

2014 April GSDCA Board Meeting

The meeting of the Board of the German Shepherd Dog Club of America was called to order by President Frank Fasano on Saturday, April 25, 2014 in St Louis, MO. Present were: President Frank Fasano, VP Lanalee Jorgensen Law, Treasurer Bill Pfeiffer, Corresponding Secretary Laura Gilbert, Recording Secretary Dania Karloff, Board Members: Zoe Backman, Helen Gleason, Dorothy Linn, Carol Moore, Patty Korsch, Pam O'Dell, Dean Wylie, Bart Bartley and Lew Bunch. Participating via phone were James Moses and Fred Migliore. Visitors: Nicky Bunch, Ken Cunningham and Jenny Manganaro.

There was a scheduled closed meeting on Friday evening to address three complaints by members and WDA issues.

Lew Bunch moved to approve the minutes of the January meeting: approved unanimously.

Corresponding Secretary Report: Laura Gilbert reported that the Annual meeting notice will be published in the July Review. The meeting will be October 9. Ballots must be out by September 9. Petitions are due by August 10. Laura received a note from AKC detailing the newly established AKC Pet Disaster Relief Trailer program and asking if the GSDCA wanted to participate. More information regarding this program can be found at the AKC website on AKC Reunite. Laura also reported that we have received approval from AKC to ballot the membership for changes to the breed standard. There was a discussion regarding the changes made by the committee after the AKC review and changes. Committee members requested a copy of the changes before final board approval. Bart will bring copies and the Board will vote on this item on Sunday.

Executive Committee Report: The Executive Committee met and approved the Amateur Futurity judges. Dean moved to ratify this motion, Zoe seconded. Passed unanimously. The committee moved to approve the amended national tracking judges' contracts. The Board voted to ratify this unanimously.

President's Report: Frank spoke about the need to create a historical archive of the various events/concerns/complaints that have occurred through time (members complaints, Breeders Code complaints, awards, etc.). It was suggested that the Corresponding Secretary keeps this file. Laura suggested that regional clubs write to the Corr Secy and the Membership Chair with their concerns and their good or bad experiences with judges.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Pfeiffer stated that he has had considerable discussions with Bill Hope trying to get the 2012 end of the year statement approved by the auditors. Books are closed for 2013. The GSDCA has in cash and securities \$528,394. There was a total loss of \$73,000 in 2013. Our net worth is \$472,500. Bill is still focused on finalizing the 2012 year end. When all is completed, Bill intends to send out P&L reports to all committee chairs. Acknowledging the amount of work that this committee performs, several board members commented on the need for members to get involved and develop a good understanding of the inner workings of the club: this will be put in a Board-O-Gram. Motion to approve Bill's report was approved unanimously

Office Committee: Laura listed the current brochures available to members and she stated that the supply of brochures needs to be replenished. Helen moved to reproduce the brochures. Passed unanimously.

Review Marketing Committee: At the request of the committee, Bart Bartley moved to approve Kathy Sater as a member of this committee. Motion by Bart, seconded by Dean. Passed unanimously.

Awards: Breeders Code of Ethics' Chair, Marita Patterson, asked that signers of the Breeders Code should be a requirement for all GSDCA Breeders Awards. The Awards Committee, Dorothy Linn and Pam O'Dell brought this up for a discussion. Lew Bunch moved that winners of the Lloyd Bracket award must be signers of the Breeders' Code of Ethics. Motion passed unanimously.

Lew moved that Breeders classified ads on the GSDCA website be limited to GSDCA members in good standing. The ad should clearly indicate whether or not the owner has signed the BCE. Voted and passed with Laura abstaining.

Marketing: –Lew talked about our website and the richness of information and educational material available in it. He strongly recommended that we develop educational YouTube videos making these available on our website. The new website software being installed will allow us to have a specific GSDCA channel in YouTube. Bart moved, Dorothy seconded, to work with Pam to develop short YouTube educational videos.

Vintage Bronze Medals. Laura researched and wrote a brief history of these medals which will be used for BOB and High Scoring Dog in Trial. Laura offered to work with Barbara Lopez to determine what will cost to update and reproduce her booklet on raising GSD puppies. Voted and approved unanimously.

Volunteer Positions. Frank discussed the need to have mentors for volunteering positions. There was a discussion about the need to have back up for some of our critical functions.

Parent Club logo. Pam Stoesser proposed that Regional Clubs that have websites use the GSDCA logo to link their websites to GSDCA.org. It would help the Regional Club's website rankings and also send additional visitors to GSDCA.org. Motion passed unanimously.

National video: Bart reported that we have a signed letter of agreement with Bob Lindsay for the 2014 National. Bart moved to accept this agreement. Lew seconded and it passed unanimously.

Regional Clubs: Lew moved to accept June 30 as the newly recommended Regional Club Awards closing date to allow adequate time to order awards. Seconded by Dean. Motion passed.

Carol Moore moved that the Delaware Valley GSDC hold a specialty show in conjunction with Morris and Essex show. Lew seconded. Passed unanimously.

Legislative Liaison: Once again, Stormy asked to establish a chairman for this committee. The President will put out a Constant Contact soliciting for members interested in helping in this area.

2014 National: Gail Stiefferman had a few changes in the class schedule. Tuesday: the pre-show – outdoors. Wednesday: Futurity Finals and Maturity Finals. Thursday: Dog classes through WD and Veterans. Friday: Bitch classes through WB and Veterans. Saturday: Dogs, Best Puppy and Best Bred By followed by bitches. Jim offered that we chose a reasonable number of dogs that would be judged per hour for better time management. Jim suggested that we put this requirement in the judge's contract. Discussion ensued but no consensus was reached.

Gail stated that there is not much reserve seating available but there are bleachers available on one side for open seating. The current wording of the Parade of Greats requirements dictates that white dogs cannot be entered in the Parade of Greats. Frank recommended that we, as a Club, take a good hard look at the requirements for the Parade of Greats. Zoe moved to remove the color restrictions for the Parade of Greats this year. Lana seconded. Passed unanimously. Zoe moved, seconded by Dorothy, to review the current policy for the Parade of Greats. Motion passed unanimously. Pam Odell, Carol Moore, Dorothy Linn, Zoe Backman and Helen Gleason will work with Committee Chair, Sam Colvin.

Julie Degen spoke about **Agility** – we will have three days of all breed trials (Sat, Sun & Mon) and two days limited to GSDs (Tues & Wed). The Agility committee asked for an additional award – Preferred High in Trial. One of the co-chairs will sponsor this award. Motion to approve, passed unanimously. **Obedience:** we will have a two-day trial with three rings and three judges – held in the small part of the building. There was a request to approve new committee member Elen Mantel-Pfann. Laura made the motion and it passed unanimously. There was a request to allow current AKC judges contract through electronic signatures. Laura

made the motion and it passed unanimously. Request that Obedience Victor/Victrix be the highest combined scoring dog from the two classes on either day. Dorothy objected because the original award creator was not notified. Motion passed. Dorothy opposed. **Tracking:** We would like to offer variable surface tracking this year. Pam was opposed because of the losses associated with tracking through the years. Bill was concerned about the listed expenses (food/gift to volunteers). Bart spoke in favor of supporting all aspects of the breed. Bill asked that if we receive donations for specific events that we notified the Treasurer. Lew's motion to add variable tracking surface this year passed unanimously. There was a request to distribute a Constant Contact asking for tracking volunteers. Julie stated that members have asked us to bring new things to the National including Barn Hunt, CAT (coursing ability test) and Nosework. The National Chair and the Performance Chair asked for authorization to continue to work on these events. This was approved. On the schedule Sunday (Oct 5): My Dog Can Do That also offered on Wednesday for GSDs only. Wednesday: Hospitality party and in the evening Parade of Greats, Breeder of the Year presentation and AOE Presentation. Thursday: After All Dog Classes, presentation of Agility Victor/Victrix and Stud Dog/Brood Bitch presentation – in the evening Membership meeting. Friday: All Bitch classes plus Veterans and Fasano's party. Saturday: after judging Victory Dinner. Dorothy spoke on **Herdning:** there was an original plan to have all the herding events at Purina. However, the sheep at this site are not familiar with upright breeds creating a problem for exhibitors. We have two volunteers who have agreed to come to the Purina site and work with the sheep to condition them for C course which is less stressful on the sheep. Dean made a motion to host A and B Course (sheep and ducks) and Instinct Testing at Rottie Ewe Farm and C course at Purina. Helen seconded. Motion passed with Pam Odell abstaining.

Health Committee: Carolyn Gerganoff wants to establish subcommittees that will have chairs acting as liaisons to specific research topics such as bloat, DM, cancer, megaesophagus, etc. Carolyn requested that she be allowed to invite members of other GSD organizations to participate. Lana moved to accept this request and Patty seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned to closed session.

Budget and Finance: Via phone Gary Szymczak asked once again to require B&F approval for any expenditure. Gary reported that he plans to publish a line item budget on the GSDCA website. He stressed that he is focused on controlling expenditures. He then noted some Board members had concerns regarding the additional cost of traveling because the Airlines luggage charges – Gary explained that if Board members use Jack's travel, the club will pay for these charges. In addition, while he recognizes there is opposition to it, he recommends that we limit face-to-face Board meetings to only two per year. This year's proposed budget is showing a positive difference of \$25,000. Gary said, the club has three areas of income: Review, National and Membership and two areas of expenditures: Board meetings and General Administration. For this year, the B&F committee will be focusing on automatic membership renewals, the

Review printer cost and improving our website. Gary also spoke about the National's chaos when recording how monies are coming in and will try to regulate this situation this year. He stressed once more the need to approve all expenditures. Expenses for the National and the Review will need to be controlled. Laura suggested sending out awards quarterly rather than monthly – Gary endorsed the idea and suggested we publicize this new schedule. Laura will send information about change to Susan and Pam. Helen suggested that we send certificates to all AKC award winners – Laura spoke against it. Frank wants to do more to invite AKC award/title winners who are not members to become members – he asked Board members to think of ways to attract these non-members. Lana suggested we let them know what they may be missing. Carol suggested to use this list of non-members to promote our National. Gary noted that the largest incomes are generated by the National, the Review and Membership – while membership has the smallest expenditure. Lew suggest that we request from AKC the e-mail addresses of all AKC award winners. Helen suggested we e-mail these people electronic certificates. Frank indicated that we can give them a one month subscription to the proposed on-line Review. Lew will work with Susan Casey to market the GSDCA to this group. Frank initiated a discussion of how fast other clubs respond to new applicants while we are mired in administrative rules.

Futurity/Maturity: Joan Intersimone via phone requested to move approval of clubs hosting the 2016 Futurity to the next Board meeting. Granted.

2015 National Judges: Laura made a motion to accept the presented slate by acclamation – Dorothy seconded. Passed unanimously. The nominees were:

Conformation:

Didier Ardoin
Carmen Battaglia
Karen Hynek
Robert Kish
C. “Bob” Moore
Vicki Roye
Rita Sandell
Herman “Butch” Stiefferman

Obedience (2015):

Karen Anderson
Joseph Caputa
Diane Propst

Obedience (2016):

Diane Allen
Fred Buroff
Pat Kasten

Agility:

Dan Faulkner

Herdling:

Kent Herbel

Lori Herbel

Proposed Changes to the Standard: Frank distributed the revised proposed wording; the basic concept was not changed but some of the wording was rearranged. There was a discussion and everyone was reminded the Board had already decided and voted to send it to the membership. Motion to send it to the membership in the next ballot passed with abstentions from Dorothy and Zoe. Lew moved that we print the proposed changes in the Review. Seconded by Helen. Passed unanimously. Lana made a motion that we print it with a pro and a con. For: Dean, Zoe, Laura, Lana, Pam and Dania. Against: Patty, Dorothy, Lew, Bill, Helen, Carol and Bart. Motion failed. Lew moved to re-publish old articles regarding color and after a brief discussion, the motion was withdrawn. Frank appointed Dorothy to write the con and Pam to write the pro to be included in the ballot. They will bring this to the July meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

There was a discussion of mentoring. Frank will communicate to Committee chairs the importance of mentoring.

Bill Pfeiffer asked for a discussion about ethics and the inability of non-members to complaint about an unfair situation dealing with the purchase of a dog. Zoe moved that we allow non-members to bring matters of concerns to the Ethics Committee when a GSDCA member is involved. Motion seconded by Bill. Motion passed. Dean abstained.

Meeting adjourned