

Mid Atlantic Barbecue Association
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
December 3, 2025
DRAFT

Board Members Present

Andrew Darneille President
Lee Evans Vice President
Lisa Dommes Secretary
Samantha Adams Treasurer
Bill DeHoff
Joe Rouse
Shannon Turner

Board Members Absent

Andrea Menke

Call to Order

Andrew Darneille called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m., noting the presence of a quorum.

Unfinished Business

Board Election

The election will begin later in December. There are currently five candidates for the five positions.

Steak ToY

The Board discussed the participation level in the Steak program this year. There were about six active steak cooks and just a few more who cooked a few contests. This does not justify the level of effort to track the points and the cost of trophies and payouts. It is unfortunate, but there has been a decline in the overall number of steak contests in the region and the level of participation.

The Board unanimously agreed to end the Steak Cook of the Year program with the current 2025 season.

Master Series Tier 2 Rules Changes

The Board discussed changing the maximum number of contests that can be cooked to maintain Tier 2 eligibility. It was agreed to leave it unchanged this year and revisit the question near the end of 2026.

New Business

MABA Cup

The MABA Cup finals will be held at BBQ Gives Back in March. The State Cup winners will compete for the MABA Cup. The Board discussed the cost of the trophies and payout for the MABA Cup in relation to the State Cups and Team of the Year payouts. With the loss of sponsorships for the ToY programs in recent years, the expense is now disproportionate, and the Board may consider adjusting the budget for all these items for 2026. For this year, the total prize payout will be adjusted from \$1,000 to \$600. The incoming Board can reevaluate the trophies and payouts for all of the programs for next year based on membership numbers.

KCBS “Open” Contests

With the new “Open” contest format being initiated by KCBS starting in 2026, this could impact the Rookie Team of the Year eligibility in terms of the maximum number of Master Series contests that can be cooked before a team loses eligibility. This would also be very complicated to track manually over the years. The Board discussed reformulating the Rookie Team of the Year program to apply to first-year Backyard teams instead of first-year Master Series teams. Joe Rouse will formulate a revised program proposal to be finalized and voted on for the 2026 season at the January meeting once the new Board members are seated. Similar to the current rules, there may be a small number of contests allowed before declaring for Backyard Rookie Team of the Year in a later year. The rules may also allow a team to declare for RToY several months into the year and still retroactively count the contests earlier in the year toward their total points.

Committee Reports and Action Item Discussion

- A. Rookie Team of the Year Applications – No applications have been received.
- B. Membership Committee – No report.
- C. Publications Committee – Posts will be needed for elections and the upcoming banquet.
- D. Finance Committee – No report.
- E. Website/Technology Committee – No report.
- F. Social Committee – No report.
- G. Strategic Planning Committee – No report.
- H. Nominations Committee – No report.
- I. Banquet Committee
Plans are being finalized with Steinhardt Brewing for the Banquet. Conversations are underway with venues for the Friday and Saturday social events. The hotel block has been finalized. Andrew Darneille will explore catering options other than Café Rio. The Board discussed the proposal from A-1 for the trophies.

The Board unanimously agreed to accept the proposal from A-1 trophies as presented for \$3,141 with trophies through 10th place for each category.

- J. Bylaws Committee – No report.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Dommès