

**COCHINS INTERNATIONAL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

Date: April 12, 2026

Time: 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM (Central Time)

Location: Conference call

Presiding Officer: Gail Carlson, President

Recording Secretary: Michael Wolfe

Parliamentary Authority: Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM via conference call by President Gail Carlson.

ROLL CALL

Present:

- Gail Carlson
- Rich Barczewski
- Jessica Loree
- Jamie Matts
- Michael Wolfe
- Patricia Ann Dunlap-Vento (joined later due to storm-related difficulties)
- Jack Swanson
- Hope Bulach (present for the first part of the meeting)
- Tonya MacRae
- Dan Schwandt

Absent:

- Lisa Reardon
- Tom Roebuck
- Mike Becker

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Board considered the minutes of the August 3, 2025 Regular Board of Directors meeting and the February 15, 2026 Regular Board of Directors meeting.

A correction was made to the February 15, 2026 meeting minutes to specifically state that Rich Barczewski was absent from that meeting.

Motion: Rich Barczewski moved to approve the August 3, 2025 Regular Board of Directors meeting minutes and the February 15, 2026 Regular Board of Directors meeting minutes as corrected.

Second: Jessica Loree.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT AND OFFICER REPORTS

President - Gail Carlson

- Gail Carlson stated that Cochins International lost three State Representatives due to lack of membership renewal for 2026: Colorado, Connecticut, and Kentucky. The affected representatives were Lacy Michall of Colorado in the Southwest District, Kayla Kosowski of

Connecticut in the Northeast 1 District, and Aaron Decker of Kentucky in the North Central District.

- Gail Carlson reported that the IRS Form 990 for 2025 has been filed and stated that it was completed the week before the April 12, 2026 meeting.
- Gail Carlson reminded everyone that May 1 newsletter articles and photos are due April 15. She noted that 2026 is an election year for positions and urged everyone to announce whether they are seeking re-election or not seeking re-election, as this is the final newsletter opportunity to make that announcement.

Master Breeder / Points - Rich Barczewski

Rich Barczewski reported that Master Breeder points are up to date and that show reports are still coming in.

Treasurer - Jamie Matts

No Treasurer report was given in order to move the meeting along to the Constitution & By-Laws Committee discussion.

JUNIOR AND DISTRICT DIRECTOR REPORTS

No individual District Director reports were given in order to move the meeting along to the Constitution & By-Laws Committee discussion. Scheduled district meet information was reviewed as listed below.

Junior Chair Report - Hope Bulach

Hope Bulach, Junior Chair, reported that she received the belt buckles on Saturday, April 11, 2026, and that they would be taken to the post office the following Monday. She also reported that show reports are coming in and that everything is going smoothly.

Scheduled District Meets

- Southeast District: Held February 7, 2026, at the Heart of Dixie Poultry Club in Anniston, Alabama.
- Northeast 1 District: Scheduled for June 7, 2026, in Syracuse, New York, with the Finger Lakes Feather Club.
- West Central District: Scheduled for November 20-22, 2026, in Lincoln, Nebraska, with the Nebraska State Poultry Association.

NATIONAL MEETS

2026 Nationals

- **2026 West National Meet:** Utah Fancy Poultry Association, Grantsville, Utah, October 8-10, 2026. The meet is in the Pacific District, which currently has no District Director, so a meet coordinator will need to be found. Judges selected are Paul Monteith as primary judge and Conor Keegan as alternate judge.
- **2026 East National Meet:** Beaver Pigeon & Bantam Club, Jefferson, Wisconsin, October 10-11, 2026. The meet is in the North Central District, with Dan Schwandt serving as District Director. Judges selected are Tom Roebuck as primary judge and Terry Britt as secondary/alternate judge.

2027 Nationals

The Board has begun soliciting bids for the 2027 National Meets. Bids are posted on the Cochins International website as they are received. The bid deadline is July 30, 2026.

- 2027 West National Meet: Canada District, Mike Becker, Director.

- 2027 East National Meet: Southeast District, Tonya MacRae, Director.
- A bid was received February 17, 2026, from Anderson Poultry Club, Pendleton, South Carolina, for January 30, 2027.

OLD / CONTINUING BUSINESS

Prior Email Vote

The Board directed that the following prior email vote be added to the minutes:

- April 9, 2026: Board of Directors vote by email to confirm judges for the 2026 West National Meet: Paul Monteith as first judge and Conor Keegan as second/alternate judge.

Constitution & By-Laws Committee Report

Membership Vote Required for Final Approval

Important note: After the Board votes to approve proposed Constitution and By-Laws changes, the proposed changes will then be presented to the membership for a membership vote for final approval.

Michael Wolfe, Constitution & By-Laws Committee Chair, reported that the CBL Committee had worked through the Constitution and had reached the second article of the By-Laws.

CBL Committee highlights included discussion of presenting a single National Meet option to the membership, discussion of electronic voting, discussion of making the Executive Board responsible for maintaining the organization's 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, discussion between the CBL Committee and Board of Directors regarding reducing the number of districts due to difficulty filling Director positions in some districts, discussion of possible National Meet bid-priority language if the Club retains two National Meets, and discussion of adding a mission statement.

The Committee agreed that a mission statement should be added and decided on the following wording: "The mission of the organization shall be to focus on the advancement of exhibition Cochins."

The Committee and Board also discussed that, if the Club keeps two National Meets, proposed changes should be presented to the membership regarding National Meet bid priority. The discussion included language that clubs which have hosted a National Meet within the previous five years would not be given consideration when selecting a bid unless no other bids are received. As part of this discussion, the Committee and Board discussed deleting the current CBL language stating: "An attempt will be made to place National Shows on a rotational basis by regions." Dan Schwandt and others agreed that part of National Meet bid consideration should include how well a show has hosted a National Meet in the past, including whether the host club submitted required show reports.

Gail Carlson stated that CBL changes must be completed by August 15, 2026. Michael Wolfe stated that he would like the CBL Committee work completed by July 15, 2026, at the latest.

The lack of Large Fowl Cochin exhibitors was discussed. Michael Wolfe recommended that the Board may want to consider adding a points multiplier for National Shows as a possible way to encourage participation. Rich Barczewski stated that creating a points multiplier would be difficult to implement and noted that National Shows should naturally have more birds entered, so there should not be a need for a points multiplier.

Dan Schwandt asked for opinions regarding State Meets, and most of the Committee appeared to be receptive to the idea.

NEW BUSINESS

No additional new business was recorded.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board of Directors meeting is being scheduled for June 7, 2026.

Items expected for a future meeting include selection of the 2027 National Meets from bids received and finalization of any CBL referendums for the 2026 fall ballot.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Dan Schwandt.

Second: Tonya MacRae.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Wolfe, Recording Secretary