

BELGIAN BEAT

An Official Monthly Publication of the American Belgian Malinois Club

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A NOTE FROM THE BOARD:

The ABMC Board has some exciting news. The AKC has revised its Sweepstakes Judging requirements; “Per AKC policy, Sweepstakes, Futurity, and Maturity judges are not restricted from exhibiting except that they may not exhibit in the competition they are judging. For example, an individual assigned to judge sweepstakes MAY NOT exhibit in sweepstakes but may exhibit in any other classes that same day including the regular classes in the same breed. (Exhibit = personally showing a dog or any dog that is owned or co-owned being shown regardless of who handles it; and applies to all members of the same household.). While AKC policy no longer restricts sweepstakes, futurity, or maturity judges from exhibiting in the regular classes at the same event, the event hosting club does have the option to impose exhibiting restrictions for its judges above those defined by AKC rules and policies as a condition of contract.”

The Board discussed and has approved the above change and will allow AKC National & Regional Sweepstakes Judges to exhibit at events they are judging per the new AKC regulation. Mr. Dagan (2026 Sweeps Judge) and Ms. Laurin (2027 AKC Sweeps Judge) have been notified via email.

Barb Benner, ABMC Awards Chair, has received nominations for 5 extraordinary ABMC members for 2025 ABMC Volunteer of the Year. The official ballot is included on the last page of this edition of the Belgian Beat. In an attempt to ease the voting process, you may return your vote by e-mail to Barb at agilmals@gmail.com. Please put “ABMC VOY” in the subject line.

We are getting closer by the day to the 2026 ABMC National Specialty to be held at the Ann Arbor Dog Training Facility in Whitmore Lake, MI. Please visit <https://malinoisclub.com/abmc2026/> or check the Facebook group, <https://malinoisclub.com/abmc2026/> for the most up to date information. Please visit the specialty store at <https://malinoisclub.com/abmc2026/shop/> for all of our merchandise, event tickets, trophy sponsorships, and more.

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: April 9, 2026

Time: 7:30 CST

Join Zoom Meeting:

[https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/84774251700?](https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/84774251700?pwd=oFoz5w8MqHgqroIhBo34bEUoyIKDwE.1)

[84774251700?](https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/84774251700?pwd=oFoz5w8MqHgqroIhBo34bEUoyIKDwE.1)

[pwd=oFoz5w8MqHgqroIhBo34bEUo](https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/84774251700?pwd=oFoz5w8MqHgqroIhBo34bEUoyIKDwE.1)

[yIKDwE.1](https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/84774251700?pwd=oFoz5w8MqHgqroIhBo34bEUoyIKDwE.1)

Meeting ID: 847 7425 1700

Passcode: 244318

****Welcome New Members****

Devetta Hill

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

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

ABMC Agility Trial

May 22, 2026

Horizons Edge Sports Campus

325 Cornerstone Lane

Harrisonburg, VA

*******New Member Applicants*******

Heather Coulis

4890 Emerald Lane

Brunswick, OH 44212

440-227-0585

Hcoulis30@yahoo.com

SPONSORED BY: Janet Lasater & Denise Schneider

*****BOARD MEETING MINUTES*******Minutes
ABMC BOD Meeting
February 12, 2026**

1. Meeting was called to order by President Paige Johnson at 7:32 pm CST
 - 1.1 Paige Johnson
 - 1.2 Janet Lasater
 - 1.3 Sara Andersen
 - 1.4 Jeanine Daugherty
 - 1.5 Suzanne Belger - absent
 - 1.6 Miranda Genetti
 - 1.7 Tiffany Holley
 - 1.8 Anastasia Swarhout
2. Approved minutes of January 8, 2026 BOD Meeting: Jeanine moved to accept the Minutes as corrected (Call to order should read 8:05 CST); Miranda seconded; approved.
3. Treasurer's report: Detailed account is located elsewhere in The Performer. Suzanne's report indicates the need for an Internal Audit Committee, which will consist of two (2) members and one (1) BOD member. Jeanine will be the respective BOD representative. Member applicants must have been a member for at least two (2) years.

The other issue discussed is the \$300 fee to AKC for Top Dog Herding reports as compared to \$10 for each of the other Top Dog reports. Discussion regarding contacting AKC regarding the vast discrepancy. Paige will contact AKC

4. Committee Reports

- 4.1 2026 National Specialty: Carol Shields offered to be chief ring steward; Dina is working on trophies and ribbons; she is also checking on insurance. The store is being worked on and will be online as soon as possible.
- 4.2 2027 National Specialty – Everything is on track. Judges are contracted. The host hotel is also contracted. The committee is working on the agility venue and equipment; they are trying to get tracking and herding venues.
- 4.3 2028 National Specialty – Nina Schlack expressed that she is still interested in chairing the event.

5. Old Business

- 5.1 Continuation of NS Manual revision: previously tabled. Although the committee has not met lately, a suggestion by the BOD: Add “trophy sponsorship should be in the store by January 1”. Suggestion #2: determine how many prizes are needed for all the class placements and list the respective numbers. This would alleviate the trial chair(s) from having to make lengthy calculations each year.
6. New Business
 - 6.1 AKC Herding Report subscription (\$300): Approved.
 - 6.2 Application for Regional Specialty and Supported Entry in late August in Amana, IA, submitted by Judy Hagen. Tiffany moved to approve; Anastasia seconded. Approved unanimously.
 - 6.3 AKC Breeder Education position: Tiffany reported that AKC would like the name of a member to post on-line to accept that position. Tiffany will follow up.
 - 6.4 AKC PAC Political Action Committee: tabled
 - 6.5 Application for supported entry by Miranda Genetti: November 14 and 15, 2026 Philadelphia, PA with receipt of \$3.00 per dog entered. Anastasia moved to approve the motion; Janet seconded. Approved
7. Announcement: Marti Moses has passed away; there will be a write-up in the next Performer.
8. New Member Application: Angela Van Den Ham
Tiffany moved to approve her membership; Miranda seconded. Approved unanimously.
9. Next meeting: March 12, 2026
10. Adjournment: Jeanine moved to adjourn at 8:41 pm CST; Anastasia seconded. Approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Lasater
Recording Secretary

2025 ABMC Volunteer of the Year Nominations (listed in the order received)

ABMC members may vote for one of the nominees listed below for Volunteer of the Year. You may send your vote by postal mail to Barb Benner, PO Box 2259, Airway Heights, WA 99001 – OR you may return your vote by e-mail to Barb at agilmals@gmail.com . **Please put “ABMC VOY” in the subject line, so that I won’t miss it!**

Please submit your vote by **April 1, 2026**. The award will be presented at the 2026 National Specialty.

___	<i>Tiffany Holley</i>	___	<i>Judy Hagen</i>	___	<i>Linda Friedow</i>
___	<i>Maryfrances Betts</i>	___	<i>Paige Johnson</i>		

Name of person nominated: *Tiffany Holley*

Name of person making the nomination: Carol and Frank Shields

Author of the Belgian Beat, co-chair of the 2025 National Specialty, 2025 Specialty Chair for Fast CAT, 2025 Specialty Event Secretary for Temperament Test, 2025 Specialty Juniors judge

Name of person nominated: *Judy Hagen*

Name of person making the nomination: Allison Bath

Judy Hagen has been a force for this club ... as president and in the work she does every year for the Amana cluster. She can be counted on any time you need help.

Name of person nominated: *Linda Friedow*

Nominated by: Allison Bath

Linda's work on judge's education is so on point ... the programs she does, [and] she is available any time someone may have a question regarding a judge not judging to the standard. She is a behind-the-scenes worker bee on Amana every year.

Name of person nominated: *Maryfrances Betts*

Nominated by: Tiffany Holley and Jeanine Daugherty

It is our honor to nominate Maryfrances Betts for the 2025 ABMC Volunteer of the Year. She has a heart of true gold. Maryfrances has been involved with American Belgian Malinois Rescue for over 25 years and still continues volunteering to this day. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for ABMR and as a coordinator. Maryfrances assists with ABMR fundraising and is a tireless worker for the ABMR raffle at the yearly National Specialty. She acts as the hub for donations for the raffle and transports huge amounts of donated items to the specialty each year, no matter the location. Maryfrances has helped evaluate, foster, transport and find homes for over 500 dogs, with 125+ in just the last seven years. Maryfrances is also a wonderful breed advocate and is always willing to educate the public on the Belgian Malinois while competing in various sports with her own rescue Malinois. We humbly ask for your vote for this truly deserving hero.

Name of person nominated: *Paige Johnson*

Nominated by: Karri Higgins

Paige works tirelessly for the Club. Not only is she the President, but she was also the co-chair of the 2025 National Specialty. I believe she is very worthy of this honor.