

BELGIAN BEAT

An Official Monthly Publication of the American Belgian Malinois Club

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A NOTE FROM THE BOARD:

Nominations are currently open for the 2026-2027 ABMC Board. The positions up for nomination this year are: President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary and one Director position. If you are interested in running for any of the above mentioned positions please reach out to the Nominating Committee. The deadline for Nominations is January 10, 2026.

The 2026 ABMC National Specialty planning is in full swing. Next year's Specialty will be held at the Ann Arbor Dog Training Facility in Whitmore Lake, MI. Please join the 2026 Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1BKG2dXR34/> or visit <https://malinoisclub.com/abmc2026/> for the most up to date information. Dina has provided a brief updated included later in this newsletter. Thank you to Dina Ledge and her amazing group of volunteers that have taken on this daunting task. We hope to see all of you at the 2026 National.

It is time to nominate individuals for the 2026 ABMC Volunteer of the Year. If you are interested in nominating someone, please see the nomination form on the last page of this edition of the Belgian Beat. The deadline to receive Nominations is Feb 10, 2026.

Just a quick reminder that the 2026 Hall of Fame Deadline is quickly approaching. Reminder: December 31, 2025 is the deadline to complete the application process. Dogs will be inducted and plaques awarded at the 2026 National Specialty's Banquet. Should you be unable to attend the National Specialty Banquet, the plaque will be mailed to you. The HOF pages on the club's web site will be updated with the new inductees after the Banquet. Please see the general Hall of Fame page for more information about the Hall of Fame award. <https://www.malinoisclub.com/abmc/achievement-awards/hall-of-fame/>

As Christmas approaches, the ABMC board would like to wish every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed and safe New Year!

MEMBERSHIP INFO:

Individual Membership -- \$40

Family Membership -- \$65

Junior Membership (10y-17y) -- \$10

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

American Belgian Malinois Club

ABMC WEBSITE <https://www.malinoisclub.com/abmc>**ABMC BOARD MEETING
INFO**

Date: January 8, 2026

Time: 7:30 CST

Join Zoom Meeting:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85480291314?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85480291314?pwd=a73zneMbuOs4g6CNRj1Dh2aDfTitFb.1)[pwd=a73zneMbuOs4g6CNRj1Dh2aDfTitFb.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85480291314?pwd=a73zneMbuOs4g6CNRj1Dh2aDfTitFb.1)

Meeting ID: 854 8029 1314

Passcode: 339408

****Welcome New Members******Rodney & Linda Vance****Stephanie & Michael Bunch*******UPCOMING EVENTS*******ABMC Regional Specialty**

December 12, 2025

Orange County Event Center N/S Building

Orlando, FL

Closing Date: November 12, 2025

ABMC Agility Trials - Fundraiser for 2026 National Specialty

February 6 - 8, 2026

Pinnacle Dog Sports

Westlake, OH

Closing Date: January 28, 2026

ABMC Agility Trials - Fundraiser for 2026 National Specialty

February 27 - March 1, 2026

Pinnacle Dog Sports

Westlake, OH

Closing Date: February 18, 2026

ABMC Regional Specialty & Sweepstakes

April 4, 2026

Lynn County Fair & Expo Center

Albany, OR

Closing Date: March 18, 2026

ABMC National Specialty

May 10-16, 2026

Ann Arbor Dog Training Club

Whitmore Lake, MI

Closing Date: April 10, 2026

*******New Member Applicants*********Lisa Brown**

3340 Boat Lane SE

Bolivia, NC 28422

910-398-4384

holidayfarms2me@yahoo.com

SPONSORED BY: Angela McCalla & Sara Andersen

*****BOARD MEETING MINUTES*****

Minutes ABMC BOD Meeting October 9, 2025

1. Meeting was called to order by President Paige Johnson at 7:07 pm CST
 - 1.1 Paige Johnson
 - 1.2 Janet Lasater
 - 1.3 Sara Andersen
 - 1.4 Jeanine Daugherty.
 - 1.5 Suzanne Belger
 - 1.6 Miranda Genetti
 - 1.7 Tiffany Holley
 - 1.8 Anastasia Swarthout
2. Approved minutes of September 11, 2025 BOD Meeting. Tiffany moved to accept the Minutes as printed; Jeanine seconded; approved.
3. Treasurer's report: Discussed. Detailed account is located elsewhere in The Performer. Suzanne reported that the insurance is due to be renewed.
4. Committee Reports
 - 4.1 2026: see Addendum
 - 4.2 2027: Jeanine reported Rally and Obedience judges are contracted; Dina is waiting for the contract from Superintendent Foy Trent;
 - 4.3 The BOD is waiting on a completed proposal.
5. Old Business
 - 5.1 Continuation of NS Manual revision: tabled
 - 5.2 Canine Health Association update: tabled
6. New Business
 - 6.1 Insurance premiums are due: Suzanne moved to approve the insurance policies as presented; Tiffany seconded the motion; approved.
 - 6.2 Nominating committee: The By-Laws indicate that a committee must be formed by October 15. The first meeting of the committee must be held on or before November 1. The committee shall consist of three members and 2 alternates, including one BOD member. Positions open for nominations are: President; 2nd VP; Recording Secretary; Director
 - 6.3 Working Belgian Shepherd Club of America collaboration: Discussion regarding a request from ABMC member, Teri Robinson (and President of WBSCA) to consider a possible collaboration of an event or a presentation by the two groups, possibly a Belgian Training Day. There is much positive feedback, but more information/organization is necessary.
 - 6.4 Conformation HOF: Discussion regarding revision of the requirements for inclusion in the Conformation Hall of Fame. Tiffany and Janet have agreed to be on the committee. Tiffany will contact Allison Bath of the Conformation Committee.
 - 6.5 Working Dog titles: AKC will now accept the working dog titles as originally earned.

7. New Members: Sylvia Calcano. Jeanine moved to approve the applicant; Janet seconded; approved unanimously.

8. Next meeting: November 6, 2025.

9. Adjournment: Suzanne moved to adjourn at 8:02 pm; Anastasia seconded. Approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Lasater
Recording Secretary

**ADDENDUM TO THE MINUTES
OF THE ABMC BOD MEETING
October 9, 2025**

2026 National Specialty report by Chairperson, Dina Ledger:

"I've been in touch with Sonny Strom and he's still on board with judging. He's been contacted by AKC and is returning the Foreign Judge paperwork and Letter of Responsibility that AKC has sent him. He plans to arrive on Wednesday/Thursday and leave Sunday or Monday. I've advised him we'll get someone to pick him up and take him back to the airport. He's advised me of the airport he wishes to use and I get an estimate of the plane ticket. Regarding his payment he would prefer a bank transfer. I will get the details for this at a later date.

Show Secretary will be Executive out of Ohio. They will handle conformation, obedience and rally.

Host Hotel: We've contracted with Candlewood Suites in Brighton, MI 13 minutes away from the show site. I'll post the link shortly for booking.

Finalizing rental of the facility. Instead of renting all buildings for the entire week, only renting what is necessary.

I have the log in for the ABMC AKC and working on event applications.

Agility: We have a local agility secretary to keep down on cost, Lois Korrick, who handles AADTC agility trials. We don't have an agility chair but I'm acting as that until we find another one.

Obedience and Rally: Judges are committed and local so low-cost.

Tracking: Carilee has scouted and secured land for tracking. She contacted a couple of judges and awaiting signed contracts. Ribbons and trophies discussed.

Scent Work: Patti Terrio has offered her place for the scent work trial. Claudia Bailey is working with her and believes all the levels and elements can be offered there. We will incur the cost of renting porta-potties so people aren't tracking in/out of Patti's house. Claudia is working on judges.

Herding: Ann McKay and Christine Klockenbrink are working with Sheepsmith farm and the levels to be offered. They were advised of possible secretaries for the event. Ribbons discussed. No info on judges yet.

Welcome party/Banquet: Patti Terrio has offered to chair this and has been in contact with a couple of the local restaurants. We're looking at a taco bar (always lol) for the Welcome Party and a family style serving at a local restaurant, possibly the same as the Welcome Party.

Welcome Bags: Christine Nethery and Patti Terrio are working on these and would like a letter on ABMC letterhead asking if local companies would like to donate items to this cause.

Photographer: Alyssa from our National this year is under contract for our events.

Show Video: Said they were booked during our week

We have a draft of a logo but it may have to change slightly for it to be reproduced on clothing. Colleen Fogarty and Kristen VanDerberg are working on this."

****** *ABMC Hall of Fame Information* ******
(Conformation, Obedience, Tracking, Herding, Agility, and Rally)

Reminder: December 31st is the deadline to complete the application process.

Dogs will be inducted and plaques awarded at the 2026 National Specialty's Banquet. Should you be unable to attend the National Specialty Banquet, the plaque will be mailed to you. The HOF pages on the club's web site will be updated with the new inductees after the Banquet. Please see the general Hall of Fame page for more information about the Hall of Fame award. <https://www.malinoisclub.com/abmc/achievement-awards/hall-of-fame/>

"The ABMC's Halls of Fame were established to recognize Belgian Malinois that have achieved a high level of success in conformation, obedience, tracking, herding, agility, or rally. The owner of the dog must be a member or have been a member of ABMC during the time the dog was being exhibited. Inductions into the Halls of Fame are made at the National Specialty occurring in the following calendar year of the year the application was submitted. There is no charge to submit an HOF application, and retroactive applications are accepted." Specific requirements for each Hall of Fame are listed at the top of that Hall of Fame's page, before the listing of previous inductees:

Conformation: <https://www.malinoisclub.com/abmc/achievement-awards/hall-of-fame/conformation/>
 Email Allison Bath at conformation@malinoisclub.com

Obedience: https://www.malinoisclub.com/abmc/achievement-awards/hall-of-fame/obedience_hof/
 Email Karen Shivers at stonefox4085@gmail.com

Tracking: <https://www.malinoisclub.com/abmc/achievement-awards/hall-of-fame/tracking/>
 Email Annette Lynch at agaklynch@sbcglobal.net

Herding: <https://www.malinoisclub.com/abmc/achievement-awards/hall-of-fame/herding/>
 Email Monique Buzzarté at monique@buzzarte.org

Agility: <https://www.malinoisclub.com/abmc/achievement-awards/hall-of-fame/agility/>
 Email Kari Higgins at gotterv@mac.com

Rally: <https://www.malinoisclub.com/abmc/achievement-awards/hall-of-fame/rally/>
 Email Claudia Bailey at foxleighcb@gmail.com

****** *A Tribute To The Late Marti Moses* ******
(As provided by her husband Jim Moses)



"Dear friends -

As some of you may have heard, we lost Marti in August. Since friends and family – especially our Malinois family - are scattered across the country, we decided on a virtual memorial, and our niece, an extraordinary young woman, has done an extraordinary job of putting together a tribute to her Aunt Marti.

Here's the link to watch on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/i3yCVt7mlVQ> This is an unlisted video, so you can only access it via the link, it is not public. It runs about 45 minutes, including a homily from her minister cousin.

Hug the ones you love, and best wishes to all for a Good Christmas and the New Year!

Jim Moses"

ABMC Volunteer of the Year

The American Belgian Malinois Club has instituted an annual Volunteer Member of the Year award to honor those who volunteer their time and talents for the betterment of the Belgian Malinois. Nominations for the ABMC Volunteer of the Year for 2025 are requested from the membership and are due by **February 10, 2026**. The person nominated (and the person making the nomination) must be current members of ABMC.

The list of nominees will be sent to the ABMC membership email list, published on the ABMC website, and published in the Belgian Beat. All ABMC members will have the opportunity to vote for the nominee of their choice. The award will be presented at the banquet at the 2026 ABMC National Specialty.

If you would like to nominate a person for this award, please fill out this form and mail it to:

Barb Benner
PO Box 2259
Airway Heights, WA 99001

or e-mail it to Barb at agilmals@gmail.com (Please put "ABMC Volunteer Award" in the subject line, so it doesn't get overlooked!)

Please send nominations by **February 10, 2026**, so that we can provide members with the opportunity to vote for their choice.

Name of person nominated: _____

Name of person making the nomination: _____

I nominate this person for the ABMC Volunteer Member of the Year because: (please list ways that this person has volunteered for the benefit of Belgian Malinois; these are not limited to ABMC-sponsored activities.) You may use more space if needed. *Please supply a few sentences about the nominee in support of your nomination – our membership is spread out across the country, so our members who are not familiar with your nominee need to hear about this person's accomplishments!*
