

2014 July 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, July 26, 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, James Moses, Fred Migliore, Pam O'Dell, Dean Wylie, Bart Bartley and Lew Bunch. Absent: Patty Korsch. Also present, National Committee Chair Gail Stiefferman. Visitors: Mary Gattone, Joy Schultz, Elaine Bisbing and Karen Schmaltz

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

Corresponding Secretary Report: Laura Gilbert reported the following: “All petitions, contracts and biographies must be in the hands of the Corresponding Secretary by August 10, 2014 by 11:59 pm. Biographies can only be 100 words; there is no spell checking or editing done by the Corresponding Secretary. If more than 100 words are submitted, the biography will end at 100 words with a period. The Corresponding Secretary will not be chasing anyone to complete their election requirements. If the Corresponding Secretary doesn't have the contracts, petitions or biographies, the candidates will not be on the ballot. No exceptions! Ballots are expected to be in the mail by August 20, 2014 and will need to be returned to the Honest Ballot Company by close of business on Friday, October 3, 2014.” Frank suggested that we send out a Constant Contact message to alert everyone.

Executive Committee Report: Frank requested ratification to pay \$5,000 to our attorney to file a restraining order in Missouri. Passed with Helen abstaining. Request to pay \$10,000 retainer to defend us against a restraining order in Colorado – our insurance company will reimburse this expense. Dorothy moved to approve this request. Motion passed unanimously.

President's Report: Frank said the he has been working diligently with our attorneys on a response to the lawsuit and a countersuit. This information will be

posted behind the wall of our website. He is also working on preparing for a GSDCA sponsored Sieger show to be held in October.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Pfeiffer said that auditors are still working on 2012. All of the accounts have been reconciled monthly in 2014. The Review is looking good. Futurities are looking good. The chart of accounts needs a dramatic overhaul – it needs to be simplified and Bill offered to help the new Treasurer. Frank stated that Bill will retire at the end of this year. Larry Rock will be running for the Treasurer's position in place of Bill. P&L reports were distributed to Board members. A motion to accept Bill's report was approved unanimously. Zoe asked Bill a number of questions regarding the credit card statement. This credit card program is no longer available and will stop paying rewards in September. While this program was active, the Club gained approximately \$1,500 in dividends.

Budget and Finance: Frank reported that the Budget and Finance Committee has decided to hire an Accounting firm for book keeping services to do our date-to-date accounting. This is separate from our Auditing firm. Bart moved to approve this action. Motion passed unanimously.

During the January meeting, the B&F Committee decided to pay judges and board members \$.30 cent a mile rather than the \$.56 that is the IRS standard. In April this was changed for judges because the inability to secure competitive judges. Dean motioned to increase the mileage allowance up to \$.56 per mile, this reimbursement not to exceed the lowest airfare available up to 21 days prior to the event. Motion passed with Pam, Bart and Laura opposing it.

Pam O'Dell read a note from Gary noting that after the first half year report, we are in a good financial position. The board members thanked Gary for his effort in containing expenditures. Jim and Dania noted that we should have a established budget for committees and not require approval for minute expenditures. Frank noted that we have done the two extremes where on one hand little control was exercised and we lost monies then too stringent controls.

Futurity: Lew noted that the list of proposed Futurity judges was heavily tilted to current and past handlers. There was a discussion regarding qualifications and eligibility to judge Futurities and the National show. Frank presented a list of proposed Futurity hosting clubs and dates. Via phone, Joan Intersimone noted that

clubs are reticent to host a Futurity in spite of the fact that clubs are making monies and this year's entries were bigger. A motion to approve the proposed clubs was made – motion approved unanimously. Bart moved to approve the judges list. Kathy Potter's name was removed because of her role as Futurity Chair and the list was approved unanimously.

There was a discussion about whether the Futurity Chairs are allowed to judge and exhibit.

Bart moved that the National Futurity Chairs cannot double enter a dog in a Futurity or Maturity while they are active chairs – passed unanimously.

Bart moved that National Futurity Chairs may not judge any Futurity/Maturity while they are active chairs – passed unanimously.

Bart moved that regional clubs are to submit a list of three (3) names as judges for their shows. Passed unanimously.

Approved 2015 Futurity Judges, Dates and Host Clubs:

Northeast – Scott Yergin - July 14, 2015 – GSDC of Southern New Hampshire

MidAtlantic – James Moses – April 26, 2015 – Northern New Jersey GSDC

Southeast– Terry Hower – May 31, 2014 – GSDC of No. Georgia

Great Lakes – John Vaught – May 1, 2015 – GSDC of Northern Ohio

Midwest – Gloria Birch – June 19, 2015 – GSDC Minneapolis/St Paul

Southwest – Bill Basu – April 19, 2015 – GSDC of Austin

South Pacific – George Berstler – April 10, 2015 – Grand Canyon GSDC

MidPacific – Donna Calabrese – May 15, 2015- Golden State GSDC of San Jose

Northwest – Leslie Dancosse – June 14, 2014 – GSDC of the Pacific Northwest

Approved 2016 Futurity Host Clubs, Dates and Chairs:

Northeast – GSDC of Rochester – Saturday May 14, 2016 – Ann Barbash

MidAtlantic – Delaware Valley GSDC – Monday April 4, 2016 – Dean Wylie

Southeast – GSDC of Greater Charlotte – Sunday April 10, 2016 – Elaine Peters

Great Lakes – GSDC of Central Ohio – Monday May 30, 2016 – Sue Clark

Midwest – GSDC of Greater Kansas City – Sunday May 15, 2016 – Susan Long

Southwest – GSDC San Antonio – Sunday April 17, 2016 – Carol Moore

Northwest – GSDC of Greater Eugene – Friday July 15, 2016 – Kathy Martin

MidPacific – GSDC Sacramento Valley – Friday April 1, 2016 – Shirley Briggs
Obrien

South Pacific – GSDC San Gabriel Valley – Saturday 16, 2016 – Deb Kaiser
Freidberg

2014 National: Gail reported that scheduling has been very difficult because of the many events offered. We are less than 75 days before the Natl. After inspecting our bibs, Gail found some missing. From now on, exhibitors choosing not return the bibs will be charged \$29.99. **Tracking** – Motion to approve a new Tracking Chair, Kathleen Cook passed unanimously. Tracking will be held Oct 4 & 5. Purina has been very helpful. It has been determined that we can have two TDX tracks and up to four TD tracks at Purina Farms. We will have two TDX tracks at the Holiday Inn (host hotel). Gail is working with Marita Patterson to create our own tracking flags. **Herding (Oct 4 & 5)** Julie Degen went to Purina for four days to condition the sheep at Purina. Purina is very excited about doing C course at their facility. Course A & B will be at Rottie Ewe and hopefully we will have a full entry. **Hotels:** There were some issues at two hotels during the Midwest Futurity, Gail is following up with these reports.

(2014 National report will be continued after lunch)

Visitors Larry and Terri Rock introduced themselves and spoke about their history with the breed. Larry is the newly nominated GSDCA Treasurer, he spoke about his experience in accounting. Frank took the opportunity to introduce Joy Schultz, long time GSDCA member who has been nominated as the upcoming GSDCA

Corresponding Secretary and is also the Office Administrator for the newly formed WV/WUSV program.

Review: Pam O'Dell read a letter from Susan Casey explaining that at the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee, we are now charging for ads design.

2014 National (Continuation) – Coursing Ability Test (CAT) is becoming very popular. Gail reported that she had lots of problems borrowing or renting CAT equipment and was exploring the possibility of buying the equipment. CAT is an excellent money maker. There was a motion to purchase the equipment – price range around \$1,475. Motion passed unanimously. Gail read the qualifications for Obedience Victor/Victrix to confirm the wording. Dean suggested that we make both obedience days, National show dates. **Agility:** We have lots of agility ribbons left over and they will be reused this year. **Dock Diving:** there will be teachers and trainers to help us – scheduled for Thursday and maybe an additional day. **An AKC Junior Showmanship Judges' seminar** will be held on Saturday during Juniors. An **Educational program** will be offered by Purina on Thursday just before the GSDCA Annual meeting. There is also the possibility that Dr. Fran Smith, OFA President, will be there. If weather is good, Best of Breed may be judged outdoors on grass. **Reserved seating** will be staged with a limit of 250 seats. **Parade of Greats** will be on Wednesday evening. **AOE** will be on Saturday. **Agility Invitational** will be Wednesday night. We will be selling stainless steel traveling coffee mugs which will include refills all week. Gail is looking at what she will need to do for a Barn Hunt in the future. We will have My Dog Can Do That ! on Sunday (Oct 5) for all breeds and on Wednesday afternoon for GSD only.

Health and Genetics: Carolyn Gerganoff 's report was approved. Jim Moses moved that they have a one page ad in the Review asking for help. It was also suggested to use Constant Contact to reach out.

Jim Moses moved to change the By-laws so that the number of individuals nominated for Board positions match the number of available Board vacancies. Dorothy, Zoe and Laura abstained. Motion passed.

Laura made a motion that the President and the Vice-President be elected in alternate years. Board members asked if it can be included on this year's ballot. Passed unanimously.

Membership: Dania made a motion to change the By-laws and publish the names of new applicants electronically. There was a discussion and Dania withdrew her motion. Frank appointed Dania to head a committee to make a recommendation to the Board after a full review of the application process.

Education – Morton wanted confirmation that the original \$2,500 allocated for Education was still available. Morton was on the phone and clarified that the monies would be used to publish an illustrated standard. Morton was instructed by the Board to come back with new pictures.

Closed Session:

- There was a discussion regarding the National Trophies. Lew, Helen and Gail will look into trophies for this year's National.
- WDA Legal Update
- A decision was made to remove the "Working Dog Sport Committee" and replace it with the "SV/WUSV Committee" with Frank Fasano as Chair.
- It was noted that an update to the By-Laws can only be published by order of the Executive Committee.
- Parent Club awards recipients were proposed and approved.

SUNDAY

Closed session:

- The Board ratified the Executive Committee proposal to pay a contractor (Joy Schultz) to process working dog sport documentation. The club charges exhibitors/owners for this paperwork processing required by the SV.

SUNDAY – OPEN SESSION

Lew moved that the GSDCA endorse GSD Bruno for the AKC-ACE Award. Bruno is the GSD officer who took a bullet in the line of duty and saved the life of his partner. Motion passed unanimously.

There was a discussion about the public perception of the GSD from Ken Tank's Public Relations Committee regarding the way our dogs are presented and shown. Mary Gattone suggested that we put proper gait speed in a You Tube video. Ken's report elicited many comments and much interest.

Frank read the CON and PRO statements to be used in the ballots for the Standard changes:

AGAINST CHANGES IN THE GSD BREED STANDARD

"The Standard of the German Shepherd Dog was first penned in 1912 by Anne Tracy. It was developed slowly by the peers of the Breed, strengthened by combined GSDCA Board and membership input, ending with the present 1978 version which describes in detail the ideal Breed Type required of the German Shepherd Dog .

2. The final 1978 version addressed the weaknesses that plagued the German Shepherd Dog from the early 1940's through the 1960's. The following categories listed as faults, serious faults, very serious and disqualifying faults in that order were:

Faulty coats; missing teeth; faulty transmission, paling and dilute colors; pale colorless noses, white dogs, and unacceptable temperament. All the above were considered detrimental to universal utility of the Breed, therefore becoming "faulty" Breed Type"

3. The present Standard Committee's recommendations, --- to remove the disqualification status of white color and the partisan re-wording of "coat", --- seriously reverse the fundamental requirements by the German Shepherd Dog Standard to improve and solidify ideal German Shepherd Dog " Breed Type."

4. IT IS ALWAYS EASIER TO DENIGRATE THAN IT IS TO ELEVATE.

The German Shepherd Dog Standard must be changed ONLY when the integrity of the Breed has been threatened"

FOR CHANGES IN THE GSD BREED STANDARD

"It is important to keep things in perspective about disqualifications. Here are some facts. All disqualifications in purebred dogs are either the result of a

fashion, (The majority of the membership does not like it) or the result of a function (it is a necessary part of what the breed does).

- *For members of the GSDCA , it is important to decide what the reasons were for making the original change and making the "White GSD" a disqualification. In 1889, Captain Max von Stephanitz began the standardization of the German Shepherd Dog (GSD) as a new breed in Germany with “ a medium-sized yellow-and-gray wolf like dog” that was “supple and powerful, that possessed endurance, steadiness, and intelligence”. The original standard for years allowed all colors except Albino. Five decades later one of the GSDCA boards decided that white GSD's should be disqualified based on the fashion of not liking the color. At the time, they indicated that the White GSD was related to Albino and genetically not as healthy.*
- *We know that our White GSD is not genetically related to Albino.*
- *We know that the color white is not genetically associated with any health, behavior or structural defect. It is just another color of our breed.*
- *It has been almost 50 years since we disqualified the White, and we need to encourage members to vote for standard changes that affect only function. The White GSD is not one of our preferred colors as our standard calls for rich colors, but should not be a disqualification. For the love of our breed and ALL of our members, the White GSD should be an allowable color as it was in the beginning of the breed. It is time that the White GSD be moved to a SERIOUS FAULT and removed from a DISQUALIFICATION of our wonderful breed.”*

There was a question as to how the proposed standard change will be presented to the membership: (1) as a whole or (2) changes individually. The way that AKC approved it for us, changes will be done individually.

The Pros and Con statements were voted and approved.

Frank asked that we bypass the 10 day notification rule and allow him to call an electronic board meeting with short notice to address legal issues. Board members agree.

Futurity and National Judges Requirements and Eligibility Committee Chair, Lew Bunch with Jim and Dean as part of the committee reported. Jim read the

changes. Pam moved that Lew bring the proposed requirements and eligibility to be voted at the October board meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Laura reported that the printed standard brochure quantity is diminishing. She will wait until after the membership votes on the standard change to get additional copies.

NEW BUSINESS

Correction to Agenda – Listing of SV & WUSV Liaison should have been Dr. Morton Goldfarb and not Frank Fasano.

Zoe moved to create a Fund Raising committee. Motion approved unanimously. Zoe moved that Deborah Stern be asked to head this committee. Motion passed unanimously.

Lew asked how our club can promote the Canines For Warriors organization who support dogs coming back from war situations. Lana moved to create this committee and have Lew head it. Motion passed unanimously.

Helen Gleason initiated a discussion about how to attract and retain members.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM