

**GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB OF AMERICA
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 27, 2018
Los Angeles, CA**

Hyatt Place
Los Angeles, CA

Officers Present:

Gary Szymczak, President

Helen Gleason, Vice-President

William Pfeiffer, Treasurer

Susan Casey, Recording Secretary

Officer Absent: Gail Stiefferman, Corresponding Secretary

Class of 2018 Present:

John Bemont, Ken Cunningham, Mary Gattone, Deborah Stern

Class of 2019 Present:

John Ayotte, Lamar Frederick, Erin Nellis

Absent: Dean Wylie

Members and Guests Present:

Patty Korsch, Diane Strasser, Patty Szymczak, Debbie Kaser, Joy Schultz, Stormy Hope, Ken Tank, Evan Ginsburg, Cynthia Binder, Paul Petit and Linda Greco.

Call to Order:

The first GSDCA Board of Directors meeting of the official year was called to order at 8:04 AM on Saturday, January 27, 2018, by Gary Szymczak, President. Gary read an email sent to him by a GSDCA member who asked to remain anonymous. Gary agreed with and reinforced the premise of this email: all Board members are there to serve the GSDCA, the entire membership and the breed. He established a zero-tolerance policy for bringing egos and/or personal agendas to the table.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made that the October, 2017 Board Minutes be approved as distributed. Motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

REPORT OF THE RECORDING SECRETARY – Susan Casey

No report.

RESPORT OF THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY – Gail Stiefferman

No report. Gail had to leave on Friday due to the death of her mother.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Gary Szymczak

Gary Szymczak, President, asked that the Board approve the following members of his Executive Committee: John Ayotte, John Bemont, Lamar Frederick and Erin Nellis. A motion was made to approve. The motion was seconded and approved.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT – Gary Szymczak

In regard to the club's as yet unresolved litigation, Gary asked that Frank Fasano be allowed to go to California and represent the GSDCA. Frank has been involved in this particular situation since its inception and, therefore, is cognizant of all that has transpired to date. The Board approved of Frank representing the GSDCA in this matter.

Gary asked that a number of new Committee Chairs be approved. A motion was made to approve. The motion was seconded and approved. A new and complete list of committee chairs will be posted on GSDCA.org shortly.

REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT – Helen Gleason

No report.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER – Bill Pfeiffer

The financial information for 2016 currently published on GSDCA.org does not reflect the audited numbers. Bill asked that the actual audited report replace what is currently on the web site. He will work with Pam Stoesser and John Ayotte to accomplish this change.

The financials for 2017 are not yet closed out and have, therefore, not been audited. Bill asked that all outstanding financial information be sent to him as soon as possible so that the accounting for last year can be completed in a timely manner. The 2017 Profit and Loss statement must be completed and the 2018 budget presented in order for all committee chairs to be able to budget, properly plan and manage their funds in 2018.

\$26,715.37 of the John DeHope funds have been in General Ledger account #3000600, marked as "restricted DeHope Funds for Rescue." Bill asked that these funds be transferred to the American German Shepherd Rescue Association per Mr. DeHope's bequest. A motion was made that the funds be transferred to AGSRA. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. Bill will work with AGSRA on the transfer of these funds.

It was brought to the Board's attention that anyone soliciting/collecting funds in the name of the GSDCA must be bonded in order to avoid potential legal action against the

club in the future. A motion was made that all persons collecting funds for the GSDCA must be bonded. The motion was seconded and approved.

REPORT OF THE AKC DELEGATE – Carmen Battaglia

No report

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BUDGET AND FINANCE – Erin Nellis

Erin reported that the new Budget and Finance Committee included: Bill Pfeiffer, Mary Gattone, Gail Stiefferman and Gary Szymczak. The committee met on Thursday, January 25, 2018 and Friday, January 26, 2018. Erin reported that she is working diligently to understand the previous budget. She and her committee will work to reach an attainable budget for 2018.

AWARDS – Gloria Birch and Pam O'Dell

No report.

BOARD-O-GRAM – Gary Szymczak and Susan Casey

The Board-O-Gram will, once again, be sent to the membership in a timely manner following each Board meeting.

CODE OF ETHICS – Candee Foss

There was no report from the Chair but the Board held a discussion on the current Code of Ethics and its suitability for the club's membership. Further discussion was tabled until the April Board meeting.

CONTRACTS AND PROCUREMENT – no current chair

No report.

EDUCATION – Maryellen Kish

Maryellen Kish resigned as Education Chair. The Board thanked Maryellen for her many years of service in this capacity. A motion was made to approve Vicki Bemont as new Education Chair. Motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ETHICS – Bill Pfeiffer

No report.

FUTURITY – Cyndi Flautt

The Futurity Committee requested approval of Several action items, the first being ratification of the following members of the 2018 Futurity Committee: John Ayotte, Linda Bankhead, Holly Bryan, Helen Gleason, Christine Grainger, Jeanne Hamilton, Patty Korsch, Karin Wagner and Candy Zumwalt.

The Board was asked to approve the following clubs and weekends for 2019 Futurity/Maturity shows: NE - GSDC of Southern New Hampshire on June 16, 2019, MA - Northern New Jersey GSDC on May 4, 2019, SE - GSDC of Raleigh on March 24, 2019, SW - GSDC of Austin on April 6-7, 2019, MW - GSDC of Minneapolis-St Paul on June 23, 2019, GL - GSDC of Central Ohio on May 27, 2019, SP - GSDC of San Gabriel Valley on April 21, 2019, MP - GSDC of Sacramento Valley on March 29, 2019 and NW - GSDC of Washington on State on May 11, 2019. A motion to approve host clubs and dates was made. The motion was seconded and approved.

The second action item was a request that the new Membership Chair be directed to email the Futurity Chair a monthly spreadsheet of all new club members. This action was requested and approved at the January, 2017 Board meeting, however an update is needed, this being that, in 2018, the Membership Chair needs to send the membership spreadsheet with the member numbers to the Futurity Chair. The Futurity Chair will then forward the list to Foy Trent Dog Shows for use in verifying that at least one owner of a Futurity or Maturity entry is a GSDCA member. A motion to approve this action was made. The motion was seconded and approved.

The third action item was a request for approval, if needed, for special events such as the Chili Cook-Off and Facebook Live-Streaming as these events are conducted by individuals and not official projects of the Futurity Committee. As was discussed and per action taken during the Treasurer's report, (see above), all those raising funds in the name of the GSDCA will have to be bonded.

THE GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG REVIEW – Kathleen Riley
See Unfinished Business re Printer Bids

HEALTH AND GENETICS – Carolyn Gerganoff

The Health and Genetics Committee requested approval of two action items, the first being to list the requirements for the Health Award of Merit on the GSDCA web site. A motion was made to approve. The motion was seconded and approved.

The second action item sought approval for a "Research Corner" to be added to the GSDCA web site. Current research projects, including all updates, which need GSD participants can be listed here. A motion was made to approve. The motion was seconded and approved.

INTERNET – John Ayotte
No report.

JUNIORS – Elizabeth Stiefferman
No report.

Two actions were taken regarding the Juniors program, the first being that the Junior Showmanship judge at the National Specialty will be elected by the membership. A motion was made that the membership elect the Junior Showmanship judge for the National Specialty. The motion was seconded and approved.

The second action taken concerned the funding, by the GSDCA, of Juniors going to the Westminster Kennel Club show. In order to avoid jeopardizing any Junior's status, it was proposed that reimbursement for hotel and airfare be given to each of the two GSDCA Juniors attending Westminster. The maximum amount given to each will be \$1,000.00 and the funds will come from the Charitable Trust. (This method of support is acceptable by the AKC, as verified by Gary on Monday, January 29, 2018.) A motion was made that each of the two GSDCA Juniors able to attend Westminster in 2018 be reimbursed for up to \$1,000.00 of their airfare and hotel expenses. The motion was seconded and approved.

GSDCA LEGISLATIVE LIAISON TO AKC – Stormy Hope

Stormy requested that the Board approve one action item, that she and her committee be given funding to help offset their travel expenses to attend the annual AKC Government Relations Conference. A motion was made that Stormy be given \$600.00 from the Charitable Trust in order to attend the AKC Government Relations Conference. The motion was seconded and approved. A check in the amount of \$600.00 was given to Stormy.

There was a discussion regarding the use of membership numbers and contact information on GSDCA.org and entry forms. Stormy Hope explained that publishing such data allows animal rights activists to gain personal information about GSDCA members. A motion was made to remove membership numbers on rosters sent to Foy Trent as well as on Futurity entry forms. The motion was seconded and approved. (Going forward, the public will use a link on GSDCA.org for information about the club. All contact information for Board and Committee Chairs will be placed behind the wall, for members' use only.)

MARKETING – Jeff Pyle

No report.

MEMBERSHIP – Laura Gilbert

Laura reported that the club only has eighteen 25-year membership pins left in inventory. She asked that the Board approve an action item to order more pins and presented a detailed breakdown re numbers and cost. After discussion, a motion was made to order 100 25-year membership pins at a cost of \$3.02 per pin. The motion was seconded and approved.

NATIONAL SPECIALTY – Gail Stiefferman

Due to the death of her mother, Gail was not present and could not give her report.

AGILITY – Rhonda Meath, Karen McKee

No report.

HERDING – Tracy Parsiak, Julie Degen

No report.

OBEDIENCE – Kristin Jones

No report.

RALLY – Zoe Backman

The suggestion was made by Zoe Backman for a new multi-performance title award. After discussion, this was tabled until the April Board meeting.

TRACKING – Gail Stiefferman

No report.

TROPHY DONATIONS – Deborah Stern

No report.

PARENT CLUB OFFICE – Laura Gilbert

Parent Club Office request to set hours for the Membership:

Monday – Friday 9 am to 5 pm, Holidays and Eves prior to Holidays will be closed.

Phone calls will not be accepted after hours; however, emails may be sent anytime and will be responded to on the next business day.

A motion was made to accept this request. The motion was seconded and approved.

P&P MANUAL – Zoe Backman

No report.

PRODUCTS – Butch Stiefferman

No report.

PUBLIC RELATIONS – Ken and Kathy Tank

No report.

REDBOOK – Kim McNamara

No action taken.

REGIONAL CLUBS – Lew Bunch

No report.

REGISTER OF MERIT – Chris Carter and Candee Foss

The Register of Merit Chair's report included action items, the first concerning the need to rewrite the ROM software as the original programmer has passed away and there is no support for the software currently being used. The committee asked that the Board approve funding to procure the services of a programmer who can write new ROM software. A motion was made that this action be approved. The motion was seconded and approved.

The second action item submitted by the ROM Chair was a request to increase the ROM Committee's budget from \$2,000.00 to \$3,000.00 per year. With the increasing number of new ROM sires and dams each year, cost of plaques for recognition of these GSDs will soon exceed the committee's current budget. A motion was made that the ROM Chairs' budget be increased from \$2,000.00 to \$3,000.00. The motion was seconded and approved.

SV-WUSV LIAISON – Morton Goldfarb

No report.

SV OFFICE – Joy Schultz

No report.

TEMPERAMENT – Laura Gilbert

No report.

WEBMASTER – Pam Stoesser

No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS:

DC WEB DESIGN

The Board discussed DC Web Design's proposal to redo GSDCA.org; this was part of the 2017 Webmaster RFP. A motion was made to reject DC Web Design's proposal. The motion was seconded and approved.

ELECTION RESULTS

The Board discussed the discrepancy in the 2017 election results from Honest Ballot. The issue came about as a result of having had a different printer actually print the ballots. Honest Ballot will do a full presentation at the April Board meeting. Further discussion was tabled until April.

PRINTER BIDS

Gary initiated a discussion regarding inappropriate action taken in obtaining printers' bids. Our current printer's invoices were provided to all bidders; this is neither

acceptable business practice nor is it ethical. A motion was made to continue using Sutherland Printing for the Review. The motion was seconded and approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

SELECTION OF NOMINATING CHAIR AND COMMITTEE

The following Nominating Committee was proposed: EASTERN – Vicki Bemont, Kristin Brooks Jones alternate, HEARTLAND – Cindy Bartley, Liz Oster alternate, MID-AMERICA – Nanci Nellis, Suzanne Jambe alternate, WESTERN – Debbie Kaser, Evan Ginsburg alternate. Dean Wylie is committee chair. A motion was made to approve this committee. The motion was seconded and approved.

FREE PAGES

A motion was made that the American German Shepherd Rescue Association, The American German Shepherd Dog Charitable Foundation and The GSDCA Charitable Trust be given back their allotments of pages, (at no charge), in The German Shepherd Dog Review, the National catalog and the Futurity catalog. The motion was seconded and approved.

REGIONAL CLUB INSURANCE

There was a discussion about offering umbrella policies for regional club insurance. Ken Cunningham reported that the rates for this policy are \$172.00 per event or \$425.00 for an annual policy that covers everything, (\$1,000,000.00 aggregate). Clubs do not have to use this insurance but could avail themselves of it if they choose.

REVIEW EDITOR RFP

Deborah Stern requested a closed session and was so granted. After the closed session ended, it was announced that the Board voted to ratify the Review Editor Selection Committee's recommendation that Susan Casey be the new editor of The German Shepherd Dog Review.

MISCELLANEOUS

Telephone access to GSDCA Board meetings was returned to the membership. A Question & Answer session between members and the Board was initiated at the conclusion of this Board meeting; this will be done at every Board meeting hereafter.

The next Board meeting will be held in Dallas, Texas on April 28, 2018 and April 29, 2018.

Gary Szymczak, President, complimented the Board on their professionalism and efficient use of time. The Board meeting was adjourned at 4:07 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Casey