

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

**8:00 am Saturday, July 28, 2018 – Four Points by Sheraton Chicago O'Hare, Chicago, IL**

**Officers Present:**

Gary Szymczak, President  
Helen Gleason, Vice-President  
Joan Intersimone, Recording Secretary  
Gail Stiefferman, Corresponding Secretary  
Bill Pfeiffer, Treasurer

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 were: Pam Wirsing, Linda Greco, Marytherese, Marosits, Melanie Fuellgraf, Pat Belkes, Chris & Gail Smith, Dianna Ing

**MINUTES**

1. Minutes from the April 27, 2018 Trust meeting were approved as submitted
2. Minutes from the April 27, 2018 Special Meeting were approved as submitted
3. Minutes from the Telephonic meeting June 12, 2018 were approved as submitted

**REPORT OF THE RECORDING SECRETARY**

*The minutes of the April 26-28, 2018 BOD Meeting were approved by approved electronic means on June 16, 2018. Copies were sent to the REVIEW editor and posted in the member's section of the website.*

**REPORT OF THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

- Started receiving Regional Clubs' info & dues for 2019.
- Trophies for the AKC Obedience Classic, AKC Agility Invitational and AKC National Championship Dog Show in December of each year. Trophy Sponsorships; Agility \$45, Obedience \$45, Conformation \$125.00. We normally also do a Meet the Breeds booth.

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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

1. Based on the changes to the judge's election result procedures, Morton Goldfarb to judge Juniors at the 2018 National

Moved by Gail, second by Helen – unanimously approved

2. Amendment to bring the National RV rates for this year back to the same as 2017

Moved by John B., second by Gail – unanimously approved

3. Approved introduction of Leslie Dancosse Legacy award which will be an annual award.

Moved by Gail, second by Deb – unanimously approved

4. Approve a possible \$1,200 expense for the September SV/Sieger show to function on GSDCA website.  
*This cost may be covered by a grant from the city of Zion, IL.*

Moved by Joy, seconded by Erin – unanimously approved

## REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

- *WDA Trial for the pending lawsuit August 27, 2018 in southern California. Frank will be attending and will submit his expenses to the GSDCA for reimbursement. We will make the reimbursements to Frank and after sending the receipts to the Insurance company, they will reimburse us.*

Motion by Gary, second by Bill – unanimously approved

- *Ballot item to allow the membership to vote on rotation of the national. Gary, LaMar & Gail will decide on the verbiage and when this would start.*

Moved by Gary, second by Joan – approved unanimously

- *Ballot item to hold Conformation at the National indoors or outdoors.*

Moved by Gary, second by Bill – defeated unanimously

- *Amendments to Purina contact signed for the grass at the pre-show site 2020, with an option for 2021*
- *We received a check in the amount of \$10,035.36 from Purina for points.*
- *Royal Canin's sponsorship for 2018 Futurities was a verbal agreement. Going forward, they will not be part of the Futurity shows.*
- *Hero Dog Rex from Washington state. Gary has been in touch with owners about having Rex and his family at the National. Gary is not going to Europe for the SV show this year. Gary wants to use those funds to bring the family and Rex from Washington to the national.*

## REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

*No report*

## REPORT OF THE TREASURER

- *The 2017 Audit is completed and Bill has the 2017 tax return. John A. will put audited 2017 financials on the website. Auditors have requested more extensive documentation for improved accounting procedures. Expense vouchers for payments via email. Auditors need a single location for physical audit. ASG has all the records so that should be the location for future audits.*
- *Store inventory kept at retail not at cost. No records of actual cost. This will be corrected going forward.*
- *SV income did not flow directly to GSDCA. There was an intermediary. This has been cleaned up going forward. SV expenses need to be managed better. Specifically, the potential costs to compete in Europe are growing.*
- *The treasurer needs invoices & receipts for credit card expenses.*
- *Bill is cleaning up Balance sheet.*
- *Change procedures to make payments when due rather than when received to improve cash management*
- *We are spending too much on postage. We need to look at the postage expenses and see where we can get some cost savings.*
- *Monthly journal entries for dues, review income, etc. to allocate to properly over the full year(s).*
- *Suggest we move our investment accounts from Morgan Stanley to Merrill Lynch who is associated with Band of America. Rates are comparable. We also need to move our cash into a money market account for better interest rate.*
- *Bill has added class accounting to separate all events and have a P&L for each area.*
- *Bill is stepping down at the end of this year. He will work with the Auditor to complete the 2018 audit and tax returns.*

## REPORT OF THE AKC DELEGATE

1. *Make a donation to the AKC Museum of the Dog for the "Club Wall of Fame". Donation tiers are \$2,500, \$7,500 & \$15,000 and payments can be made over 5 years.*

A motion was made to refer this to Budget & Finance. Moved by Joan second by Helen – approved unanimously

2. *Make a donation to the AKC Political Action Committee (PAC). PAC provides small donations to elected officials who support our dog initiatives. This is one-way AKC and our clubs fight legislation.*

A motion was made to request a recommendation from Stormy. Moved by Deb, seconded by John A. – approved unanimously

3. *Mark Dunn, AKC Senior Exe. V.P., has offered to speak for 1 hour at the National about the AKC Dog Detection Task Force.*

Referred to Vicki B – education chair

4. *During the past 5 years, parent clubs and All-Breed clubs have purchased 295 relief trailers which are now in 28 states. Would the GSDCA like to sponsor one and have our logo and name on it?*

After discussion, the Board declined to consider this item.

5. *The table about our breeds 10-year history is a matter of importance and a point of discussion. It is a signal that we may be experiencing a system change and the development of a new kind of breeder; one that does not use a breed standard, belong to a club or enter their pups in shows.*

During discussion, it was pointed out that the AKC has the marketplace where anyone can place an ad for puppy sales. Deb agreed to compose a letter to our delegate regarding AKC's promotion of the breeders he is concerned about.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Budget and Finance**

*Final budget for 2018 done. Total income estimated increase of \$125,000 over 2017 and increased expenses of \$97,000. We anticipate a higher profit in 2018 to be driven by National, additional SV shows and Purina weight circles.*

- *Membership: We had an increase in membership income for 2017. Suggest membership renewals be pro-rated so all renewals are at 12/31. Membership chair controls access to the members wall.*
- *Review: Review pages were not allocated to the various committees. Recommending charging committee pages in 2018. Should the Review continue monthly?*
- *Royal Canin SV Sponsorship: SV Royal Canin sponsorship is a tiered structure which will go down over the coming years. SV program is sponsoring qualifiers to compete in international events. This has increased the expenses for the program. We need to look at a plan to continue to make the program profitable and ideas to increase revenue to pay for international competitions.*
- *Futurities: The Futurities are keeping expenses under control. Income has been roughly steady.*
- *Marketing: We need discussion about what the marketing committee's role is. Possibly expand their roll to review advertising. We need to get performance people to advertise in the Review.*
- *Website: Maintenance cost reduction expected in 2018.*
- *Nationals: The National continues to be a major contributor to the bottom line. We need to continue to analyze sites with managed costs for rotation.*
- *Awards: Costs were grouped into one account in 2017. Total awards costs for 2017 was around \$17,000. We need to consolidate vendors and make a process to help lower costs.*
- *Board meetings: Over the last three years, with reductions to the number of board members, utilizing lower cost facilities and locations, we reduced expenses more significantly in 2017. Discussion of ways to continue to lower the costs such as having electronic board meetings.*

### **By-Laws**

- *GSDCA Conflicts of Interest Policy: All New York non-profits have to have a conflict of interest policy.*

Moved to adopt – LaMar, second by Joan - passed unanimously

- *Conflict of Interest Statement: Submitted. Change end date to July 28, 2018. To be signed by all members of the Board.*

Moved to adopt – LaMar, second by Joan – passed unanimously

- *By-Laws revisions - We went through the proposed changes and settled on a document to be submitted to AKC. Once approved by AKC, the By-Laws changes will be included in this year's ballot for the membership.*

Motion to approve the changes, send the document to AKC for approval, and include in this year's ballot. Moved by LaMar, second by Joan – passed unanimously.

## **Awards:**

**Awards Committee:** *Approve the recipients for the following awards:*

*CONNIE BECKHARDT AWARD  
DON CLIFF MEMORIAL GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD  
LAMAR KUHNS AWARD  
THE LESLIE DANCOSSE LEGACY AWARD  
LLOYD BRACKETT AWARD  
PEGGY DOUGLAS AWARD  
ROLL OF HONOR  
HERO DOG*

The recipients were approved unanimously.

## **ATAA**

*The AKC and AKC recognized organizations provide enough titling venues to satisfy just about any sport anyone could want to do with their German Shepherd Dog. We should return to a policy of allowing only these titles to count for the annual ATAA awards. To be a 'title' it must be earned outside of the home and with an outside authority/judge not related to the dog/handler to be evaluating the dog. This means that no 'video only' venues would be accepted. This would INCLUDE the new AKC Trick Dog Performer Elite title which is earned only by submitting a video to the AKC.*

- 1. I propose that the ATAA program henceforth accept only the titles included in the attached list which are AKC/GSDCA titles or AKC/SV approved. As AKC adds new titles, they will be added to this list. (This would mean a change in the P&P manual).*

After discussion, it was moved by Deb and seconded by Helen to approve the committees' proposed titles. Approved unanimously.

- 2. All titles to be awarded points in the ATAA system must be earned outside of the home and under an outside authority/judge.*

Moved by Deb, second by John A., approved unanimously

## **Breeders Code of Ethics**

*An outline was submitted with suggestions for key points to be included.*

This was sent back to the committee to compile the suggestions into a draft document and discussion was tabled until October.

## **Futurity**

- Approve the list of judges and alternates for the 2019 Futurity/Maturities as submitted by the host clubs. (attached)*

Moved John A., second Joy, approved unanimously

- Approve two Review pages for a double page ad to thank those who donated to the Futurities in 2018. We request that as done in 2017, you continue to allow the thank you pages at no charge to the Futurity Committee.*

Review pages are allocated in the Budget.

- Approve two Review pages during each year to provide information and a form to nominate litters, with pages at no charge to the Futurity Committee.*

Review pages are allocated in the Budget.

- Allow litters born in Mexico that are bred by GSDCA members to be nominated in the South Pacific Region. FYI: Litters born in Canada are nominated in the Northwest Region.*

Moved by Hellen, seconded by Joan. Approved unanimously

- Approve the following people as members of the ad hoc Futurity Committee that was proposed at the April, 2018 BOD meeting: Cyndi Flautt, Joan Intersimone, Kathy Potter, Linda Bankhead, Michael Metz, Cindy Bartley, Dr. Jose Perez-Gurri, Christine Grainger.*

This was tabled until Gary could outline the purpose before approving a committee.

## **Internet**

- Pre-paid constant contact needs to be renewed.*
- National information is getting put up.*
- Responsibility for the GSDCA REVIEWED pages Revived moved to Archive committee – Need the archive committee to propose new guidelines for inclusion on the pages.*

### **Juniors**

- *Question: Do we need approval from board to get the ring for the national after Friday for the junior seminar or is it already assumed that we have it? Didn't see it in the schedule of events.*

Regarding the Junior seminar, Gail needs to know what they want in the premium list. Their time is reserved.

- *Approve the following additional committee members: Autumn Dugan and Jeffrey Pyle.*

Moved by Helen, second by Deb, approved unanimously

### **Legislative Liaison to the AKC**

*I would like to see the Board discuss taking a position, making a position statement, on the banning of breeding that is now rampant across the nation. From my July report, please read and understand the consequences of legislation that bans sales of dogs or the breeding of dogs.*

We agreed that we are willing to look at whatever Stormy proposes for a statement.

### **Marketing**

*Approve the addition of the following committee members: Elisabeth Laxton & Seth Keida.*

Moved by John A, second by Helen, approved unanimously

### **National Specialty**

#### **2018 National St Louis:**

*No Barn Hunt due to another organization having an event in the same area. Pre-Show has a new secretary that can take on-line entries. Tracking and all-breed agility will start on Saturday the 13th. Agility is already maxed out for Saturday and Sunday. GSD (only) agility entries are steadily coming in. Other event premiums will be out soon. Herding is already on the website. Constant contact will be sent to let the members know the premiums are up. Board member rooms reserved from 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday. BOD members need to call to verify the dates they will be there and give the hotel a credit card. Joan will help with money counting at the national. Bill needs a third money counter.*

*Store products at the national will have listed hours. Store hours will be cut back to minimum number of hours during the week and the store will not be open on Saturday. The store will be open on Saturday the 13th for Agility.*

*We have a large demand for the shirts we had last year. May have shirts with last year's design but no wording. There is a new multicolored design for the 2018 shirts.*

#### **2019 National in Colorado:**

*Originally, we were going to have Agility at a different location. Patty talked to The Ranch about adding the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend for Agility. We can set-up on Friday Oct 4<sup>th</sup> and All Breed Agility will start on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup>. Herding & Tracking will still be off-site. Lure coursing and barn hunt are the only questions at this point.*

*We are considered adjusting the schedule to finish on Friday. Weekdays may be less expensive for the facility so finishing on Friday may be less cost. Pre-Show would be outdoors on Tuesday and conformation would start inside on Wednesday.*

*It was brought up that Juniors may have a problem showing specials on Friday. Colorado has been a smaller entry in Juniors traditionally. There was a question if this change would limit local visitor participation. Would we have more attendance at Specials on Saturday?*

### **Rally**

- *The GSDCA MULTI CHAMPIONSHIP AWARD IN MEMORY OF PHYLLIS KRAFT needs to be advertised/announced; i) A Constant Contact announcing the award with a form to apply for it and an announcement that any dog that qualified for this award Prior to its inception will receive a certificate and have his/her dog's name kept on a permanent list of recipients; ii) the Award needs to be announced in the Review - see above; iii) the Award needs to be placed on the Website*

Moved by Helen, second by Gail, approved unanimously. Zoe will be asked to send a review page and constant contact to be approved.

- *Sponsorships for the award in memory of a deceased dog for \$15*

This amount will not cover the cost of each award. Not approved.

### **National Trophy Donations**

*Discussion of High scoring awards and victor/victrix in agility. PAM allows for Standard or Preferred excellent award. At the National, Hi Scoring does not allow Preferred classes to compete for High scoring CH nor VX VTX. Shouldn't we recognize Preferred at our National?*

After discussion, a motion to award High Scoring champion Standard and High Scoring champion Preferred classes. No change to victor or victrix. Effective starting 2019 National. Moved by Deb, seconded by Gail, approved unanimously.

### **Nominating Committee**

*The recommendations of the Nominating Committee were submitted to the Corresponding Secretary on June 12, 2018 for inclusion into the Annual Meeting Notice.*

*Vide President:..... Patty Korsch*

*Corresponding Secretary:..... Gail Stiefferman*

*Board Members:*

*Bart Bartley, John Bemont, Laura Gilbert, Deborah Stern*

### **Public Relations**

*Approve the addition of Skeeter Benton to the committee.*

Moved by Gail, second by Deb, approved unanimously

### **SV Programs**

- *The SV committee needs the Board to ratify the decision to remove Chris Mandela from the SV committee.*

Moved by Gail, second by Joy, approved unanimously

- *Approve the formation of a GSDCA world agility team, to compete in the 2019 World Agility Trials. Ronda Meath will chair the process and will also act as team captain. Cost will vary depending on number of team members (3 to 6). Tryouts will be in April or May 2019 in MSP. Budget for this event will be presented at Jan. 2019 Board meeting.*

In January 2017 there was discussion about an allowance of \$1,000 per participant. Actual cost for each person and dog traveling out of the country is a minimum of \$5,000.

Deb stern pointed out you have to qualify based on the AKC point system over the period of one year to compete at the *AKC Agility Invitational (Eukanuba)*.

In January of 2017, B&F approved \$1,000 per person/dog up to \$5,000 for the WUSV World Agility trial.

Joy to will get more information and report in January.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS**

#### ***Discussion about Electronic Balloting:***

- *Costs for paper ballots last year; Printing costs \$1,500, Honest ballot approx. \$7,800 to receive the ballots, count and report including \$1,500 additional to recount.*
- *For electronic balloting, Honest Ballot would send an email blast to the entire membership explaining the process. Anyone without email will get a paper ballot. The email link to households with multiple members will exist until the total (household) number has voted.*
- *We are the last, or one of the last still using paper ballots.*
- *Other organizations using electronic balloting, more than 50% of the members vote.*
- *1st year cost \$8,885 due to set-up costs. Less expensive in subsequent years. They est. 450 paper ballots per year.*

Motion to change by-laws to allow for electronic balloting effective in 2019. Actual wording to be submitted by the by-law committee. Moved Gary, second by Joy, passed unanimously.

We will also get additional bids from other ballot companies.

#### ***Archive committee report***

*Do we want a computerized archive? YES*

*The committee needs to determine how to organize. Requested budget of \$3,500 approved to come out of the Trust funds as an educational item. The committee needs to determine how to pay for scanning to the*

*archive. We have numerous Boxes of documents from the AKC that we need to deal with since the AKC moved their archives/museum.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Streaming Video of Performance Events at the National*

Deb is paying \$500 per day to video agility. Gail will check with Irv and report to the executive committee the cost to have video of the other performance events.

*Award costs: Pam O'Dell sent a spread sheet identifying the awards and the past costs.*

Moved by Erin and second by Deb that Erin contact Lee Ruggiero to evaluate the awards and costs and make a recommendation on how to proceed in the future. Passed unanimously.

*Posthumously award PAM to dog that died before his qualifying items were submitted.*

Moved by Joy, second by Helen, passed unanimously.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT – 2:41 PM**

Joan Intersimone, Recording Secretary

**2019 Futurity/Maturity Judges for Board Approval**

Northeast	Judge	Ardlin	Bartley
Northeast	1st Alternate	Cindy	Bartely
Northeast	2nd Alternate	Jean	Whalen
Mid Atlantic	Judge	Vicki	Bemont
Mid Atlantic	1st Alternate	Dr. Didrer	Ardoin
Mid Atlantic	2nd Alternate	Deborah	Stern
Southeast	Judge	Richard	Lortie
Southeast	1st Alternate	Mary Ann	Imhoff
Southeast	2nd Alternate	Cindy	Bartley
Great Lakes	Judge	Jamie	Walker
Great Lakes	1st Alternate	Kathy	Field Casteel Esq
Great Lakes	2nd Alternate	Christine	Carter
Midwest	Judge	Lorry	Bellah
Midwest	1st Alternate	Emily	St. Hilaire
Midwest	2nd Alternate	Steve	Whitworth
Southwest	Judge	Donna	Calabrese
Southwest	1st Alternate	Dr. Les	Anderson
Southwest	2nd Alternate	Cheryl	Anderson
South Pacific	Judge	Iza	Kabuska
South Pacific	1st Alternate	Cindy	Bartely
South Pacific	2nd Alternate	Pat	Ayers
Mid Pacific	Judge	Jim	Hall
Mid Pacific	1st Alternate	Lenny	Brown
Mid Pacific	2nd Alternate	Cindy	Bartley
Northwest	Judge	Tiffany	Bartley
Northwest	1st Alternate	Jennifer	Root
Northwest	2nd Alternate	Deborah	Stern