

# BELGIAN BEAT

An Official Monthly Publication of the American Belgian Malinois Club

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### A NOTE FROM THE BOARD:

The February ABMC Board meeting was very productive. If your dog was inducted into the ABMC Hall of Fame at the 2024 National Specialty and you received a Hall of Fame tile without the words "Hall of Fame" on it, please contact Teresa Kulb at [tkkulb@yahoo.com](mailto:tkkulb@yahoo.com) to have a replacement tile sent to you.

The 2025 National Specialty is quickly approaching. The website at <https://malinoisclub.com/abmc2025/> is up to date and complete. The National Specialty store is open so now is the time to sponsor a trophy, but your merchandise, raffle tickets, banquet and welcome reception tickets, or pre-pay for that catalog or catalog ad. Please know that all profits from these sales will go back into the ABMC treasury to assist with the daily running expenses that the ABMC incurs as well as helping with next years specialty. There is also an all breed show being held at Purina Farms the weekend prior to our National Specialty. It is superintended by Onofrio and more information can be found at: <https://www.onofrio.com/execpgm/fndindex?show=PL2025041605AB#ROLL1>

The 2026 National Specialty is still in the planning stages, however a location, venue, Agility Judge, Obedience Judge, Sweeps Judge and Breed Judge have all been contacted and are under contract. The 2026 Show Chair is eagerly awaiting the 2025 Annual Meeting to announce more information.

The Board has heard from two individuals that are interested in co-chairing the 2027 National Specialty. We are expecting an official bid shortly, and we will post more information as soon as we secure the proper approvals.

The Board would like to express our gratitude to the ABMC National Specialty Manual Revision Committee. It was reported to us that the committee is making great strides in updating this important manual. This committee has some great ideas on how to standardize and streamline the process of placing a bid and holding a National Specialty. This is a daunting and time consuming task and a work in progress.

We are happy to tell our working dog members that Register of Merit (ROM) will now accept all working titles that are shown from any organization giving the SAME title instead of just the AWMA. With the limited availability of events with AWMA we know our members are not able to make it to them. Please check under the awards tab to see what titles are required for your ROM certificate. We want to see what you and your dog have accomplished. Keep up promoting our breed by doing an aspect of what they are bred for. This has not changed getting titles added to your AKC Pedigree.

Finally, we would like to thank Susie Williamson for her decades of dedication to Belgian Malinois, the ABMC, and the ABMC members. Susie has served the ABMC in multiple capacities from new member, to committee chair, to President and most recently Director. Susie, we are forever grateful for your expertise and devotion to the ABMC. Susie has vacated her Director seat, and, since NO nominations were received from the floor, the nominee that the Nominating Committee put forth, Anastasia Swarthout, has agree to assume her Directors position early and complete Susies term prior to beginning her term in July 2025. Welcome to the Board Anastasia.

**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: March 27, 2025  
 Time: 6:30 MST

Join Zoom Meeting:  
<https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/84091561684?pwd=UQ3ia9YdwDF8UPP1rbbaglse9wXA3EO.1>

Find your local dial in number:  
<https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/kdzkrTQyDE>

Meeting ID: 840 9156 1684  
 Passcode: 917915

**\*\*\* UPCOMING EVENTS\*\*\*\***

\*\* Bids are now open for the 2027 ABMC National Specialty. Please consider this "event of the year" for the ABMC. If you are interested in chairing or have any questions about it, please reach out to any board member.\*\*

**ABMC Regional Specialty & Sweepstakes**

April 5, 2025  
 Linn Cty Fair & Expo Center  
 Albany, OR  
 Closing Date: March 19, 2025

**2025 ABMC National Specialty**

May 3-10, 2025  
 Purina Farms  
 Grey Summit, MO

**ABMC Regional Specialty & Sweepstakes**

August 30, 2025  
 Amana RV & Event Center  
 Amana, IA  
 Closing Date: TBD

**ABMC Supported Entry**

August 31, 2025  
 Amana RV & Event Center  
 Amana, IA  
 Closing Date: TBD

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

**Rachel Hack**

359 Piepers Corner Rd  
 Silas, MO 63377  
 kibethhack@gmail.com  
 SPONSORED BY: Marcella Ruhana & Angela Myers

**Angela Silvestri**

1908 Commons Ct  
 Windsor, CA 95492  
 707-620-5026  
 witchydoglady@gmail.com  
 SPONSORED BY: Nancy Hendricks & Tina Gonzales

**Melissa Dewitt**

5015 Hillmon Grove Rd  
 Cameron, NC 28326  
 984-334-8282  
 MelissaDewitt@protonmail.com  
 SPONSORED BY: Carolyn Kaiser & Jency Jordan

**Lisa Root**

1150 SE Mendoza Ave  
 Port St Lucie, FL 34952  
 248-467-1396  
 fiveftzero@hotmail.com  
 SPONSORED BY: Tiffany Holley & Paige Johnson

**Ray and Edith Atchley**

269 Moonridge Trail  
 Gurley, AL 35748  
 256-656-9815  
 eatchley@hiwaay.net  
 SPONSORED BY: Marcella Ruhana & Angela Myers

**Diane Orenchuk**

51 Lawnwood Annex  
 Newton, NJ 07860  
 201-669-1143  
 dianeorenchuk@gmail.com  
 SPONSORED BY: Darrell Roll & Sara Andersen

**Laurel and Kenneth Getchell**

23322 Unicorn Lane  
 Pass Christian, MS 39571  
 228-669-4251  
 Schattenhaus.shepherds@gmail.com  
 SPONSORED BY: Tiffany Holley & Paige Johnson

## \*\*\**BOARD MEETING MINUTES*\*\*\*

### Minutes ABMC BOD Meeting January 23, 2025

1. Meeting was called to order by President Paige Johnson at 7:31 pm CST.

- 1.1 Paige Johnson
  - 1.2 Janet Lasater
  - 1.3 Sara Andersen
  - 1.4 Jeanine Daugherty
  - 1.5 Susie Williamson
  - 1.6 Suzanne Belger
  - 1.7 Miranda Genetti
  - 1.8 Tiffany Holley
- All members were present.

2. Approved minutes of December 10, 2024 BOD Meeting. Suzanne moved to accept the Minutes as revised (6.8 Pupdate was eliminated as redundant); Tiffany seconded; approved unanimously.

3. Treasurer's report: Discussed. Detailed account is located elsewhere in The Performer.

#### 4. Committee Reports

- 4.1 2025: Paige has ordered all necessary items; judges' lodgings have been handled; premiums for FastCAT, Agility and Conformation have been edited. Jeanine moved to approve the premiums as presented; Miranda seconded; approved.
- 4.2 2026: Dina is making progress. She is currently working on securing judges for obedience and rally.

#### 4.3 Others:

Teresa Kulb: Hall of Fame, new tiles are ordered.

Carilee Moran: Gazette: I continue to publish articles on time. Got a request from the teen club to use one of my recent articles which I referred back to AKC for her to find out the right procedure and permissions needed, though it was fine by me.

Linda Friedow: Judges Education: I have had conversations with two new to Malinois; judges, asking for clarification on color and what they have observed. I was contacted by a judge in Australia who writes a column for a publication in India.

Carolyn Kaiser: ROM Report: January 2025 New ROM dogs this reporting period:  
ROM I: GCH CH AGCH2 MACH9 PACH2 Trisorts Tko Total Knock Out CD RA  
MXG3 PDG MJG3 PJG MXP5 MXPS MJP6 MJPS PAX2 MFC TQX MFPB  
TQXP T2B10 CGCA CGCU TKA Owners: Theresa Kulb Thomas Kulb;  
Lisa M Knock (01-25) bitch

ROM III: CH Tristan Kwanah HSAs BCAT SWN SCA DS DJ CGC TKI FITB  
Owner: Heather Doucette (10-24) dog

The American Belgian Malinois Club offers the Register of Merit (ROM) title in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class for Malinois owned by ABMC members that have proven themselves to be outstanding "multi-purpose" dogs as evidenced by holding advanced titles and/or titles in a variety of events. There is no charge to apply for the ROM title and the criteria for each class along with the application process and class upgrade/title update information are available at <https://www.malinoisclub.com/abmc/achievement-awards/abmc-register-of->

merit-program/. ROM dogs appear on the ABMC website with printable personalized certificates are sent to ROM III and ROM II dogs while ROM I dogs receive a personalized plaque. There are currently 211 dogs in the Registry of Merit: 93 ROM I, 65 ROM II, and 53 ROM III.

In recent years, the paper application progress and record-keeping become electronic, an “historical audit” was completed to ensure titles were as current as possible, and, with scanning assistance from Linda Friedow, countless dogs whose ROM applications were submitted before digital photography had their photos be linked from their names. As Susie Williamson steps down from her many decades of service to the ABMC she has also resigned from the ROM Committee. Thank you, Susie! If you are interested in volunteering to serve on this committee, please contact ROM Custodian and committee chair Carolyn Kaiser, turickmals@gmail.com for more information. Carolyn Kaiser ROM Custodian.

## 5. Old Business

- 5.1 Continuation of NS Manual revision project: previously tabled; Paige talked with Lisa about the committee. Jeanine has volunteered to sit in on those committee meeting as BOD “voice”; next meeting will be January 30.
- 5.2 Conformation Committee: Allison will remain on this committee and will monitor AKC for any information to be passes on to the BOD and/or the membership. She welcomes other ABMC members to join this committee.
- 5.3 Meet the Breed procedures: Tiffany had presented to the BOD a revision of the procedures. Miranda moved to approve the procedure as revised; Jeanine seconded; approved. These revisions will make it more “member-friendly” for those wishing to help with any MTB events.
- 5.4 Previous Treasurer’s paperwork : the necessary paperwork (including hard copies of Letters of Incorporation, etc.) has not yet been received. Sara will contact previous treasurer regarding these issues.
- 5.5 HOF plaques: corrected plaques with the HOF lettering have been ordered.
- 5.6 Sponsored medallions: There was a question as to why breed medallions had not been offered at the Conformation, Agility and Rally Nationals. The ABMC BOD had previously approved sponsorship of all said medallions. Suzanne has been in contact with AKC regarding this issue. The outcome is pending.
- 5.7 ROM: Susie brought to the BOD a concern from a member who questions why Mondioring titles are not able to be used for ROM status. Mondioring titles are very similar to IPO titles (which are recognized by AKC and are used by the ABMC ROM Committee). Susie has made several attempts to contact said individual with no response. [See 6.4 for more information.] Susie has now retired from the ROM committee.

## 6. New Business

- 6.1 Junior Coordinator update: Angela Chamberlain will remain on the committee. Allison Kennedy will be the new Jr. Coordinator.
- 6.2 Audit information: According to By laws, we need an independent audit every 2 years. The estimated cost to the club is \$3,000 - \$4,000 per audit on a 2-year basis. Suzanne will obtain a letter of engagement from the auditing firm, Uhyllp, Public Certified Accounts.
- 6.3 Application for Amana Regional Specialty: Judy Hagen. Susie moved to approve the application; Jeanine seconded; approved unanimously.
- 6.4 Working dog titles: Miranda presented this information: working dog titles that are currently not recognized by AWMA (American Working Malinois Association) and therefore, not approved by AKC are not eligible for ABMC ROM. Discussion that not enough eligible events are available, and the question is proposed to advocate acceptance of those titles toward ROM status. Miranda will contact AWMA to determine if anything can be done to allow acceptance of those titles obtained via other organizations. She did

contact AKC and went over some of the documents Will AWMA possibly accept credentials for what they have accomplished in other organizations? The question is: Can ABMC recognize those IPO titles for ROM status? Miranda will present to the BOD a proposal to possibly revise the ROM requirements. She will also contact Karen Shivers, a current member of the committee.

6.5 PCC Educational Program : This is a survey of parent clubs to determine 5 issues of importance. Paige asked us to send her our opinions and she will forward a list to AKC. Some of the ideas listed were:

- health testing and better info
- behaviors (personality problems of the dogs)
- members engagement
- AKC image public
- wanting more conformationally-correct working dogs

6.6 Upright Canine Brigade will be on site at the 2025 National Specialty to offer education about Megaesophagus and Myasthenia Gravis. UCB is a 501c.3 organization.

7. New Members: none

8. Announcements: none

9. Next meeting: February 27.

10. Adjournment: Jeanine moved to adjourn at 8:50 pm CST. Tiffany seconded. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Lasater  
Recording Secretary

### 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](mailto: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, 2025. The award will be presented at the 2025 National Specialty.

___	<i>Monique Buzzarte</i>	___	<i>Angelia Mullaney</i>
___	<i>Tiffany Holley</i>	___	<i>Rachel Fabrizi</i>
___	<i>Susie Williamson</i>		

**Name of person nominated:** *Monique Buzzarte*

**Name of person making the nomination:** Jency Jordan

I nominate Monique Buzzarte as VOY in appreciation for all she does for the Malinois club. She maintains the ABMC website and for the last ten years has created each National Specialty website. I know first-hand that she patiently answers questions about "where is X or Y on the club website?" or "how do I ...?" She is the Herding Committee's chair and a member of the MVM committee. She writes material for the Performer (articles about tracking and herding along with yearly AKC titles and herding rankings).

**Name of person nominated:** *Tiffany Holley*

**Nominated by:** Carol and Frank Shields

- 1) Active Board member - great and consistent communication to the membership
- 2) Author of the "Belgian Beat"
- 3) Co-chair of the 2025 National
- 4) Always rapid response to email and Facebook communications
- 5) Valued supporter of all the Belgian breeds

**Name of person nominated:** *Susie Williamson*

**Nominated by:** Carolyn Kaiser

Susie has served the ABMC in SO many capacities and SO many years from President to Board Member, numerous Committees, chairing and co-chairing multiple National Specialties, I'm not sure there is a role she hasn't participated in. Her dedication to health and education has been unwavering. I can't imagine a more deserving candidate for Volunteer of the Year.

**Name of person nominated:** *Angelia Mullaney*

**Nominated by:** Lisa Knock

Angelia Mullaney is the ever energetic and cheerful volunteer in all she does! Her efforts in supporting the 2024 ABMC National Specialty are noteworthy. Angie volunteered to be the RV chair, ordered and donated all welcome and judges bags including all the fabulous contents too and saved the club a nice amount of money. After I encountered many dead ends, she researched and located a top notch local shop who could embroider the chairs for our trophies, saving shipping them to a vendor out of state and having to ship them back again to Virginia. Angie also located a merchandise vendor close to her who could print all of the T-shirts and wearables (in addition to the welcome bags) and paid the set up fees for all printing and embroidering with the 2024 ABMC National logo – a very much appreciated and generous gift to our club. Angie also supported the ABMC tracking trial, chauffeuring judges, track layers and workers around the site for two days. Additionally, she and my co-chair (a saint!) spent MANY hours inventorying, labelling and delivering all ABMC merchandise. This was an unplanned effort that took 4 people the better part of a full day. Angie was always quick to volunteer in any and all ways to make the 2024 National run more smoothly in a myriad of ways when additional help was needed! She is most deserving of the Volunteer of the Year award!

**Name of person nominated:** *Rachel Fabrizi*  
**Nominated by:** *Lisa Knock*

Rachel Fabrizi, with her quiet can-do attitude, was the ABMC 2024 Herding and Tracking Chair – chairing 5 separate trials. These were significant and time-consuming events that she organized and chaired in their entirety. Whatever needed to be done to ensure a successful National Specialty in these areas, Rachel did with professionalism and to completion. As the tracking chair, she visited many sites on her own dime taking annual leave to travel to possible tracking sites in the state of Virginia for this National. Rachel identified several options and then networked with other Tracking folks - enlisting qualified track layers, and tracking judges not judging our venue, to develop and execute a location and schedule with all needed volunteers. Tracking is a labor intensive venue and she fully staffed this effort including ordering porta-pots, the all-important lunch for all workers. Rachel also bought and donated the judges and workers gifts for the tracking trial. Tracking involves two full days - the day before the trial to meet with all workers, judge(s) and track layers and the day of the trial when it all comes together.

Rachel then chaired four separate ABMC herding trials for the National: two C course trials (first time ever offered at one of our Nationals) on two separate days and two A course trials. Again Rachel coordinated and networked with all applicable folks to ensure all four events went off successfully. Herding Trials start, just as do Tracking Trials, at dawn and are all day affairs. There is a lot of pre-work that goes into herding trials that happens in advance. Again Rachel coordinated all logistics to include the all-important lunches for all exhibitors, judges, farm owner and show secretary each day over three days. Additionally, Rachel coordinates all show secretary services for both A and C course trials. Rachel's exceptional efforts as both the Tracking and Herding Chairs and her leadership and ability to bring her extensive network of experienced folks that supported these trials to our National Specialty made them a success. Rachel is most deserving of the Volunteer of the Year Award!