

**The German Shepherd Dog Club of America, Inc**

**January 28-29, 2016 Board Meeting**

**St Louis Airport Hilton**

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

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

Morton Goldfarb motioned to approve the Victory Dinner minutes. Zoe Backman seconded. Passed unanimously.

Morton Goldfarb motioned to approve the October 2015 GSDCA Board minutes. Zoe Backman seconded. Passed unanimously.

Morton motioned to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2016 Telephone Board meeting naming the VP as the Board spoke person. Abstaining: Helen Gleason, Linda Bankhead, Zoe Backman and Larry Rock. Motion passed.

**Correspondence:** The Board received a thank you card from GSDCA member Judy Pickell who was celebrated at our National for fifty years of GSDCA membership.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Joy Schultz reported that thirty three clubs have not renewed their membership - Joy will be contacting these clubs. Larry wants Joy to notify all regional clubs that they need to provide a certificate of insurance.

**President's report:** President Carmen Battaglia requested approval for the committee chairs that were left unconfirmed at the January 4 meeting. Carmen clarified committee responsibilities and appointee's skills/abilities. Opposed: Pam O'Dell, Helen Gleason, Gloria Birch, Linda Bankhead and Zoe Backman. For the motion: Morton Goldfarb, Kent Tank, Joy Schultz, Frank Fasano, Dania Karloff and Larry Rock. Motion passed.

Carmen proposed to develop a Reserve account to fund future Nationals: Gloria made the motion, Pam seconded. Motion to table the motion by Helen, Linda seconded. For the motion Helen, Linda and Zoe. Motion to table Carmen's motion failed. Gloria's original motion to develop a Reserve account to fund future Nationals, with the B&F Committee Chair leading this new ad-hoc committee, passed unanimously.

Zoe gave a long discourse regarding how the Executive Committee is selected.

**VP Report:** Frank Fasano asked to be relieved as the Board spoke person.

Frank gave an update of the WDA lawsuit. He read a letter from Liberty Mutual asking the Board to decide whether to continue our lawsuit against WDA. Larry made a motion to engage our current attorney to continue our case against WDA. Morton seconded and motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer:** Larry Rock spoke about the audit process and distributed a draft of the 2014 Financial Statement which will be finalized and published in the Members Only area of our website. The audit for 2015 will commence shortly. Larry announced a \$28,000 bequest to the GSDCA from the estate of (name removed at the estate request) to be used in rescue dog activities. Larry noted that Sam Israel was contacted and advised the funds should stay with the PC.

There was a request by Larry to change mileage reimbursements in the P&P “to follow IRS rules” rather than a specific amount. Motion by Pam, seconded by Linda. Passed unanimously. Larry reported that we are still waiting for a promised check from our previous videographer as discussed during the January 2015 Board Meeting – until that check is received, we cannot finalize/close that account. We have a new credit card from Wells Fargo after our card was “hacked”. Larry distributed/collected signed “Conflict of Interest” forms from Board Members.

**Futurity Committee:** Futurity Co-Chairs: Karin Wagner and Joan Intersimone gave their report via phone. Pam O’Dell indicated that the 2015 Futurity had approximately 100 less entries than the previous year. It is estimated that the Futurity program will lose \$1,000 for 2015. With Joan Intersimone indicating that AKC rules require that we exhibitors back 60% of the entry fee, it will have further negative financial impact to the program for 2016 and going forward.

The Futurity co-Chairs asked:

- Approval for 4 clubs to host 2017 futurities. Helen motioned, Linda seconded. Pam spoke of her concerns. Passed with Larry and Dania abstaining.
- Trophy donations are needed. Each region will need to raise a minimum of \$300. Helen Gleason will assist by seeking donations.
- Continuation of Second Chance Futurity. Morton made the motion. There was no second. Motion died. This program will not continue for 2016.
- Adjust advertisement rates to align with National catalog. Gloria motioned, Helen seconded. For the motion Helen, Gloria and Linda. Against the motion: Ken, Pam, Joy, Frank and Dania. Abstaining Larry and Morton. Motion failed
- Advise hosting clubs that there is a limit of \$250 for ground fees. Passed unanimously.
- Limit judges travel to \$500. Passed unanimously.
- New money split recommended. Entry fee monies would be split to meet AKC requirements. Motion by Pam to accept the committee’s proposal to split entry fees and nominations fee – \$20 to nominations and \$10 for entry fees. 60% of the entry fees

goes to the winning exhibitors, the rest goes to the Parent Club. Opposing the motion: Zoe and Dania. Motion passed.

- Motion from Pam to keep Review pages the same. Passed unanimously.

Frank made a motion to form an ad-hoc committee to address the two real issues affecting the Futurities: nominations and entries. Zoe seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Helen will chair this committee with Jeff Pyle, Martha Simonnett, Myra Shear, Chris Kimmer and Sharon Avery.

The National Rally Chair resigned and Zoe offered to co-chair this committee with Ann Solt. Appointment was approved unanimously.

**Review Committee:** Susan Casey gave her report via phone and answered Board's questions.

Pam O'Dell recommended a committee to look at the Review content. Committee members: Performance content: Julie Degen; Health/Education content: Carolyn Gerganoff; SV Program content: Molly Kuehn; Juniors content: Elizabeth Stiefferman; Proof Readers: Lee Smith and Linda Bankhead.

Frank recommended some "Around Town" candid pictures of Futurities. Linda asked about the "Best of the Best" which was recommended last year. Larry asked for more timely deposits so we don't get "aged checks" - Larry will request Purina to redirect payments.

Morton asked for more educational articles.

Carmen directed Susan to set some goals regarding articles and ads.

Pam noted that she was finalizing the RFP for the Review Editor's position.

**Visitors:** Afternoon visitors Cindy Bartley, Mary Gattone, Lanalee Law, Jeff Pyle, Tiffany Bartley, Chris Kimmerer and Cami Swift.

**Website/Webmaster Report:** Pam Stoesser gave her report via phone and answered Board's questions. Pam and John Ayotte have been looking at software to replace the current Pedigree program and they have found a suitable replacement. Linda asked Pam to look for ways to get our website to show up when using Google and asking for "German Shepherd puppies." Pam noted that Committee chairs need to provide content information and that we get the most visibility from our Puppy pages. Pam stressed the need for her to have time to finalize the installation of the replacing web software.

**National Show Report:** Gail Stiefferman projected profits of \$40,000 at the 2015 National and \$12,000 at the 2015 Sieger show.

2017 Show: Gail researched several west sites which turned out not suitable: Palm Springs Polo Grounds – very expensive (\$70K-\$121K); Northern CA Equestrian Center where the Superintendent may be a problem because they are so busy this time of the year (\$48,000); Bakersfield County Country KC where the show must be held 11/3 to 11/11(basic cost \$63,000).

Gail visited the Reno facility and brought pictures. Arena is dirt floor with a bit of small rock in it. They have available reserved grooming indoors. There are restaurants on all four corners of the arena. The Goldpage lunch could be served upstairs although there are no elevators. Victory dinner would be at Circus Circus. Agility exhibitors will like the outdoors facility. Obedience exhibitors will probably prefer indoors. There are outside stalls but not close to the arena – long walk. Motor home hook-ups are available. There is a bit of distance from the obedience ring to conformation. Herding will be done at Sandy Moore's facility. Tracking has never been done at this location. Dock diving is available one hour away but too expensive or unsuitable. Sod for the ring and just outside the ring is estimated at \$19K. Facility total price \$64,300. Hotel fees will be approximately \$45 weekdays and \$99 weekends. Food is very reasonable. Victory dinner will be approximately \$35.

Total projected cost of Reno site \$64,300. Total estimated cost of 2015 Purina site \$11,500.

Larry made a motion to hold the show at Purina for 2017. Morton seconded. For the motion Pam, Frank, Morton and Larry. Motion failed. Gloria moved to hold the 2017 show in Reno. For the motion: Helen, Gloria, Linda, Zoe, Dania, Joy and Ken. Motion passed. There was a long discussion about the financial impact of holding the show in Reno rather than Purina. Pam expressed her concern about what this decision could do to the GSDCA financial stability.

Earlier Frank asked to be relieved as the Board spoke person and now Frank moved that Pam O'Dell take this responsibility. Pam agreed. Morton seconded it. It passed unanimously.

**Closed session:** Social media issues and recent letters to the Board were discussed.

T-Shirts costing \$984 were ordered prior to obtaining competitive bids as required by our budgetary rules limit of \$750.00.

**Code of Ethics:** Zoe Backman recommended that the recently proposed Code of Ethics be reviewed by two attorneys.

**GSD Rescue:** Morton Goldfarb moved we approve the committee's request for pages in the Review and free ads in the National and Futurity catalogs. Helen seconded. Larry proposed a friendly amendment that funds for this committee's request be provided by the bequest of the (anonymous) family. Morton and Helen accepted this friendly amendment. Passed

unanimously. Linda proposed to send a letter of thanks for their kindness in addition to a Review announcement.

**Obedience Committee:** Requested location and times for 2017 National. Requested a photographer for action pictures. This item was tabled until Gail comes back with further information.

**Red Book:** Kim McNamara requested approval for her committee members. Helen motioned for approval. Zoe seconded. Larry voted against it, Frank and Dania abstained. Motion passed.

**ROM:** The Chair requested to award ROM designation to dogs that attained that designation when owners are not GSDCA members. A discussion ensued. Gloria will write up a policy proposal to be voted on Sunday.

Futurity Monies Distribution: Entry monies will be allocated 60% to owners and 40% to the Parent Club. The distribution to owners will be 60% allocation to Best In Futurity and 40% to Best of Opposite Sex in Futurity. This same split will be done for the Best In Maturity and Best of Opposite Sex in Maturity. There will not be any monies allocated to Reserves.

Larry made a motion that the prize monies would be given in the form of gift cards to the owners. Motion passed unanimously. It was noted after the meeting that this may cause problems with the AKC - checks will be sent to the winners.

Meeting adjourned.

## **SUNDAY MEETING**

Ken Tank was absent because of a Family emergency.

Nominating Committee was voted and approved:

Chair: James Moses

Heartland: Clara Dean Hope – Alt: Vicki Roye

MidAmerica - Lew Bunch – Alt: Candi Zumwalt

East - Linda Selmon - Alt: Laura Gilbert

West – Michelle Wallis – Alt: Dorothy Linn

**Code of Ethics:** Zoe wants to delay the vote on the Code of Ethics until she has the opportunity to have it reviewed by two attorneys (Sam Israel and Myra Shear). Helen moved to approve the Code of Ethics as presented. For the motion: Helen, Gloria, Pam and Frank. Motion failed.

**ROM Chair proposal:** Gloria moved that a new “Register of Merit” dam or sire owned by a non-member will not be eligible for the free GSDCA plaque, Review ad, or Redbook advertising. The dog’s name will be added to the Lists of ROMs. Pan seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**By Laws:** Committee Members: Morton, Frank, Pam and Helen will come back in April with some proposals.

**Fund Raising of Education Programs:** The board asked Deborah Stern to lead this effort with the goal to meet the groups Education goal.

**AKC Performance Statistics:** Helen Gleason spoke about statistical information provided by AKC and the way it is used by the various GSDCA committees (ROM, Agility, Obedience, etc.) Lengthy discussion ensued about how to collect information.

**Tracking Test at Purina:** Helen asked Gail to host a VST at Purina – Gail said she will look for a suitable location

**Liaisons:** Carmen asked board members with Liaisons to talk to their committee chairs. There was a discussion about keeping track of committee chairs’ requests and information. Carmen formed an ad-hoc committee to restructure and condense the many committees we have at this time. Ad-hoc Committee members: Linda, Frank, Bill Pettersen, Morton and Carmen.

**National Show Chair:** Helen moved, seconded by Zoe, to change the title of National Show Chair to National Events Coordinator. Passed unanimously. Board agreed that Chairs of events such as IPO/Universal Sieger, etc. were to coordinate actions in advance with Gail.

**Futurity monies further clarification:** The Board clarified that the approved distribution of monies is not applicable to the Amateur Futurity and that there will be no discount for littermates. Gloria made the motion and Pam seconded. Passed unanimously.

**April Board meeting:** Helen motioned to have the next Board meeting at Reno – seconded by Joy. This will be a two and half day meeting beginning at noon Friday to visit the 2017 show site. Budget and Finance Board members will meet Friday morning to finalize the 2016 Budget proposal. Motion passed unanimously.

Helen asked Carmen to write AKC to reaffirm our commitment to temperament testing.

Dania reminded all that we are in the final thrust of membership renewals.

Frank suggested a new motto for this year “One Breed-One Dog”. Everyone agreed.

The Board recognized and acknowledged Frank for his four years of work and dedication to the GSDCA with a round of applause.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:00

The **GSDCA Trust 501(c)3** board met and agreed to move the support and focus forward, noting that the Trust emphasis is education and that donations are tax deductible for individuals. A committee was created, led by Deborah Stern, to solicit donations and corporate supporters.