

Midwest Borzoi Club Board Meeting
Minutes
January 15, 2024 7:30 pm EST / 6:30 pm CST

,Attendance:

Anne Midgarden	X	Liz Duncan-Burge	X
Tina Wismer	X	Amy Balthrop	X
Rebecca Drollinger	X	Pam Leichtnam	X
Amy Sikula	X	KC Artley	X
Frank Zajac	X	Jamie Bobrowski	X
Kristen Suhrenbrock	X		

1. Meeting began at 7:32 EST. Board members present (see above). Board members absent: N/A
2. Minutes from last Board meeting (October 2023).

Motion to Approve October 2024 board meeting minutes – Pam Leichtnam
Second – Kristen Suhrenbrock
Motion passed.

3. Report of the Recording Secretary – Amy Sikula.

October meeting minutes are available on the website and were emailed/snail mailed to the membership.

The January mailer is with the printer and should be mailed any day.

Motion to Approve Recording Secretary report – Frank Zajac
Second – Kristen Suhrenbrock
Motion passed.

4. Report of the Corresponding Secretary – Rebecca Heighton Drollinger.
 - Here are the approved specialties and judges for 2024-2025:
 - May 25, 2024 - Kalamazoo, MI (Saturday)
Sweepstakes – Judy Dennis
Regular Classes – Robin Casey
Show Chair – Rebecca Drollinger
Trophy Chair/Judges Gifts – Jamie Bobrowski

- October 12, 2024 - Lima, OH (2 Specialties on Saturday w/ picnic)
Sweepstakes – Joyce Law
Regular Classes 1 – Chris Neale
Show Chair 1 – Sandra Hilbert, Anne Midgarden
Trophy Chair/Judges Gifts 1 – Amy Sikula
Regular Classes 2 – Patti Neale
Show Chair 2 – Sandra Hilbert, Anne Midgarden
Trophy Chair/Judges Gifts 2 – Amy Sikula
*Site is reserved and AKC has approved both specialties.
- May 24, 2025 - Kalamazoo, MI (concurrent)
Sweepstakes – TBD
Regular Classes – Daniel Dowling (pending signed contract)
Show Chair – Jamie Bobrowski
Trophy Chair/Judges Gifts – TBD
- August 9, 2025 - Caledonia, WI (concurrent)
Sweepstakes – TBD
Regular Classes – Amy Sorbie
Show Chair – Jennifer Morgan
Trophy Chair/Judges Gifts – Diane Bilak
- May 23, 2026 - Kalamazoo, MI (Saturday)
Sweepstakes – TBD
Regular Classes – TBD
Show Chair – TBD
Trophy Chair/Judges Gifts – TBD

Motion to Approve the Corresponding Secretary report – Jamie Bobrowski
Second – Pam Leichtnam
Motion passed.

5. Report of the Treasurer – Frank Zajac. Attached separately.

Motion to Approve the Treasurer's report – KC Artley
Second – Pam Leichtnam
Motion passed.

6. Report of the Committees.

- **Annual Awards** – Tina Wismer.
- **Digital Archive** – Amy Balthrop & Amy Sikula. Amy S found a company to quote us a price for the work.

- We need to provide estimates on the amount of material to be scanned in order for these companies to quote us a price.
- Amy B touched base with Lynne over the summer, but wasn't able to work out a date. Amy S was not able to reach Lynne during her trip to Michigan in November. She will look for another weekend to do this.
- **Document Proof Reader** – Christiana Hartenstein. (no report needed).
- **Hall of Fame** – Barbara Tyler-Lord. Next Hall of Fame mailing will be in July of 2024.
- **MBC Bulletin Editor** - Claire Breen.
- **MBC Website** – Jamie Bobrowski.
- **NBRF Delegate** – Liz Duncan-Burge. End numbers were 29 borzoi rescued within the US and 22 internationally. They are helping care for 38 dogs monthly in the Ukraine. Money is donated specifically to each bucket.
- **New Membership** – Diane Bilak. We need to write up a description of these duties.
 - 1)Standard notification of acceptance
 - 2)Membership booklet
 - 3)List of events
 - 4)List of people in their area with borzoi
 - 5)Standard notification of denial – not a part of the New Membership Chair responsibilities

Tina contacted Diane via email, and is working on these SOPs. They should be done this week.

- **2024 Nominating Committee** - Anne Midgarden. Sandra Hilbert is chair of the nominating committee. Members remain the same for 2024.
- **Ribbons** – Jamie Bobrowski. We ordered ribbons for all three 2024 specialties, and has flat ribbons. They should be labeled Show 1 and Show 2. Pam will do all the plaques for spring and fall 2024 and bring them to Kalamazoo. She will also do the judges gifts for May.
- **Statistics, Conformation** - Lynne Bennett.
- **Statistics, Lure Coursing ASFA** - Amy Sikula. Requested from ASFA.
- **Statistics, Lure Coursing AKC** - KC Artley. (Refer to 9B.)
- **Statistics, Obedience & Rally** - KC Artley. (Refer to 9B.)
- **Sunshine** - Michelene Nash.
- **Supported Entry Committee** – Amy Sikula. We had our first conference call in November. The group was going to investigate certain shows to see if there are good opportunities for supported entries, and come back together in February to discuss our findings. Amy S will report back to the group on MBC rules for trophies for supported entries. Pam reports excellent entry numbers at the Shaumburg supported shows.
- **Ways & Means (Fundraising)** – Jamie Bobrowski.

Motion to Approve the Committees' reports – Amy Balthrop
Second – Kristen Suhrenbrock

Motion passed.

7. Membership – Amy Sikula.

New Applications – 2nd reading:

- Danielle Bartosiewicz
- Jammie & Isaiah Cole
- Hannah DeRezza
- Elizabeth and Thomas Mayer
- Erin and Tom O'Brien, Moira O'Brien (Junior) Seamus O'Brien (Junior)

Motion to Approve New Members – Jamie Bobrowski

Second – Amy Balthrop

Motion passed.

8. Old Business.

8A. 2025/2026 Committee Report

BCOA Rep Update: Our 2024 show will be in Pasco WA June 2-8. We are still in negotiations for 2025 but we hope it will be April 20-26, 2025. No location has been decided on for 2026.

Discuss options for Fall 2026 specialty. The board discussed having another independent specialty in Crown Point on October 10. We need someone to make a proposal for the fall location.

Motion for Fall 2026 to be an independent specialty in Crown Point on October 10, 2026 – Anne Midgarden

Second – Kristen Suhrenbrock

Motion passed.

8B. Health Clinics in 2024.

There are a lot more health clinics being offered, so maybe there isn't as great a need for multiple clinics. We should monitor this going forward. Discussion will continue next meeting.

- March health clinics at Midgarden Veterinary practice
- Could we have a health clinic in Illinois? As long as a state licensed vet is in charge, Anne could do thyroid blood draws. Someone would need to find a location and find local vets for echocardiograms or eye exams. Tina will look into this.
- Do we want to sponsor another clinic in July 2024 with Lima Kennel Club?

8C. Fundraiser discussion.

MGA uses a company called Big Frog. They do not use paypal and are an independently owned franchise. The company will write MBC a check and provide that to us.

Jamie contacted Big Frog, and they will set up a website for us whenever we want to start. She is asking for friends to donate art that we could put on a tshirt or other wearables. We can put our logo on anything we want to offer.

Anne will work on verbiage for a new standing rule to clarify that we should not use personal funds for MBC sponsored fundraisers.

Jamie and Claire will be

8D. Annual Club Picnic, 2025

Where do we want to do the 2025 picnic?

Pam will ask Racine KC if they lease out their grounds for other events.

8E. MBC Member Education Series.

Long standing members and Breeder making presentations at MBC events on subjects like their breeding program, starting a breeding program, improving the breed, kennel design, feeding, etc. could be stand-alone event or part of a Specialty or picnic.

- Amy Balthrop/Jamie Bobrowski are looking into putting together an education panel for members, with experienced breeders and the opportunity to put their hands on multiple dogs. They will continue to look into this.
- Frank will contact Laura Hyatt to see if she would like to present something about her breeding program at a picnic or independent specialty.
- We will have 2 presentations at the Lima independent specialty: 1) Dr. Runcan, Theriogenology @ OSU will present on care of the bitch during pregnancy and whelping. The presentation will need to be between the specialties, so 1:00PM is a good time, and she will have one hour. 2) Liz Duncan-Burge will put together and handout on how to select a good home. She will present if her schedule allows. Amy S. reached out to Dr. Runcan to see if she had any additional questions. All her questions have been answered at this time.
- We received a request from Magdalena Krasny for a canine first aid course at a future event. She volunteered to help coordinate and set up the event if we can find a presenter. Kristen will reach out to Teresa West-Holmes to see if she would be willing to do this, and when we might be able to do this.

8F. Write/update procedures explaining how to put on MBC events.

Rebecca will start updating the show committee guidelines starting in January 2024. She is still in the planning stages. She wants to make an interactive document with links and screenshots.

8G. Paper Minutes – Amy Sikula.

Amy S. sent a letter to those members who are still receiving paper minutes as discussed, and added this topic to the agenda for the May membership meeting.

8H. Should MBC apply to be a 501c organization? This would make fundraising much easier, and would allow us to use PayPal for electronic payments. Frank will do some research and bring information to our next meeting.

There are a lot of 501c types of organizations, not just c3. We do not qualify to be a 501c3, as we are not a charitable organization. They all deal with special situations. BCOA started off as a 501c4, but they discovered they should be a 501c7.

We do not own any property or assets, except for what is in storage. We are legally incorporated in the state of Ohio, which has to be renewed every 5 years (2024 is the next renewal).

<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-tege/eotopicc96.pdf>

<https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/other-non-profits/social-clubs>

Dog clubs generally qualify for tax exempt status. In order to do this, we need to file a 1024 form. Donations cannot be written off when donated to a 501c7. Becoming a 501c organization will give us some advantages, but we will have to start filing tax returns.

Frank will continue to pursue this topic, and look to see what forms we need. We will add this to the agenda for the May membership meeting.

9. New Business.

9A. Medallions – Frank Zajac.

Frank is trying to order more medallions and Jenni Steele is helping him. We have enough medallions for the next couple of years. The previous vendor is not responding to calls or emails.

Review the quote from Maxwell Medals and discuss options.

Lynne needs to send Pam 3 specialties worth – 24 total (BPB, Best Opposite, WD, WB, Best Sweeps Puppy, Best Opposite Sweeps Puppy, Best Sweeps Veteran, Best Opposite Sweeps Veteran).

We currently only have 30 large medallions and 6 small medallions in inventory. The prices are considerably higher than previous years. We find that we are not giving out the veteran sweepstakes plaques. Pam uses a company that screws the metal into the plaque so they can be repurposed more easily.

Pam suggested that we order enough large medallions for the next 10 years. For sweepstakes we will give plaques without the medallions, and we will have the vendor etch the logo onto the plaques. We have enough small medallions to cover our May specialty.

Here is a sample of the engraving.



We will need to write new standing rules for the following:

N2. Best in sweeps & best of opposite sweepstakes winners at our specialties get a 1 1/2" MBC logo medallion. (10-91)

N3. At our specialties, BOB will get a 3" club medallion, BOS will get a 3" club medallion, WD & WB will each get a 1 1/2" club medallion. (10-30-04)

N4. \$175.00 from general funds can be used for the mounting of the medallions and engraving of the plaques for BOB, BOS, WD, WB, Best and BOS sweepstakes (puppy and veteran) given at each specialty. (2-11-2016)

Anne Midgarden will type up a proposal to be voted on by email and included with the meeting minutes to update the standing rules listed above.

[Motion to order 150 large medallions – Frank Zajac](#)

[Second – Pam Leichtnam](#)

[Motion passed.](#)

9B. KC Artley's resignation effective in May

Need to replace KC as a board member, and as committee chair for the following:

- Statistics, Lure Coursing AKC. Kristen Suhrenbrock will take this over.
- Statistics, Obedience & Rally. Anne will talk to June Mintchell about these statistics.

We will announce KC's resignation on social media to look for a replacement. Anne will have them apply to the nominating committee.

9C. Supported entry proposals.

Jill Zamowski's approved supported entry was proposed to the Paper Cities KC, and approved. They will host an MBC TSE on Saturday, September 7 and a BCOA TSE on Sunday, September 8.

9D. ASFA trial in 2024. Liz Duncan-Burge

Liz still has enough ribbons for a one day trial at her home, attached to SLASH like last year. We will need to rent SLASH's equipment and operator.

Motion to have an ASFA trial on October 18 – Liz Duncan-Burge

Second – Frank Zajac

Motion passed.

9E. Donations to the BCOA National Specialty. Rebecca Drollinger

Motion to donate BCOA a "Gold" donation of \$500.00 to support the National Specialty show – Rebecca Drollinger

Second – Pam Leichtnam

Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn – Jamie Bobrowski

Second – Amy Sikula

Motion passed.

*Meeting adjourned at 10:25 PM.

Addendum: The following proposed changes to the Standing Rules were voted on and passed via email:

N2. Best in sweeps & best of opposite sweepstakes winners at our specialties get a plaque including the MBC Logo, Date and Award . (01-24)

N3. At our specialties, BOB, BOS, WD & WB will each get a 3" club medallion. (01-24)

N4. The mounting of the medallions and engraving of the plaques for BOB, BOS, WD, WB, Best and BOS sweepstakes (puppy and veteran) given at each specialty will be covered by general funds. (01-24)

N7. Trophy pledge money is to be used for the purchase of trophies and shall be divided equally between the specialties each year. Any excess money remains in the trophy fund. Operational moneys will come out of the general fund. (01-24)