



## **GSDCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES January 29-31, 2021**

### **Held In Person and TeleConference**

HILTON GARDEN INN PHOENIX AIRPORT  
3422 E ELWOOD ST PHOENIX, AZ 85040

### **NOTE: Meeting began Friday January 29, 2021 at 12:00 PM PST**

Deborah Stern brought the Meeting to Order at 12:10PM PST. Pamela O'Dell took roll call: Present: Deborah Stern, Laura Gilbert, Gail Stiefferman, Pamela O'Dell, Ann Solt, Erin Nellis, John Ayotte, Cyndi Flautt, Jeff Pyle, Lenny Brown. Frank Fasano, Morton Goldfarb and Ileana Noguerras attended by teleconference.

#### **II. REPORT OF THE RECORDING SECRETARY** *Report* Pamela O'Dell

Pamela O'Dell made the motion to waive the reading of the minutes. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Frank Fasano, Passed Unanimously.

Pamela O'Dell made the Motion to approve the minutes of 1/26/2021, 2<sup>nd</sup> By Larua Gilbert, Passed Unanimously.

#### **III. REPORT OF THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY** Gail Stiefferman

- Gail noted we did not have a Herding Judge last year. She asked that the BOD reach out to our membership to bring names to the April Meeting for the 2021 National. Deb noted that they will need to be able to judge Courses A,B,C, and D. John Ayotte made the Motion for a Constant Contact to the membership to forward herding Judges names to a BOD member to be presented and submitted at the April meeting for a vote for the 2021 National. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Erin Nellis. Passed Unanimously.
- The BOD approves judges for the 2022 National at the April BOD Meeting. Please do not just solicit Conformation judges. We need judges for all performance venues also. The dates and forms are up on the website.
- Gail received a letter from the AKC Museum of the Dog. They are having a silent auction honoring long time member and past President Ron Meneker; the museum will be selling tickets. The auction will be live streamed on Feb 12<sup>th</sup>. There will be a reward for the breed club that donates the most to the Night with the Museum event. The donation can be noted from the GSDCA. The breed club that makes the largest donation *Champions with Cause* will be featured with a plaque recognizing the Breed Club team that brings in the most donations. The donation is open with no minimum or maximum. Deborah Stern noted that we supported the Museum through our Trust. Pamela O'Dell noted it is less than 2 weeks until the event, do we have time to participate. Gail Stiefferman suggested that we send out a Constant Contact to allow the membership to participate and support the cause and create a team for the GSDCA. Gail offered to work with Deb and Ann to register the GSDCA and, when people make donations, they can select a designated club. Gail Stiefferman made the Motion to register

the GSDCA as a team for the event and send out a Constant Contact to the membership to inform them about the event and the GSDCA as a team. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Pyle. Passed Unanimously.

#### **V. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT** Deborah Stern

Deborah Stern stated that she had prepared a speech she wanted to give and share some additional thoughts. First, she wished everyone a Happy New Year. She recognized and welcomed our New Treasurer Ann Solt, and the new directors, Cyndi Flautt, Ileana Noguerras, Jeff Pyle, and Lenny Brown. As President, she wants to conduct this year's meeting differently than last year's. Our goal is to preserve the club, the membership and the GSD. As such, we all must conduct ourselves professionally and courteously. Interruptions will not be tolerated. We must limit the emails. We are governed by the By-Laws, then Roberts Rules of Order, and our P&P. When quoting Bylaws, Roberts Rules of Order, or the P&P, quote specifically and please note where it can be found so others can follow. The 13 of us need to work together and be responsible for doing our specific jobs. Deborah covered the duties of the officers. She noted the By-Laws are specific for the duties of Officers and the Directors.

Deborah Stern noted the extensive project to update the ROM program. Years of information needs to be input by hand. The ROM committee may need help. Deborah Stern noted that the following items noted in her report will have more discussion in Old and New Business.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Temperament Test as qualification for GSDCA awards.

**NEW BUSINESS** – AKC Rules Applying to Dog Shows

**OLD BUSINESS** – Committees and committee structure (not Chairs)

**OLD BUSINESS** – 2021 National

#### **VI. REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT** Laura Gilbert

Laura Gilbert advised the BOD that she had reached out to the AKC Historical Archive. She went online to see what they currently have in the archives. They do have books, the New England Club information, and other historical documents. They are giving us a dedicated portal to which we can upload our Review. Laura went on to ask what this BOD wants in the archives, who should have access, and how much access. Do we want all of our Minutes, the Bylaws and updates, the P&P etc? Do we want the YouTube videos on the archive? Laura noted that she received an extensive list of what we could place in the Historical Archives. Pamela O'Dell noted she had a discussion with Nancy Mulvaney and wondered if we still have access to all the work the Browns did. Laura stated she is working on it. AKC is willing to accept anything we can send digitized. They have limited space for physical items. They are really a research library and, the more we can give them, the greater the resource they become for helping those with inquiries. John Ayotte suggested an ad hoc committee to really decide what we want to have in our historical archive. Discussion held re digitizing the older reviews; this should be a priority and it would be a huge project.

#### **VII. REPORT OF THE TREASURER** Ann Solt

- Ann Solt had the floor. The 2020 financials are being finalized. We basically just have the inventory count to complete for the Balance Sheet and we will be ready to submit to the auditor.
- Ann is requesting a strategy from the BOD on how to invest excess funds. We move from checking to Merrill Lynch excess funds, but how do we want to invest within Merrill Lynch. We are currently in Money Market and CDs. It was determined to stay in Money Market and CDs for now.
- Ann suggested that we have a formal Guideline created for the Review re page allocations for the committees. Ann asked that the committee chairs be alerted when the draft allocation is complete prior to the general entries.

- Ann passed out the Conflict of Interest Statement updates & action per Art 3 Procedures of GSDCA Conflicts of Interest Policy. She needs them signed and returned.
- The Mileage reimbursement is currently 56 cents/mile.

**Board of Directors:**

Class of 2020

Erin Nellis, John Ayotte, Frank Fasano, Morton Goldfarb

Class of 2021

Cyndi Flautt, Ileana Noguerras, Jeff Pyle, Lenny Brown

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1.

**AKC Delegate...Report Attached, Carmen Battaglia**

Carmen Battaglia joined the call to give his report.

- Carmen noted that we had 8 members who had articles published in Show Sight and we should recommend that our members read them as they are very good articles.
- Risks of members on the Event Committee. Carmen went to the General Council of the AKC to ensure the clubs have adequate coverage. To clarify that the AKC will afford legal costs of an Event Committee of a club that has no DNO coverage or a club that is sued and does not have adequate coverage. The AKC confirmed that if the Event Committee follows the rules, The AKC will cover any legal expenses and offer legal representation for the club in regard to the Event Committee.
- The AKC has created a 10 year report for all breeds. It shows numbers of litters, size of litters, entries in performance and conformation. The report indicates several items Carmen wanted to note. Though our number of litters has gone up, the number of puppies registered has dropped from 42% to 33% in 10 years. Also, some clubs are cancelling events well into 2021 stating they do not have the manpower to run their shows. The AKC has created a committee to look into how they can generate more registrations and more enthusiasm with younger people to get involved with these clubs. Carmen is recommending that the breed clubs and the regional clubs create a committee for this purpose also. We are no longer the top 2 breeds, we have fallen 4-5 places. We need to do many things to save the conformation sport.
- In regards to the Review, Carmen noted that we need to make changes to it to keep the average German Shepherds owners interested in our club and maybe get enthused and involved in some aspect of the sport. We average 20 new members per month. Do we have a magazine and website that keep these new members interested due to good educational articles that benefit the average GSD owner, someone not involved with conformation?

2.

**Awards- Diane Silver-Strasser**

- **ROM** Dee Lauffer/Chris Carter

Deborah Stern asked John Ayotte to give an update to the ROM program and thanked him for his help with the restructure of the program. At the end of 2020, the committee wanted to bring the membership up to date on the status of the program. John assured everyone that the program is up and well and here to stay. The 2020 ROM records will be current for the awards on the show results and we will be moving forward with the research for the accumulated totals for 2021. John went onto say that, shortly after the 2019 totals were entered, the software crashed. It was on an old system and the originator of the program used was deceased. Steps have been taken to extract the information off the old program and place in an updated system and software so we will not find ourselves in this situation going forward. It

has been tedious to say the least. The new data base is hosted on a cloud based server so it is more accessible and the information from the old format was uploaded prior to the crash as they saw it coming. All raw data was recovered. All data is currently being reviewed to ensure accuracy. We are working on importing data from the AKC show results so it does not need to be input manually going forward. John now has the final reports from the AKC and should have the final results for the 2020 ROM sires and Dams. See attached Constant Contact.

#### **Budget and Finance – Erin Nellis**

- Erin Nellis stated that the B&F committee met the last couple of days. They went through the 2020 Year End financials and Ann Solt is doing a great job completing the same so we can submit to the auditor prior to April. We will use that for a framework to creating the budgets. She will work with the committee chairs, once determined, regarding trends to complete the budget for presentation at the April meeting. The B&F will be coming to the BOD regarding the dues structure. Considering the high number of members who take the Review in digital form only, the cost of such memberships needs to be reevaluated. It does not cover the cost of the Review and we should seriously consider a slight increase to this membership option.
- Erin wanted to update on Contracts. We did complete the RFP for the SV Office and it was awarded to Joy Schultz who has been doing the job in the past. She is now under a new contract. We extended the Webmaster contract with John Ayotte. We need to do RFPs for the Webmaster and the Review Editor by the end of this year. The Review editor has an automatic renew clause, but we should complete an extension to ensure no interruption in the service.
- Lenny Brown is heading up the RFP committees for both of these RFPs, we just want to make sure there is enough time for these committees to get through the process by year end.
- B&F is asking the BOD to look at some of our Breeder's ads on our website and consider dropping the price. John Ayotte noted that all ads placed in the Review also run on the website for that month at no extra charge. Cyndi Flautt asked if there is a way to set the breeder ads on automatic renewal. John Ayotte stated that he would look into it. Deborah Stern noted that we should consider lowering our price to at least be competitive with the AKC Marketplace. Pamela O'Dell asked John Ayotte if we can look into auto renewals, would it also be possible to add the disclosure and offer for the annual membership dues. John would look into this. Erin Nellis made the Motion to lower our Breeder Ad to \$99/year and remove the tier structure and send out a Constant Contact to inform the members. Ann Solt 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed Unanimously.
- Gail Stiefferman noted that AKC communicated the average membership dues of many Breed clubs. We are higher than most. We also offer a monthly printed magazine and other products, services, and events that other breed clubs do not offer.

#### **Education – See attached Report Steve Bloom**

Deborah Stern thanked Steve Bloom for his flexibility last year to put on the Educational Program at the national. Deborah did note that Steve was stepping down. She asked the BOD to approve Bob Drescher as the new Education Chairman. Motion made by Erin Nellis, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Pyle to approve Bob Drescher as the New Education Chairman. Passed Unanimously.

#### **Futurity – Report & Action Items Cyndi Flautt**

- Not related to the Futurity Report, but Cyndi asked about the GSDCA contacting the AKC Gazette to ensure we submit an article when the Herding Group is being sponsored. It was noted by Morton Goldfarb, that this is usually assigned to the Educational Committee. Deborah Stern

stated that she would reach out to the AKC and find out which issue Gazette sponsors the Herding group and see if we can submit an article.

- Cyndi also noted that we were all handed the Breeder's Code and it is currently not on our website. John Ayotte informed the BOD that an updated Breeder's Code was submitted, but not approved by the BOD. Every Board member must sign the Breeder's Code. The update was sent back to the committee for revisions. It has not been resubmitted to the BOD for approval so the old one is still in effect. Return the signed copy to Ann Solt. Sheila Metz has offered to work on this for us.
- The Futurity Committee notes with all the challenges of COVID in 2020, we were able to hold 8 of the 9 Regional Futurity Shows. Cyndi thanked the clubs who were so flexible and able to move things around to hold the shows. Feedback was positive from the members to be able to attend a Futurity. Here are the stats: 2019: 591 dogs entered in 9 regions, Shown: 360. 194 litters nominated. 2020: 372 dogs entered in 8 regions. 352 shown. 220 litters nominated.
- Pamela O'Dell made the Motion to approve the 2021 Futurity Committee: Patty Korsch, Candee Foss, John Ayotte Linda Bankhead, Christine Granger, Michael Metz, Jeanne Hamilton, Holly Bryan, Karin Wagner. 2<sup>nd</sup> Laura Gilbert. Passed Unanimously.
- Approve the following alternate judges for the 2021 Futurities: Motion made by Jeff Pyle, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gail Stiefferman. Passed Unanimously.
  - NE 1st alternate Jeanne Hamilton
  - NE 2nd alternate Zoa Rockenstein
  - SE 1st alternate Lee Parkhurst
  - SE 2nd alternate Jeanne Hamilton
  - GL 1st alternate Barbara Lopez
  - SP 1st alternate Pat Ayers
- Approve the following clubs and weekends for 2022 Futurity/Maturity shows. Motion made by Ann Solt 2<sup>nd</sup> by Laura Gilbert. Passed unanimously.
  - Northeast Iroquois GSDC of Syracuse June 17-19, 2022
  - Mid Atlantic Lehigh GSDC March 18-20, 2022
  - Southeast GSDC of Greater Raleigh April 15-17. 2022
  - Great Lakes GSDC of Central OH May 27-30, 2022
  - Mid West Illini GSDC May 13-15, 2022
  - Southwest Rocky Mountain GSDC May 21-22, 2022
  - South Pacific GSDC of San Gabriel Valley April 22-24, 2022
  - Mid Pacific GSDC of Reno April 1-3, 2022
  - Northwest GSDC of Eugene OR July 16-18, 2022
- Approve an addition to the language of the Futurity judges' contract. At present, by signing the contract, a judge agrees to "write a brief critique, within one month of the Futurity/Maturity judging assignment, for publication in *The German Shepherd Dog Review*." The Futurity committee would like to add the following: "I realize that failure to provide a critique may affect my eligibility to judge a Futurity for the following 6 years." The current futurity judges' contract is attached to this report. Gail Stiefferman made the Motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Illeana Noguerras to approve the language submitted by the committee with the update by the BOD to update the Futurity Judges' Contract. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Passed Unanimously.
- Cyndi Flautt was notified that the SP Futurity has been postponed. They are trying to get another date and location. Motion by Gail Stiefferman to open it up for the Regional club and the committee to find the best weekend and location prior to the National. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lenny Brown. Passed Unanimously.

- Cyndi wanted to ask for us to update the P&P on how to calculate the 500 miles. Is it air miles, driving miles, or straightline? She asked that we confirm that we are using the same as AKC as straightline for both the National and futurity. Pamela O'Dell made the motion that we use straightline minimum miles between shows and update the P&P. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cyndi Flautt. Passed Unanimously.
- Foy Trent declined to renew our contract as Futurity Show Superintendent. Cyndi sent out proposals for our Futurity Superintendent. We will be using DOGZIBIT in Woodinville, WA. We can enter online. More details regarding the company are in her attached report.

Gail Stiefferman noted that, at the Jan 2019 BOD Meeting, the motion was passed to combine the Breeder's Code and Ethics Committees. If we are going to separate again, we need to make the motion. Discussion to keep them combined is still preferable.

**Health & Genetics – Report attached** Carolyn Gerganoff

Deborah Stern noted that Carolyn could not join us. With the help of John Bemont, we have submitted a proposal to the AKC Foundation for \$100M for the research regarding a more complete diagnosis for DM. They are asking for help in testing dogs over 9 years of age to assist in diagnosis. The person involved with the testing also received a significant stipend, approximately \$80M, from Sweden. We need to be able to be more accurate in testing for DM, but it is vital to have more dogs to test so breeders can diagnose correctly in the future.

**Internet – Report attached** John Ayotte

- John Ayotte noted that our monthly visits to the web site are increasing YOY. John updated some of the search engine options. Erin Nellis noted that when she searches for German Shepherd on Google, GSDCA does not come up on the 1<sup>st</sup> page. John notes that is because we are not paying to be on top of the list. Erin noted that she believes that our future is on our website. John Ayotte stated that he will investigate how we get our club to the first page and what it will take. John noted that we need to add articles that people want to read. We would need to pay for specific search words to move us to the first page. Jeff Pyle spoke up and asked why we do not have commercial advertisers with 30,000 hits a month. Pamela O'Dell noted that she has tried to move us forward for at least 5 years to solicit Commercial banners and advertisements. Jeff added the Marketing Committee will be looking into adding commercial ads to both the Review and the Website.
- John Ayotte noted that the new website should be complete by the middle of 2021. The challenge is moving everything to the new site without disrupting the old one.
- Many of the videos are already up of past nationals. The Pace Videos, the Bob Lindsey videos are all a priority to get up. We have our official YouTube channel with all the videos. John is working on the links from the website to view them.
- The Store is doing well and, once supplied with additional product, sales continue to increase. John is working with the Marketing Committee to come up with additional products.
- Database. We have working on updating our database. One is the ROM which was previously mentioned. The others are Membership and Regional Clubs Data base for contact information.

**Insurance.....XXXXXXXXXX**

Deborah Stern noted that Bob Drescher has resigned from insurance so we do need to find a new Chairman for this committee.

**Legislation Report** Nancy Harper-Mulvaney/Stormy Hope

Stormy Hope joined the meeting. Stormy requested that we have a member join her on the Facebook page as a backup. Jeff Pyle offered someone from the Marketing committee to help. She stopped writing her articles for the Review in December 2020. She is afraid less people are interested in the threats to our breed and feels that she needs some younger people involved in order to create more awareness. Pamela O'Dell asked if the notifications that go out are going to everyone. Stormy confirmed that it goes to every member in each state.

**Marketing** Jeff Pyle

Deborah Stern asked for the approval of Jeff Pyle as our new Marketing Chair. Motion made by Laura Gilbert, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lenny Brown Passed Unanimously. Jeff Pyle noted that they have unofficially met already and are working on considerations for marketing the GSDCA through many venues of the club. He will come to the April meeting with an extensive report for the BOD as they finalize the recommendations. Jeff Pyle made a motion to approve the following Marketing Committee Members: Jami Winstrom - Co Chair, Members: Christine Grainger, Kathaleen Strong, Rebecca Underwood, Jody Duin, Colby Hernandez, Lisa Correia, & Matt McMillan. 2<sup>nd</sup> Erin Nellis. Passed Unanimously.

**Membership – Report Attached** Kim King

There is a section in the Policy & Procedures – Bylaws that states, “Members who wish to resign their membership with GSDCA must contact the Corresponding Secretary.” Kim King was proposing that the Membership Chairman also be notified. Laura Gilbert also noted that the Treasurer should be notified to ensure that there is no outstanding debt prior to resignation. Laura Gilbert made the motion that a member giving their notification of resignation from the GSDCA will notify the Corresponding Secretary, the Membership Chair, and the Treasurer; the Treasurer will confirm that this person is free from debt to the GSDCA and the Corresponding Secretary will notify the member that their resignation has been approved. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pamela O'Dell. Passed Unanimously.

**National Specialty – Report -Forthcoming** Gail Stiefferman/Lori Payne

Gail Stiefferman noted that we are moving forward with the 2021 National at Purina. Gail asked for approval to move the Breed judging indoors. Our membership is aging and, in 2020, the weather was challenging for our members. Also, no vendors will come if we are outside. Erin Nellis noted that she and Gail put together a budget last year that anticipated moving the National outside. The actual cost impacts both on the income and expense is a net loss of \$12M to have the national outdoors. She wanted the BOD to know this information making this decision.

Gail made the Motion to move the Breed Conformation indoors for the 2021 National leaving the Preshow and Futurity/Maturity finals outside. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pamela O'Dell. Frank Fasano noted that the motion was made by Gail at the Jan 2020 Meeting to move all conformation outside. That Motion would need to be rescinded and passed by 2/3s. Several inquired about the synthetic grass roll out surface that can be used. It is very heavy. Gail cancelled her motion and asked to rescind her motion last year to move the conformation outdoors. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pamela O'Dell. For: Morton Goldfarb , Erin Nellis, John Ayotte, Cyndi Flautt, Jeff Pyle, Lenny Brown, Gail Stiefferman, Pamela O'Dell, Laura Gilbert . Against: Frank Fasano, Abstain: Ileana Noguerras, Passed by 2/3s.

We will have 3 days of all breed agility, 2 days of GSD agility, the Preshow on the 12<sup>th</sup>, the Futurity/Maturity finals on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Obedience and Rally on the 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>. Breed judging 14,15,16<sup>th</sup>.

Gail has contacted several companies regarding videoing and has not heard back. Do we want to use the same company as last year or Irv. John Ayotte noted that if we use Irv, we do not own the videos which can be an issue. Deborah noted that Irv will not take his equipment outside so no events outside are part of our historical videos. Linda Bankhead was brought onto the conversation. Linda noted it would be expensive to use the company used last year due to the distance between Springfield and Purina. Gail noted that she has a local vendor if Linda could help negotiate the details. Gail and Linda agreed to work on this and get back to the BOD.

In regards to CAT, Gail had a couple of members contact her willing to chair and work the event. We usually bring in about \$3,000. Pamela O'Dell made the motion to purchase the CAT equipment this year. 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Ayotte. Passed Unanimously.

Erin Nellis just want to say a special thank you to Deb Norman, Gail Stiefferman and National Committee and Linda Bankhead with the video streaming to make the 2020 National successful and profitable. It was a dedication of many and appreciated by the membership.

#### **National Trophy Donations – Report Attached Ellen Pfann**

Elen Pfann joined the meeting. The fund rising worked out well in 2020. The lucite trophies were good for 2020. The cost of the silver trophies was going up significantly. They ordered approximately \$15M and the funds came in at about \$18M so the additional funds could go towards the Rosettes. We need to continue to reduce the price our trophies.

Lee Ruggieri joined the meeting. She noted that in the report some options for trophies after reaching out to other breed clubs. They asked for input from the BOD about the trophies. They asked about the GV/GVX Trophies as they are so expensive, would we consider the Danny Quest Bronze. The BOD determined we will not change the GV/GVX trophies at this time. Deborah Stern suggested that we go back to the silver picture frames. She noted that we should come up with a budget and allow the committee to go out and find some options to bring back to the BOD.

Erin Nellis noted there were a couple of venues where the trophy donations did not cover the cost, such as Agility and Herding. Erin asked Ellen if we involve the event chairmen to help solicit trophy donations. Gail spoke up and noted that we offer 3 all-breed and 2 GSD Agility Trials. Gail was adamant that we should not take the trophies away from both days of our GSD Agility trials. Lenny spoke up and offered to be a part of the committee as he has connections that may help without shortage of trophy donations. Ellen was going to reach out to Lenny privately. Lee Ruggieri noted that both the Agility and the Herding both takes 2 days to determine the Performance GV. This does cause some of the issues with receiving enough donations to cover the entire trophy cost.

#### **National Site Selection – Report Patty Korsch**

Gail Stiefferman discussed her trip to Ocala to visit the show site. The facility is gorgeous. The area is 150x500 and larger than we are used to having to work with. With the arena come the stalls. The arena is large enough to have all of our events and vendors inside. She is concerned about the flooring because we have never used it before; it is white sand that can be packed down. She is just not familiar enough with this surface to recommend. Erin Nellis noted that landscape barrier can be put down if we want to add sod. She noted that the owner will roll and pack the sand 3 times a day for dog shows. They do have 3 other buildings available, but the arena is certainly a beautiful location. Parking is good, but some would need to walk. Gail would consider the expo building as there is significant parking and it comes with several buildings. She did contact owner regarding the



concrete for matting for agility. The campgrounds are beautiful, but are at a distant from the arena. The place is state of the art with stores, laundry, and gas station. There are dozens of hotels and restaurants within miles. Deb Stern noted that the contract is requiring us to commit to 70% of the 195 room nights in the hotel with a base price of \$189-240/night or \$27,300 at an average room rate per night of \$200 . They did commit that, if they complete the other hotel, we could transfer the commitment to either. Gail Stiefferman noted that Rodney was going to remove the commitment clause from our contract. Erin Nellis spoke up and stated that, due to the horse shows on the site at the same time, Rodney is willing to change the number of hotel rooms to whatever we want. He just suggested that we do book some rooms on site if we want them. Frank Fasano asked for clarification from Deb as he thought it was 195 nights not rooms making the commitment 30 rooms per night. Deborah and Erin both confirmed Frank was correct. Erin noted that this is a special rate. Laura Gilbert asked what events we will not offer going to Ocala. Herding, especially Course C, will be an issue. Some of the herding facilities are not prepared for our standup dogs. Gail is still working on this. 80 acres is required for tracking and they have 50 acres on site. Grand Oaks is free, close and available and offers adequate acreage for all the tracking events. The arena and stalls are air conditioned. Gail recommended that we go with the Expo building due to the flooring. Obedience and Agility would be able to work on mats. We also will be isolated from the horse shows. Gail noted that none of her Chairs will travel to Florida. She will need to find new chairs for Ocala. Gail challenged the BOD for help with this National. Discussion held regarding the Contract and our \$1,000 deposit. We have until Oct 22, to cancel and receive \$200 refund. Pamela O'Dell noted that we have a conversation every BOD meeting regarding national locations. It is difficult to find places to offer all venues within our budget. Jeff Pyle asked if, due to the heat, we could move the National to November. Pamela O'Dell spoke up and noted that Nov is a terrible time of year for our membership to travel across the country due to winter weather. She also reminded that the Roberts Center in Ohio, which we use for our SV events, is related to this location.

Gail Stiefferman made a Motion, asking for an additional 30 Days to complete her research on this location prior to making a final decision. Erin Nellis noted that we are under contract and we have until October to make a final decision. Lenny Brown asked if we can go to Ocala and still have Purina as our sponsor. Gail Stiefferman confirmed there is not a connection as wherever we will be, there would be no Royal Canin advertising and Purina would be our sponsor. Gail rescinded her motion. Gail and Erin will work on the additional research and present their findings at the April meeting.

**GSDCA Office-** Laura Gilbert

Laura noted that the "Parent Club Office" and "GSDCA Office" are the same thing and the Parent club office should be deleted. Laura noted that she has been having problems with the USPS. Frank Fasano made the motion to allow the GSDCA Office to utilize Stamps.com. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ann Solt. Passed Unanimously.

Laura Gilbert noted that she received a letter from Patrick Green. As the GSDCA Certificate was destroyed by the USPS, he went to his local post office and demanded a refund for the postage. She received the check for refund from Mr. Green with pictures of the mutilated mail and asked if there was a way we could mail more securely as the certificates from the AKC do not arrive destroyed. Laura wrote back to him with 10 years certificates he should have received in good condition and thanked him for following up with USPS.

**Regional Clubs – Report attached** Mary Tripp

Mary Tripp was invited to join the meeting. Mary asked for approval of her committee

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

ANN AKERILL, MARY GOLDEN, LYNN GOSWICK, BILL WOOLEVER, JEANENE CAPPERA

Motion made by Pamela O'Dell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Laura Gilbert to approve Regional Club Committee. Passed Unanimously.

Mary noted that Gloria Sinclair has resigned as Chair for the Regional club Challenge. Thank you, Gloria for 10 years of service. The new chairperson of this committee will be Katherine Spilos, pending this board's approval. Kathy has been an active participant in this program and will certainly use the expertise of Gloria. Please approve this change so Kathy can get going. Motion made by Pamela O'Dell 2<sup>nd</sup> by Laura Gilbert. Passed unanimously.

**SV Programs – Report attached** Mary Gattone/Frank Fasano

Mary Gattone was invited on to the call to give her report and update on the IPG and the Universal Show. We have private property secured in College Grove TN just outside of Nashville. We have judges. The dates are April 22-25, 2021 . Our German show judge is scheduled to come even if he needs to go into quarantine when he returns to Germany. We have a host hotel, the Drury Inn. Mary requested that Deborah Stern sign the Hotel contract. The website for this event is not live but should go live this week. Mary invited the BOD to have the April meeting and join and participate in the event. Everything is moving forward.

Frank Fasano asked Mary about the Scorebook issue. We have added to the Scorebook application on the website the requirement for the GSDCA membership number. We did not want to do the work for non members, so we require a membership. We do accept non GSDs in our events and we only offer Breed surveys to GSDs. Deborah Stern noted that when we sold the scorebooks we were not requiring membership in the GSDCA or that their exhibit be a GSD. It helped our SV regional clubs with their entries at the local events. Mary noted that the logo of the GSDCA is on the front of the Scorebook. Deb stated that is just a book, and allows people trialing other breeds the opportunity to enter our regional events. Mary Gattone noted that they could go to their breed club and get a scorebook. If people want a scorebook from the GSDCA, they need to be a member.

Frank Fasano offered to look into offering a Scorebook for non GSDCA members to help our regional SV clubs. Mary Gattone asked if it could go to the SV committee and bring the decision back to the BOD. Deborah Stern noted she did not want it to go back to committee and that we should not require a membership for the Scorebook to help our clubs. Frank Fasano noted that for all of the GSDCA awards, GV, FV, AOE, the owner is required to be a member. He also noted that we have a paid contractor doing work for non-members if we issue score books to non-members. Pamela O'Dell offered charging more for non-members. Mary noted that there is additional work for our contractor as she keeps the records of each Regional event. Frank Fasano noted that the goal was to increase membership and ensure that we are compensated to cover the cost of our contractor. John Ayotte asked that we respect the committee and let them come back to us at the April meeting with a final decision.

**Temperament –** Laura Gilbert

Laura Gilbert just made the clarification that not all GSDCA awards require a TC. Laura was contacted to find out if we would accept the Canadian Temperament Test for our awards until the

border is opened. Laura requested some time to research the Canadian TC and take to the committee. It would be clear that, once the border is opened, the acceptance of the Canadian TC would no longer be accepted and we would revert back to the requirement of the GSDCA TC.

#### **WUSV Continental Director** Morton Goldfarb

Morton Goldfarb offered an update to what is happening internationally. All competition in Germany is on hold. Morton noted that he is in communication regularly with the SV and Dr. Messler hopes the Sieger show will occur this year. It will be determined once travel is loosened as many come from all over the world.

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

##### 1. Committees and committee structure (not Chairs)

Deborah Stern noted that the Constant Contact Oversight Committee should not be an issue. She asked for a Motion to remove the requirement for the oversight. Frank Fasano noted that while he was President and presidents in the past have run the Constant Contacts past the Executive Committee prior to sending out to the membership. It should be reviewed to ensure accuracy. Ileana Nogueras noted that it should be a benefit to have the CC reviewed before being published. Pamela O'Dell noted that the Executive Committee was not utilized upfront last year and it is just to have a second pair of eyes as it is correspondence for the BOD to the membership, not just the President. Ileana noted that the communication to the membership should be approved by the BOD not the opinion of one person. Pamela O'Dell recommended that the Constant Contact note who it is coming from whether the President, the BOD or a Committee Chair. Though not in a Motion, it was agreed the CC would note who it was coming from. Gail Stiefferman made the motion to rescind the motion for the utilization and approval of a Constant Contact Oversight Committee. Laura Gilbert 2<sup>nd</sup> for discussion. Deb noted that if she got the Executive Committee she wanted, she would use them. For: Gail Stiefferman, Lenny Brown, Jeff Pyle, Cyndi Flautt, Ann Solt. Against: Frank Fasano, Pamela O'Dell, Morton Goldfarb, Ileana Nogueras. Abstain: Erin Nellis, Laura Gilbert. Motion did not pass.

Deborah Stern noted that we have numerous Committees and each keeps their files and records. We do not have a backup stored with the GSDCA. We could have a significant issue if we do not or did not have access to the records and information. Deb asked that all committees have a backup and allow the GSDCA a way to retrieve the information. John Ayotte stated that they just updated the P&P Manual requiring the committees to have a backup to all GSDCA information. He noted we also need to know where the backup is and how to access. Deb asked for a motion to ensure that we have the information and access to the GSDCA information from committees. John Ayotte stated we have the ROM and Membership database now in the cloud. John wanted to do some research on our backup for just GSDCA information only as we do not want personal information. Michael Metz was invited to the meeting for further discussion. He noted that this is a much bigger picture. He suggested that we create an ad-hoc committee to find a way to ensure that we have a strategy.

John Ayotte made the Motion to create an ad-hoc committee to define the IT framework with the task to create the backup strategy for the GSDCA. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pamela O'Dell. Passed unanimously.

Deborah Stern asked Deb Norman to the meeting. Last year, Deb noted that we may have an alternative for the 2021 National if Purina did not open. Deb suggested securing an alternative place in case Purina does not open up. We looked into the Illinois State Fairgrounds. Deborah Stern and Deb Norman spoke to the Illinois facility for the coliseum, including the stalls and the additional buildings. Deb Norman noted that the facility would take our deposit and use it for 2021 if needed or move it to

the 2023 if we can stay at Purina this year. If we ended up having the 2021 National at the Illinois Fairgrounds, it would be expected to have us also in 2023. The deposit is \$2,300. Morton Goldfarb noted that is a small price to pay for the insurance of having a facility for this year and a confirmed facility for 2023. Frank Fasano asked for a financial comparison and Erin Nellis noted that she and Gail can quickly complete the budget.

Jeff Pyle made the Motion to sign the contract for the backup for 2021 with the Illinois State Fairground in Springfield with the understanding that we could use it for 2023 as we are committing to hold the national in Springfield in 2023. Ann Solt 2<sup>nd</sup> the Motion. None against. Abstain: Frank Fasano with a note that it may be a double jeopardy.

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Deborah Stern shared her recommendations for Committee chairs for 2021. All not noted remains the same.

#### Illustrated Standard Ad-hoc

It was determined to remove this committee as the purpose has been completed.

#### Legislation

As noted previously, Marketing will have Stormy find someone to be her backup on the FB page.

#### By-Laws

Deb is still looking for a volunteer

#### Charitable Trust

Discussion moved to closed session.

#### Executive Committee

Discussion in Closed Session

#### Historical Preservation

As VP, Laura Gilbert automatically assumes the Chairman roll.

#### Juniors

Deborah Stern asked that we add Jeff Pyle to the Juniors Committee. Jeff informed the BOD that he is already on the committee, but would take a more leadership roll if needed.

#### GSDCC Liasion

Discussion moved to closed Session.

#### Insurance

With the request and approval for Bob Drescher to step down, Deborah is currently trying to find someone to take this over for the GSDCA.

#### Legal Affairs

Deborah Stern is looking for someone to take over this chair position.

#### Marketing

Discussed previously and Jeff Pyle is now the Chair.

#### Nominating Committee.

Deborah Stern shared that she would like to have Cyndi Flutt as our Nominating Committee Chairman.

Jeff Pyle made the motion to nominate Cyndi Flutt as Chairman, 2<sup>nd</sup> my Laura Gilbert. Passed Unanimously. In Closed Session the following were nominated to serve on the committee.

SE: Holly Bryan Alternate: John Conely

Heartland: Bill Hope, Alternate: Mike Cressman

Mid-America: Michael Metz Alternate: Leslie Beccia

Western: Candee Foss, Alternate: Channing Sheets

#### Review Management

Deborah noted that she needs a volunteer to keep 11 spreadsheets, one for each month showing income/expense for each issue of the Review. Jeff Pyle offering that someone in the Marketing Committee could take this on for her.

Public Relations

Discussion moved to Closed Session

National Show Site Selection

Deborah is still looking for someone to accept this position.

Closed Session decisions as follows:

Closed Session decisions:

- The BOD Approved moving Public Relations back under Marketing. We will be adding 2 additional Admins to our Official GSDCA Facebook page.
- The BOD Approved Charlie Starr and Rebecca Underwood as the new SV Committee Co-Chairs.
- Mary Gattone will remain as Chair of the upcoming April events only.
- SV/WUSV Liaison. As it needs to be a BOD member, Deb Stern will represent us in Germany.

Meeting was adjourned Saturday evening due to storm coming in on the east coast and BOD members needed to get home while they still could. The following Agenda Items will be move to a Special Follow up Meeting:

- AKC Rules Applying to Dog Shows
- Discuss Agenda for schedule for next National Specialty Show and approve its budget.
- Appoint agent to conduct financial Audit.
- Approve SV Committee members
- Approve Awards Committee members.
- Revisit Canadian Temperament Test as possible qualification, during Covid-19, for GSDCA awards.
- Location of April regular Board meeting
- Decision on Opt In/Opt Out method with Honest Ballot, (cost dependent).
- Committee Chair vacancies to be listed on GSDCA.org. (Insurance, Legal Affairs, By-Laws, Review Management, National Show Site Selection, Breeder's Code of Ethics, WUSV Agility). Also, need general announcement for volunteers to serve on various committees.
- Looking for member who is a licensed Parliamentarian.
- As the request is made IN WRITING, vote to rescind the Constant Contact Oversight Committee. This was not passed at the regular meeting without notice requiring a 2/3 vote.

As a side note, the BOD recognizes Michael Metz with a big thank you for setting up the electronic voting system so all BOD members could participate in secret balloting!!

Respectively,  
Pamela O'Dell, Recording Secretary

**XII. ADJOURNMENT** at 7:30pm