

The Birchleggings Club, Inc.

***Our Purpose:** To contribute support to the American Birkebeiner Cross Country Ski Race and promote healthy lifestyles by encouraging participation in physical activities*

Annual Meeting

September 26, 2025

Meeting held at the Samuel C. Johnson Family Outdoor Center at OO Trailhead

Board members attending: Paul Thompson, President; Bob Britz, Vice-president; Tom Rowley Treasurer; Jim Tenorio (JT), Secretary; Edward Eroo, Webmaster; Steve Carmazon; Nona Goertz; Connie Meek; Gus Virkus.

ABSF representatives attending: Louise Droessler, Development Director- American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation (ABSF); Mike Cleary ABSF Board Member

24 persons pre-registered for the meeting on RunSignup, and a total of 35 persons were there in person as the meeting convened.

Pre-Meeting Social Hour

Prior to the start of the meeting a picnic-style lunch was held for attendees. Live music was provided by the *BLC Strummers*, consisting of members Tim Burke, Edward Eroo, Randy Lueth, and Jim "JT" Tenorio.

Also, during the pre-meeting hour, members who did not vote online in this year's election for board members were given the opportunity to vote in person.

Call to Order

President Paul Thompson called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm.

Paul reminded attendees that since there were only three candidates for four open seats on the board additional nominations would be accepted during this meeting.

Reports from Board Members

Paul called on each board member to give a summary of the activities in his/her area of assignment:

- Treasurer, Tom Rowley. We have \$39,564 in our treasury.
- Membership and Communication, JT. We currently have 395 members. A breakdown of our membership was given. The figures are given in the **chart that is attached to these minutes**. He thanked the ABSF for allowing us to use their RunSignup account to manage and report our membership numbers. He also reminded attendees how to renew their memberships on RunSignup.
- ABSF liaison, Louise Droessler, provided an update on the relationship between the ABSF and the Birchleggings Club (BLC).
- Fund raising, Bob Britz. Our second annual golf tournament was a success. He described how well the tournament was received by its participants. For many of them it was their first introduction to the Birkie. He announced that he is looking for a person to work with him on next year's tournament and to eventually take over the role of organizer for it.

- Webmaster, Edward Eroo. Gave a summary of the 2nd Annual Birchleggings Dakota Trail Bike Ride. He also talked about all the information that is on the Birchleggings Website.
- Disc golf developments. Paul Thompson. Paul described the start of development of a disc golf course at Mt. Telemark Village. He announced that there will be a walk-through of the course on October 4 that is open to all.
- Grants and Cornhole event, Gus Virkus. Gus described our grant application process and described some of the grants that have been awarded recently. He reminded everyone of the second annual cornhole event coming on October 9.
- BLC Annual Breakfast, Steve Carmazon. Steve gave a review of some of the recipients of the Tony Wise Spirit Award.
- Conie Meek. Connie summarized her maintenance work on the Mosquito Brook Hut, and mentioned her role as director of the Barkie Birkie.
- Bylaws and governance, Nona Goertz. Nona described her role to help our organization follow its bylaws faithfully.

Reports from Attendees

Paul opened the floor to questions and offered persons the opportunity to report on projects/activities related to our mission.

- Mike Cleary, ABSF Board Member told how the ABSF values the relationship with the BLC and that we both will work to continue it.
- Yuriy Gusev, Central Cross Country Skiing (CXC). Described Team Birkie and how it can help develop high-level competitive skiers from the Midwest, which in turn will inspire more young persons to pursue their own interest in skiing, and in turn participating in lifelong events like the Birkie. The CXC will be hosting a golf tournament on Sunday, September 28 (two days away) at the Forest Ridges Golf Course in Cable. The tournament is a fund-raiser for Team Birkie. All are invited to participate.
- Julie Virkus, BLC Member, explained the work she and Nancy Bauer do with surplus race bibs and how the proceeds from the sales are used to benefit charities.
- Jim Anderson, BLC Member, introduced the attendees to his series of books that chronicle his quests to ski in races and marathons around the world. *Discovering America One Marathon at a Time* and his other books are available for purchase online at *BadgerValley.com* and *Amazon.com*.

Election Results

JT gave the results of the election for the open seats on the board of directors. Reelected to serve another three-year term were Bob Britz and Steve Carmazon. Elected as a nominated candidate was Ken Schoville. Each of the three persons gave a short review of his role as a board member. Ken described how he hopes to involve more members, and Birchleggers in general, from the Minocqua and eastern part of Wisconsin.

Sun Day

Paul urged people to attend the Sun Day event at The Hub in Telemark Village. An overview and a tour of the solar array at the building will take place.

Next Meeting Date:

- Thursday November 20, 2025
- 6:30 pm

- Virtually via Zoom.
- Paul Thompson will preside. Bob Britz will be out of town.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Jim Tenorio, Secretary.

Attachments follow these minutes.

Attachment 1: BLC Current Membership Statistics

Birchleggings Club Membership Roster

Total Active Members: 392 **As of: 09-17-2025**
Male: 331 (84%)
Female: 61 (16%)
Lifetime: 28 (7%)
Five-Year: 264 (67%)
One-Year: 100 (26%)

Birchleggers who skied in 2025: 722

51% are BLC members