**GDCA BOD Meeting Minutes, July 25, 2015**

*All motions are considered unanimous unless otherwise noted*

The meeting was called to order at 0904 CST

**Present:** Dianne Powers, Jamie Harshfield, Bill Stebbins, Sue Davis Shaw, Kathy Munyan, Cindy Harwin, Dale Tarbox, Jean Highlands, Lynda Moriarty, Phil Gray, Linda Cain, Jason Hoke, Teresa LaBrie, Nancy Ridgway, Dr. Neil O’Sullivan, Denise Matulich and Gary Romerosa.

**Guest:** Jane Gray

**Absence of Board Members:**

No absentees.

**Minutes:** Gary Romerosa

**Motion:** To approve the minutes as presented.

Moved: Neil O’Sullivan Second: Sue Davis Shaw

**President’s Report:** Dianne Powers

* Purina- PPCP (Purina Parent Club Partnership). Earned $4,782.70 weight circle from January 1 to June 30.
* Request from GDCA member, Stephanie Tracy who runs Great Dane Rescue, Inc. to run Facebook page for GDCA. Need a read only page; will be interactive with moderators, with Sue and Denise acting as administrators.

Discussion: Neil was against it as parameters for page will be needed. FB page to go hand in hand with website per Lynda. Neil wants it launched in a two-step process, from post only, to interactive and will be on a trial basis.

**Motion:** To accept Ms. Tracy’s offer to have a Facebook page for the GDCA, with guidance from two GDCA board members (Sue and Denise), with read only capability in the first three months and reviewed in October meeting.

Moved: Neil O’Sullivan Second: Teresa LaBrie

* Request from Amber Finkle to recognize top owner handler for GDCA awards program. Will be brought up to Margaret Ontl by Dianne. Will only be awarded to GDCA members.

**Motion:** To bring the National Owner-Handled Series award, per GDCA Awards criteria, to the GDCA, and be retroactive to the beginning of the program.

Moved: Linda Cain Second: Denise Matulich

* Fifty year pin. We don’t have one. Need to find out how many 25 year pins we have from Margaret.
* Ransom Hand wants “marriage” between hands. Officiated by Dianne if Ok’d by the BOD to raise money for the Charitable Trust. Board agreed to have ceremony at the National.
* Bill received letter regarding online AKC Gazette. There has been no breed column since Paddy Magnuson stopped writing one.

Discussion: To have a current GDCA member vs. BOD member to write one. In the meantime, have some of the old columns re-published. Possible members to write a column would be Margaret Ontl or Karen Hamlin.

* Bulletin. Cindy Harwin is stepping down. Maria Perkins has volunteered to take over the Bulletin.

**Motion:** To accept the resignation of Cindy Harwin, and approve the appointment of Maria Perkins as Bulletin Editor.

Moved: Teresa LaBrie Second: Sue Davis Shaw

**Secretary’s Report:** Sue Davis Shaw

* Sent out Nominating Committee Letter. No response from opposing slate.
* Letter from AKC. Market Place costs $99, which includes an interactive page, dedicated club page with videos, unlimited event listings, show results, and customer service support. AKC is in such a flux, that this is not a good idea at this time.
* Letter from Virginia; Anne Marie Anderson who had a bad experience from puppy bought on puppy find, with neurological issues and asking for advice. She is not a member of the GDCA so we can’t do anything on her behalf and she would have to contact the AKC. She already has an attorney. Link to website with information on Pet Purchase Protection Law will be on website and FB page.

Discussion: Neil brought up need for information for public to see regarding hobby breeders vs. other types of breeders (i.e. backyard breeders and puppy mills).

* Correspondence from AKC regarding Eukanuba Championship Medallion and Pledge form and invitation for Meet the Breeds in Orlando. Need to get in touch with Jeff Ball if he wants to do the booth again.

**Motion:** To approve AKC Eukanuba medallion for conformation and performance.

Moved: Teresa LaBrie Second: Cindy Harwin

* Notification from AKC Event Operations (Tahisa and Damien Mitchell). They can assist the GDCA for shows. Also available for Affiliate Clubs.
* Received proposal from Kathy Toomey regarding historical look at top winning Great Danes.
* Reminder from the AKC regarding names for Canine Ambassador.
* No historical changes will be made for a particular breed without formal documentation and substantiated request from the AKC parent club.

**Treasurer’s Report & Budget:** Kathy Munyan

Financials: Through late July.

Through June: Income: $500.50, with majority coming from Futurity and checks received.

Total Income: $103,052.15

Expenses: $ 3,025.10

Interest Income: $32.00

Net Income: $47,109.13

Bank Balances, Checking and Savings: $220,262.15

* New budget proposal was presented in detail and discussed.

**Motion:** To approve the Treasurer’s report as presented.

Moved: Nancy Ridgway Second: Jean Highlands

**Motion:** To approve proposed budget.

Moved: Sue Davis Shaw Second: Phil Gray

**Affiliate Club Representative’s Report:** Cindy Harwin

* Great Dane Club of Northern California (GDCNC) seeking approval to approve electronic meetings.

**Motion:** To approve change in the Great Dane Club of Northern California by-laws, to conduct meetings electronically.

Moved: Phil Gray Second: Jamie Harshfield

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

* Legislative Committee: Wonderful committee and has done lots of good legislative work with a lot of different states, with dog laws and with passing bills. In touch with a lot of dog friendly senators from different states and helps with getting rid of a lot of bad dog laws.
* Presented and distributed Best Practices List from the AKC and All Breed Clubs Delegate Committee.
* Next meeting is in September.
* Dale also asked Joyce Rowe for a brief bio and will be forwarded to the BOD as soon as it’s available.

**Standing Committees:**

* **Advisory**: Linda Ridder, Linda Tonnancour, and Dave Miller
* No report
* **Awards:** Margaret Ontl
* 1st and 2nd quarter GDCA 2015 – issued 12 breeders certificates, 4 venerable certificates, 2 versatility certificates, 2 honor roll certificates, 3 Hall of Fame certificates, and 1 pending for venerable until proof is received that the dog is still alive.
* **Constitution & By-Laws:** Nancy Ridgway, Lourdes Carvajal, Linda Cain and Tom Sandenaw
* Have not done anything with current by-laws. May need new committee members. Nancy will talk to the attorney of the Rottweiler club to gather information. Will have rough draft by January 2016. Will have a report by the National.

Discussion: Jason brought up the subject of re-incorporating to be able to do e-ballots. Per Nancy, she has looked at statutes for all states and there are no states that allow non-profit organizations to vote online.

* **Futurity:** Michael Pacucci
* Dianne received e-mail from Michael for the 2015 futurity.
* First nominations: 198
* Second nominations: Dogs: 245, Bitches: 260, for a total of 505 which is similar to previous years.
* Michael has just sent out final entries.
* For the 2016 Futurity.
* First nominations: 12
* Second nominations: 1 dog, 1 bitch.
* **Health & Research:** Dr. Neil O’Sullivan Status/Updates:
* Genome Resequence Project: Dr. Leigh Anne Clark, Clemson University.
* Making use of genomic sequence data, GWAS (Genome Wide Association Study). Being used by Dr. Kate Meurs and Leigh Anne Clark to look at cardiomyopathy affected and normal, to look for further associations.
* Megaesophagus Research Status Report: Clemson University
* The article is out. Need to discuss as a board to move along, and to take things to a higher profile. Need litter screened of affected puppies.
* Intermediate Genotype. Somewhat flaccid esophagus, could be a precursor for Geriatric onset.
* Third Genotype. Normal, narrow tune with normal sphincter action.
* Purina is transitioning from print to online.
* Wobblers Research Report – The Ohio State University
* GWAS sequence data may help. Looking at different phenotypes in imaging studies to see. Waiting to see if he can get a signal hit. Not as far along as cardiomyopathy.
* GDV Study – Dr. Alex Alvarez.
* How to stabilize a dog initially in bloat to prep for surgery to get it to a point where it doesn’t progress to occlusion of the blood vessels, etc., and have it be done like a routine gastropexy with minor repairs done. Have tried on pilot study and results have been good. Can have significant AKC ACORN grant of $8-12K. He needs $15K.
* Neil recommending we support with $6-7K if he doesn’t get the full grant from AKC ACORN grant, or fully fund it if no grant received. Neil to ask him to prepare his budget and will have information forwarded to the BOD and Charitable Trust.
* **Judges Education:**  Jason Hoke, Dale Tarbox, and Bill Stebbins.
* Update- Judges Education; presentation and judge’s guide:
* Dale presented the guide for corrections. Give feedback ASAP to Dale, to have it ready to be presented at the National.
* Bill states that hands on at the National is the best for judges education in terms of the selection of dogs available.
* There is ongoing problems with the AV equipment, and Bill is requesting that the board purchase a self-contained unit for presentations.

**Motion:** To purchase a projector as described by Bill Stebbins, for Judges Education.

Moved: Cindy Harwin Second: Dr. Neil O’Sullivan

**Motion:** To approve the Judges Education presentation with corrections.

Moved: Jamie Harshfield Second: Linda Cain Abstain: Jason Hoke, Bill Stebbins and Dale Tarbox

* Give acknowledgment to Tami Bradford for the work she did with Dale in revising the Illustrated Guide with a Cosmic Creations acknowledgment at the bottom of the slides.
* **Judges Selection:**
* 2016 Contract ready to be mailed out. Signed contract to go to the Division Chair, GDCA Treasurer and Secretary.
* 2017. Do we continue to have the Division Chair do the balloting?

Discussion: To have Nancy be able to show for this year. BOD in agreement. Have Nancy prepare the contracts, but have the Division Chair send out and sign contract. Nancy will be the liaison.

**Motion:** To have Nancy be the liaison to the Division Chair for Judges Selection.

Moved: Cindy Harwin Second: Jamie Harshfield Abstain: Nancy Ridgway

* **Junior Showmanship/Scholarships:** Jamie Harshfield
* Nine, junior applications sent to the Trust and has been approved.
* Mary Lou Carmody –awaiting for who she wants her scholarship awarded to.
* Cindy will have banner with scholarship recipient names at the National before breed judging.
* Jamie asking for someone else to take over for her. She’s going through a list of people right now. Dianne also has a list with new members with interest in juniors.
* The following were awarded scholarships: Kaitlyn Mullin, Shannon Soafer, Olga Maderych, John Woodworth, Rebekah Woodworth, Tristen Lawrence, Morgan Mattioli, Summer Reid, and Joshua Cave.
* **Membership Health and Welfare:** Linda Cain
* Need to get Hanlon bio.
* Just received word about Sally Gamboa.
* Don Booxbaum also passed.
* **National Specialty Coordinator:** Lynda Moriarty
* Lynda brought up that it is as much a Division responsibility vs. Board responsibility to solicit donations. Need to hand out trophy donation forms now until September to people at dog shows. It is everybody’s responsibility to solicit.

Discussion: Have the Affiliate Clubs hand out trophy donation forms as well. Currently, Affiliate Clubs belonging to the Division hand out $150 to the Division to go towards costs. Will send out Constant Contact reminder to include forms for solicitations.

* 2015 - South East Division status – Myrtle beach, SC
* Things are good. Premium list being finalized.
* Handling charges got missed this year.
* Patty Thomas sent out Bronze Sponsorship invitations. BOD thought it’s a brilliant idea to attract Bronze Sponsors.
* Performance events venue? Lynda to find out.
* 2016 – South Central Division status – Tulsa, OK
* New Division Chair to be voted on, Joyce Rowe.

**Motion:** To approve Joyce Rowe as Division Chair for the South Central Division.

Moved: Nancy Ridgway Second: Jamie Harshfield

* 2017 – Western Division status – Chandler, AZ
* New Division Chair – Mike Boa
* Has a lot of committees filled already. Show Chair – Everett Van Dyken

**Motion:** To approve Mike Boa as the Division Chair and Everett Van Dyken as the Show Chair for the Western Division.

Moved: Jean Highlands Second: Bill Stebbins

* 2018 – Mid West Division status – Topeka, KS
* Division Chair – Joy Lobato
* Show Chair – Tammy Suddath
* Nothing going on yet.

**Motion:**  To approve Tammy Suddath as Show Chair for the Midwest Division.

Moved: Jason Hoke Second: Neil O’Sullivan

Discussion: Teresa suggested to open the trials to all working breeds vs. all breeds. The idea was discussed to possibly hold the trials after the specialty. This is not possible as it requires approval from the hosting club. Neil and Jason will draft letter in July to send to Joyce Guthrie.

* **Performance/Companion Events:** Joyce Guthrie

Discussion: Dale expressed concerns about changing the whole format of performance events altogether vs. just suggestions. Ask Joyce to contact Jason, Neil, or Teresa regarding proposal.

* BOD needs to discuss this. Dianne to get back with Joyce that a lot of points needs to be discussed, along with questions and concerns. Joyce and her committee will be invited to join the board meeting.
* Teresa will be the liaison for the Performance Committee.
* The scope is too broad.
* Performance events will need to bring in more money.
* **Public Education:** Jeffrey Ball
* Dianne to get in touch with Jeffrey regarding the two Meet the Breeds.
* Jamie wants to be part of this standing committee as a representative from the West Coast.
* Dianne to send e-mail to Jeff to have him get in touch with Jamie.
* **Rescue:** Kathie Shea
* Rescue Report. Did not ask her for report.
* Will ask for follow-up on Florida Danes with the donation that we gave.
* Dale updated on local news she read on current status of aid to the rescue.
* Meritorious award for Val and other person, from GDCA with her efforts to shut down the puppy mill.
* Teresa to find out who set up things like Amazon donations, etc. for wish list.
* Information regarding rescue to also be included in FB page.
* **Standard (Breed):** Sharon Fulford
* Report received that group of breeders and exhibitors formed. Committee will meet in South Carolina. Members are: Sue Davis Shaw, Jason Hoke, Pat Ciampa, and Bob Layne.
* Proposed to add to the height standard to revise height at one year old vs. six months old. Heights will be changed to 32 inches for dogs, and 30 inches for bitches at a year old, respectively.
* Remove the line about bitches allowed to be slightly longer.

Discussion: there will be a line by line review of the breed standard. Once this is completed by the committee, this will be presented to the general membership to be voted on. Color review, especially having to deal with merles will also be reviewed and discussed.

* **Website:** Nancy Lerch
* Report from Nancy received and reviewed by the BOD.
* Group photo of the BOD requested to be posted on the website.
* **Special Committees:**
* Breeders Education: Jane Gray
* Book of standards to target new breeders. How to start puppies, questions from prospective buyers, what questions breeders should ask prospective owners.
* Asking breeders to be mentors.
* Breeder Referral: Nancy Lerch
* Covered in Nancy’s report. Reviewed by the BOD.
* Charitable Trust: Jean Highlands
* Donated $3K to FL rescue.
* Tickets being sold for Lobato sculpture for Charitable Trust.
* Looking for grant writers. Dianne’s sister is a possibility. Dianne to get back with CT.
* Approved all scholarships.
* Corporate Sponsors: Lauri Maulucci
* No report.
* Historian: Norvel Benoit
* No report.
* Legislative – AKC Report: Tom Sandenaw
* No report. Has not received any reports or alerts in over a year.

Discussion: Dale to replace Tom as both the AKC and Legislative representative. This is usually an appointed position. The appointment for this position will be brought up at the National when the new board of directors are introduced. Dianne to get in touch with Tom.

* Membership: Lynda Moriarty
* Five applications received and sent to membership committee for publishing. The following applied for membership: Memory Armstrong, Joshua Saunders, Charlotte Nesbet, Kelly Fails, and Kathy Balestrieri.
* 2nd quarter bulletin published, deadline is July 26 for comments.

**Motion:** To approve all pending membership applications pending no negative comments by July 26 for the following applicants: Donna Albrecht, Mickie Raborn, Dot Brandt, Dan Palantino, and Carol Ragan.

Moved: Teresa LaBrie Second: Dale Tarbox

* News Bulletin: Cindy Harwin
* Deadline for reports is August 3rd.
* Top 20 Statistician – Rita Suddarth
* No updates.

**Old Business:**

* **Color Code Review:** Dr. Neil O’ Sullivan
* Need a complete revision of color code.
* Start a list of breedings not recommended, i.e., white to white, or chocolates of any kind.
* Recommending building a matrix for color breeding recommendations to replace the color code.
* Also include this with Breeders Education.
* Include websites for companies doing color testing on the GDCA website and the FB page.
* Teresa recommended looking at vertical pedigrees of dogs as well.
* **Revisions to the Breed Mentor Program and review of the Breed Mentor List:**  Vote Required.
* Bill looking at developing centralized rather than a division oriented approach to mentor program.
* Breed mentor committee has nine members, eight of the mentors are current board members, with Jane Treiber as the 9th member.
* Sent out three forms to all currently listed breed mentors to apply as breed mentors with an understanding of changes to the breed mentor guidelines. Bill however, sent the forms without prior approval by the BOD. Bill passed out a copy of the forms for the BOD to review.
* There are several parts involved in revising list. This list needs to go out on Constant Contact.

**Motion:** To approve new breed mentoring guidelines, application, and code of conduct with addenda.

Moved: Neil O’Sullivan Second: Dale Tarbox

**New Business:**

* **Proposal from Kathy Toomey to compile pictures of top wining Great Danes and make them available for Judges Ed, Breeders Ed, and sell at cost to clubs or individuals.**

Discussion: This is going to be too big for trifold. Nancy Lerch is also already doing something similar. This can be incorporated on FB page. Will have Kathy talk to Denise and Sue.

* Once grouping is compiled and have a big database, probably publish a book.
* Re-visit starting a yearbook.
* **Criteria for Breed Ambassadors for communication and vote:** Top nominations were Jason Hoke, Dale Tarbox, and Bob Edison. Vote on three way tie: Neil O’ Sullivan, Patrice Lawrence and Georgia Hymmen and then on the entire list.
* Per Sue, AKC Breeder Ambassador Program with guidelines of up to 4 candidates.
* Need list of alternates, based on geographic location.
* **De Soto Animal Control:**
* Already talked about it.
* **Committee for Reviewing Contracts:** Review of programs, documents, contracts with individuals and business entities, and health and research.
* Nancy to have a small group (volunteers) to read proposals and report back to the board.
* Include review of contracts from prior years, which would include Lynda, Neil, Jean or Kathy.
* Need to develop a checklist/template to review against contracts.
* Committee to come up with checklist/template and start with historical contracts. Nancy, Linda, Lynda and Kathy to comprise the committee.

Discussion: Neil brought up having BOD meetings in person vs. teleconference. Lots of challenges and issues with teleconference meetings with distractions, etc. This is true especially with the January meeting with the introduction of new board members. This will be discussed further in October meeting and needs to be included in the agenda.

* **Reviews.com link from website:**
* We won’t put link on website or FB page due to policy of not endorsing any commercial entities.

**Motion:** To approve all motions for publication in the Bulletin.

Moved: Lynda Moriarty Second: Kathy Munyan

**Adjourn:** Board Meeting Schedule:

2015 – Oct 26-31

2016 – January 23, April 23, July 30.

**Motion:** To adjourn.

Moved: Jason Hoke Second: Neil O’Sullivan