

**BOD Conference Meeting 10/25/2021****The call-in number is 712-770-4010, Access Code 220853#.****GSDCA SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Special Board Meeting on Monday October 25, 2021 5:00pm Pacific Time to finish action items from the October 17 2021 Regular BOD Meeting Agenda.

Not approved.

**In Attendance:**

Deb Stern, Gail Stiefferman, Ann Solt, Laura Gilbert

Class of 2020,

Morton Goldfarb, John Ayotte, Erin Nellis, Candee Foss

Class of 2021

Cyndi Flautt, Lenny Brown, Ileana Nogueras, Jeff Pyle

Absent: Pamela O'Dell

Deborah Stern brought the meeting to order at 5:03PM PDT.

**1. SV COMMITTEE REPORT SV Committee Report Action items.**

We would like to follow up on a few things from the July meeting report. Supporting documents are attached.

1. SV Program events; please make selections to move forward with obtaining contracts for board approval and securing dates for the 2022 event locations for the following:

A. GSDCA National IGP & FH Championship. (both A & B recommended site Lake Fairfax Park).

B. GSDCA Universal Sieger Show (Event A & B are usually held during the same time frame and general location).

C. Combined IGP Qualification Trial (option B St. Louis school athletic field, option C Louisville, Ky school athletic field. \*option A-Purina Farms has notified us of changes and believes the gun fire will be a problem).

D. Fall GSDCA Sieger Show- Did the World Equestrian Center Preference area #1 get approved for the Oct. 2022 Sieger Show? If not, would you like us to proceed with obtaining a contract for the board to approve the Lexington Horse Park in Kentucky?

E.Reimbursement stipends for GSDCA hosted events to help with expense budget. Please approve for future events. Ileana Nogueras asked that this decision be tabled until January. No motion made, but it was agreed.

Morton Goldfarb read the recommendations from Pamela O'Dell as she could not attend the meeting.

- The Roberts Center in Ohio for both the Qualification Trial/Universal Sieger show in April and the Combined Trial in June. The Robert's Center is central. (Not Fairfax in Virginia, it was not good when we used back in 2012) We have used the Roberts Center before and is a GREAT venue for SV events. The price is reasonable for everyone included a FULL Breakfast. Royal

Canin supports our entries when we use this venue which is a significant reason to go to the Roberts Center. Member's feedback to me indicates this would be a solid decision and the USCA would also recommend for the Combined.

- Ocala for the Sieger Show in Oct would be great to have with our National Specialty, but seeing the SV members are having the same concerns our AKC members were in regards to temperature and getting there. We need to make the decision quickly as Erin is working on the final contract with Ocala and we need to add the fields for the SV events now. If we decide to move forward with this venue, we will need to communicate to these members the reason for having it with the National, this was the approved location from the SV Committee and move forward.
- Add a BOD Member to the SV Committee. Ileana noted that this should also be tabled to the January Meeting. It was agreed. No motion made.
- Table all the requested Rule Changes, Judges Criteria, Reimbursement to helpers, to the Jan Meeting. Morton Goldfarb asked that this be tabled to January meeting. All agreed. No Motion.

Deborah Stern asked if we can take each item separately. Deb noted that the Robert's Center is a great facility for both the National trial/Universal Sieger Show and the Combined trial with USCA. We have had it there in the past. We would just need to confirm if there is a date available. As for our Sieger Show, the SV Committee approved and recommended we have it at the national in Ocala. The Sieger show would be Fri-Sun and the opportunity to bring all of our members to one location would be a great experience. Deb Stern confirmed that our SV members usually only bring a couple of dogs, our performance membership usually leave the dogs in cars and do not rent stalls. It would be the same situation. Ileana Noguera spoke up and questioned the emails we received from several members confirming they typically bring 10-20 dogs but are concerned about leaving them in the dog trailers which is typical for these venues. Deb Stern noted that just like with the rotation of our national. Those that have competitive dogs will come and compete. Candee Foss asked if this meeting can be tabled until Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> as we could probably have more information to make the best decisions for the members. Deb Stern asked the BOD if 11/3/21 would work for everyone and it was agreed. Deb Stern stated that she would have Charlie and Rebecca check into the Robert's Center to see if there is availability for both events. She would have the information for the 11/3/21 meeting. John Ayotte asked that we have the dates for both the National trial/Universal Sieger Show and the Combined Trial for the 11/3/2021 Meeting as the SV Committee report did not note dates for any of the events. This would give us a better understanding of the decisions that need to be made.

2. Ocala Contract- Approve so we can pay next deposit. Erin Nellis noted that this was already approved and the B&F committee was given final approval for this contract. Erin Nellis asked if she could address the BOD regarding the Ocala National. The Golden retrievers are having their national in a week so we will have some additional information. Erin asked Gail Stiefferman if we are having 2 days of all breed agility or do we have a conflict. We should remove the building for the 2 days if not as it is \$2,500 per day for the building. Gail confirmed she is working with the other club to see if we can still offer the 2 agility trials. She noted that she should know soon. Ileana Noguera asked for an update on the approved Tracking judges and whether they had a chance to visit the tracking fields as planned. Gail Stiefferman stated that she had not heard anything back. Erin Ellis stated that Ocala is asking how many acres we need. They do have a secondary site if additional acreage is needed, but we need to let them know what our minimum need is. Gail stated that she needs to know what kind of tracks they can handle. Ie: TD TDX, versatile, etc. Deborah Stern confirmed they can accommodate all Tracking events; we just need to know how many acres Gail needs for the National. Gail Stiefferman stated she could get the answer this evening on what we need.

3. Approve Julie Degen as Herding Chairman. John Ayotte made the motion to approve Julie Degen as Herding Chairman. 2<sup>nd</sup> Laura Gilbert. Passed Unanimously.
4. Website Contract – review and approve so initial payment can be made. Erin Nellis spoke up to this agenda item. The GSCA Charitable Trust Trustees approved the expense up to \$25,000 and that the contract has final approval by the B&F committee of the GSDCA. We were hoping for a kick off of 10/01, but with delays in legal support we are looking at 11/01.
5. Breeder’s Code of Conduct Committee Action Items. Candee Foss read the entire report to the BOD to familiarize everyone who did not receive the reports for this meeting.

As requested at the last meeting the board decided to make our committee an ad hoc committee. I am going to try and address some of your concerns and questions:

Regarding consequences concerning a BCE signer with a complaint against them; We think the Ethics chair--whomever that will be should adjudicate the matter between the two parties. If working with the two parties does not resolve the complaint, I think the Ethics chair should make the decision on whether the BCE signer failed to live up to the Breeders' Code of Ethics. We think that a validated complaint should be put on file under that same breeders' name. If the same breeder gets three or more complaints (that are validated by the Ethics chair), the breeder should be removed from the list of signers of the code for a period determine by the Ethics chair. No puppy referralsthrough the parent club during such suspension.

It is our hope that signers of the code have their own platform on the parent club website for referrals and information about their kennels. We hope that signers are added to any written publications, such as the Review or the National catalog and futurity/maturity catalogs at no charge to them. Repeated infractions will then mean they lose marketing/publicity for their kennels. We think a grievance that is directly harmful to dogs at a signer's kennel (and supported by evidence) should be addressed by the Ethics chair by forwarding the complaint to the local authorities where the breeder has their kennel/residence. In addition, the signer will be permanently removed from the signers list, or at worst no longer be a member of the parent club. The last effort if all else fails--is for the ethics chair to advise the two parties of their rights to go through legal channels civil court) to resolve their differences. During our last meeting board member Jeff asked what the consequences would be if a breeder sold a puppy at 7 1/2 weeks old instead of Should any complaint arise (and we don't think there would be a complaint) then the ethics chair should rely on his or her common sense. Period.

Should any complaints arise against the Ethics chair him/her self, we think it falls to the board to address the matter and resolve it. We also think the Ethics chair should report on the BCE when the board requests such a report. This is so the board can keep abreast of anything going on regarding ethics and the parent club.

Whether a fee to become a signer of the BCE comes into place is up to the board. We believe a fee is warranted if signers get something in return for it. For example, publicity, discounts, etc. from the parent club. If so, perhaps the fees could be placed into a fund that goes toward unexpected needs of breeders.

For instance, in the event of the increasing natural disasters, or a loan for outstanding vet bills, etc. We thank you for your time and effort to create a BCE that is not just inspirational, but a functioning effort on behalf of the welfare of the German Shepherd Dog.

Deborah Stern asked if the BOD would like to move this to January, or November 3<sup>rd</sup> or make a decision now. Cyndi Flautt suggested that this be tabled until January as we should really consider this thoughtfully. John Ayotte also agreed and he noted that this report gived food for thought and some very good suggestions in the report. He noted his concern that it may give too much authority to the Ethics committee and he wants to be assured that the final decision is always with this BOD. They can make the

recommendations. Cyndi Flautt stated that she can work with Sheila to better define the process. Cyndi also noted that while she has been on the BOD, we have not received any reports from our current Ethics Committee chair, so she was not sure if there has been any issues or solutions made among our membership this year. Cyndi Flautt suggested that we should receive a quarterly report from our Ethics Committee even if it is no report just to ensure the BOD is aware of anything. There were not action items so motion was not necessary. We will ask the committee to move forward.

6. Approve 2 new SV Regional Clubs.

Granite State Working Dog Club.

Midway Working Dog Association

Morton Goldfarb noted that we should approve Granite, but the members of Midway are still being vetted. Ileana Noguerras spoke up and noted that Granite's insurance expired 3/21, so we need current insurance information prior to approving. Deb Stern asked if we can table these items also to the 11/3/21 meeting. It was agreed. No motion made.

7. Approve 10/17/2021 Minutes.

Candee Foss made the Motion to approve the minutes. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ileana Noguerras. Gail Stiefferman and Deborah Stern stated they had not received them. Candee Foss noted that they were sent out with all the reports for this meeting the prior week.. John Ayotte asked if we can table this item also until the 11/3/21 meeting so all have a chance to review. Motion not rescinded or voted on, but it was agreed to wait until the follow up meeting on 11/3/2021.

Deb Stern adjourned the meeting stating that we will meet again on 11/3/2021. 6:45PM PDT.