**The Great Dane Club of America**

**General Membership Meeting Minutes**

**October 24, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 PM CST.

**Present:** Jason Hoke, Joyce Rowe, Cindy Harwin, Darryl Pitts, Denise Matulich, Robert Edison, Jessie Gerszewski, Linda Cain, Kathleen Fennell, Karen Desjardins, Jamie Harshfield, Kathy Munyan, Jean Highlands, Brian Seiber, Neil O Sullivan, Lynda Moriarity

**Members/Guests:** Sue Mahany, Tina Ryan-Lawson, Rayna Orgill, Sandee Elliot, Linda Tonnancour, Joy De Gruccio, Lorie & Jay Roden, Arlene Erbacker, John & Mary Walsh, Ruediger & Regina Bachman, David Addington, Fay Rogstad, Kristen Kenney, Sue Larkin, Sarah Morehead, John Gerszewski, Mike Arnold, Nancy D. Simmons, Donald & Dy Westermeyer, Nancy Parker, Dick Schaffer, Kathy Toomey, Cindee Carlson Theda Askew, Sheila Sullivan Fran Lass, Michaela Beilke, Gabriella Beilke, Mark McDonald, Sandra Firkus, Ann Chaffin, Karen Martin, Warren & Norvel Benoit, Sandy Allen Peg Clarke, Kathie Shea, Lori Beilke, Jeff & Patrice Lawrence, Tristen Lawrence, Gary & Debi Romerosa, Phil Gray, Rachel Wilson, Ashley Gandees, Tina Hammond, Michael Boa, Clarence Schram, Nancy Ridgeway, Diane Collings, Loren Bengston, Kathleen Davis, Michelle Bjorkman, Georgia Hymmen, Arnie Eckenrode, Maxine Schlumdt, Francette Lass, Yvonne Weed, Pat Schemp, Cathy Schafer, Suzanne & Andy Barber, Barbara Waldkirch, Julie Evans, Katie Krehmeyer, Dave Showalter, John Jarvise, Tyrells Jones, Doris Crow, Mary Lee Williams, Ann Heavy, Sam Rose, Suzanne Eberling

**Presidents Report:** Jason Hoke

* Jason welcomed everyone and introduced the officers and board members. There are not enough members in attendance for a quorum, so this will be an informational meeting.
* Jason thanked Joy Lobato and the entire division and all the volunteers for their work and congratulated them on a very successful show!
* Jason thanked out going Board Member Phil Gray and Corresponding Secretary Susan Davis Shaw for their service to the GDCA
* Jasonencouraged all those in attendance to take part in a demonstration which emphasized a need for the GDCA members to encourage younger Dane fanciers to join not just our club, but our sport! Of the members and guests in attendance today only 7% are under the age of 40 and only 2% are under the age of 30.

**Corresponding Secretary Report:** Denise Matulich

* Ballots for 2020 National will be coming in November**.** 
  + **Nominees for Office/BOD:** Denise read the slate of nominees proposed by the Nominating Committee:
* 1st Vice President: Dr. Neil O’Sullivan
* 2nd Vice President: Jamie Harshfield
* Treasurer: Brian Seiber
* Director: Robert Edison, Kathy Munyan

In accordance with GDCA Bylaws and having received no additional nominations from the floor, Corresponding Secretary Denice Matulich casts the one ballot for the slate as proposed by the Nominating Committee.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Kathy Munyan

* Kathy Munyan read the Treasurer report
* Reduction in dues this year

**Affiliate Club:** Cindy Harwin

* Affiliate club meeting was yesterday. Attendance is a struggle.
* Any clubs requesting Bylaw changes need to get them to Cindy as they must be presented to Board for approval before sending to AKC
* Affiliate clubs need to have full and complete rosters turned in to GDCA before approval for specialties will be given to AKC.

**Delegate’s Report:** Jean Highlands

* AKC recently moved into their new offices
* AKC Museum of the Dog is set to open in January.
* There is concern for the quality of dogs being used for the Detection Dog program as it seems many are coming from overseas. AKC is now reaching out to breeders to participate in AKC Patriotic Puppy program where AKC breeders would raise their pups to become Detection Dogs. Concentration is on breeds without “prick ears”. Information can be found on AKC website.
* Farm Bill – AKC wants to support a provision to prevent the importing of rescue dogs from other countries.

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

* Dr Meyers Infertility Study – Meet and Greet was successful.
* Megaesophagus still collecting samples. One gene has been sequenced, still working on a second one. We are hoping to have project finalized next year. The Charitable Trust (CT) will donate *up to* $300/puppy for megaesophagus barium.
* With Merle standard change, we need to make the color code more relevant to available testing that could prevent health issues and disqualifying colors from breeding pairs. With the findings of Leigh Ann Clarks project which distinguished the variable alleles that form merle: non-merle, merle, cryptic merle we can approach putting together a color code with an emphasis on testing for health and standard approved colors.
* Wobbler’s samples are with the genetics group at North Carolina Dr. Rinaldo Costa, still doing CT scans
* DCM Project~ Investigating Taurine deficiency and Chagas Disease and how they impact DCM diagnosis.

**Rescue:** Kathie Shea

* This year there were 1389 Danes taken in. This number is up about 200 from last year.
* New Hampshire rescue Danes have all been adopted and/or released to rescue.

**Website:**

* Currently getting the Store set up~ We will then have a “soft launch” for the board/officers to try and “break” then will be released to public, most likely in the new year.

**Other news/updates:**

* With Merle now recognized and eligible to be shown 01/01/2019 our first and main goal is educating licensed and soon to be licensed judges. Within next month we will be submitting educational material to AKC. Information containing the importance and relevance of merle in our breed. We will also supply them with educational materials such as power point, illustrated standard, and an article on how to judge the merle.
* Foreign guests: Jason introduced John Walsh his wife Mary. John is judging Best of Breed Saturday and is the President of the Irish Great Dane Club as well as the EUDDC. Also introduced Ruediger & Regina Bachman. Regina is the president of the Great Dane Club of Germany ***“****Deutsche Doggen Club”*. Ruediger read a statement prepared by his wife expressing their thanks for our hospitality and their desire to work together with the GDCA regarding breeding to the standard, not “Euro Hyper-types” and partnering to help with health and research and explained they have a DNA Blood Bank with over 50,000 blood samples.
* The Irish Great Dane Club is hosting the EUDDC show May 25-26, 2019
* Meet the Merle event- Will be tomorrow 10/25 30 minutes after dog judging concludes. Mary Walsh will be judging the event.
* Thank you to the Charitable Trust as without them we would not have the funds for projects, research, rescue, grants, natural disaster relief, scholarships, etc.
* 2019 National is in Virginia Beach at Founders Inn. October 6-12. Also there will be a GDC of Pennsylvania Specialty on October 13.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 PM CST.