**The Great Dane Club of America**

**General Membership Meeting Minutes**

**October 17, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM PST.

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

**Members/Guests:** Kathleen Davis, Diane Collings, Cheryl VanEeghen, Sue Finck, Mary Lee Williams, Kathie Shea, Kathleen Fennell, Terri Burley Hammond, Cynthia Carlson, Dail Koehler, Patricia Schempp, Loren Bengston, Doris Crow, David Addington, Michelle Bjorkman, Lori Beilke, Gabriella Beilke, Brian Seiber, Margaret Ontl, Megan Strickland, Nancy Parker, Kathy Baraga, Rayna Orgill, Eric Timmons, Shanda Bhasker, Georgia Hymmen, Shari Ziegenbein, Sue Moss, Terrell Jones, Jackie Fulkerson, Patricia Wolf, Mike Boa, Anthony Romano, Susan Romano, Gerard Thompson, Kurt Eriksen, Sam Rose, Kristi Allison, Kitty Perkins, Lisa Foltz, Sarah Tempest, Annie Liu, John Wood, Donna Clark, Charles Marcantonio, Sonia Gens, Bev Klingensmith, Kristen Kenney, Linda Tonnancour, Joy DeGruccio, Tia Britts, Hilary McLeod, Scott Wilson, BJ Barnhart, Valerie Metcalf, Karen Desjardins, Darryl Pitts, Linda Ridder, Donnel Giambastiani. John Walsh, and Mary Walsh.

**BOD/Officers leaving**: Dianne Powers, Nancy Ridgway and Gary Romerosa

**Nominees for Office/BOD positions:**

* President: Jason Hoke
* 1st Vice President: Neil O’Sullivan
* 2nd Vice President: Jamie Harshfield
* BOD: Denise Matulich, Darryl Pitts, Karen Desjardins and Rachel Wilson
* 2019 Final ballot will be out soon, now that the site has been approved and have Performance dates.
* Also, proposed changes to the by-laws will be on the ballot.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Kathy Munyan

* Kathy read the latest financial report as of September 2017.

**Affiliate Club:** Cindy Harwin

* Can’t hold Specialty without updated roster of current members and officers provided to the parent club.

**Delegate’s Report:** Jean Highlands

* Limited registration still going forward. New proposal is off the table.
* Re-instatement of disqualified dogs still being reviewed, and will be up for a vote in December or January.

**Health and Research:** Dr. Neil O’Sullivan

* Sequenced Great Dane genome in 2008. We now have reference genome to work on.
* Megaesophagus gene; regulatory gene. NIH may step up to the plate with funding research because it may have human application.
* Possible test for both Mega and Wobbler’s. Looking for more samples of litters to have barium study.
* Wobbler’s: Now discourage myelogram. Ct is now the preferred diagnostic tool. There are intermediate cases of mega in older Danes.
* DCM: Leigh Ann Clark. Also sent to Europe in Sweden. May have two forms; sex-linked and another type.
* Epilepsy: Gary Johnson. Sample collection stage.
* Bloat: There was a study done and a test marketed by a group based on a single gene. Not recommending test.
* Want list: Gut biome study, Pexy, does it affect gut biome?
* Male fertility in Danes. We have a problem! Testicular size seems to be decreasing.
* Test for mantle or Irish pattern and brindle.
* The Charitable Trust (CT) will donate $300/puppy for megaesophagus testing. 1 in 20 is affected by mega.

**Judges Education:** Bill Stebbins

* We need more Breeder Judges. Judges Education Program at the National required.
* Three basics before qualifying:
* 12 or more years in the breed
* 5 or more litters
* At least 4 champions

**Rescue:** Kathie Shea

* This year there were 1,188 Danes taken in. This number is down from last year, due to rescues closing down. Harls still account for the most.
* New Hampshire Danes trial started on 10/16/2017.

**Standard:** Sharon Fulford-Fint

* The revision has taken 2 years worth of conferences and meetings.
* Proposed changes were presented to the membership and questions and comments were welcomed afterwards.

**Election of Officers and BOD:**

* President: Jason Hoke
* 1st Vice President: Neil O’Sullivan
* 2nd Vice President: Jamie Harshfield
* BOD: Denise Matulich, Karen Desjardins and Darryl Pitts

**New Business:**

**Website:**

* Working on completely new website, including CT and the shop.

**Other news/updates:**

* Virginia Beach, VA in 2019
* Membership drive – encourage younger people to join.
* CT, hosting event tomorrow at 4 PM.
* Standard revision pending. August 2015 sent letters out to membership**.** Finalized version sent to AKK. Still have 30 days left for comment period.
* Foreign guests: President of German Club, Representative for European Deutsche Doggen Club and John Walsh. Floor was given to Daniel (European Club) who is working with our parent club.
* Standard revision. Line by line review was presented by Neil O’Sullivan, followed by questions and comments received from the membership.
* Affiliate Clubs. Encourage all Dane owners to join the club, regardless of what level of involvement they have with the breed. Phil Gray voiced his support for a positive vote for inclusion of merles in the standard.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 PM PST.