**GDCA Board Meeting - 1/18/2014**

**Present:**  Dianne Powers, Jamie Harshfield, Bill Stebbins, Nancy Ridgway, Kathy Munyan, Lynda Moriarty, Jean Highlands, Neil O’Sullivan, Dale Tarbox, Cindy Harwin, Jason Hoke, Teresa La Brie, Susan Yotive, Sue Davis Shaw, Marsh Stoner

**Guests:**  Pam Blackmon, Wanda Hepler, Patty Thomas, Kathy Toomey.

**Minutes:**

**Motion 1:** To approve the minutes of 10/20/2013 and 10/24/2013 as corrected.

Moved: Cindy Harwin Second: Sue Davis Shaw Passed

**Secretary’s Report:** Nancy shared a brochure from the Canine Health Foundation.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Kathy gave the financial report.

Kathy shared the list of members with outstanding dues. Termination letters will go out to those that have not paid their dues by Feb 15th.

**Motion 2.** To approve the treasurer’s report as submitted

Moved: Jean Highlands Second: Susan Yotive Passed

The 2014 budget was reviewed. It was noted that the teleconference phone expenses is roughly the same as the expenses for on-site meetings.

**Motion 3.** To approve the 2014 budget as presented

Moved: Neil O’Sullivan Second: Dale Tarbox Passed

**Affiliate Club Representative’s Report-**

The Inland Northwest Club is in the process of being approved. . They have met all the AKC requirements and have completed their by-laws and are waiting for approval**.**

It was reported that several clubs are having internal issues but they are attempting to work through them. All clubs are required to have meeting, minutes, and a treasurer’s report.

**AKC Delegate’s Report** – Dale Tarbox

Dale reported that she is not yet a member of the AKC delegates group. The AKC lost the parent club paperwork so the process is behind.

**President’s report –**

Dianne sent out her list of committee appointments for approval. She would like to encourage committee chairs to build a committee and submit a list of committee members. Committee members are required to be GDCA members. She will be asking committee chairs to update the job descriptions for their committees.

Dianne is creating a new list to track the interests of new members.

2014 marks the 125th anniversary of the GDCA. Dianne asked for ideas on how we would like to celebrate the anniversary. One idea is to have a 125th anniversary yearbook. Rita Suddarth is working on a proposal of ideas of what might be included in the yearbook.

Dianne brought up the idea of printing an updated version of the membership roster. There was much discussion and it was thought that as soon as it is printed it is out of date. It is too expensive to print and mail. The roster is available on the web-site and can be printed out by the members if they so desire.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**Advisory** – no report

**Awards** – Dianne Powers

Dianne reported that the new Awards chair will be Margaret Ontl. Dianne also reported that 102 certificates were issued in 2013. Those certificates include Breeder certificates, Hall of Fame, Honor roll, Meritorious service, Register of Merit, ROM Breeder, Venerable, and Versatility.

The final ranking for Top 10 for Junior Show is in and Breanna Uyeno was the top Junior for 2013. Junior stats are taken from Caninecompanion.com. The final standings for performance and conformation won’t be available until March since the numbers come from AKC and they run 2 months behind.

**Constitution & By-Laws –** Nancy Ridgway, Tom Sandenaw and Lourdes Carvajal

Nancy passed out the working spread sheet in October with some proposed changes. The committee has come up with recommendations that they feel are necessary. They have also solicited ideas from the membership. The committee would still like to hear ideas and recommendations. Items for consideration are included in the spread sheet. The spreadsheet was reviewed and discussed. Some of the items discussed for consideration are: 1.The Recording Secretary becoming a voting member of the Board of Directors. 2. Term limits of the officers and directors. 3. E-balloting which cannot be legally done since the GDCA is incorporated in the State of New York which prohibits e-balloting. Discussion ensued about examining the possibility of re-incorporating in a state that allows electronic voting (Nancy). 4. Conflicts and clarifications of language used in by-law articles, which include clarification of Membership committee function and the required annual meeting notice. 5. Possibility of changing the amount of allowable excused absences for BOD members from the BOD meetings. 6. Adding language that requires the BOD members to adhere to the BOD code of conduct. 7. Committee appointment deadlines and language clarification. 8. Adding language that will allow faxing when it becomes legal to do so. 9. To receive endorsements for elections to include delivery without signature. 10. To increase the fee to submit a member complaint.

It was also brought up that the Judges selection process for performance needs to be part of the NSRR. (Teresa) It was suggested that a write in for performance judge be added to the national Judges Nomination form.

**Futurity** – Dianne powers

Dianne announced that Michael Puccuci will be taking over the futurity. Dianne reported that for 2014 there are 105 1st nominations and 191 2nd nominations.

**Health & Research** – Neil O’Sullivan

Neil gave an update on each of the projects

Cardiomyopathy – Waiting for the full study from Dr. Katie Murrs to do the write up.

Genome Resequence project- All the data is in and they are continuing to do the comparisons (bioinformatics) down each strand which is about 2 billion points of data. This is the longest part of the project.

Megaesophagus – Still struggle to get other members of the litter of an affected dog to do the barium contrast study. It is important to get all members of a litter. Barium contrast fees vary widely in different parts of the country. It was suggested that Dr. Clark devise a form letter regarding the health study to take to veterinarians for help with reduction of costs. (Neil)

The membership needs to be more aware that the study is going on. More fundraising is necessary. The use of social media was suggested. Ideas were discussed about getting the word out about the project and the need for littermates of affected dogs. To move forward with this project there is a need to actively fundraise.

Wobbler’s research report – Dr. Reynaldo D'Costa, from Ohio State has 2 papers in press and another 6 in the review process. He has been able to show the benefits of using newer imaging technologies for getting an accurate diagnosis. What has been found is that there is a very high incidence of dogs that present as normal but actually show damage to the spinal cord. Now, 9k of funding is necessary to continue the study and go back to the affected dogs to see what medical interventions have worked best so to help guide treatment for the future.

The 2nd study – Dr. Reynaldo D'Costa wants to develop a collaborative study with North Carolina State University. This would be running samples across the 160K aluminus sniff chip and genotyping them and examining them for the differences to create a tool to use when breeding. This part of the study is 35K .

It was again suggested to use social media and possibly some of the various fundraising platforms to make the health and welfare studies and projects and those efforts more visible to the membership and general public in order to generate revenue to further fund these projects.

**Motion** - 4. Recommend that the Charitable Trust fund the two Wobblers projects in the amount of 35K and 9K, payable immediately.

Moved: Teresa Le Brie Second: Cindy Harwin Abstained: Jean Highlands Passed

Neil requested to poll the BOD on whether the Health and Welfare committee should begin to work on the Merle becoming an approved color. By a show of hands, the subject did not appear to have overwhelming support.

**Judges Education** – Jane Trieber submitted her letter of resignation with her annual report. Dana Cline will be taking over as Judges Education Chair.

**Junior Showmanship/Scholarships** – Jamie Harshfield

The Charitable Trust received a $500 anonymous donation for scholarships. Jamie also reported she received two applications that requested expedited processing which isn’t possible.

**National Specialty Coordinator**- Lynda Moriarty

Concern over “In Kind” donations was brought up and was discussed and decided that these types of donations should not qualify for establishing the level of a corporate sponsorship.

**Motion** - 5. Only cash payments will be accepted for corporate sponsorships.

Moved: Neil O’Sullivan Second: Sue Davis Shaw Passed

2013 – North East Division – The Division is working on closing out the books.

2014 – Central Division – Sawmill Creek Resort

The hotel sold out in 6 hours. Over flow hotel is across the street. The Sawmill Creek will act as Housing Authority and handle those bookings as well. RV parking is now available on the web-site store.

Lynda reported that there is a new AKC rule that starting in 2014 that a single breed club may hold 2 agility trials in one day. One judge can do both trials. Lynda went over all costs involved. The consensus was to go ahead with 2 trials.

2015 – Southeast Division - Wanda Hepler

The members and guests present at the meeting toured the Sheraton facility and grounds. RV parking will be in the parking lot that is furthest away. Golf carts will be available as they may be necessary by some. Wanda distributed copies of the contract proposal from the Sheraton along with the floor plans and lay-outs. The contract was reviewed and questions on various issues and concerns were addressed. Some minor changes to verbiage were suggested.

**Motion**- 6. To accept the Myrtle Beach location as the site for the 2015 National subject to acceptance of the suggested changes to the contract.

Moved: Nancy Ridgway Second: Jason Hoke Passed

2016 – South Central Division

Nancy reported the committee is still exploring sites. Several locations in Texas were mentioned as possibilities but one of the sites in Mesquite may not be able to meet our rooming needs. The other site is south of Austin in San Marcos Texas. Pine Bluff site has really deteriorated so is not in contention.

2017 – Western Division

Cindy reported that sites possibilities are being explored.

**Performance/Companion Events** – Joyce Guthrie

Report was previously sent out via email. Several concerns were brought up regarding the 2013 Invitational. The main concern was that the invitations went out based on AKC rankings but then the events were run like UKC event and not an AKC event. It was felt that the entries were small for this reason. It was recommended that guidelines be set forth these events in the future.

**Public Education**- Jeffery Ball

No report

**Rescue**- Kathie Shea

**Motion** 7. To recommend that the Charitable Trust fund the Great Dane Love rescue grant request in the amount of $500.

Moved; Cindy Harwin Second: Jamie Harshfield Abstained: Jean Highlands Passed

**Motion**  8. To recommend that the Charitable Trust fund the Ohio Great Dane rescue grant request in the amount of $500.

Moved: Marshall Stoner Second: Teresa Le Brie Abstained: Jean Highlands Passed

**Motion**  9. To recommend that the Charitable Trust fund the Great Dane Rescue of New England grant request in the amount of $500.

Moved: Sue Davis Shaw Second: Susan Yotive Abstained: Jean Highlands Passed

**Standard** – Sharon Fulford

No report

**Web-site** – Nancy Lerch

Report previously submitted via email.

**SPECIAL COMMITEES**

**Breeder Education** - Jane Gray

No report

**Breeder Referral** – Nancy Lerch

No report

**Charitable Trust** – Jean Highlands

Jean went over the Charitable Trust budget and financials.

Starting period balance 238,250.46

Projected income $53,475

Total projected disbursements $118,868.88

Total projected loss <$65,393.88>

Ending period balance $172,856.58

Lisa hasn’t seen anything from the Amazon Smile program yet but it’s not surprising. It may take months to get anything.

Jean also reported that everyone who makes a donation to the Charitable Trust will get a thank you letter.

**Corporate Sponsors** - Sue Harriman

No report

**Historian** – Norvel Benoit

No report

**Legislative** – Tom Sandenaw

No report

**Membership** – Lynda Moriarty

Lynda shared the large list of recent applicants to be published that will move forward with the membership process.

**Motion** - 10. To approve the full list of published applicants (Tammy Brown, Sterling Moffat, Donna Ballota, Jamie Sarzynski, Tricia Marshall, Lisa Dewyngaert, Susan Dettmer, Cheryl Harmon, Barbara Yavorski-Warluft, Courtney Clark-DeLong, Kamberly Cameron) submitted by the membership committee pending no comments as of 1/22/2014.

Moved: Jason Hoke Second: Cindy Harwin Passed

**Bulletin** – Cindy Harwin

Items and reports for the bulletin are due 1/27/2014.

**Trophies** – Kathy Munyan/Jean Dinkins

No report - waiting on a comparative report of different trophy costs.

**Yearbook** – Rita Suddarth

No report

**OLD BUSINESS**

Regional Show at Purina – Neil suggested the possibility of holding a regional show at the Purina facility in 2015 as a way to generate revenue. The emphasis will be on performance events with the possibility of opening it up to all breeds. Teresa suggested several all-breed trials with an additional breed specific (Danes only) trial. Conformation will also be offered at the regional event. Neil will move forward with creating a budget and proposal. (Neil)

**NEW BUSINESS**

Judges education - It was suggested to hold ringside mentoring at other times during the National than just Best of Breed. - Dianne will request a procedure and content proposal from Dana Cline.

Special Procedures – It is felt that there is a need to establish a procedures book. Nancy questioned whether we need to radify the procedures that have already been put into place. Nancy will contact Michael Malamuck an Attorney/Parlimentarian for more information and legal requirements. (Nancy)

Futurity – Nancy requested that we open the discussion of changing the minimum age of puppies allowed to show. After discussion, it is felt that breeders have the choice to nominate for the 3-5 month class or wait and nominate the next year for the 15-18 month class.

Great Dane CD - Jane Trieber recommended that the CD be reviewed for any necessary changes. She felt that 150 would be sufficient to get through Judges Education where they were given out to attendees. They may be useful for Breeder Education and Public Education as well. A decision will be made next meeting after the different committee chairs are contacted. (Dianne)

Quintessa website - This is a valuable free service to the public and breeders. It was suggested to add this pedigree portion of his web-site as a link on the GDCA web-site. (Dale)

GDCA Breeders’ Listing – Sue suggested that the breeder listing on the web-site is 10 years old and needs to be updated and redesigned to include more health information and to make it easier for the general public to reach the listed breeders. Nancy Lerch will be contacted for possibilities of revamping the list. (Dianne)

Neil brought up that the color code is out of date. It does not reflect the fact that there is an appropriate DNA test for every single color combination to test to help avoid producing mismarks. He suggested that we need to update the color code based on the science that is available today. (Neil)

**Motion Approval - All motions made during the meeting were read and reviewed for approval.**

**Motion** -11 **–** To approve all motions as presented.

Moved: Jason Hoke Second: Cindy Harwin Passed

**Motion -** 12. to Adjorn

Moved: Marsh Stoner Second: Susan Yotive Passed