

The German Shepherd Dog Club of America, Inc

April 23-24, 2016 Board Meeting

Circus Circus, Reno NV

Officers Present: President Carmen Battaglia, Vice-President Frank Fasano, Corresponding Secretary Joy Schultz, Treasurer Larry Rock and Recording Secretary Dania Karloff.

Directors Present: Ken Tank, Pam O'Dell, Zoe Backman, Jim Moses, Linda Bankhead, Gloria Birch and Helen Gleason. **Absent:** Morton Goldfarb.

Visitors: Dorothy Linn, Sharon L White, Dee Lauter, Alycia Partei, Joan Intersimone and Gail Stiefferman.

Zoe Backman motioned to approve the January Board meeting minutes as distributed electronically. Larry Rock seconded. Passed unanimously.

Corr Scy. Joy Schultz passed around a thank you card from the El Dorado County GSD Rescue club. They were approved and recommended by the GSDCA for an AKC grant.

The GSDCA Board recommended the following judges for the AKC/Eukanuba show: Jim Moses, Helen Gleason, Carmen Battaglia, Bob Slay and Sue Godek. Motion by Linda Bankhead and seconded by Jim Moses. Passed unanimously.

We received the following 2017 GSDCA National judge's submissions: Charlotte LaRosa, Randy Chestnut, John Bemont, David Rinke, Jennifer Root, Herman Stiefferman, Lew Bunch, Bill Petterson and Betty Winther. Linda Bankhead motioned to approve the presented list. Motion passed with Ken Tank and Pam O'Dell abstaining.

Regional Clubs Report: Anne Arundel is no longer operational. The following clubs remain unpaid: Augusta GSDC, GSDC of Dallas, GSDC Greater Ouachita, GSDC Northern Indiana, GSDC of Western NY, Iroquios GSDC, Jersey Shore GSDC and Mississippi Coast GSDC.

Report of the Executive Committee:

- Approve 10 day extension for Futurity entries – Approved unanimously
- Constant Contact for Regional clubs requested by Lew Bunch – Approved unanimously
- Approval of Candy Foss as chair of Code of Ethics – Pending
- Lew Bunch asked for approval of his committee – Pending
- Approval of Maryellen Kish's Educational Committee – Pending
- Approval for agility Co-Chairs Karen McKee and Rhonda Meath – Approved unanimously
- Approval of Universal Sieger Chair - Gail Stiefferman – Approved unanimously

VP Report – Frank Fasano received a letter dated April 7 from the WUSV SV Director expressing their wishes for one United States National Sieger show per year and strongly recommending

we work on this matter. Also a letter received from Jim Alloway, USCA President, that starting 2017 we will have one united yearly show (commencing with USCA hosting in 2017). Motion by Helen seconded by Gloria to combine with USCA to have one Sieger show where we will host it on even years and USCA will host it on odd years. Motion passed unanimously. The GSDCA and USCA are working on an agreement to host these events.

Morton Goldfarb joined the meeting via phone and remained connected all through the meeting.

WDA vs GSDCA lawsuit: Frank reported that Dan Yee filed another lawsuit in CA, identical to the one heard in CO. Our insurance company has agreed to represent us in CA. The GSDCA vs WDA lawsuit for breach of contract is set for August in CO.

President's Report: Carmen Battaglia presented these items for Board consideration:

Action Item: Requesting an ad hoc committee be formed to propose a by-law change effective on 2018 whereby the VP becomes the President. Pam motioned and Jim seconded. Passed unanimously. Frank will chair the ad hoc committee with Pam, Helen, Gloria and Zoe.

Action item: Electronic balloting has been approved but procedure needs to be developed. Motion by Gloria and seconded by Linda to form the following group to work on this project: Linda, Pam Stoesser and Laura Gilbert. Passed unanimously.

Action item: Distribution of Purina funds. Pending until Treasurer's Report.

Action item: Bonuses for hired employees. Pending

Action item: Requesting that Board members not judge at the National. Not accepted. Pending on New Business

Action item: Margo DeHope bequest. Letter from Evan Ginsburg and letter from Linda Kury – both asking that the bequest funds be given directly to AGSRA. The DeHope attorney and our attorney agreed that the funds were to be given to the GSDCA for rescuing GSDs. Frank motioned that AGSRA request an annual grant asking for monies. Seconded by Ken. Motion passed unanimously.

Closed session to discuss personnel matters and contracts.

Charitable Trust: Deborah Stern chairs this fund raising program. Deborah stressed the importance of retaining donation records – this has not been done in the past. She believes it is essential to thank and acknowledge donations. Deborah is proposing placing a letter asking for donations on the GSDCA website and requesting the ability to donate through the GSDCA Store and the Charitable Trust. She is also requesting pages in the Review.

Carmen met with representatives of Royal Canine, owned by Mars and recently purchased Eukanuba. They explored the possibility of their involvement and support of GSDCA projects.

We received a question from AKC about panda colored GSDs. There was a motion by Linda, seconded by Helen, not to list this color in AKC registrations. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Report: Larry Rock reported a loss of \$32,000 in 2015. Larry reminded all that we, as Board members, have a fiduciary responsibility to be fiscally responsible.

Update on Purina Restricted Funds: Larry confirmed with Purina Senior Manager, Connie Wagner, that Purina never intended the sponsorship funds be restricted. Those funds were intended to be used to enhance the experience of the exhibitors at our Nationals. The PPCP funds (weight circle) should be used for the betterment of the breed. Purina stopped its Futurity program (support of litters, puppies and champions) several years ago. Larry moved and seconded by Frank to reclassify these Restricted funds as Unrestricted funds. Passed unanimously.

Auditors: 2014 Auditor's letter said we were cooperative. Segregation of duties was recommended and there was a suggestion to create an Executive Director position. Larry moved, seconded by Frank to approve the 2014 audit report as presented by our auditors. Motion passed unanimously.

We received a \$75.00 donation from the family members of a recently deceased member. A thank you/sympathy card was sent to family members.

Larry requested that the Corresponding Secretary contact committee chairs, before the July Board meeting, and compile a list of GSDCA assets held by current committees.

AKC Delegate Report: Carmen Battaglia noted that AKC will continue to support the FIDO program which resulted in great PR for GSDs. Carmen spoke of the current need/shortage of working dogs in Police and Armed Force units. He stated that we need to promote the working abilities of our dogs.

2016 GSDCA National: Gail Stiefferman reported that all is going well and asked the Board and the members to allow her to create a National Agenda that will be acceptable to all. The Board gave her a vote of confidence. Gail noted that Barn Hunt will be a recognized event with several titling classes – Pamela Padgett will chair this event. We will have Dock Diving chaired by Sue Condreas and Lure Coursing chaired by Gail. Gail needs volunteers to help set up and dismantle the ring. Gail has already started ordering ribbons and these will be delivered to the various chairs. Gail intends to do Top Ten and Stud Dog and Brood Bitch presentation with progeny. Gail requested an advanced Rally class ribbon (Rally Advanced Excellent). Motion by Gloria, seconded by Linda. Passed unanimously.

Gail received Board approval regarding the Elite Obedience awards – a silver medallion in a display case will be presented. It will now be clearly described in the P&P. The cost has been added to the Budget. Motion by Gloria, seconded by Zoe to update the P&P. Passed unanimously.

Regional Clubs: Lew Bunch, via phone, briefed the Board on how badly the GSD is misunderstood by the general public and the need to educate new people. He spoke about the need for “distance learning” and he suggested asking regional club members if they are participating in any dog events. Larry wanted to remind all regional clubs that they need a certificate of insurance before hosting an event. Lew requested to approve Pam Stoesser to chair committee to evaluate websites. Motion by Zoe and seconded by Linda. Passed unanimously. Frank motioned and Helen seconded to not approve a Regional Club’s show until the annual dues and a current club data sheet with Officer and Board contact information has been received and a certificate of insurance (COI) was provided. Motion withdrawn.

Lew suggested and Frank motioned, Linda seconded and Gloria amended to allow candidates to advertise in the Review. Guidelines will be developed. Passed unanimously.

Futurity: The Futurity ad hoc committee chaired by Helen Gleason brought some recommendations that did not need Board action. Helen motioned to only award plaques for first place and ask 2-3-4 place owners to request plaques if they so wish – moved to B&F action.

Frank made a motion to combine two Futurities in the West and two Futurities in the East. Pam seconded. Motion failed.

Joan Intersimone gave a presentation about the state of the Futurity system and answered questions from the Board.

Frank made a motion whereby the ad hoc committee give a goal to the Futurity system of having 643 entries (10% increase) and if this is not attained in 2017, the regional Futurities will be eliminated and a National Sweepstakes will be held in its place. For the motion: Larry, Frank and Pam. Motion failed.

Jim moved that you don’t have to be a member to enter the Futurity but have to be a member to enter the Maturity. Helen seconded. For the motion: Linda, Helen, Jim and Frank. Against the motion: Zoe, Larry, Frank, Dania, Pam and Joy. Motion failed.

Gloria repeated Jim’s motion, saying that you don’t have to be a member to enter the Futurity but have to be a member to enter the Maturity and winners would not receive any Parent Club awards (BIF, BOF, BIM, BOM). Joy seconded the motion. For the motion: Joy, Gloria, Linda, Ken and Jim – Against: Dania and Zoe. Abstained: Frank, Pam, Helen and Larry. Motion passed.

Helen motioned to allow two clubs to have their Futurity on the same weekend (Houston/Beaumont GSDC and San Diego GSDC). For the motion: Ken, Jim, Larry, Frank, Helen, Gloria and Joy. Against: Zoe, Dania and Linda. Motion passed.

Social Media/Facebook/Twitter Policy: Pam Stoesser developed and Dania submitted a proposed GSDCA Social Media policy requiring Board approval for any social media page using the name of the club or its logo. It should be open to all GSDCA members. It should have a prominent link to our website. It should have the GSDCA Webmaster or one Board member as one of its administrators. The Webmaster should be notified of each new official social media group in order to place a link on GSDCA.ORG so that members will be aware of the new group. Ken objected to the requirement of the GSDCA Webmaster/Board member as an administrator. Dania will ask Pam to review and make suggested changes.

Insurance: Larry reiterated the need for regional clubs to have insurance.

SV Program: No action

P&P: Zoe Backman is asking for Agility and Rally write ups. Linda motioned, Gloria seconded that we include Zoe's recommendations. Motion passed with Pam abstaining. Zoe requested a Rally Victor/Victrix title and a number of new Rally awards and ribbons to be presented at the National. Gloria made the motion, Joy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Closed session: The name of the new Review Editor was given as Kathleen Riley-Davis. There will be a formal announcement to the membership.

Lew Bunch will bring the name of his Regional Club's committee members at the July meeting.

The following Education Committee members were approved: Sheree Moses, D.D. Ardoin, Kent Boyles and Pam Stoesser. Chair: Maryellen Kish.

Code of Ethics: Carmen asked Dorothy Linn to review and make recommendations to the new Code of Ethics.

Tracking Committee: Marita Patterson asked to purchase an ad in the AKC Tracking Invitational catalog. Board needs ad cost but believe it may not be necessary as we usually have more competitors than available slots.

Legislative Liaison: Jen Proud presented in her report a proposed job description for Legislation Committee Regional Directors and its requested inclusion in the P&P. Item was tabled. She also asked for half page in the Review. Board approved this item.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Larry Rock moved to approve the 2016 budget as presented by Pam O'Dell. Seconded by Jim. Passed unanimously. Pam motioned and seconded by Frank to add Ken to the B&F Committee. Passed unanimously.

Obedience report arrived late and action was postponed until July.

NEW BUSINESS:

Frank and Lew met with representatives of USCA including President Jim Alloway. USCA agreed to remove their current ban on GSDCA/USCA dual membership. Linda noted that she spoke to many members during the renewal period and some stated that their reason for non-renewing was the ban on dual GSDCA/USCA membership.

Jim stated that the Futurity ad hoc committee's suggestions need to be solidified and Joannie needs to bring clearly detailed nomination fees, entry fees, etc. Jim believes the Board hampered the Futurities when it disallowed handlers from judging.

Linda made a motion that handlers be allowed to judge. Helen seconded. Discussion followed regarding the validity of the motion.

Ken made a motion that the GSDCA President be allowed to judge the National. Joy seconded. For the motion: Ken, Jim and Linda. Against the motion: Helen, Larry, Pam, Dania and Joy. Motion failed.

Larry proposed to standardize the fees paid to AKC conformation judges and foreign judges brought from Germany. Seconded by Pam. Discussion followed with pros and cons. This item was tabled until the July meeting.

Helen volunteered to be the liaison between the GSDCA Board and OFA. It was noted that Laura Gilbert was assigned to this task.

Meeting adjourned.