

GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB OF AMERICA-  
WORKING DOG ASSOCIATION, INC.

MINUTES

February 18, 2006  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Holiday Inn at Six Flags  
Eureka, MO

Call to Order – 8:16 pm

Officers and Directors Present

All officers and directors were present except Russ Osburn and Dorothy Linn

Guests Present

Clay Meadows, Steve and Jeanne Beal

- I. Approval of Minutes  
The July 31, 2005 Board of Director Meeting Minutes were approved electronically.
- II. Report of the Secretary  
No report.
- III. Report of the Treasurer - Martylou Plinski  
Martylou passed out the Treasurer's report. Martylou moved that Roberts Accounting Corporation be approved to do the 2005 audit and tax return at a cost of \$2400. Seconded by Miriam Barkus. Motion carried.
- IV. Report of the President – Ken Downing  
Ken requested Board ratification of the following 13 events approved by the Executive Committee for the period December 31, 2005 through February 4, 2006. Seconded by Wayne Davis. Motion carried.  
High Drive German Shepherd Dog Klub – Club Trial - SV Judge Rudi Müller  
Southern Cal Schaeferhunde Club – Club Trial - SV Judge Norbert Feeser  
O.G. Agua Dulce – Southern Pacific Regional Conformation Show, Breed Survey and AD – SV Judge/Körmeister Hans-Joachim Dux  
Kentucky-Tennessee Schutzhund Verein – Club Trial – SV Judge Willi Stieger  
San Diego Schutzhund Club-WDA – Club Trial – SVF/WDA Judge Thomas Mitchell  
Southern Idaho Working Dog Association – Club Trial – SVF/WDA Judge Dr. David Landau  
O.G. Agua Dulce – Club Trial – SV Judge Bernhard Babl  
Deutscher Schaferhunde Club, San Diego – Club Show, Breed Survey & AD – SV Judge Klaus Gothe  
Broward Schutzhund Club – GSDCA-WDA National Schutzhund Championship/WUSV Qualifying Trial – SV Judge Karl Krug, Obedience and Protection and SVF/GSDCA-WDA Judge Dr. David Landau, Tracking  
Topline German Shepherd Dog Club – Club Show, Breed Survey and Seminar – SV Judge/Körmeister Rüdiger Mai  
Greater Chicago Schutzhund Club – Club Trial – SV Judge Jürgen Hess  
OG Wisconsin WDA – Club Trial – GSDCA-WDA/DPO Judge Michael West  
Deutscher Schaferhunde Club, San Diego – Club Trial – SV Judge Norbert Feeser  
Wayne Davis moved to approve the Executive Committees actions. Seconded by Miriam Barkus. Motion carried.  
  
Ken requested Board approval of the following General Director nominees from the German Shepherd Dog Club of America President, Lew Bunch: Richard Agee, Tom Mesdag and Jim York. David Landau moved the three nominees be approved. Seconded by Debbie Hokkanen. Motion carried.  
  
Ken requested Board approval of the appointment of Martylou Plinski for Treasurer. Wayne Davis moved to approve. Seconded by Miriam Barkus. Motion carried.  
  
Ken requested Board approval of the appointment of Joy Schultz for Recorder. Miriam moved to approve. Seconded by Wayne Davis. Motion carried.

Ken requested Board approval of the appointment of Ginny Altman for Secretary. Wayne Davis moved to approve. Seconded by Miriam Barkus. Motion carried.

Ken requested Board approval of Mike West for Director of Trials and Judges. Wayne Davis moved to approve. Seconded by Joe Barry. Motion carried.

The following committee chairs were recommended for approval:

- Helper Certification Program – Clay Meadows  
Debbie Hokkanen moved to approve. Seconded by Joe Barry. Motion carried.
- Junior Program – Cindy Petersen  
David Landau moved to approve. Seconded by Joe Barry. Motion carried.
- Budget and Finance – Ken Downing and Martylou Plinski  
Miriam Barkus moved to approve. Seconded by Joe Barry. Motion carried.
- Sponsorship/Publicity – Debbie Hokkanen  
David Landau moved to approve. Seconded by Miriam Barkus. Motion carried.
- K-9 Program – Wendell Nope  
Wayne Davis moved to approve. Seconded by David Landau. Motion carried.
- Internet Website – John McKinney  
Wayne Davis moved to approve. Seconded by David Landau. Motion carried.
- North American Sieger Show – Debbie Hokkanen  
Martylou Plinski moved to approve. Seconded by Joy Schultz. Motion carried.
- Bylaws – Joy Schultz, Tom Mesdag and LaMar Frederick  
Wayne Davis moved to approve. Seconded by Debbie Hokkanen. Motion carried.
- Performance Rules and Regulations – David Landau  
Wayne Davis moved to approve. Seconded by Debbie Hokkanen. Motion carried.
- Insurance – Richard Agee  
Wayne Davis moved to approve. Seconded by Joe Barry. Motion carried.

According to the bylaws Ken Downing will serve as the chair of the Executive Committee. Nominations were opened for the additional four members required. Wayne Davis nominated Debbie Hokkanen and Martylou Plinski. Debbie Hokkanen nominated Wayne Davis and LaMar Frederick. Miriam Barkus nominated David Landau. No other nominations were made and nominations were closed. LaMar requested to be withdrawn from the list of nominees and requested the board's consideration of the appointment as legal advisor to the committee. Ken Downing moved to entertain LaMar's request. Seconded by Joy Schultz. Motion carried. The Executive Committee was unanimously elected by the board-Debbie Hokkanen, Martylou Plinski, Wayne Davis and David Landau.

Ken Downing asked for approval of LaMar Frederick for Parliamentarian and Legal Advisor. Wayne Davis moved to approve. Seconded by Debbie Hokkanen. Motion carried.

## V. Reports of Committees

### Budget / Finance / Insurance

The budget report was submitted with the Treasurer's Report. Regarding insurance, Ken Downing informed the board we have received our insurance renewal questionnaire for Officers and Directors Liability Policy. There will probably be an increase in policy premium this year. As a club we had an action filed against us by a member. The action was dismissed. Wayne Davis suggested GSDCA-WDA member clubs should consider D&O insurance over and above liability coverage. To do so, member clubs need to file legal identity (EIN) within their state. Richard Agee noted that each board member should add Personal Injury Coverage to their Home Owner's Insurance policy that can be obtained in a Personal Liability Umbrella Policy. David Landau moved an ad hoc committee be set up to develop a simple set of insurance guidance recommendations for the local clubs. Seconded by Jim York. Motion carried. Ken appointed Richard Agee the committee chair and requested he report back at the next board meeting. Wayne Davis moved to approve. Seconded by Joy Schultz. Motion carried.

### National Working Events

Miriam Barkus reported on the progress of the Broward Schutzhund Club's arrangements for the **2006 GSDCA-WDA National Schutzhund Championship/WUSV Qualification Trial**. They have secured the International Arena at the Palm Beach Polo and Equestrian Club. Stadium Jumping, Inc. is donating the International Arena for the obedience and protection phases. Tracking fields are still pending. Hotel accommodations are still in negotiation. Miriam asked for volunteers from the board to help out at the event. Joy Schultz has volunteered to handle paperwork and will serve as Trial Secretary.

Miriam moved to offer SchH1 and SchH2. Seconded by Wayne Davis. Motion carried.

Miriam questioned a Helper Championship at this event. Clay Meadows asked to be recognized and spoke in favor of the championship. A goal of the Helper Program is to promote the club level helpers. He would like to see it as an annual event at the NASS if not this event.

Mike West would like to have police dogs included in this event. Miriam reported she had contacted Mike Andrel concerning whether or not there would be a police dog trial. Miriam's club is prepared to give the time, the tracking fields, and time on the practice field. If there is going to be police dog trials she would want them to take care of their own judge, trophies, etc. They can, however, use the same Helpers and the club would include them in the catalog but the Broward Schutzhund Club will not underwrite any part of the police dog trial at this event. She will need a definite answer by March 30. David asked she contact Wendell Nope, the new K-9 Committee Chair.

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#### National Events

Debbie Hokkanen reported on the **2006 North American Sieger Show** committee's plans so far. Martylou Plinski will oversee the paperwork and additional planning. Richard Agee will be in charge of grounds and additional planning. She is asking for full board support at the event. Many sub committees will need to be filled. Anyone interested in working at the show is to contact Debbie. The NASS Committee will present a report, budget, etc. in May. The host hotel has been secured and will be the Holiday Inn at Six Flags. Board members wishing to be on the pre-registration list need to provide Debbie with their name, address, telephone number and date of arrival today or tomorrow. There are 150 rooms at the host hotel that will accept dogs and 29 that will not. She has secured the entire hotel for this event. Additionally, we have 120 rooms at the Diamond Inn that will accept dogs. The Diamond Inn's room rate will be less, and they are ten minutes closer to Purina Farms but they do not have a restaurant. Both hotels have wash facilities for dogs. Meetings, dinners, etc. will be at the host hotel. There will be a \$25 non-refundable pet deposit. Six to seven weeks prior to the event the hotel will send a letter to those people on their registration list asking for a \$100 deposit for their room that will be applied to their bill at check out. The dates of the event are October 25 through October 29. The banquet facility seats 350.

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David asked for board support through donations to the **GSDCA WUSV Championship** team fund. This year donations of \$40 will receive a Team Support T-shirt; \$60 a Team Support sweatshirt and \$175 a Team Support jacket. Donors will be published in the GSDCA-WDA Newsletter and the GSDCA Review.

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#### Internet Website – John McKinney

No report.

#### Bylaws

The Bylaws Committee has been charged with making our bylaws compatible. There are some areas that need to be worked on.

#### Sponsorships / Publicity – Debbie Hokkanen

The committee is working on a number of different possibilities for sponsorships and publicity.

#### Helper Certification Program – Clay Meadows

Committee members nominated are David Landau, Mike West, Steve Beal, Miriam Barkus, Carl Smith and Jimmy Dalton. Wayne Davis moved to approve. Seconded by Joe Barry. Motion carried. At this time we have 50 Club Trial Helpers, 14 National Helpers and 9 Teaching Helpers including two from Germany, Marco Hess and Rainer Voortman. We have 31 Club Trial Helper applicants and 4 Teaching Helper applicants that have been through a seminar and have been recommended for approval, and one Teaching applicant that has not yet been through a seminar. David added that Rainer Voortman has now been approved as a SV Schutzhund Judge. Clay asked for board approval to waive the requirement where, in addition to the Teaching Helpers, at least two of the following must be present: Chairman of the Helper Committee, National Training Director, Director of Trials and Judges. And, to approve the following four Teaching applicants that have been through a seminar: Mike West, Michael Kempkes, Leon Luszcz and Thomas Grewe. David Landau moved we waive the requirement and approve these four Teaching Helper Applicants as GSDCA-WDA Teaching Helpers. Seconded by Debbie Hokkanen. Motion carried.

Clay requested board approval to include a 60-day grace period for the renewal of GSDCA-WDA membership by the Helpers. The program presently reads that a Helper's status expires if their GSDCA-WDA membership lapses and they are then required to go through the certification process to re-certify. Joe Barry moved to approve extending a grace period from January 1 to March 1 to the Helpers. Joy Schultz is to forward renewal info to Clay. The Committee is tasked with coming up with a plan for all Helper Certifications to expire on January 1.

The Helper Committee would like to see an additional level of Helper certification, Regional Helper. Joe Barry moved that we add Regional Helper Certification to the program. Seconded by Wayne Davis. LaMar Frederick sees a procedural issue and suggests that the Helper Committee first come up with the Regional Helper Program and then come back to the board for approval. Joe Barry withdrew his motion. Seconded by Wayne Davis. The committee will bring back a recommendation to the board in May.

Clay requested board approval to allow Michael Pahlke (SV Teaching Helper) to be the Helper for the El Cajon Schutzhund Club's March Trial. David Landau moved that we permit SV Teaching Helpers to work at any GSDCA-WDA event as long as they are GSDCA-WDA members. Motion carried.

Clay passed out his Helper Evaluation Form to be used by the Teaching Helper when evaluating helper work at an evaluation. LaMar Frederick moved to adopt the form. Seconded by Debbie Hokkanen. Motion carried.

Clay requested board approval of the Helper Code of Ethics already in place but not yet approved by the board. Wayne moved to adopt the code of ethics amending Item 1 to read: "Not to manufacture, create, deliver, possess or use with the intent to manufacture, create or deliver any quantity of a controlled substance or to manufacture, create, deliver or possess paraphernalia designed to manufacture, create, deliver, possess or use any quantity of a controlled substance." Seconded by Joe Barry. Motion carried.

Clay asked that the board address the pre-selection of helpers for the National SchH Championship/WUSV Qualification Trial and the North American Sieger Show today. LaMar pointed out that it is a policy issue. Presently, Helpers are expected to show up at a National event (at their own expense) to try out and hopefully be selected. Not only is it a money issue, the Helper must be in top physical condition. Further, the reimbursement of travel, meals, lodging and a stipend equal to that of a judge should be paid to the Helper. Miriam Barkus moved to approve the pre-selection of Helpers. Seconded by Joe Barry. Motion Carried. The Helper Committee is to review and develop criteria for selection. The Helper Committee's recommendation will then go before the Executive Committee for approval. Miriam Barkus moved to approve. Seconded by Joe Barry. Motion carried.

Clay requested that all Helpers (club, national and teaching) be put up on the GSDCA-WDA website with expiration dates. Miriam Barkus so moved. Seconded by Joe Barry. Motion carried.

Clay would like to see a moratorium imposed on the appointment of new Teaching Helpers. David Landau moved that the board adopt the Helper Committee's recommendation to temporarily limit the number of Teaching Helpers to 13 and that a review of the Teaching Helper Program be completed. Seconded by Miriam Barkus. Motion carried.

The Helper Committee recommended a set daily fee for Helpers (Item D.2, second paragraph of the Helper Certification Program document). Miriam moved to accept the committee's recommendation and set the fee to be paid the Helpers at \$50/day. The club hosting the certification event is to be responsible for all reasonable travel expenses, meals and lodging. Seconded by Joe Barry. For: Joy Schultz, Richard Agee, Miriam Barkus, Joe Barry, Wayne Davis, Tom Mesdag, LaMar Frederick and Hallie McMullen. Opposed: Jim York and Martylou Plinski. Abstain: Debbie Hokkanen. David Landau was not present for the vote. Motion passed.

The Helper Committee recommended board approval imposing a mandatory helper surcharge of \$25 for the Working Classes and \$5 for all other classes at the North American Sieger Show. The helper surcharge is to be included in the entry fee. Miriam Barkus moved to approve. Seconded by Joe Barry. Motion carried.

LaMar recommended a new paragraph "5" be added to the Certified Helper Code of Ethics document that would prohibit helpers from accepting gratuities from an exhibitor, owner, handler for his/her performance at an event. LaMar is to submit wording to Joy Schultz for inclusion and submission to the Executive Committee for approval. The final approved code shall then be sent to all helpers (past and future) for signature.

WPO at this year's National SchH Championship was discussed. It was decided that Ken would contact the K-9 Program Committee Chair, Wendell Nope for a recommendation.

Clay asked when this year's Helper Championship will take place. David Landau feels there is too much going on at the NASS and we need to encourage the young helpers to attend a National Championship. It has already been approved and advertised for the National Championship. Joe Barry moved the Helper Championship be held at the National Schutzhund Championship and a "Helper Tournament" if possible, be scheduled for the NASS. Seconded by Tom Mesdag. Motion carried.

Performance Rules & Regulations – David Landau

No report

K-9 Program

No report

Apprentice Judges Program

Mike West reported that Wendell Nope has developed an ID card draft for WDA Performance Judges. Joe Barry moved to approve the Judge's ID cards and that they be issued through the GSDCA-WDA Office. Seconded by Tom Mesdag. Motion carried.

Joy Schultz asked if the Apprentice Judges Committee had reviewed Mike Andrel's Apprentice Judge application. Mike's application was received October 27, 2005. The program has been on hold since the July 2005 board of directors meeting. There will be no action at this time

Junior Program – Cindy Petersen

Cindy's report was distributed to the board. Richard Agee raised the issue of insurance coverage for juniors. Ken asked Richard to research releases for juniors handling dogs and as club members, liability exposure, etc. LaMar will draft a release form for the parent's of juniors to sign. The drafted form is to go the Executive Committee for approval ASAP. Cindy is to be advised of the board's decision.

**VI. Unfinished Business**

Ken requested board approval of a GSDCA Regional Club/GSDCA-WDA Member Club Liaison Committee and the appointment of Jim York to chair. The committee is to work with and provide information to GSDCA clubs wishing to also be GSDCA-WDA Member Clubs. Debbie Hokkanen moved to approve. Seconded by David Landau. Motion carried.

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Ken requested board ratification of the Executive Committee's action approving SV Judge/Körmeister Reinhardt Meyer and SV Judge/Körmeister Hans-Joachim Dux to judge this year's NASS. Class assignments still to be determined. LaMar moved to approve. Seconded by Tom Mesdag. Motion carried.

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Three clubs were presented for Member Club status approval pending successful practice trials:

- New England Working Dog Association – Debbie Hokkanen is to notify the club they need to change any reference in their bylaws that refers to O.G. Boston Schutzhund Club. Hearing no objection, the club was approved pending correction of their bylaws and a successful practice trial.
- Southwest Diamondback Schäferhunde Club – Hearing no objection, the club was approved pending a successful practice trial.
- Prairie State Dog Club – The club needs to provide the GSDCA-WDA Office with a copy of their insurance limits and dates of coverage document. The question was raised that Carlos Huerta may no longer be affiliated with this club. If true, the club does not meet the minimum member requirements. LaMar Frederick moved to refer this club's application to their Regional Director, Joe Barry. Seconded by Miriam Barkus. Motion carried.

**VII. New Business**

Supplemental Registration. Ken announced the SV has approved GSDCA-WDA to enter into a supplemental registration program and asked board approval to continue to research the possibilities of implementing the program. Questions were raised regarding cost to WDA to run the program, SV charges, and anticipated start-up costs such as independent contractor compensation, computer, software, laser printer, copier, typewriter, internet, phone service and fax line. Basically this is a \$35,500 expense to run for one year. Martylou Plinski suggested we investigate how many dogs USCA has been running through their program in the last few years. It appears the number of litters being nominated has been decreasing. Ken will research further and come back to the board with his findings.

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Universal Sieger. Ken would like the board to consider that we go to the SV's point system guideline for awarding the Universal Sieger. Our Universal Sieger would be selected based on the points earned at the National Schutzhund Championship and the North American Sieger Show. Joe Barry moved to approve. Seconded by Wayne Davis. Motion carried.

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Working Dog Sport Trial. There are no facilities within a reasonable distance of this year's GSDCA National Specialty Show for the Working Dog Sport Trial. Ken would like the board to approve a 30-minute presentation in the main arena, one dog to do obedience and one to do protection. Joe Barry moved to approve. Seconded by Jim

York. Motion carried. GSDCA National Specialty Show Chair, Nanci Nellis will see what she can do to schedule the time for this year's presentation.

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Martylou Plinski presented the drafted guideline for SV elbow evaluations. Joe Barry moved to approve the guideline and a fee of \$55. Seconded by Hallie McMullen. Motion carried.

Miriam Barkus moved to hold the next meeting of the board May 19-20 back here at the Holiday Inn at Six Flags. Seconded by Joy Schultz. Motion carried

**VIII. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm

Date of Approval \_\_\_\_\_

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Secretary Signature