

~ Unofficial Notes ~
USLHC Annual General Membership Meeting
8/2/2026 6:00 PM CDT

****Note: These notes are unofficial minutes until approved
at the 2027 Annual General Membership Meeting****

Call to Order 6:02 PM CDT

Members In attendance (26): Linda Bell, Patricia Blankenship (Treasurer), Mark Bradbury, Jr., Sheryl Bradbury (Director), Rosanna Buehl, Andrea Christenson, Gretchen Conradt, Tim Conradt, Jona Decker, Lindsey Dobruck, Tammy Erickson (President-Elect), Jan Garner, Patrick Helton (President), Kelly Herrera, Jeff Kestner (Secretary), Nancy Klarman, Lizz Koehn, Beverly Morgan Lewis, Kirsten Ludwig, Diana McCarty, Martha O'Connor, Chelsy Pendleton, Bonnie Smith, Diane Swift, Mark Taylor, Jean Turoci

Approval of Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Membership Meeting (attached)
Moved by S. Bradbury, Second by Kestner; Motion carried

President's Report Patrick Helton

Since my elevation to the role of club president, I have worked to increase the visibility of club processes via prompt communication with members, attention to the posting of Board meeting minutes, and financial audits. The focus of my efforts during this period has been to provide the club with stability and responsive leadership and I believe these goals have been achieved. Looking back on my service, I am appreciative of the support received from the membership during my brief tenure as president and also during the years I have served the club as vice-president. In addition, it is necessary to thank the nominations committee and the club secretary for their efforts in identifying candidates for positions on the Board as well as the smooth running of our recent election. In stepping away from my position, I feel it is important to remind the membership of the importance of working together constructively to achieve club goals. We have accomplished much through the efforts of people who have served the interests of this breed in the US, but there remains work to be done as we endeavor to improve the functioning of the club and to promote the health and welfare of the

Lancashire Heeler. As we move ahead with new leadership, let's stay focused on our future not the past.

Presented the results of the election for Club Treasurer (2 year term):

Bonnie Smith 27

Patricia Blankenship 24

Bonnie Smith was declared elected.

On behalf of the Board, President Helton thanked Patricia Blankenship for her years of dedication to the club and her performance as club treasurer.

Vice President's Report Lindsey Dobruck

I am grateful to the USLHC membership for trusting me to represent you as Vice President! Over the past year, I've continued to develop the awards and versatility program; oversaw the fun Tricks in 2026 Challenge; and collaborated with the board and membership on various initiatives. I am excited to see what's in store for the coming year!

Treasurer's Report Patricia Blankenship

Beginning bank balance 8/4/2025 ----- \$8032.90

Deposits

Sponsor of awards for M&E show from Patricia Blankenship	100.00
Sponsor of awards for M&E show from Patrick Helton	150.00
Membership dues	1775.63
Corral Creek Dog Sport trial fees	1028.00
AZ Herding trial fees	423.11
NE Kennel club	30.00

Expenses

AKC Medallions	195.00
Reimburse P. Blankenship audit expense	12.72
Reimburse J. Kestner M&E catalog	16.85
NE Kennel Club supported entries	100.00
Reimburse L. Dobruck for zoom cost	170.29
CRPWCC trophies sponsor	100.00
Wirebuilt host website	228.00
WAC 2025 election counting	125.00
Reimburse J. Kestner judges' material and M&E awards	618.56

CAN Surety bond insurance	126.00
Ending Bank Balance 8/2/2026	\$9847.22

Respecting submitted,
Patricia Blankenship
USLHC Treasurer

Secretary's Report Jeff Kestner

- Received all communications received through the USLHC website
- Prepared agenda, minutes, etc. for Board meetings
- Prepared ballots for the 2026 officer election

Director's Report Sheryl Bradbury

Currently reviewing and evaluating the current Constitution and Bylaws to make recommendation for amendments to qualify the club for AKC Member Status (we're currently a licensed club).

Committee Reports

Audit (Patrick Helton) *Member: Patricia Blankenship*

Club finances were reviewed by an independent auditing firm and found to be in good order. Copies of current and past reports are available on the club website.

Awards (Jona Decker) *Members: Jona Decker, Lindsey Dobruck, Carla Coggins*

Fit for Function

As a reminder, the **Fit for Function** program recognizes dogs who have demonstrated aptitude in performing the historic duties of the Lancashire Heeler, including both herding and vermin control. Dogs earning this distinction may use the USLHC suffix title of **FF** where appropriate.

Since launching the Fit for Function recognition program, we have issued one certificate to Torger, Mashury's Torgertorkle Thunder Jump, owned by Chelsy Pendleton and bred by Sheryl Bradbury. More recently, we have focused on advancing the **Versatility Program**.

Versatility

The **Versatility** program is intended to recognize demonstrated versatility across a minimum of at least three disciplines which cover a wide range of activities including conformation, companion events (ob, rally, agility, lure coursing), breed-specific events like herding and hunting vermin, scent sports, family dog (CGC, Farm/Fit/Fetch/Tricks), and other sports like dock diving, flyball, treibball, and parkour. We recommend four levels of recognition: bronze, silver, gold, and platinum, and that dogs earning this distinction may use the USLHC suffix title of **VH-x** where appropriate.

In late April we shared a preliminary recommendation with the board. We're now working on clarifying and simplifying the scoring structure for Versatility recognition based on initial feedback. Reworking the Versatility points structure has proven challenging because this is a complex space to quantify, and also a busy dog sports season. We're committed to producing a revised version for review this Fall.

We are also exploring tangible award options for the **Versatility** program and gathering pricing information. The committee surveyed the membership to better understand what kinds of physical awards would be meaningful and appreciated.

We believe once we've landed on an approved initial version of the Versatility Program, we will be well-positioned to move forward with a recommendation for a **Register of Merit** program.

Register of Merit

The **Register of Merit** program is intended to recognize Lancashire Heeler sires and dams who have produced multiple titled offspring. In keeping with several other herding breed Register of Merit programs, we believe that highlighting production records of conformation, companion event, and performance sport-titled offspring best showcases the importance of sires and dams in our breed.

As such, we are recommending the creation of two tracks within the **Register of Merit** program:

Register of Merit (ROM & ROMX) recognizes sires and dams that have produced titled offspring in Conformation. We recommend two levels, ROM and ROMX, based on the number of certificates of merit and/or champions produced.

Register of Merit – Versatility (ROM-V & ROMX-V) recognizes sires and dams that have produced multiple companion event and performance sport-titled offspring. Again, we are recommending two levels based on the number of titled offspring. For clarity, both Register of Merit tracks recognize a sire's or dam's production record based on their offspring's achievements, not titles earned by the sire or dam itself.

We asked the Board to:

- Review and feedback/approval of Versatility application and points structure **(received)**
- Provide access to or assistance with creation of a Breed Awards & Recognition page/section on the public-facing USLHC website to showcase breeders, owners, and dogs being recognized as well as adding Awards & Recognition guidelines and applications to the members-only section of the website. **(have not received)**
- Provide access to/assistance with awards survey - we build the survey but the survey link would be emailed to the entire membership as well as posted on the members-only section of the website and members-only FB group. **(partially received)**

Thank you!

Jona

Health (Tammy Erickson) *Members: Gretchen Conradt, Carla Coggins, Amy Gibbs-Ehrie, DVM*

The Committee began its work by formalizing a charter describing the long-term scope of the committee's responsibilities. This charter was approved by the Board in April of this year and is attached to this report.

The Committee also developed a preliminary prioritization of activities, with only the activities included in Priority 1 planned for the upcoming year. Subsequent priorities will be reevaluated based on input received from members, the availability of fiscal and human resources required for implementation, and the Club's progress in other areas (for example, a health clinic would probably only be considered after the Club institutes a national specialty).

- Priority 1: Breeder-focused Education and Testing Recommendations
 - Health survey to be conducted through the OFA and review of existing health data from CHIC and international sources to determine key health priorities

- Review of testing guidelines and consideration of possible recommendations to the Board for change
 - Consideration of a temperament survey conducted through BARQ
 - Associated education
- Priority 2: Broad-based Education and Health Clinic sponsorship
 - Priority 3: Fund-raising, including consideration of the formation of a Foundation able to accept tax-deductible donation
 - Priority 4: Funding for research on diseases or concerns specific to Lancashire Heelers

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Erickson
Chair, Committee on Health and Genetics

Herding (Molly Wisecarver) *Members: Karen Mason, Susan Wisecarver, Diane Swift, Ken Ferrill, Susan Van Buren, Bonnie Smith*

Bonnie Smith reported on the successful herding trial she attended in Arizona earlier this year. Unfortunately no Lancashire Heelers were present.

Historian (Patricia Blankenship)

Judges' Education (Jeff Kestner) *Member: Sheryl Bradbury*

- Presented the Judge's Education Program with Jeff Bazell at the 2025 Advanced Institute in Orlando in December
- Prepared the *Criteria for Parent Club Approved Mentors* (attached)

Legislation (Patrick Helton)

National Specialty-Conformation (Sheryl Bradbury) *Member: Jean Turoci*

- Proposal for 2027 National Specialty (attached) Discussion regarding the Nebraska Kennel Club invitation and proposal to hold our first specialty in 2027. The Board took comments under advisement for potential future action.

National Specialty-Performance (Linda Bell) *Members: Jona Decker, Amy Gibbs-Ehrie, Jean Turoci*

Membership (Patrick Helton)

- The club added 14 new members since the last general membership meeting. Club membership stands at 84 members.

Nominating Committee (Jeff Kestner) *Members: Rosanna Buehl, Kim McIntyre*

- Presented the following slate for election:
President: Tammy Erickson
Treasurer: Bonnie Smith

Ways & Means (Sheryl Bradbury) *Member: Patricia Blankenship*

The T-shirt fundraiser did not meet the minimum number of orders so it was cancelled. Committee is looking for other ideas for fundraising

Website (Sheryl Bradbury)

Sheryl suggested that if the Club's historical documents were assembled digitally they could be placed on our website.

Old Business

The policy regarding opting in or out of having personal data released by the club was discussed. Members were given the opportunity to control the amount of personal data that was posted earlier this year.

New Business

A. The idea of multi-year memberships was discussed. Treasurer Blankenship reported that some members already send in dues for multiple years at renewal time. The C&B needs to address this issue for clarity.

B. Jona Decker invited members in the area to participate in the Madison WI Meet the Breeds event later this year.

For the Good of the Order

Adjournment (Moved by S. Bradbury, Seconded by Kestner) at 7:31 PM CST