



June 25, 2026

Mission Statement (adapted from Constitution and Bylaws):

To promote the public's knowledge and appreciation of dogs in general and Chinooks in particular; To produce, publish, and distribute to the general public educational materials about the proper care, treatment, breeding, health, development and training of Chinooks; To support and promote study and research on the history, character, breeding, genetics and particular health problems of Chinooks; To establish a national database of resource materials about the Chinook; To further understanding of the disease, defects, injuries and other ailments that afflict dogs in general and Chinooks in particular; To acknowledge and advance the critical role of an UKC National breed club in providing education, health research and support of rescue for the benefit of the general public, purebred dogs, and Chinooks in particular; To conduct activities including sporting events, licensed events, specialty shows, working certificate tests, obedience, agility and tracking trials, and other such activities and events as may be held under the rules of the United Kennel Club, in furtherance of the above purposes; To urge members and breeders to be guided by principles of good sportsmanship, including fair and honest conduct, and to accept the standard of the breed as established by the COA and the United Kennel Club (UKC) as the only standard of excellence by which the Chinook shall be bred and judged. To otherwise preserve and protect the Chinook and to do all things possible to promote its natural qualities, including the encouragement of regional activities and/or interest/study groups.

COA Board Meeting Minutes

Call to Order and Roll Call of Board Meeting

- Meeting called to order @ 1709 PDT
- Present: Marty, Fern, Jon, Kristine, Rick, Brenda, Rachael, Jessica, Kristy
- Excused:
- Absent: Bob, Karen

Report of President - Marty Wilson

Report:

- Applicant for Regional Activities Chair: Tyler Sweeney - Prior board experience includes volunteer work with fundraising and development for campaign type work. Supporting 501C3 businesses. Tyler has a Chinook dog (1year old) - Reference comes from Jon Jolly - I spoke with Tyler - he's very interested and I think he'll bring some much needed expertise and enthusiasm to the role.
- Chisholm Law Firm - Channing is no longer with Chisholm Law - I have some fear they were trying to charge \$600 more to submit our long form application - I wrote a letter on behalf of the COA requesting an explanation. Long Story short - I received follow up

correspondence from Audrey Chisholm - they will not be charging the extra fee. They are updating the application paperwork and will be sending it for signature.

- There is a request that the board sign the conflict of interest form. I will have that submitted to those who are in elected positions. This is in our best interests if the IRS ever requests it in the future.
- Daniela & Pam - I'd like to order a plaque/thank you in appreciation for their work over the years they both volunteered. Want to discuss with board, I will research cost and present/motion for approval at next board meeting.
 - Put this motion in new business section

Discussion:

- Regional Activities Chair: new position with open opportunity - Tyler Sweeney
 - Could be challenging role; worth having an active committee to help
 - Discussion about insurance - Rachael can help direct chair to COA insurance policy
 - Penthea and Fern willing to be part of committee
 - Board enthusiastic about Tyler's application
- Exec board needs to sign conflict of interest form for 501c3 application

ACTION ITEM:

- Put on hold until after new board assigned
 - To increase awareness of our breed:
 - Appeal to the public with articles on Chinooks and their history in Dog Magazines
 - Modern Dog - waiting for response from Editors
 - Dogster - Head Writer: Nicole Cosgrove (NZ)
 - Dog's Today (British)
 - Others? Look for online only dog magazines.
 - Suggestions for developing a marketing campaign:
 - Place an ad in magazines as articles could take some time.
- This would be in addition to the article.

Report of Vice-President - Fern Richardson

Report:

Discussion:

- Should COA update the Chinook breed standard to recognize buff and black-and-tan as acceptable, non-fault colors? Discussion goal: Consider whether historic Chinook coat colors should be permitted in conformation when color does not affect breed function, soundness, or type.
- Kristy has started working on this with a few others (Jayne Spaulding, Karen Hinchy) and Fern is willing to help
 - Kristy and Fern will talk and update next meeting
- Jon and Fern will talk about SEO on the COA website
- Marketing, SEO, regional activities, etc. all related to general effort to increase engagement within the breed

Action Item:

- FR Comment - is this an old item? I am moderately experienced with SEO optimization and have resources I can tap into for my day job. Happy to help if this is still an issue: Is there potential to use SEO to help promote access to the website and to our breeders. Marty will research and report back to the board.

Report of Secretary - Jessica Dreyer

Report:

- Modified current meeting series and updated the link on the agenda.

Discussion:

- Anyone having trouble with access to their COA account should check spam for Jon's email and contact him if they didn't receive it or have questions

Action Item:

Report of Treasurer - Rachael Davis

Report: See below.

Accounts: End of May

Chase - \$47,166.96

PayPal - \$9,213.25

Total - \$56,380.21

Restricted Funds:

Total Restricted - \$6,108.95

Chesterh Sweetie Fund - \$303.81

Rescue Fund - \$2,113.99

Health Fund - \$3,691.15

Total General Fund - \$50,271.26

- Removed Pam and Daniela from chase
- Granted access to Jessica and Fern; They have until July 11th to complete process

Action Item:

- Remove Daniela and Pam from Chase account, then add Jessica and Fern (completed)
- Send Spring Quarterly Report to Jon
- Chart specific Funds, totals, and where money comes from (Ongoing)

Report of Communications Chair - Jon Jolly

Report:

- Has a primary article for the CQ
- Website has been slow and having issues; made some updates and will look into it more going forward
- Open to ideas for and contributions to CQ

Action Item:

- Add Active Chinook Program brochure to website
 - Still looking for the correct spot. May require a few more changes.
- Way to store passwords

- Future CQ articles.
 - Karen - First cross to pure dogs (F3 litter)
 - Marty about litter updates
 - Marty - 501C3
 - Fern - places other than UKC for chinook crosses to compete/participate in sports and activities
 - Kristine - chinooks & weight pull
 - TBD article ideas
 - Passing of important modern history contributors like Bob Jones, Donna Boatright, Neil Wolpert...
 - Talk to Diana Fowler, Bob Cottrell, Ginger Corley, and Penthea Burns, Connie Jones?
 - UKC ownership change
 - UKC Breed Standard
 - Judges education program/committee
 - Modern History of Chinook - Susen Fletcher/Ginger Corley
 - Break down by decade?
 - History of COA creation
 - Benefits of Chinooks as therapy dogs
 - Instagram/Facebook (consider posting permission)
 - Historic cross lines - Donais and first litter that incorporated all 3 original cross lines
 - Current cross lines
 - History of Top Ten since UKC recognition
 - Breeder profiles (past and present)
 - Breeder mentoring
 - Plight of Canadian breeders given export restrictions
 - Passing and leaving historical items to COA
 - Possible funny photo contest
 - Bob - Any history articles/throwback photos/etc./upcoming events (Tamworth Event)
 - Modern History article?
 - Possible options for photo collage
 - Mischievous Chinooks
 - ??

Report of Membership Chair - Kristy Jolly

Membership Report – June 2026

Current Membership Total: 288 (7 puppy memberships not signed up yet)

New Members (0):

Renewed Members (18): Andrew Coppens (NH), Rick Prausa (VA), Lydia Leclerc (OH), Wendy Hansen (Ontario), Marlene Goist (TX), Brenda Dean (ME), Brendan Aldrich (IN), Michael Paluk (Manitoba), Melody Matthews Meilleur (Ontario), Edy Lotharius (IL), Tara Laposa (NJ), Katy Kopplin (WI), Cesar Hernandez (MA), Christine Eggleton (VT), Robin Anderson (VA), Rachael Davis (PA), Natasha Rueschoff (FL), Ted Dohnal (MI).

Puppy Memberships (3): Desert Sol Chinooks (3): Adam Zwickle (MI), Jill Szewczyk (CO), Rachel Butterfield (FL).

Membership Numbers by Month

Date	# of Members	Change
Jul-24	301	1
Oct-24	316	15
Dec-24	320	4
Jan-25	325	5
Apr-25*	274	(51)
May-25	279	5
Jun-25	277	(2)
Jul-25	285	8
Aug-25	281	(4)
Oct-25	286	5
Nov-25	286	-
Jan-26	289	3
Feb-26	285	(4)
Apr-26	292	7
May-26	292	-
Jun-26	288	(4)
*It was discovered the system wasn't demoting membership status when the expire date hit. Once it was corrected, emails went to the members to renew. Some did but some didn't, thus showing the sudden decrease.		

Breed Standard Committee: Kristy Jolly

Report: no update

Report of Health & Genetics Chair – Karen Hinchy

Report: no update

Report of Registrar – Karen Hinchy

Report: no update

Report of Historian – Bob Cottrell

Report: no update

Action Item:

- Outreach Details of all Bob's NH Humanities outreach programs can be found at this link: <https://www.nhhumanities.org/programs/harnessing-history-on-the-trail-of-new-hampshires-state-dog-the-chinook>
- Part of summer traditional arts program
- Link <https://www.tamworthhistorycenter.org/events> and <https://www.tamworthhistorycenter.org/events/mb1sh77x2v08wngf3x6enqcz8rcumy>
 - Updated the clio chinook trail single entries into a tour
 - Adding more
 - See Link: <https://www.theclio.com/tour/2608>
 - Mar 31, 2026 Chinook Polaris & Igloo (History of the Chinook)
 - Started with an Email from a gentleman at the South Pole, C. Bigford (friend of Walden) made dog sled and was part of the 10th Mountain division (WWII). Story to be posted in the CQ

Report of Regional Activities Chair – Vacant

Report: No update

Action Item:

- Discussion regarding tablecloths, materials at events. Time to update what we have? **John will research and bring back to the group**

Report of Rescue Chair – Brenda Dean

Report: No Update

Action Item:

Report of Active Chinook Program Chair – Rick Prausa

Report: The Active Chinook Committee is meeting bi-monthly and continues to make good progress on the following action items.

Action Item:

- Applications for Titles/Certificates (ongoing action item) – Review applications, issue certificates to owners and dogs meeting requirements and provide related information for publication in the Chinook Quarterly (CQ).

No applications for certifications or titles were received this month.

- New Program Participant Guide. The Committee is currently drafting the participant guide and, as part of that effort, reformatting individual title requirements documents and application forms.
- Program Health and Safety Review. The Health and Genetics Committee is currently reviewing the ACP Health and Safety Review draft report.

Report of Bench Chair - Kristine Chandler

Report:

- Discuss locations & dates for 2026 specialty - looking at October 2026

Discussion:

- Might be worth moving out of midwest for 2026 specialty to increase attendance
 - We need to have a specialty every year but we are not technically bound to location any given year
- Kristine will reach out to some chinook people on the west coast and gauge interest in a 2026 west coast specialty and follow up next meeting

Action Item:

New Business

Motion 2026-15

- *Motion by : Marty Wilson Second: Kristy*
- *I move that the COA Board approve the appointment of Tyler Sweeney as the new regional activities chair for the 2026-2028 term.*
- *Ayes: Nays: Abstention:*
- *Motion passes with unanimous approval*

Motion 2026-x

- *Motion by : Second:*
- *I move that the COA Board approve*
- *Ayes: Nays: Abstention:*
- *Motion passes with*

Unfinished Business

- Kristy: UKC response to registering puppies is lacking; won't process DNA samples in time; Huge frustration dealing with UKC!
 - Daniela will follow up when connecting with UKC about the Specialty **in progress**. Recommends trying Chat Line closed
 - Jessica & Kristy to work on a official club letter outlining the concerns
- Multi-Program Liability Disclaimer
 - In accordance with the Board's discussion last month, Rick has contacted the law firm of Walker Jones PC in Warrenton, Virginia regarding the potential need for expanded liability disclaimers. These would cover additional club programs beyond the Active Chinook Program. The firm is comfortable waiting for the COA to evaluate its specific requirements before re-evaluating their proposal.
 - Rick has contacted other program chairs who may want to participate in developing the expanded COA liability disclaimer proposal for the Board's consideration.
- Develop a marketing group Fern, Marty, Jon, Kristy, Karen, Brenda.
 - Develop a member contest of social media posts.
 - TikTok/Instagram to promote a short Chinook video. Karen will research.

- Jon to send out a few ideas

COA Board meetings are scheduled for the last Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be **July 30th 2026**, at 5 pm PDT, 6 pm MDT, 7 pm CDT, 8 pm EDT.

Approval of Minutes

Motion 2026-16

Motion by: Marty Second by: Kristine

I move that the June 25 2026 minutes be posted and approved by unanimous consent within 48 hours of posting.

Motion passes with unanimous consent.

Adjournment

Motion 2026-17

Motion by: Marty Second by: Rachael

I move that the June 25, 2026 Board meeting be adjourned by unanimous consent following email approval of the minutes. If there are no objections by the conclusion of the vote on the minutes the meeting will be adjourned.

Motion passes with unanimous consent.

Join with Google Meet: *updated link: <https://meet.google.com/bho-wocx-qxx>

Join by phone

(US) +1 570-900-2609 PIN: 951 372 713#