from the floor
  - Secretary – No nominations from the floor
  - Treasurer – No nominations from the floor
  - Membership Chair – No nominations from the floor
  - Director at Large – No nominations from the floor
  - Director of Judges – No nominations from the floor
  - Audit & BOI Committees – Nomination from floor from Tyler Peabody to be added to the ballot for the Audit and BOI Committees by Vicki Keller, Seconded by Helen Trapp, APPROVED and added to ballot
  - NE/WC Committee - Skylar Johnson did not provide a willingness to serve statement and will not be included in the ballot. No nominations from the floor.



### **Additional Items of Recognition:**

- Vicki recognized the achievements of the Appointed Committee for Fundraising – Teri, Brigitte, Anne and Mary did an amazing job and raised over \$6,000 for FMBB Team. AWMA is very appreciative of the remarkable work.
- Vicki also named the recipient of the Warren Jones Sportsmanship Award – Congratulations to Katie Smart.

### **Elections:**

- Un-opposed candidates were voted into positions by acclamation – All Members voted in Favor of voting by acclamation the following candidates and positions:
  - Vice President – Andy Dietz
  - Secretary – Jessica Johnson
  - Treasurer – Beth Golder
  - Membership Chair – Shannon Faltak
  - Director of Judges – Randall Hoadley

**NOTE: Ahead of this 2024 General Board Meeting, the voting members UNANIMOUSLY PASSED a by-law amendment in favor of electronic meetings and voting on September 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**Election Results: Voting was completed via secret ballot in Election Buddy with Nia receiving and reading the results ( by plurality)**

- President: Teri Robinson (10)
- Director at Large (2 positions): Jill Viggiani (16), Susan Kelly (8)
- Audit Committee: Rebecca Wadsworth (19), Tyler Peabody (19)
- BOI Committee: Sean Castro (18), Tyler Peabody (17), Chris Richardson (15)
- National Events/World Championship: Amy Robinson (17), Acacia Brewer (14)

### **By-Law Amendment Discussion & Vote:**

- The ballot included an amendment to the by-laws for the social media and website committees.
- Proposed By-Law Amendment: Website and Social Media Committees to become standing committees each consisting of 2-3 members instead of being appointed committees
- Nia did not receive the results for that amendment, and all voting attendees voiced NO OBJECTIONS to voting by open ballot with show of raised hands for Yes.



- The amendment PASSED 15-3-1
  - YES: Anne, Rachele, Rebecca, Steve, Shannon, Jessica, Eva, Andy, Brigitte, Vicki, Katie, Bill, Ivan, Jill, Trish
  - No: Acacia, Randall, Helen
  - Abstain: Erick

**New Officer Remarks:**

- Statement made by Teri Robinson, New President
  - A lot to put together with a focus on membership
  - Reconvene and begin monthly meetings
- Andy asked Shannon about the membership numbers
  - 2023 Jan – Dec: 548 members
  - 2024 through September: 349, but current membership is 374
  - Up but still down from last year
  - Board would like to work to understand why and address
  - Discussion on AWMA scope and overlap with AWDF; Anne offered to follow up with anyone from AWMA's Board who wanted to discuss ideas further
- Teri will work to schedule first Executive Board meeting to formulate a plan; Revisit via email with Executive Board
- MOTION to ADJOURN meeting by Teri Robinson, Seconded by Shannon Faltak
- Meeting Adjourned 8:28pm ET