

GSDCA-Working Dog Association, Inc.
 October 27, 2006
 Annual Membership Meeting
 Holiday Inn at Six Flags
 Eureka, Missouri

INFO ONLY – NO QUORUM

Call to Order	The meeting was called to order by President Ken Downing at 8:30 PM
Officers Present	Ken Downing, David Landau, Ginny Altman, Martylou Plinski, Joy Schultz, Mike West
Directors Present	Richard Agee, LaMar Frederick, Rhonda Long, Hallie McMullen, Tom Mesdag, Russ Osburn, Jim York, Ex-Officio Lew Bunch
Directors Absent	Joe Barry, Dorothy Linn, Debbie Hokkanen, Wayne Davis, Miriam Barkus
Committee Members and WDA Members	Donna Agee, Mike Andrel, Pat Beauchamp, Peter Burmeister, Alethea Caldwell Munsinger, Georgia Cawley, Don Ciechanowski, Eric Fitucci, Mary Gattone, Diane Giesecker, Gary Giesecker, Dave Haskins, Gayle Kirkwood, Heidi Landau, Rich LeBlond, Sue LeBlond, Karolyn Levin, Matthew Levin, Christine Mandela, Monika Morris, Wayne Morris, Etta Mudge, Shannon O'Donovan, Chris Olson, Louise Penery, Renaud Rebours, Ken Simsic, Danny Spreitler, Lisa Trego, Russell Wall, Lucy West, Earl White, Jeannine White, Daniel Yee
Call to Order	President Ken Downing called the meeting to order at 8:32 pm. Ken Downing welcomed members and guests and noted that 41 members are registered for the meeting, Ken announced that there is not a quorum present. (48 members total signed in, 7 signed in after this announcement but a quorum was not achieved)
Minutes	At the 2005 Annual Meeting of November 4 there was also no quorum, therefore there are no official minutes and the announcement of results of the election was duly made but there was no other business.
Report of President	Ken Downing spoke to the assembled membership about the Foundation for the Future which he addressed in his article in the GSDCA-WDA Newsletter in which he spoke to the foundation of the Club and the essential communication to the membership. The plans for timely communication are as follows: 1. The Board is working on improvements to the Newsletter and to incorporate essential information. We have had some excellent issues and there are changes being made. The newsletter will be a quality magazine. The Board has put into place interim production plans and continues to work to seek an editor which, it is hoped, will soon be put in place.
	2. The Board has plans for better use of the GSDCA-WDA Website. Rules, Bylaws, and other pertinent information which are essential to club communication are now on the website. 3. Ken stated that he continues to monitor the flow of information and announced that – if there is something that is not on the website that members want to have there, members should notify him so that he can be involved in improving that necessary communication.

	<p>Ken Downing talked about the Board plans for future including: A Revision of bylaws which is needed to make the bylaws current and compliant with Colorado Law. The Bylaws were written in 1981 and there are things that have changed which make it necessary to bring it up to date.</p> <p>There have been ideas that were discussed at the Board level such as Supplemental pedigrees which was an idea that had to be withdrawn. There are ideas for programs that are being pursued for the future.</p>
	<p>Ken announced that the GSDCA-WDA has experienced growth in the number of Member Clubs and in total membership. There are ongoing programs that lead us to anticipate this increase in growth of membership and in number of clubs. Ken challenged the Board and the Members to be clear about what the WDA stands for. Planning for growth of the Club also means an need for an increase of revenue. The Board, at the last official meeting, has approved a plan for some increases in revenue.</p>
	<p>Ken announced that a survey will be sent to each member participating at the NASS to get their opinion on how the GSDCA-WDA can improve the show and what is good about the show and to gather some demographic information for location and general membership feedback.</p>
	<p>Ken reported that there is a change that has been implemented by the SV on certification of elbows to achieve a VA rating for 2006. The WDA has asked for extension of the date of implementation until the 2007 NASS. This information will be disseminated though various channels.</p>
	<p>Ken noted that as a 501(c)(7) organization we can only have 35% of total income to come from outside of the organizations membership. It becomes important to know what portion of our income is from our membership as compared to the income from non-members. For these reasons, beginning in 2007 GSDCA-WDA will need to implement a members only policy in order to show at NASS. This condition is already in place for the National. The conditions for membership are not applicable to foreign exhibitors.</p> <p>In addition to this, there will be some services of the WDA that will be available only to members. We need the rules and must abide by those rules to be fair and provide equal opportunity for all.</p> <p>As part of the overall plan, in 2007 we will have an increase in membership fees. The last time we had an increase was long ago and there has been only one increase in dues since 1981. The GSDCA-WDA needs the revenue to have fund the growth of the Club and the quality newsletter that we need and want.</p>
Membership comments	<p>The question was raised as to the timing of the bylaws revision. The reply is that there will be a Draft prepared for review prior to the January Board meeting. Discussion followed including a question of the names of the members on the bylaws committee. LaMar Frederick responded that he and Tom Mesdag and Joy Schultz are the members of the committee.</p>
	<p>Questions and Comments were taken by President Ken Downing from the membership at large. A member urged GSDCA-WDA members to hold membership in the SV. A member suggested that it might be useful to survey exhibitor non-members as well as members this year. There was a request to provide financial information to the membership on the Website.</p>

	<p>There was a question regarding the Supplemental pedigree program and whether it was going to be required and if there was a cost to the GSDCA-WDA. The response was that there are those breeders who have German Bred puppies who have requested this service but it will not be required. There also would not be a cost to the GSDCA-WDA if this program is implemented. Any costs by the SV would be covered by fees from those using the program.</p>
	<p>There was a question about the input that members can have and the process by which the bylaws would be approved. The response was that the membership is invited to contact LaMar Frederick if they have ideas for the Bylaws revision. The process is that the Bylaws will first go to the Board and after the Board has discussed and approved it, the bylaws will go to the membership for approval by membership vote. The members were invited to talk to the Regional Directors, Board members and officers, and or Ken Downing as well as the bylaws committee.</p>
	<p>There was a question about the Website and the Webmaster. Ken noted that this is a volunteer organization, including the officers and the Webmaster. He credited Klaus Holder with making the results from NASS available to John McKinney, the Webmaster during the show and this information is going up on the Website daily. Much of the club information is going to be available on the GSDCA-WDA.org website.</p>
Treasurer	Martylou Plinski
Audit report	LaMar Fredrick read the report of the auditor, Roberts Accountancy Corporation, which was received and represented the Audit statement of Financial Operations through December 31, 2005.
	<p>The auditor reported that there were no material problems and that the Financial Statements represent fairly the financial position of the GSDCA-WDA as of December 31, 2005. The audit was conducted in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).</p>
	<p>Revenue \$98,422 Program Expenses \$71,293 General Administrative Expenses \$28,487 Total Expenses \$99,780 Net assets \$60,243</p>
Committee Reports	
	Ken announced that the Reports were distributed.
	<p>Danny Spreitler asked about the WDA audits and questioned if they have met GAAP compliance. Ken replied in the affirmative and stated that the 2006 audit would also meet the GAAP requirements.</p>
New Business	
	<p>Ken has received queries from the membership. There was a suggestion that NASS be in California next year. Ken responded to the question: WDA is uncertain about the outcome of this first WDA sponsored show. There is a plan to conduct an opinion survey.</p>

	<p>Part of the survey and research will be regarding air travel vs ground travel. There is a generally stated preference to rotate the NASS but it is unknown if that is feasible. Mike Andrel addressed some problems that are encountered in transporting dogs by air and his experiences with the Transportation Administration in Philadelphia.</p> <p>Ken Downing stated that the Board will study all aspects of the rotation and any problems encountered by exhibitors. Purina Farms is “penciled in” for next year but that is not a firm commitment to have it here.</p>
	<p>A suggestion was made to have the survey sent to all members and create a filter for those that did attend. Ken said that that could be done in addition to the survey of the those that did attend. The survey could ask for a response regarding the idea of rotating the NASS.</p>
NASS Committee	<p>There was discussion of the NASS committee and who should serve on the committee. Ken informed the members that this is the first NASS that the GSDCA-WDA Board has put on and that there is in development a manual which will assist in future Shows.</p>
Tattoo / Microchip	<p>Rhonda Long described a Tattoo program as is done by the USCA. There is an assigned tattooer in each region. Kits are available and designations for letters and numbers are determined. There was interest expressed in having a program for tattoos within WDA. The AKC and GSDCA are cooperating on the Working Dog Program and the question of microchip vs tattoo is one of the subjects that is being discussed. The WDA needs to work with the SV on what is acceptable to them as well. This is a complex issue to be explored.</p>
	<p>Ken Downing said that he would appoint an AdHoc Committee to make recommendations on establishing a Tattoo Program for the WDA. Alethea Munsinger was appointed chairman of the committee. Mike Andrel volunteered to serve on the committee.</p>
Performance Pedigree	<p>There was interest in having the availability of performance pedigrees so that the animals which have these titles can be recognized in the SV magazine. David Landau was requested to look into this matter and to obtain the information necessary to assist those interested in complying with this.</p>
Conflict of Interest	<p>There was a question regarding the Conflict of Interest policy. There is a lack of information regarding the contents of the policy. Ken will see to it that the Conflict of Interest Policy is on the Website and in the GSDCA-WDA magazine.</p>
Helpers	<p>There was a request to have more Helper training and certification. It was felt that every Club should have a certified helper.</p>
	<p>There was discussion of the complexities involved for clubs to have a helper. It was felt that the judges should be the one to certify the helper. Ken responded that the GSDCA-WDA has teaching helpers to teach and get helpers certified so that clubs can have helpers. The process must be fair so that there will not be any inequities in the selection, qualifications, or the certification. It is imperative that the WDA have safeguards in place.</p>

	<p>The question was asked about origins of conflict of interest, purpose, objectives, and why it is needed in the GSDCA-WDA.</p> <p>Ken Downing explained that as a board member one should not be in a position to benefit from decisions made in an organization where the person who benefits participates in making the decision. He explained that the GSDCA-WDA did not have a conflict of interest policy and asked our legal counsel, LaMar Frederick, to formulate one.</p> <p>LaMar Frederick explained that each January the board will be required to verify that each Board member does not have a conflict or an appearance of a conflict of interest. Each member sitting on the Board in January will sign the policy.</p> <p>There was a question about providing exclusion. LaMar explained that a person can disclose things that are part of their activities and when this information is disclosed to the board and the board waives the conflict, then the person can be permitted to serve. The definition of the phrase “Substantial income come from the sport of dogs” was questioned. The concern was expressed that the policy was excluding the large breeders and the trainers in this sport from serving on the Board. Board of Directors makes the policy and runs the club, the membership has input by talking to directors and by vote.</p>
<p>United States Team</p>	<p>Ken gave some background on the United States Team which has been a blended team from GSDCA and USCA since 2003 and made the following announcement.</p> <p>This year, 2006, the United States Team ranked as the Number One Team in the World Trials.</p>
	<p>The United States Team, with team members and a team captain, members of the GSDCA and GSDCA-WDA, finished FIRST in the World WUSV Championship in Randers, Denmark Oct. 6th-8th! Second was Denmark and 3rd was Italy.</p> <p>Our team finished in a tie for first with Denmark. Our team’s combined scores were tied in protection with Denmark but our team’s combined scores in obedience were higher than the Denmark team thus breaking the tie and placing our team #1 in the World. Wallace Payne and his dog Merlin were high protection overall, and Charley Meszaros with his dog Nike were high overall in obedience.</p> <p>On an individual basis Wallace finished #3 overall in the World competition and Charley finished #8 overall in the World competition. Jim Lempner served as the alternate representing the GSDCA. T. Floyd, who was one of the USCA representatives on the Team, was also a qualifier for the overall Team score.</p> <p>We are tremendously proud of Wallace, Charley and Jim who were the three qualifying team members from the GSDCA-WDA National. Another highlight is the outstanding job that our Team Captain, Phil Hoelcher, did in organizing and helping our Team to achieve these outstanding results.</p>

WUSV Board	Ken congratulated David Landau, who was elected to the Board of the WUSV. He explained that this is a great honor for David and for the GSDCA-WDA as David serves as our Vice-President. Ken went on to say that this is a clear indication of the high esteem placed upon David by the WUSV member clubs. The membership present gave David a standing ovation. This is the first time that an American has been elected to the Board of Directors of the WUSV.
	The members were reminded that there is a time change from Daylight Savings Time to Standard Time on Saturday to Sunday.
	There being no further announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 10:32 pm.
	Ginny Altman, Secretary.