

Meeting of the GSDCA Board of Directors – January 25, 2014

The meeting of the Board of the German Shepherd Dog Club of America was called to order by Vice-President Lanalee Jorgensen-Law on January 25, 2014 in St Louis, MO. Present were: VP Lanalee Jorgensen Law, Treasurer Bill Pfeiffer, Corresponding Secretary Laura Gilbert, Recording Secretary Dania Karloff, Board Members: Jim Moses, Helen Gleason, Dorothy Linn, Carol Moore, Pam O'Dell, Dean Wylie, Fred Migliore and Lew Bunch. Absent Frank Fasano and Bart Bartley – Visitors: Nicky Bunch, Van Dukeman, Susan Casey, Gary Szymczak, Gene Gray, Bill Hope, Steve Dobbins, Joan Intersimone, Gail Stiefferman, Ken Petersen, Larry Duerbeck, Karen Hynek and Rosalind North. The scheduled agenda was adjusted to accommodate the late arrival of the President who was attending the WDA Board meeting.

Dean Wylie moved and Dorothy Linn seconded to approve the minutes of the Annual meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Dean made motion and Lew Bunch seconded to approve the minutes of the October Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Zoe Backman moved to accept the minutes of the Victory dinner, Dorothy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Corresponding Secretary Report:

Laura Gilbert received a letter from the Southern New Hampshire GSDC complaining that a GSD judge and GSDCA member sought and received an airline ticket that he did not use and did not reimburse the club. A complaint to AKC only produced a letter placed on the judges' file. There was a discussion about what were our options and Laura was directed to provide the SNHGSDC officers with a copy of the GSDCA By-Laws section addressing complaints.

Laura also reported that Betty Winthers had found a box of old GSDCA medallions. Several ideas were proposed and Fred Migliore suggested to give these to regional clubs for BOB. Laura noted that Jerry Guzman's judge application is on the fast track. Laura also indicated that she had a list of members who had been proposed to be part of the Nominating Committee.

Laura presented a list of regional clubs that are not hosting AKC events and are now deemed to be “social clubs” thus giving them the ability to return to full activities sometime in the future. Currently we have 91 active clubs.

Treasurer’s Report:

Bill Pfeiffer reported that last year’s books have not been closed – the volume generated last year because of the Centennial and the World Trials created a significant amount of work. Bill said it will take him approximately 45 more days to get this completed. Bill stated that this past year experience has prompted him to recommend rules for committees handling monies. He is recommending that because of the volume of transactions at the National, we use credit card machine. He was able to renegotiate our credit card contract and lower the fee the banks charge. He is hoping that, in the future, credit card transactions will feed directly to Quick Books. He will be looking to Bill Hope and Van Dukeman for some assistance in this area. Bill is preparing for the audit although we have not received a final closed audit report from 2012 as there are still some items missing. The World Trials will show losses of approximately \$125,000 for the GSDCA. When Bill gets a P&L statement, he will copy the Board members. As a last note, Bill stated that he wants to simplify the chart of accounts – he believes we have too many accounts.

Education Committee:

Jim Moses brought up the matter regarding the Futurity judge(s) qualifications, in particular, attendance at the National Judges’ Seminar. There were comments from Helen Gleason and Dean regarding the need for judges to be aware of structure, procedure, etc. There was a discussion as to whether the National judges’ seminar can be offered at other events and other sites. This item was remanded to committee to develop an outline of the program to be used for judges’ seminars.

Budget and Finance Committee:

Chair Gary Szymczak introduced the members of this committee: Van Dukeman, Bill Hope, Bill Pfeiffer, Pam O’Dell and Gail Stiefferman

The committee met on Thursday night and all day Friday – Gary stated that the committee’s primary objective for this year will be to increase income and to reduce expenditures. Because of the state of the Club’s financial affairs, we will have a top-down budget. There will be no expenditures unless approved by the B&F – Streaming video must be funded by July 1 or we will not have streaming video at the National. There was a discussion as to whether we can have the April board meeting via phone. Gary stated that contracts must be reviewed by B&F. He reported that he received two reports: one from Membership Committee and one from Futurity Committee– both will need to be endorsed by the Board. There was a brief discussion about judges travel expenditures and a statement that our new policy will indicate auto travel will be reimbursed at the rate of 30 cents per mile. Gary indicated that while this year we will see an emphasis in increasing revenue, mostly through membership, B&F role will be to control expenditures. Bill Pfeiffer interjected that the disparity between the different event venues is significant. Jim Moses asked if it would be acceptable to solicit monies for specific projects – the answer was positive.

Van Dukeman wants to have a 12/31/2013 balance sheet to go forward. He stated we should take the operations costs for 2013 and use these numbers to get the 2013 financial statement. Van noted that even without the World Trials we are still losing around \$30K a year – and this is what we need to address in our budget. Net worth from 2006 to 2012 shrunk \$150K. Reduction of the board size was good, centralization of the National was also good but we still need to plug in an additional \$30k per year to come up to an even financial status.

There is a request from the Membership Committee to have only one choice for mid-year renewal fees (June 30). Lew moved to accept this proposal, Helen seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Zoe made a motion to create an associate membership when paying the \$36 where members would not have the right to vote. A discussion followed and Zoe withdrew her motion.

Herding Event Report

Dorothy made a motion to re-instate the original criteria for the Herding Victor/Victrix and Obedience Victor/Victrix as voted by the membership. Voted

unanimously. Dorothy discussed the idea of a National alternate herding site but the committee will need to wait until they find out about funding availability before developing further plans. Bill reminded all that we need to be working with Purina. Jim spoke stating that last year we did not lose money on C course and we need to consider all factors before final decisions are made. No further action from this committee was considered.

Other Matters

Frank Fasano joined the meeting. Frank reported that he and Carmen attended the WDA meeting where Carmen did a presentation for their Board. There are still unresolved financial issues – approximately \$12,000. At this time, it looks like we put forth \$250,000 and have around \$125,000 in losses. There are outstanding bills amounting to \$4,000 or \$5,000 that we refuse to pay because of lack of receipts, unauthorized expenditures, etc.

Dual Award

Amber Turley suggested that all the names of Dual Awards qualifiers be published in the Review but only the name of those owners who are present at the Annual meeting will be read. Lew made the motion and Helen seconded. Susan Casey brought a suggestion to minimize the time spent by combining the different awards given to each dog. Lew's motion passed unanimously.

Temperament Test Committee

Gene Gray passed around the current score sheet used for the Temperament Test. Gene explained the original intent was to gather information through the score sheet to create a database that tracked sires of qualifying dogs. However, the database was never created. The Committee Chair is recommending that they use a different score sheet removing the dog's registration name and owner's name. Zoe moved to approve the new temperament evaluation score form. Dorothy seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Futurity Report:

Joan Intersimone started her presentation by stating that last year the GSDCA realized over \$5,000 in profits from the Futurity program. After much study, the committee brought the Board a number of proposals to improve the system:

#1 - Recommendation to reapportion Futurities' income. Joan enumerated all income sources and described the proposed division of profits - what would go to the Parent Club and what would go to the hosting regional club. Using this proposed format and looking at last year's futurities, Joan estimated that the regional clubs would have received an additional \$800; and they would have received these monies within 30 days of submitting their statement. There was a discussion regarding the committee's recommendation to give all the revenue from catalog ads to the Parent Club. This item was sent back to committee for review.

#2 - Recommendation to eliminate the Amateur Futurity and replace it with an Amateur class within the Futurity/Maturity (really two age classes Junior and Senior). Jim moved to accept this recommendation – Lew seconded it. Passed unanimously.

#3 - Recommendation to have a Best Amateur Futurity and Best Amateur Maturity at the National. Lew moved to accept the recommendation of the Committee. Dorothy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

#4 - Recommendation to change qualification of Professional Handlers judging a Futurity. No change implemented.

#5 - Delete Futurity Forms and letters from the P&P. This item was withdrawn.

Approved recommendations will go into effect in 2015.

Education Committee

Co-Chair, Sheree Moses, noted that she has been approached on two different occasions by the AKC Judges Operations Department. It appears that field reps are reprimanding judges who fail to administer a temperament test. The issue is that many all-breed judges are uncomfortable and do not understand how to do the test. There is a lot of confusion and misunderstanding regarding this matter.

It is the recommendation of the committee that the temperament test required at specialty shows be made optional in an all-breed setting. The committee presented a letter for Board approval to be sent to Tim Thomas, Chair of Judging Operations, explaining our position and recommendations. Motion to approve the Chair recommendation passed unanimously.

Marketing

Lew Bunch spoke about his new marketing idea based on K-Mart logo of “Ship Your Pants”. There was a discussion regarding ways to increase membership. Jim proposed that a letter, with signatures of all board members, be sent to the membership asking what we can do to retain their interest. Lew plans to have surprise gifts at the National for attending members.

National Committee Report

Chair Gail Stiefferman reported that this year we hope to have new activities at the Purina Dog site including dock diving, lure coursing, nosework and the new “My Dog Can Do That.” Host Hotel will be Holiday Inn at Six Flags – cost will be \$99. There is a \$30 non-refundable pet fee. Grooming will be inside in cubicles by the main arena. We have a sponsor for the Hospitality and Yappy Hour at the dock diving event. Superintendent will be Foy Trent Superintendent.

GSD Review Magazine

Susan did a presentation showing a proposed on-line Review magazine. The primary intent of the on-line magazine is to attract potential new members by offering them three months of the Review on-line. At the end of this period, it is our hope they will join. Karen Hynek, in the audience, proposed that we make this available to all GSD judges. Susan Casey asked the Board for permission to develop a Facebook page for the GSD Review. Lew moved that Susan be authorized to create this Facebook page. Motion approved unanimously.

Nominating Committee:

Lew Bunch was elected to chair the Nominating Committee. The following Nominating Committee members were elected:

Eastern Region: Jose Perez Gurri. Alternate Linda Selmon

Heartland Region: Charlotte LaRosa. Alternate Pamela Stoesser

Mid-America Region: Susan Casey. Alternate Laurie Telfair

Western Region: Gloria Birch. Alternate Joan Intersimone

SUNDAY

National Committee (continuation)

Zoe proposed to have a pre-National show – Motion by Jim and second by Pam to hold the pre National show on Wednesday. Motion passed unanimously. Helen proposed that we do all dogs in one day and all bitches in one day, specials in another day, etc. Lots of discussions ensued. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by Lew, seconded by Fred that we have Bob Slay do the 2014 pre-National show. Motion passed unanimously. We have contracted a Superintendent for the next three years: Foy Trent Dog Shows Ltd. Zoe moved that judges for conformation cannot judge German Shepherd Dogs any place in North America (US, Canada and Mexico) for a period of 180 days prior to the National. Pam seconded. Motion passed unanimously effective immediately.

Dean moved to create a committee to review the eligibility to judge the National show. Seconded by Helen. Chair will be Dean Wiley with committee members Helen and Jim. Motion passed unanimously.

The following committee chairs were proposed and approved:

Executive Committee: Lanalee Jorgensen-Law, Lew Bunch, Dean Wylie and Jim Moses

SV/WUSV Liaison – Morton Goldfarb

Historical Preservation (New Committee) – Carmen Battaglia

ROM Dams – Cheryl Olson

ROM Sires – Chris Carter

Board-o-Gram – Dania Karloff

Breeder’s Code of Ethics – Marita Patterson

Budget and Finance – Gary Szymczak

Ethics – Mike Cressman

Nominating Committee – Lew Bunch

Juniors – Elizabeth Stiefferman

COAPA Liaison – Committee removed

Performance-Agility – Co-Chairs Dan Weiss and Bob Jeffers

Performance-Herding – Co-Chairs Theresa Royer and Debbie Humble

Performance-Obedience - Co-Chairs Julia Priest and Regina Steiner

Performance-Rally – Stefanie Kitcher

Performance-Tracking – Marita Patterson

AOE – Co-Chairs Helen Franklin and Laura Gilbert

Working Dog Committee (New Committee) – Helen Gleason

Motion to approve these committee chairs passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

AKC has notified us that we cannot use electronic ballots this year - we will have to return to mailing ballots. AKC made changes to the Board’s proposed breed standard that resulted in contradictory statements. A motion was made to send this back to committee for rewording. It will then be submitted to the membership for a vote, together with this year’s ballot. Motion passed unanimously.

Streaming Video

We thought we had a sponsor for the 2014 streaming video but it now appears that is no longer the case. Motion was made to eliminate streaming video in 2014. Motion passed. Dean and Lana abstained. Motion made to use Bob Lindsay as the videographer for 2014 – Bart Bartley is putting together a contract between GSDCA and Bob Lindsay. Motion passed unanimously. Jim moved seconded by Lew that we revisit for 2015 with Dr. Erv and D.V. Auctions. Frank recommended a conference call to discuss this matter.

There was a request by the Obedience Chair to host two trials at the 2014 National – Zoe stated that this request impacts who becomes Obedience Victor/Victrix. This request was tabled until the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned.