

GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS AND ST. PAUL

Membership Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2018

Animal Inn in Lake Elmo, MN

Officer Attendees:

Mike Metz, President

Sarah Falk, Secretary

Laura Meyer, Treasurer

Officers Absent: Steve Bloom, Vice President

Board Member Attendees:

Verna Kubik

Ann Jeddeloh

Rhonda Meath



Board Members Absent: none

Michael Metz called the meeting to order at 8:35 p.m.

Sarah Falk moved to dispense with reading of the February Meeting Minutes and approve as disseminated via email.

Craig Carson seconded. Motion carried. Verna commented that there is an issue on the Table from February. So noted.

Officer's Reports

President's Report (Michael Metz):

- VOTING on 2019 Futurity Judges. Potential judges were discussed and nominated for consideration. After a slate was created, Craig Carson moved to close the nominations. Diane Blasius-Brown seconded. Motion carried. Voting commenced. Voting concluded. Michael documented the results.
- VOTE on Electronic Meetings Bylaw changes: Proposed change to incorporate language supporting board meeting attendance via electronic means. TO: "Meetings, with the exception of the Audit Committee may be conducted by electronic means." Sarah Falk moved to adopt the new language- Craig Carson seconded. Motion carried.
- VOTE to move April Meeting from April 20 to April 6 due to Board attendance. Craig Carson moved, Sarah Falk seconded. Motion carried.
- Trying new start times for Membership Meetings: April and May Membership Meetings will start at 8 p.m. and will look to potentially move to a weekend as well, different locations potentially. More to come.

Vice President's Report (Steve Bloom):

Mike informed that Steve is absent tonight as he is performing emergency surgery.

Secretary's Report (Sarah Falk):

We received a Thank You card from Ann Halling for the flowers she received- get well soon Ann, and thank you to Ann Jeddeloh for sending out the flowers on behalf of the Club.

Treasurer's Report (Laura Meyer):

- Checking \$33,601.20, Savings \$10,871.65 for a total of \$44,472.85
- Quarterly break down from Quick Books distributed.
- Audit Report – Denise Gilbertson and Mada Skare comprised the committee. Denise mentioned there continues to be an issue with receipts. Had some issues with AKC invoice payments as they don't send a receipt. Mada's recommendation is to take a picture or screen capture of transactions with AKC. Laura Meyer read the Audit Committee's report which states overall that things are in good order – however all reimbursements MUST have a receipt. Thank you to Mada and Denise for doing the 2018 audit.
- GSDCA annual dues are paid – they were paid twice in error. Laura will ask the GSDCA Treasurer for documentation of our double payment showing that we are paid up for 2018 and 2019.
- Trophy fund is underway- thank you again, Laurie Schray!

Committee Reports

Agility (Rhonda Meath)

- Nails will be dremmeled by Jeanne Sutich at the March 30- April 2 trial. Unknown fee, would benefit Saving Shepherds of Minnesota.
- Mike asked Rhonda about volunteer t-shirts – cost is approximately \$7 each. Would need to order very soon. Verna Kubik moved to approve a \$300 potential t-shirt order. Laura Meyer seconded. Motion carried.

Conformation Specialty Show (Peggy Simerson)

- Event Overview: We are doing a concurrent show with the Cambridge All Breed cluster June 21-24 at Isanti County Fairgrounds. All German Shepherd judging will take place in our GSD Specialty-sized outdoor rings. Will allow us to invite in more exhibitors and handlers to participate in six majors across a four-day weekend. Will have food on our two days and a raffle table. We need to repair the tent poles from the storm last year. Mike said he saw the replacement poles on eBay.
- Premium Lists are coming back from Onofrio.
- Peggy requested we revisit the Temperment Test as we could do the Temperament Test at the Specialty Show as well as GSD Fun Day as it does attract a different audience. Peggy did a poll of the local handlers and owners and was able to confirm about 15 dogs and added that for many handlers this is their opportunity to put a TC on their dogs or clients' dogs as they cannot give up a weekend of showing to attend a TT. Mike mentioned he put a poll out on the Facebook GSDCA Open Forum group that indicated overwhelming favorability for having a Temperament Test at a conformation specialty show (104 voted "yes", 4 could "take it or leave it" and 2 said "no"). Mike mentioned he supports the concept. Cindy mentioned there are a few other clubs that offer it. Peggy Simerson moved to hold a Temperament Test on Saturday. Zoa Rockenstein seconded. Motion carried.
- Peggy commended Laurie Schray for collecting trophy donations – which she started at the Feb. 24 Obedience an Rally show and she will continue to collect through the Eau Claire shows. The trophy fund covers obedience, conformation and herding events.

Obedience Trials (Taylor Schnichels/Melissa McIntyre)

- Mike provided a preliminary financial recap for the Feb. 24 Obedience and Rally Specialty Trials as Taylor and Melissa were absent. We were anticipating losing \$300-400 and we came out ahead about that much.
- Sarah Falk informed that a five-question competitor survey was sent to all exhibitors to gather their feedback. Survey results were distributed. Sarah read the survey results which were very favorable and contained lots of praise for the show and the show committee as well as some actionable feedback for future events. Survey

confirms what many in attendance saw – from a competitor standpoint the event was a success: they liked the venue, they would come back for a similar event at the same location. Suggested changes included having a whiteboard at ring side monitored by the steward that indicates who is in the ring so the next dog and handler can warm up and be ready for their turn; and another suggestion was to have two shows in two days over the full weekend (Saturday and Sunday). Sarah mentioned she thanked the judges and asked for their feedback. The judges had positive remarks as well and the only suggestion they gave was to start rally 30 minutes after obedience started to avoid ring conflicts between exhibitors that are competing at the same level in both rings.

- Sarah noted there were a varied level of competitors from very experienced to brand new, first or second timers still new to competing. Overall, people were smiling and talking everywhere you looked, there was a high level of camaraderie, lots of fun being had. Sue Smith added it was the most fun show she has ever attended and she really enjoyed it and she was looking forward to attending the conformation show and helping out there as she wouldn't be tied up at the Obedience and Rally trials- she could participate in both. Final financial results are coming – to be presented at April meeting.

Spring Match (Peggy Simerson)

- Peggy: Match is on Friday, March 23. Registration is 6 p.m. judging begins at 7 p.m. Conformation judge is Greg Harrison, Obedience judge is Melissa McIntyre and Rally judge is Dawn Fisher. Obedience and Rally are unsanctioned. Because of this, we ordered new ribbons that are generic that can also be used at our Training graduations.
- There will be a light supper.
- Rally will start as soon as conformation ends.
- Flyer needs to be adjusted to add 3-6 puppy class and 9-12 month to be added (missed). Do have left over t-shirts from the Obedience show. Shouldn't need any t-shirts as there are some left over from the Feb. 24 trial.
- Peggy Simerson moved to accept a budget \$300 for the Match. Craig Carson seconded. Motion carried.

Membership (Cindy Muehlbauer)

- Cindy provided details about four new member applications: Peter and Fawn Lindbloom. Sarah and Clarissa Sauter, Zoey and Larry Strichavois and Paul Schumach.
- Mike: Gensol is a genetic testing company, we have a 10% off non-sale prices. Discount code will be included in the email.
- Total members 174. Will target sending out Membership booklet in June.

SOG (Sue Smith)

- SOG is in the works. Will send out one out in the next two weeks. Sue is welcoming of any new material- articles, pictures, ideas. Please contact Sue!

New Activities (Julie Swinland)

- Absent. Will cover at next Membership Meeting.

Training (Verna Kubik)

- Graduation is March 16, new sessions starts April 6. Basic Obedience is now full and there are a few openings yet in Puppy class.
- Working on cleaning up Rally application. Tabled last year was the acceptable age of Rally blocks. Verna is working on this.

- Need to discuss if we want to maintain the conformation ring and needs some time on what to do. Verna is working on this.
- Sarah: We now have a prize for training graduation to encourage people to try rally and take classes with us- first place gets three free rally classes, 2-4 places get 1 free rally class. Will issue at graduation next week.
- Mike: Equipment order from Amber- it's a storage issue – can't order yet because we can't put the equipment in the trailer (it is currently parked down the hill for the winter and is inaccessible as there is no way to get down there due to snow and it's not plowed). Peggy will provide the list of equipment needs to Mike for him to validate with Amber that they are still needed and we'll order once we know the equipment can be stored in the trailer in the main lot (spring).

Front Desk (Laura Herweyer)

- Friday volunteers are needed - it's a lot of fun and is a great opportunity to meet people. Contact Laura she'll train you in. We are taking volunteers for May- for a month at a time. Volunteers you get a free drop-in class and a t-shirt.
- Also looking into class registrations and automating it making it available online to make it easier to track, confirmation emails can be sent to the students immediately rather than a lag due to hard copy hand-offs. Looking at using Google Docs to use for sign-up.

Nose Work/Scent Work (Sarah Falk)

- Mike introduced the topic and apologized for inadvertently causing some confusion. While he had conversations with Sarah about hosting AKC Scent Work trials as far back as October of 2017, he didn't understand the difference between the two existing organizations – therefore Sarah briefly gave an overview. NACSW (National Association of Canine Scent Work) developed the sport in 2008 in California. It's based on working K9 detection dog competitions – it was created as a fun sport for companion dogs, as well as a way for shelter dogs to build confidence in exploring their environments. The sport quickly grew in popularity across the country with the first pre-trial competition (Odor Recognition Test) held in Minnesota in February of 2013 and the first titling competitions available in Minnesota in September of 2014. AKC developed their version of the sport and announced trials could be held beginning in October of 2017 – just over four months ago. Essentially, both organizations' competitions are testing dog and handler teams' ability to find source (odor); with the dog hunting and finding hides, and the handler calling the finds correctly. The way those behaviors are tested and how the teams demonstrate proficiency in finding hides as well as the titles offered varies. Sarah mentioned she's writing an article for the upcoming SOG describing the differences between NACSW and AKC. Sarah added that NACSW would not ever allow preference for entries to be given to a breed (like our club would expect be given to GSDs), and based on the demand of the sport for entries, we could host a trial without a single GSD competing in it, and that is why she has never recommended pursuing hosting NACSW trials.
- Sarah announced that as of mid-February, we are an approved AKC Scent Work Club, she received the notification from AKC after sending in a complete application. Sarah mentioned she has been active in this sport since 2012, competing since 2013 and that she has earned 11 titles and passed 6 pre-trial tests (Odor Recognition Tests). Her dog Manny is the first German Shepherd to earn an NACSW title from Minnesota in 2013. She knows the right people and has the connections needed to head the committee and serve as the Club's point of contact for all things related to the sport.
- Next steps that are in the works are partnering with other approved local clubs to create an event schedule that does not conflict with existing and planned competitions (she has this schedule for the year) that also allows exhibitors to progress through the levels that AKC is offering, securing judges for a trial and a trial venue.

- Verna and Cindy asked about training opportunities offered through the club. Sarah responded (along with Laura Herweyer) that training at the current facility during the busy Friday night classes is not an acceptable environment for this training. If training were to be pursued it would need to be on a different day, where it's the only thing going on in the building – requiring additional rent – and noted that classes are kept small so each dog gets enough time to work in the class. Sarah mentioned she had spoken with Mike about the possibility of offering outdoor practice field trips on the weekends with dogs already on odor. More to come.

New Business

- Sarah Falk:
 - Dan from Fisk from Faerieland Rescue's Board reached out - can we work a discount for rescue and training – Table for future discussion with Board.
 - Discounts for members for Socialization and Obedience workshops – should we offer a discount as we do for our weekly training? – Table for future discussion with Board.

Craig Carson moved to adjourn the meeting. Monika Schray seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:15. Minutes submitted by Sarah Falk, Secretary.

Attendees:

David Miehke
 Ann Jeddeloh
 Rhonda Meath
 Carla Scott
 Peggy Simerson
 Denise Gilbertson
 Paul Schmuck (SPELLING- could not read)
 Michelle Kenyon
 Laura Herweyer
 Sue Smith

Virginia Bailey
 Julie Swinland
 Laura Meyer
 Monika Frendt
 Laurie Schray
 Amber Stewart
 Carol Przybilla
 Zoa Rockenstein
 Sarah Falk

Verna Kubik
 Jen Johnston
 Dawn Ebbenga
 Craig Carson
 Diane Blasius-Brown
 Cindy Muehlbauer
 Stephanie Stiegerwald
 Cathy McKeon
 Michael Metz