

BELGIAN BEAT

An Official Monthly Publication of the American Belgian Malinois Club

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A NOTE FROM THE BOARD:

At the January ABMC Board Meeting the Board discussed the Hall of Fame deadline. The Hall of Fame chairs have seen an increasing number of late applications and missed deadlines in recent years, so the Board discussed extending the Hall of Fame deadline retroactively to the 2025 qualification year. The ABMC board has unanimously voted to extend the deadline for Hall Of Fame applications to Feb 1 of the year following the qualification year. The new deadline will allow more time for AKC to process titles earned at the end of the calendar year that may affect a dogs qualifications. This change will also allow ABMC members more time to gather and submit the required documents and ease the end of the year stress.

The ABMC Board would also like to extend its congratulations to the winners of the 2025 AKC National Championship held in Ocala, FL in December 2025. In a recent update (May 2025) to the Crufts qualification guidelines, “(5) USA (TBC) – Winners of Best of Breed, Best of Opposite, Best Bred-By-Exhibitor, Select Dog and Bitch and Awards of Excellence at the December 2025 AKC National Championship. In addition, Best of Breed, Best of Opposite, Best Bred-By-Exhibitor, Select Dog and Bitch and Awards of Merit at one National Breed Specialty show per breed chosen by the breed Parent Club and agreed by the AKC.” - <https://www.royalkennelclub.com/about-us/resources/media-centre/2025/may/crufts-2026-qualifications-for-entry-of-dogs/> The Crufts qualifying certificates have been mailed to all winners this year, however, in all subsequent years, the Crufts qualifying certificates MUST be picked up at the AKC National Championship Show at one of the following three locations: AKC Booth, Medallion table, or Superintendents table.

The 2026 ABMC National Specialty planning is in full swing. Next years 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. Thank you to Dina Ledger 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.

MEMBERSHIP INFO:

Individual Membership -- \$40

Family Membership – \$65

Junior Membership (10y-17y) – \$10

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American Belgian Malinois Club

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

Date: January 12, 2026

Time: 7:30 CST

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84127951879?pwd=sU8TvoYy5lQoWoeDqiOfuIRsh1SB4K.t>

Meeting ID: 841 2795 1879

Passcode: 584423

***** UPCOMING EVENTS*******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

****Welcome New Members******Lisa Brown*********New Member Applicants*********Angela van den Ham**

1100 Idlewild Drive South

Dunedin, FL 34698

727-734-4880

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SPONSORED BY: Trina Matteson and Wendy Cousino

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

Minutes
ABMC BOD Meeting
December 11, 2025

1. Meeting was called to order by President Paige Johnson at 7:32 pm CST
 - 1.1 Paige Johnson
 - 1.2 Janet Lasater - ab
 - 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 October 9, 2025 BOD Meeting. Tiffany moved to accept the Minutes as printed; Jeanine seconded; approved unanimously.
Note: due to unforeseen circumstances, the November meeting was not held.
3. Treasurer's report: Suzanne reported that the insurance premium has been paid and that she is paying the 2026 National Specialty application fees to AKC. She will need to handle the venue deposit soon. Detailed account located elsewhere in The Performer.
4. Committee Reports
 - 4.1 2026 National Specialty: Jeanine reported that Claudia Bailey is still looking for a Scent Work trial secretary; the logo is complete; the judges are under contract.
 - 4.2 2027 National Specialty: Suzi Frenz has sent contracts to the Rally and Obedience judges.
 - 4.3 2028 National Specialty: the BOD is awaiting a proposal.
5. Old Business
 - 5.1 Continuation of NS Manual revision: No report.
 - 5.2 Canine Health Association update: Paige has received information from CHA regarding our balance and suggestions for donations. She will respond.
 - 5.3 Nominating Committee: biographies from current BOD members whose positions are up for election and who would like to run again are due to Tiffany by January 10, 2026. Tiffany will then publish them, along with information regarding the election, including instructions for other members interested in running for office.
 - 5.4 Conformation HOF: It is suggested that we add 3 – 4 more members to the committee to enable and encourage a variety of opinions toward the goal of revision of criteria for induction.
6. New Business
 - 6.1 Event Application: Suzanne moved to approve the event application from Lisa Knock for the Belgian Gala to be held October 30, 31 and November 1, 2026. Anastasia seconded. Approved unanimously.
 - 6.2 Event Application: Jeanine moved to approve the event application From Lisa Knock for two (2) Agility trials to be held May 22 and May 23, 2026 at Horizon's Edge Sports Complex in Harrisonburg, VA.

6.3 Anastasia suggested that we incorporate a herding presentation whereby a herding judge would actually explain the differences he/she sees between Belgian Malinois and other herding breeds. There have been some comments that Malinois are "treated differently" than other breeds and a judge's perspective would be appreciated. Anastasia will research and report to the BOD.

7. New Members: applications for two (2) Family Memberships:

Rodney and Linda Vance

Stephanie and Michael Bunch (sp?)

Miranda moved to approved both memberships; Anastasia seconded.

Approved unanimously.

8. Next meeting: January 8, 2026.

9. Adjournment: Jeanine moved to adjourn at 8:22 pm CST; Miranda seconded. Approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Lasater
Recording Secretary

*******ABMC Hall of Fame Information*******

(Conformation, Obedience, Tracking, Herding, Agility, and Rally)

Reminder: February 1, 2026 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 gottery@mac.com

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

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!*
