

**GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB OF AMERICA
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 28, 2018**

8:00 am Saturday, April 28, 2018 – FOUR POINTS DFW AIRPORT HOTEL, COPPELL, TX

Officers Present:

Gary Szymczak, President

Joan Intersimone, Recording Secretary

Gail Stiefferman, Corresponding Secretary

Bill Pfeiffer, Treasurer

Officer Absent: Helen Gleason, Vice-President

Class of 2017; Ken Cunningham, John Bemont, Deborah Stern

Absent: Mary Gattone

Class of 2018; John Ayotte, LaMar Fredrick, Erin Nellis, Joy Schultz.

Guests present: Pam O'Dell, Vicki Bemont, Ashley Miller, Amy Padget, Mary Tripp, Kathleen Brennan, Lea Ruggeri, Nancy Nellis.

MINUTES

The Minutes from the regular meeting held January 27, 2018, were approved as corrected.

The Minutes from the Telephonic meeting March 8, 2018 were approved as submitted.

Report of the RECORDING SECRETARY

Have the regular meeting minutes approved electronically prior to each regular meeting;

- *The Recording Secretary will send a draft of the Minutes to the Board, electronically, for review within 30 days after the Board meeting.*
- *Responses/approvals from the Board members will be due electronically within 10 days.*
- *At the end of 10 days, the Recording Secretary will send to the Board, the final draft for approval.*
- *Board members will respond/approve within 5 days thereafter.*
- *The approved minutes will be sent to the Internet Chair for immediate posting in the secured area of the GSDCA website, and to the REVIEW Editor for publication in the REVIEW.*

Motion made by Joan and seconded. Votes For: Bill, Erin, Joy, LaMar, John A., Ken, John B., Deb, Joan. Votes Against; Gail. The motion passed

Report of the CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

The AKC requires clubs to submit paperwork for shows no later than 18 weeks before the closing date. Fines have been imposed on the GSDCA for regional clubs submitting their paperwork Late to Gail.

*Clubs requesting regional shows **MUST** submit their paperwork and funds to the Corresponding secretary, no later than 22 weeks before the closing date, to be **effective immediately**.*

Motion made by John Bemont, seconded and passed unanimously. Lisa Correa, as Regional Club Chair, will be notified and a constant contact will go out this week

Report of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following actions were taken by the Executive Committee since the January meeting:

1. *Approved to honor the Robert Hamilton award for Phoenix Crowe, from the 2014 National.*
2. *Signed the agreement for the Review editor that was drawn up by LaMar,*
3. *Dean's resignation from the BOD, per the ladder system, Joy Schultz to take his place in the class of 2019.*
4. *Invited Pam O'Dell to come to B&F meeting on Friday April 27th.*
5. *Due to resignations of various committee Chairmen after the January meeting, the following were appointed and approved:*
 - *Nick Hodge, Chairman of the Juniors Committee*
 - *Cynthia Binder, Chairman of the ATAA Committee*
 - *Joan Intersimone, Chairman of the Nominating committee*

Motions were made, seconded and passed unanimously to ratify the Executive Committee actions.

Report of the PRESIDENT

Susan Casey's resignation was accepted with regrets. Using the ladder system, Joan Intersimone was approved to fill the office of Recording Secretary.

A meeting was held regarding the WDA lawsuit in February. Representing the GSDCA was Gary Szymczak (by telephone) and Frank Fasano (in person). Options for settlements were presented and rejected by both sides. Mediation failed. Our thanks to Frank for attending.

Report of the VICE PRESIDENT

Approval of the Archive committee: Helen Gleason chair, Nancy Harper-Mulvaney, Dorothy Linn, Travis Scarlett, Zoe Bachman, Pam Stoesser, Tom Brown, Joan Intersimone

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Budget request of \$3,500

The budget request was Referred to Budget & Finance

Report of the TREASURER

- *We have a voucher request system in place that needs to be utilized by everyone.*
- *Bill needs information about deposits from the people making the deposits.*
- *Financials: Ryan Gibbons CPA firm performs our annual audit & tax returns. Bill hopes to have the 2017 audit done soon. Part of the delay is because there were so many responsible for overseeing the books during the year. Larry Rock in January, Pam O'Dell until June and then Bill Pfeiffer from July up to now.*
- *Insurance pricing is based on Membership. The Board thanks Ken Cunningham for his work to reduce our 2018 Insurance premiums by \$1,500 to \$2,000.00.*
- *Foreign Postage magazine rates more than doubled last year. After discussions with Southerland (the Review printing company) they have adjusted the charges for foreign postage and are setting up a different way to distribute the Review to our foreign members. We have asked Sutherland to include our Canadian mailings on their bulk pallet to Canada. This will help drive our foreign postage costs down going forward.*
- *Class accounting is being set up for each National event (Obedience, Herding, Tracking, etc.).*
- *Class accounting will also be set-up for the SV events in order to tie their expenses to their budget items. Additionally, the SV Office expenses will be reported with the SV events in order to show a more complete financial picture for the SV programs.*
- *One trend of note is the amount spent on Awards each year which has steadily increased at an alarming rate over the past few years. Bill will start classifying award expenses by committee.*
- *The Draft financials show \$10,709.29 net income for 2017. This amount is subject to Audit.*
- *Preliminary Income by events:*
 - Futurity \$10,580*
 - National \$31,400*
 - Herding \$2,800*
 - Agility, \$10,553*
 - Pre-show \$3,800. (This is subject to additional expenses)*

AKC DELEGATE

Achiever Dogs - Publish the qualifying events and the top 20 breeds in the Review and post both items on our website. It will encourage new members to come to our events, make entries and earn qualifying scores for their dog's certificate.

After discussion, a motion was made by LaMar, seconded, and defeated unanimously. Discussion centered around NOT publishing all 20 breeds but highlighting the accomplishments of the GSD. This item is being referred to the Review marketing and Internet committees to discuss and bring recommendations to the next meeting.

Breed Colors - Publish the 11 breed colors in Review and post them on our website.

After discussion a motion was made NOT to consider this request. Seconded and passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Finance

- *The Budget and Finance committee met yesterday (Friday) to go through the draft budget. Upon receipt of 2017 final numbers and the review of requests for additional funds, the updated draft budgets will be sent to the committee chairs for final review. The committee will then publish the final budget.*
- *The Review income as it relates to the allocation of Membership dues needs to be reviewed as well as the allocation of committee pages.*
- *Awards have been consolidated into one G/L account in 2017 which has enabled us to see the total cost for Awards for the year. Pam O'Dell will chair a committee to compile a list of all awards and report back to the Board as to the quantity of awards being given along with the unit cost for each award.*
- *The committee hopes to have a final budget to the BOD within the next 4 to 6 weeks.*
- *The committee accepted Mary Gattone's resignation with thanks for her work on the SV program event budgets.*

By-Laws

Approve Committee Member: Joan Intersimone

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Recap of the By-Laws report:

- *Need to add SV & WUSV rules along with AKC.*
- *Termination of membership. How many days to pay, then what?*
- *Inclusion of electronic means into operations. This is permitted in New York Non-Profit law.*
- *The section on Discipline needs to be scrutinized. Timing is too short using volunteers, propose change in the process. Need to extend the time for action.*
- *Where does the Ethics committee fit into the disciplinary actions.?*

Awards:

Awards Committee

Approve Committee Members: Sandy Anderson, Cindy Bartley, Ben Bigornia, Kim Schooley, Patty Szymczak

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Budget: Copies of last year's invoices from EDCO have been sent to Erin Nellis, Budget and Finance Chair. The Budget will need to be increased to include purchase of a plaque for "Hero Dog" as well as one package of certificates plus envelopes and sufficient postage for mailing.

The budget request was Referred to Budget & Finance

Annual Training Achievement Award (ATAA)

Method of Submission: Do we wish to disallow a photo method of submission and stick with the conformation ribbon or letter from a judge as is currently in the P&P manual?

OR

Add a photo method as acceptable into the program guidelines in the P&P manual?

A Motion was made by Deb and seconded, to add a photo to be a qualifying method of submission for awards. The Motion was defeated.

After discussion, The Board suggests, to assist in the process for a letter;

The Committee should prepare a simple form with the list of disqualifying faults (as pertains to performance titles) to be answered and signed by any AKC judge approved for GSD.

A motion was made by Joan, seconded and passed unanimously.

Titles for Submission: Should we place some limits on what would be valid titles for submission, or should we allow submissions for anything and everything? My thought is this: to be a 'title' it must be earned outside of the home and with an outside authority/judge not related to the dog evaluating the dog. This would eliminate all 'video' venues and still allow titles from all other valid outside organizations to count (i.e. AHBA, USCAA, nose work, etc.).

This is referred back to the Committee. The Board requests a list from the Committee of organizations/titles they think should be included.

Performance Award of Merit (PAM)

Approve Committee Members: Julie Degen and Kristen Brooks Jones

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Breeders Code of Ethics

Approve Committee Members: Kay Bloom, Martha Simonett, Dr. Naomi Swanson, Stephanie Siegerwald.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

With the Marketing committee, we would like to target folks who did not buy from a GSDCA member and educate them on the merits of buying from a member of our organization, as well as help them understand how to purchase a healthy, happy puppy—versus mail order puppy mills, and people who are simply putting two dogs together to sell puppies.

What consequences are available if a signer of BCE does not adhere to their contract?

The BOD requests the Breeders Code Committee evaluate the current document and bring any recommendations for updates to the July meeting.

Obtain permission from board to develop a social media platform to discuss breeder ethics and education (with education committee) a closed group for breeders belonging to GSDCA.

This is referred back to the committee for clarification.

Ethics

Approve Committee Members: Michael Huff, Diane Silver-Strasser

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Education

Approve Committee members: Mary Ellen Kish, Virginia Holmes, Sharon Newcombe & Holly Bryan

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Education Committee has procured Four highly qualified speakers for Education Day at the 2018 National. The topics include obedience, Nosework, IPO and emergency medicine. This is in addition to our Judges Seminar on the Breed. Judges have been procured for ringside mentoring at the National. Mary Ellen has provided me with materials for the Judges Seminar.

Funding was Referred to Budget & Finance

Futurity

Approve a new rule that would allow breeders to nominate litters after the litter nomination deadline in the litter's Futurity show year. For litters that are not nominated by the first deadline in the Futurity show season year, we are proposing a second deadline for nominations that would be the day before the last Futurity/Maturity closes in the dog's Maturity show season year. The fee would be \$200 to nominate. The \$150 fee charged because the dog wasn't entered in a Futurity would apply, plus the \$30 entry/participation fee would be needed to actually enter a Maturity. If approved, we ask that this be effective immediately.

We hope the total cost is high enough to discourage breeders from nominating in the Maturity year, but also gives an owner an official rule and path to take if he wants to show in the Maturity and is willing to spend the money.

A motion was made by Joan and seconded to add a fee of \$200 to nominate a litter in their maturity year in addition to the \$150 currently to enter maturity without entering a futurity.

Votes for: Bill, Erin, Joy, John A.Q., Ken, John B, Deb, Joan. Opposed Gail & LaMar. The motion was passed

Approve a request that Review Editor place a picture of the "Breeder of BIF" Regional trophy (if awarded) on the Review page with the region's critique.

Approved as part of the Futurity budget for Review pages. The Futurity Chair should work with the Review editor to have this done when appropriate.

- *A quarterly constant contact from the Futurity Committee reminding members to nominate their litters will be sent to Gary for distribution.*
- *The Futurity Victor/Victrix and Maturity Victor/Victrix will be featured on the front cover of the Review as required by the P&P. (verified with the Review committee)*

GSDC of Canada Liaison

To change our clubs' policies regarding judging Intersex at either National. Currently, the GSDCA restricts judges to a 3-year waiting period after they judge intersex in Canada.

We'd like to propose both Clubs restrict judges from judging a National Specialty for 1 year. (i.e. if a judge does the GSDCA National in 2020, the earliest they could judge the GSDCC National would be 2022 (and vice versa).

Action Deferred to the National Committee report.

GSDCA Review Marketing

Approve a budget of \$300.00 for this committee. We strongly believe that our Editor should be a member of the Dog Writers Association of America; the last Review editor to be a member was Gail Sprock. It is important that the Review be eligible for many of the awards given by the DWA each year. Our other expense(s) will include envelopes and postage needed to send a copy of the appropriate Review to any foreign GSD fancier interviewed for The World of GSDs column.

Budget request was referred to Budget & Finance

Internet

Approve Committee members: Ann Akerill – show results, Christina Leeka-Snyder – premium lists, Mark French and Pam Stoesser

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

The BOD needs to either create a sub-committee to review the requirements for inclusion in the GSD Reviewed pedigree and critique site that we are trying to revive, or this task needs to be assigned to the GSDCA Archive committee to provide guidance to the Internet Committee.

It was Moved by John and seconded to Refer this to the Archive committee with a request that they submit requirements for updating the site. Passed unanimously.

Legislation committee

Approve Committee members: Dee Lauffer – Assistant Chair, Bill Woolever - Regional representative.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Marketing

Approve Committee Members: Existing: Myra Shear, Donna Calabrese, Lisa Correia, John Ayotte, Matt McMillan. New: Rebecca Little. Voluntarily exiting: Kathleen Riley, Lynn Koster Goswick

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Budget: Request for \$3,000 annual budget to allow for purchase of supplies, business cards, marketing orders, event planning, and ability to advertise in other publications to promote our events & club. This does not include the Marketing Video as this will be a larger endeavor and we will need to obtain quotes prior to submitting a proposal.

Budget request was referred to Budget & Finance

National Specialty

Approve Committee Members: National Specialty Co-Chairs - Dean Wylie and Candee Foss, Agility Co-Chairs - Rhonda Meath and Karen McKee-Bendtsen, Dock Diving – Susan Condreas, Herding Co-Chairs – Tracy Parsiak and Julie Degen, Obedience – Kristin Brooks Jones, Rally – Zoe Backman.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Request for the board to approve the agreement with DOG SHOW VIDEO PRO'S for the 2018 national and the President to sign.

- *Video contract will be sent to LaMar for approval and to Gary for signature. Contract is for National Conformation only at No Charge. No video provided for Performance.*
- *Additional contract/addendum to LaMar for approval and to Deb Stern for signature. Addendum for Futurity Finals & Pre-Show at a cost of \$500 to be paid by the Trust.*

Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Discussion of the National judge's criteria changed without any record in the minutes.

John B., Gail & LaMar met during a break and suggested the following language for a motion:

New Criteria to Judge Conformation at the National effective with nominations for 2019 judges.

- Judge no more often than every 4th year i.e.: 2015 can judge in 2019
- Active in the breed for a minimum of 10 years.
- Bred at least 4 litters of GSD on their property
- Furnish names & registration numbers of two bred Champions
- AKC approved judge for minimum of 3 years
- If a person judges at the GSDCC National in 2020, the earliest they could judge the GSDCA National would be 2022. (Suggested by GSDC of Canada Liaison)
- Bios for the ballot must be submitted with signed judges contracts (per Gail)

Motion made by John Bemont., seconded & passed unanimously.

New National Award - Phyllis Dobbs Award per the outline from Gail – Trophy Donations to be solicited for cost of Trophy. Already pledged for 2018. Cost is \$350.00

Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Add the 4-6 month puppy class at the National starting in 2018. If approved, the Intersex judge will come in early at his own cost to judge the 4-6 class this year.

Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously.

New National Award for Juniors: Highest scoring Junior – Obedience, Rally, Agility –Must have Jr. number, must own the dog competing starting in 2018. Trophy & Rosette to be covered by Trophy donation committee.

Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously.

The new (2017) Stud Dog class was a success. Suggested to add a Brood Bitch class starting in 2018.

Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Junior Showmanship Judge to be selected from National judges starting with #3, #2, #1 effective for 2018.

Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Rally

In January we asked that the Board approve a New Award, the details of which have been resubmitted for approval. GSDCA Multi Performance Championship Award in Memory of Phyllis Kraft. If approved, to begin August 1 2017 – July 31 2018. (Zoe Backman would sponsor the award the first year).

Motion made by Deb Stern, seconded and passed unanimously.

National Trophy Donations

The budget for National trophies is \$21,500.00

Nominating Committee

Due to conflicts per the agreement to serve, there have been changes to the committee: EASTERN – Kristin Brooks Jones, NO alternate, MID-AMERICA – Suzanne Jambe NO alternate. We need to select new alternates for the Eastern and Mid-America regions.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to add Mary Tripp as alternate for Mid-America, and Jill Lukasik as alternate for the Eastern.

Motion by Joan that the nominating committee be allowed to have their meeting by the 2nd week in June instead of 3rd week in May. Nominations will be finalized at that time. An Email will be sent to all board members to approve the committee nominations. Once approved, the list will be sent to Gail no later than June 20th.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

P & P Manual

Approve Committee Members: John Ayotte, Sarah Falk, Joan Intersimone

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Approval of proposed changes in P&P language regarding:

p. 7, Notification of Action -- committee chairs to be notified by Recording Secretary, (not Corresponding Secretary), of action taken by BOD in absence of chair (per President's request).

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

p. 46, Hero Dog Award (per July 2016 BOD minutes) -- addition of detail regarding process and criteria;

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

p. 65, Juniors -- addition of new section regarding club reimbursing each qualifying Junior going to Westminster up to \$1000 for transportation and lodging.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously. Deb Stern to assign time limit for reimbursement.

p. 76, SV/WUSV Programs Office -- addition of list of specific operational duties of SV/WUSV Programs Office as reflected in Programs Office Administrator's contract (per Programs Office Administrator Joy Schultz);

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

p.135, Assignments at the National -- elimination of rule that Jr. Showmanship judge at National will be based on suggestions by Juniors Committee and replace instead with Junior's judge to be elected by membership ballot (per January 2018 BOD minutes);

After discussion, rather than using the ladder system, the Juniors judge will be assigned from #3 to #1. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

p.135, Restriction on Judging in the US, Canada, and Mexico (North America) Preceding the National -- elimination of 3-year restriction for those having judged specials at Canadian National and replace instead with 6 mo. restriction (per October 2017 BOD minutes).

New criteria for judging the National was approved. See criteria in the National section.

Products

We need a procedure for reporting.

Per Gary, Butch to submit quarterly reports. John Ayotte to program credit card machine(s) at the national to record items as sold. Dinner tickets, products, red book, etc.

"Clover" (from BofA premium products) will be used to record sales. We can purchase time for specific events.

Regional Clubs

Approval of the following new members: Deb Smith, Travis Scarlett, Suzanne Jambe, Dara Conklin, Mary Tripp, Mary Golden, Bill Woolever, Dawn Sedorus, Blake Williams, Myra Shea.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Suspend all Challenges until further notice. At this point in time, we feel that these challenges do nothing but divide the clubs into the "Haves" and the "Have Nots". Until we can prop the failing clubs up onto a stronger base, we have decided that it would be best to do away with the competitions. The parade at the National is also something that we were thinking that we could suspend. In it's heyday, it was a sight to behold. Now, the clubs have shrunk tremendously. It is sad to watch the state of the parade nowadays.

After discussion, Deb Stern moved to continue until the committee brings changes to be approved. Seconded and passed unanimously.

SV Programs

Twelve left over engraved silver bowls. The engraving is show & class specific and cannot be buffed out. If no one wants them or has any ideas, they just need to be scrapped.

Gail will take the trophies to be used for 4-6 month puppy class at the national.

Temperament

*Rule 6 – **Add** the following: If in the judges' opinion the dog is approachable, he should continue towards the dog in a friendly, natural relaxed manner. He should then speak to the dog while briefly touching him under the chin or on the side of the muzzle. He should not be overly friendly, fawn, hug or thump the dogs' sides.*

Motion was made and seconded NOT to make the change. Passed unanimously

*Rule 8 – **Replace** with the following: Dogs may be aloof but never fearful. Unsound, shy, overly anxious or noise sensitive dogs must be penalized. Excuse dogs you cannot examine because of extreme resistance to your touch. Awards must only go to dogs that are completely sound.*

Motion was made and seconded NOT to make the change. Passed unanimously

UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS

Honest Ballot

There was a discussion of the discrepancy in the 2017 election results resulting from using a different company to print the ballots. This is something we have done for many years. We need to find out the cost difference for the future. Gary will get a quote from Honest Ballot for the July meeting.

Breeders Code of Ethics and (Members) Code of Ethics

Joy motioned and Erin seconded we rescind the motion to approve the new all-inclusive code of ethics. and reinstate the breeders code that was in effect at the time.

Results of a Roll call vote:

Joan – yes

Bill - yes

Erin - yes

Gail - yes

John B.- yes

LaMar – yes

John A. - yes

Ken - yes

Deb - yes

Helen & Mary (not present)

Motion Passed

The BOD requests the Breeders Code Committee evaluate the current document and bring any recommendations for updates to the July meeting.

The BOD requests the ethics committee to submit a “members code of ethics” with recommendations as to what would be covered, what procedures would be used for complaints, investigations and disciplinary action if required. Additionally, the method for acknowledgment by members. Upon application for membership? at renewal of dues? As a voluntary item? If by dues, how often? Once? Annually? The Board would like the Committee to take more responsibility

NEW BUSINESS

Nomination and approval of National Conformation Judges for the Annual ballot

The following were nominated:

- *Michel Chaloux*
- *Herman Butch Stiefferman*
- *Rita Sandell*
- ~~*Vicki Belmont*~~ - withdrew
- *Robert Drescher*
- *Jack Kilgour*
- *Evan Ginsburg*

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously

Futurity System Ad hoc Committee Proposal

Research and evaluate after end of 2018 shows (July) & bring recommendations to the board.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously

Revision of SV Expenditures

Increases in fees, allocations to the events.

Referred to Budget and Finance.

Approve increase of fees that Joy proposed.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Electronic Balloting

We do not have a formal proposal at this time. Gary was told the initial cost would include a one-time charge for set-up, but the annual cost would be less expensive than our current paper ballot system. Honest Ballot contracts with many national dog clubs and we are the only ones still using a paper system. Gary will get a bid to change to Electronic balloting for the July meeting.

Location of July Board Meeting

In the spirit of continuing to move meetings around the country to areas with 100 or more members, Gary proposed Illinois or Minnesota.

Voted in favor of Illinois: Bill, Erin, LaMar, John A., John B., Gail, Joan. Voted in favor of Minnesota: Deb, Ken, Joy
The July meeting will be held in Chicago, IL.

ADJOURNMENT 3:45 PM