

UNITED SCHUTZHUND CLUBS OF AMERICA
GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 4, 2010
Carson City, Nevada

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The General Board meeting was called to order by President Lyle Roetemeyer at 8:17 A.M. Roll call was conducted with 18 Executive Board members and 94 club delegates present for a total of 112 voting delegates. A quorum was present. (After roll call 1 club delegate arrived.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the General Board meeting on November 5, 2009 (revised) were approved as printed.

OFFICER REPORTS

PRESIDENT – LYLE ROETEMEYER

Each year it seems that we have to deal with the unfortunate passing of loyal and lifelong members of USCA. One year ago this past September we lost our good friend Mark Przybylski. Shortly after last year's Nationals we lost longtime member Dan Brigham. This past year was no different and most recently we were saddened by the loss of Glyn Clayton. As her family and friends surely will miss her, so too will the entire world of working dog enthusiasts who had the opportunity to meet Glyn during her lifetime. Unfortunately, these good people are no longer with us in body, but may their spirit live on in our hearts and minds, forever. Please join me in a moment of silence in commemoration of all those that have passed.

Congratulations to our USA dog/handler teams that represented us at the 2010 WUSV Championship by finishing in 10th place! Team members were Chuck vom Dorneburger Bach/Dan Cox, Nick de Lupo Nero and Jason Wiggins, Niko vom Paterhof/Lisa Jacquin, and USCA Team Captain Johannes Grewe. Representing the GSDCA was Bodo von Flutgraben and Carl Smith, alternate Berlin vom Gluechlik Tal and Krista Wade and GSDCA Team Captain Carlos Rojas. I offer by sincere condolences to Mike Diehl who qualified for the team, but was not able to participate because of an injury to his dog Erri. The AWDF team USCA members were Lisa Jacquin and Niko, Sean O'Kane and Max, Team Captain Al Govednik, John Soares and his Malinois Vion, Anne Rammelsberg and her Malinois Canaille and Phil Hoelcher and Master. Congratulations to all for your efforts in representing the United Schutzhund Clubs of America, the American Working Dog Federation and the United States of America at this year's world championships!

Please join me in thanking Peggy Parks, Tim Burke, the Blue Tahoe Schutzhund Club and all USCA members for their hard work and efforts in hosting this 2010 GSD National Championship.

As an organization, we should be very proud of our accomplishments over the past 34 years. I am pleased to say that we have excellent relations with the SV and continue as a full member of the WUSV. I look forward to continuing our working relationship between the SV and the

United Schutzhund Clubs of America in the months and years to come. I am very pleased by the recent appointments of Gunther Diegel and Francois Reuther of France to the WUSV Central Committee. These gentlemen are working dog enthusiasts and their appointments give credence to the direction of the WUSV to focus importance upon the need for working ability in our breed when assisting WUSV members new and old alike.

I have dealt with some health issues over the past year and was unable to travel to the WUSV meetings in Nuremberg, Germany, and Seville, Spain. USCA National Breed Warden Tim Burke and Vice President Craig Groh attended the WUSV meeting in Nuremberg. Craig will give the report on the meeting during his Vice President's report. As per the new WUSV rule, this states; all countries, with more than one WUSV member, will host a final event to determine the best dog/handler teams to represent each country. This is an action that the United Schutzhund Clubs of America proposed to the WUSV several years ago, when the decision was made by the WUSV to allow participation of only one team per country.

The WUSV meeting in October after the WUSV Championship was attended by 18 clubs. Johannes Grewe represented USCA at the meeting. During the Championship, Johannes also met with SV and WUSV President Wolfgang Henke and Clemens Lux to discuss pertinent issues within the United States.

During the past year, I have continued my work to establish stronger relations for the United Schutzhund Clubs of America on both a national and world level. I continue to serve as Vice-President of the AWDF. All of this has helped to establish the United Schutzhund Clubs of America as a strong leader and protector of the German Shepherd Dog and all working dogs in the United States and in the world scene. Our relationships with national and world organizations are on good terms and I have received correspondence from the GSDCA and WDA with respect to formal planning of the event to select the team that will represent the United States at the 2011 WUSV Championship.

Our Helper Program is world renown and several other organizations in the world, with our permission, have used all or most of our program to develop their own. I served as chair of this important committee during the development of our current program. I would like to thank Dennis Vander Linde for stepping back into the role of chair of this important committee. He has done excellent work over the last year after taking over for Nathaniel Roque, when Nathaniel became our Director of Judges.

Charlie Snyder has put forth an effort to get information on our USCA website in a timely manner. Last year we received proposals from companies for a much needed change to our website so that further implementation of new technological resources for our membership can become a reality. Due to the large investment needed to develop a new website with the capabilities to deliver the goods necessary to take us into the foreseeable future and beyond. I have appointed an IT Committee chaired by Ravi Iyer to study the needs and develop a scope of work in an effort to make sure that your money is well spent and gives us the right return for the investment.

The need to develop a new office facility or office/event showplace is real. Our monthly lease increased this past year and we were informed that when it comes time to renew in 3 ½ years the cost will go up again. We continue to look at property.

I am proud to say, in spite of the fact that we were not able to bring in sponsorship money during the last 18 months, that we still managed to make a profit last year. We have spoken with some firms that are in the business of sponsorship procurement, and we may decide that contracting a company for this purpose is our best alternative at this time. However, the economy has not recovered to the point where we can expect the type of sponsorship money that paid for so many of our programs from 2004 through 2008, if any at all. To move the organization forward it will be necessary to maintain those programs that are in place, which includes the high percentage cost of our magazine, find the funds necessary to pay for a new data base driven website and either purchase property for the office or office/event showplace or consider paying the ever increasing costs of leasing property. The website will save us money in the long term by helping us reduce office costs. Building a facility that can be utilized by our membership to take care of our office needs, promote the German Shepherd Dog and bring in additional income is also worthwhile. But to find the immediate necessities and to continue to build for the future is not possible without funding. We have not had a dues increase since 1996. I have to remind you as to how much a gallon of gasoline was in those days. Add the fact that our Office Manager Pam Niccum makes less than half of what we were paying someone to manage the office in 1996, and I hope you can see that we have real needs across the board today that must be addressed for now and the future with a dues increase. There have been amounts suggested for consideration, and after listening to the concerns of some of our senior members that are on fixed incomes, we have suggested a Senior Membership be added to the by-laws in an effort to address their needs. I ask you to please support the dues increase.

USCA, through our General Education Committee chaired by Rifky Mackeen, Secretary Sara Wallick, Lisa Camuso, Mike Gardner, myself and countless others have spent an enormous amount of our time trying to help stave off the repeated attempts in several states and locales that have brought forth legislation that is not in the best interest of dog owners. The efforts put forth by the GEC more than two years ago paved the way for a process to involve all local clubs, but only a handful of the clubs responded to the call for help by appointing a BSL liaison in each club. I have been very active in the fight against BSL for several years and with the help of others we have written several letters that did gain the favorable attention of senators and congressmen. We have won several battles and I thank each and every one of you that took the time to fight the good fight in what seems to be a never ending story. There have been several organizations that have fought the good fight to help all of us stave off ill-conceived legislation. Save OUR Pets and Pet Pac come to mind as two of the major players in the fight against BSL and mandatory spay and neuter. Thanks to all who have taken the time to educate the public on our rights as dog owners. To those of you that **HAVE NOT TAKEN AN ACTIVE PART**, I ask you to engage yourself in this very noble act. An excellent place to start is with an educational program for your local governments. Education is the right way to this battle. We have come together to join the fight against anti-dog legislation and understand the necessity to educate those whose bias is based upon ignorance.

The strategy to build strength within the AWDF for the common good of all member clubs of the Federation has brought us closer to our goals to protect the working GSD, as well as all working dogs, in our country. Our strength as an organization and member of the AWDF has also given us greater opportunities and strengthened our relationships throughout the world. We will continue open discussions with North American German Shepherd Dog organizations that recognize and adhere to the FCI and SV standard for the breed for structure, health and temperament.

As we enter into the Holiday Season, I would like for each of you to take the time to be thankful for what we have accomplished over the past few years as an organization. If all of us were to put forth the positive and selfless effort, on even the smallest scale, that is exhibited by many of our members in our local clubs many more would become successful. I wish to thank those that have supported me during the six General Board Meetings I have chaired as your President. When I first ran for office several years ago, a longtime and respected member in this organization asked me why I wanted to lead this organization. I told her that it was my hope that we could maintain the working heritage of the German Shepherd Dog for future generations to love and enjoy. She told me that she was voting for me because she felt I was the type of person that would always try to do what was right. Years have passed and I can assure each of you that I continue to live everyday by that premise, in spite of the mud-slinging and lies that have bandied about on the chat lists. Regardless of what happens during the elections today, I will continue to always try to do what is right.

As always, I wish to express my sincere thanks to each and every member for their continued support and their spirit of camaraderie in furthering the goals of the United Schutzhund Clubs of America. For more than thirty-four years, the efforts of our membership to protect and preserve the German Shepherd Dog through the use of our breed evaluations have continued to ensure that our future generations will be able to experience the joy of owning a German Shepherd Dog with true working temperament.

I wish each of you happiness and success with your dogs in all walks of life.

VICE-PRESIDENT – CRAIG GROH

The Vice-President's number one responsibility is to assume the office of the President if it should become necessary for whatever reason. While I always stand at the ready, thankfully once again I can report I have still not had to fulfill this responsibility. However, I am pleased to report that in the past two years as Vice-President I have acquired a great deal of insight about the inter-working and complexities of our organization. So should I ever have to assume the office of President I feel I am much better prepared than when I first took office.

During the past year, I have continued working closely with our President to try to elevate some of the massive burden the President's position has to deal with by assisting him with some of his duties. I have also represented the organization on behalf of the president at various functions and meetings, both here in the US and internationally, throughout the year.

It has been a pleasure to continue to work with the office staff, the Executive Board, and the entire organization to help move the organization forward. The USCA continues to thrive, grow and be the premier working dog organization representing the German Shepherd Dog in this country and around the world. Working together we continue to bring the organization to a new level.

Before I close I would like to remind all of you once again, the process is just the process. Everyone is entitled to their opinion. Voice yours, be passionate, be honest, and open, but above all be respectful. And in the end, when the decisions have been made by the majority let's all except them, support them, and move forward together.

SECRETARY – SARA WALLICK

We continue to be faced with a never-ending onslaught of anti-dog and breed-specific legislation. California seems to be the major focus of this legislation, but it has also been proposed in many other states, counties, and cities. We all need to make a concerted effort to defeat this legislation when it is proposed in our areas. Politicians are most influenced by the responses of their constituents, so please make the effort to get involved in defeating this legislation.

Because of the turmoil in my life caused by my husband's illness and subsequent passing, I was not able to fulfill the promises I made in my report last year. In many ways I will truly miss being the USCA Secretary, but it is time for somebody else to take over. I am grateful to Nancy Brigham for agreeing to be nominated for that position. Thank you to all of our USCA members for your help, support and understanding.

TREASURER – SEAN O'KANE

The 2009 Expenses were \$527,841 and this year they were \$436,195.00. A difference of \$91,000. We cut costs where we could and are continually looking for more ways to cut down our expenses.

Last year we had 3,961 members and as of October of this year we had 3,821. We are down 140 members from last year. This figure continually goes up and down throughout the year.

Membership dues have not been increased since 1996. Based on our budget we are looking to increase dues to \$100 for single membership and \$150 for family. If we want to keep the services we have today, such as revamp the website, offset cost of regional seminars, etc., we will need to either increase revenue or decrease expenses. We have done a good job in decreasing expenses. Every area of expense has been cut including travel, and we have even negotiated insurance for the office staff from \$21,000 to 4 or 5 thousand. As an organization we will need to decide on what direction we should go.

DIRECTOR OF JUDGES – NATHANIE ROQUE

I'd like to start my report by thanking the hosts for our 2010 National Championship and General Board Meeting, Blue Tahoe SchH Club, the Northwest Region, Tim Burke and Peggy Park. I'm sure that with the experience that these people bring together we will have a well-organized and fun event.

This first year serving as the Director of Judges has been busy for me, as is always the case when taking a new position there is much more to properly understanding the responsibilities and the amount of work that is involved behind the scenes to be effective and successful as the Director of Judges or to take over any position for our organization.

USCA has authorized 314 events to date for 2010 and used 84 foreign judges. To date we have also provided judges for 14 AWDF Member Club Events including the USRC Regional Championship and USRC National Championship as well as the AWMA National Championship.

We currently have 19 USCA Licensed Performance/Trial Judges, 3 Conformation Judges, 2 Breed Survey Judges, 1 Apprentice Breed Judge, Carla Griffith, 2 Apprentice Performance/Trial

Judges, Arthur Collins, Bill Bimrose, 1 Apprentice Judge applicant for both Conformation and Performance program, Jeff Lund.

There have been eight specific areas I have tried to address, they are:

1. Making contact and establishing communication with the other organizations.
2. Setting Goals for USA.
3. Setting goals, education for our Judges and the Judge's College.
4. Developing a tracking system for our trials and judges.
5. General communication and education within our organization for our membership.
6. Judges Apprentice Program
7. Licensing Judges
8. Judge's Committee

Making contacts with other organizations to share information and get answers.

I have been able to establish a direct line of communication with the SV through their Director of Judges and through 2 administrators at the SV to share information and have questions answered in a timely manner. I have also had the invaluable service of both USA SV Liaison Steff Dunion and Johannes Grewe to intervene whenever I have needed more clarification due to the need for translation. Through USA DAL , Judges and AWDF President Al Govednik we have a direct line of open communication with the FCI Working Dog Commission and also through the AWDF. We have a good line of communication with all of the other working dog organizations in the United States. This was all helpful with getting clarification regarding the SV Licensing of our USA Judge's Licenses and establish the proper acronym that the SV wants us to use as well as clearly understanding the scope of responsibility of our USA/SV Licenses. I explained this in more detail in my April 2010 DOJ message in the magazine. But briefly in review today, all USA/SV Licensed Judges are fully recognized SV Judges in all respects of awarding titles and the recognition of these titles with the only restrictions being that they cannot judge in Germany unless it is for a Championship. We will look into scheduling another SV Licensing Seminar scheduled sometime in 2012 to have the remaining USA Judges SV Licensed so that our membership can schedule any USA Judge and fulfill the requirements for their dogs titles that will be fully recognized for Breed Requirements worldwide.

Setting goals for our organization:

This is not new to me since I have served on the EB for the past 10 years as RD, VP and DAL and have been involved and participated on our Executive Board promoting many EB Motions over the years.

This year USA has become a member of the IRO, and I have been working with Steff Dunion on forming our IRO Committee to further develop our involvement with the IRO and the RH program in hopes of sending a team to the annual competition. I believe that our involvement with this organization and its program will give our members and dogs another opportunity to train and attain titles that have a direct, real world link to dogs working in another form of service work. USA Judge Karen MacIntyre has also been involved with Steff in attending meetings and in the initial development of the program for USA. Setting goals, education and hosting our Judge's College . I had the pleasure of chairing the 2010 Judges College this year that was held in conjunction with the Working Dog Championship. The college was very well

attended with 14 judges in attendance.

Open discussion during the college covered:

Competitor and Judge's Dress codes

The Helper Program Update

USA/SV Judge's Status

Properly completing trial paperwork

Discussion of the FH, FH2, IPO FH

Benchmark judging a flight of dogs in the competition

USA Apprentice Judge's Program

RH Presentation by Steff Dunion and Karen MacIntyre.

For more detailed information on the 2010 college, please refer to my April DOJ message in the magazine.

We will be scheduling this year's Judge's College again in conjunction with the 2011 Working Dog Championship. I believe that holding these meetings at a USA event is good for a few reasons, cuts overall cost to the organization since 2 or 3 judges are already at the event as presiding judges as well as entered as competitors. I also believe that it is also good for the membership to have an event where there is a large presence of USA Officials or Judges that members can interact with, develop relationships with or just ask questions of.

I have been reviewing the new rules for trials for 2011. The FCI and WUSV have worked together to propose new trial rules for 2011. These rules have been approved by the FCI Working Dog Commission and are awaiting final approval by the FCI Executive Board and the WUSV to determine a start date. The initial draft version was only released in German, but with the help of Steff Dunion an English translation has been created and submitted to the SV for final approval of accuracy. There are quite a few changes to the rules starting with the deletion of the name Schutzhund or VPG and using only one name for our sport " IPO ". This is another good reason to embrace the upcoming motion for a name change that will come later in our meeting today. In this draft there are some new titles and the deletion of a couple titles. Subtle changes in the rules are proposed in all three phases. When and if final approval happens I will post the new rules for review by our membership, and we will work with the USA Office to reprint the rule book and distribute it to the membership. Rule changes would then become effective for our trials 90 days after they are released.

Developing a system to track judges and events:

With help from my fellow judge Warren Jones, I am now developing a program to better track trials and judges for our organization.

Communication and Education:

I have made every effort to communicate important information and updates through the website and magazine and will continue to do so.

I am making an effort to use one of our trial requirements for new handlers, the BH Written Test, as a better way to educate our membership. I have developed 2 new BH tests and will continue to develop more tests until we have at least 4 new versions of the test each year. The focus and purpose of these tests are to promote education on responsible dog ownership,

handling, and understanding of the USA Rules and Policy as well as to promote sportsmanship and trial etiquette. The first of these tests is now up on the website and will be effective for all trials from 11/7 forward until replaced by a new version. I plan to change the test out at least quarterly. Even though these are only required to be completed by new handlers, I hope that by having the information available to our membership we will all benefit and either learn something new or refresh some old information. I want to thank all of the Judges that contributed to this especially Warren Jones and Ann Marie Chaffin for their clerical support, proof reading and questions.

Apprentice Program:

Currently we have 3 Apprentice Judges/Applicants. Jeff Lund is an Apprentice Applicant and will be published in the January magazine. Arthur Collins and Bill Bimrose are currently working on their apprenticeships.

Licensing Judges:

During 2010 two of our Probationary Judges Randall Hoadley and Frank Phillips have completed the requirements of their probationary status and will be put up to our General Board for a vote to earn their full USA Performance/Trial Judge's License later in this meeting.

Also, Apprentice Judge Andrea Duggan completed her Apprenticeship and was granted a Probationary Performance/Trial Judge's License by the Judge's Committee.

Judge's Committee:

We have had discussions through email and phone throughout the year. The committee proposed a competitor dress code motion that was not carried by the Executive Board, but we do feel that this is needed to further promote our national events so it will be addressed again in 2011.

We submitted and approved the judges for the WDC and National Championship for 2010 and have approved the Judge's slate for the 2011 WDC and will present it to the Executive Board for approval next week.

In closing, I'd like to state that I'm proud of what our present leadership has accomplished and believe that we are on the correct path to continue to lead the way as the premiere German Shepherd Dog and Working Dog Sport Organization in the United States.

My sincere thanks the USA Judge's College for representing our organization as the largest, most well-trained and finest group of world class judges in the United States and to our Executive Board and General Membership for your support of our organization and of me as your Director of Judges.

NATIONAL BREED WARDEN – TIM BURKE
ON FILE WITH THE SECRETARY

AWDF PRESIDENT – AL GOVEDNIK

I have been the American Working Dog Federation President since 2004. During this time we have made great strides in relation to the working dog in America and abroad. We currently have 14 member clubs and 3 guests clubs in our Federation, and are working on increasing the size of a few others. I would like to thank the USCA, and specifically Lyle Roetemeyer, and Sean O'Kane for all of their help, integrity and support throughout. Early on, I asked both of these gentlemen to help me with turning the AWDF into an organization that we would be proud

of. I submit to you, that because of the strong USCA support, these new clubs could see the advantages of belonging to the AWDF. In many cases these non-GSD people are supporting the USCA by way of trial entries, and other services. As a Federation, we have all kinds of potential, but again without strong USCA support we wouldn't have gained the recognition, and respect that we enjoy today.

Let me point out a few things for everyone. The FCI is the umbrella organization for all of Europe. The VDH, ie the German Kennel club is member of the FCI. The SV, and the DVG are members of the VDH. The AWDF is loosely modeled after the FCI, in that we are the umbrella organization for our federation clubs, USCA, DVG, AWMA, etc. Our members are those people that are supporting the European breeding programs, and our European friends have recognized that fact.

Some of the accomplishments that we have made during this time include, most of our USCA Judges have become either FCI, and or SV recognized. The Federation submits the names of our helpers for international consideration. Opportunities exist now for our members to participate and place in all FCI World Championship events. These include IPO, IPO-FH, and RH World Championships. Of note here: is that all countries (even FCI countries) do not have an invitation to FCI working commission events. We have worked to create a standardized scorebook throughout our Federation. This is quite important because it is now required to have a scorebook from the country you live in to participate internationally. As an example, you must use a USCA stamped AWDF scorebook to compete on our FCI World Championship Team, even if the dog is a German import with a SV scorebook. We also developed our working dog program the AWD, and it is going strongly. Lastly, we have developed a strong working relationship with the FCI working commission. This helps us with rule interpretations, securing judges, and numerous other things.

Last December, the AWDF was again invited to the FCI Working Commission Judge's Workshop. This event was held at the new DVG headquarters, and our host Christa Bremmer, was fantastic. Johannes Grewe, Craig Groh and myself attended this meeting located in Hemmer, Germany. Frans Jansen, Wilfried Schapermeier, Robert Markschlager, Everhard Uekoetter, and Gunter Diegel all lead discussions relating to judging and rule interpretations. Think about what I just said for a minute. We (USCA) attended a meeting, given by the FCI, at the DVG headquarters, with the President of the FCI Working Dog Commission, both of his VP's, the top two judges for the DVG, and the chief SV judge. This is huge because we are now actively involved in some of the rule making discussions. It is very important for us to continue to attend these meetings, as we have been allowed to express our opinions. That's quite an important relationship because our member clubs are the protectors of the breeds that were developed by our European friends.

The RH (Search and Rescue) program is growing in America. Stephanie Dunion, & Karen MacIntyre recently attended an international RH seminar. This is another great opportunity for our membership, as we also have an invitation to the RH World Championship.

As the AWDF president, I have spoken with the AVP of the AKC's performance committee, Doug Ljungren. I have been assured that the AKC is well aware of our organization. I'm of the opinion Mr. Ljungren feels as if we are the best qualified SchH based club in America, however, with the way the AKC runs their programs, clubs, etc; it would be quite difficult to work with one another.

I am proud to announce that our 2010 FCI IPO Team finished 3rd in the world. I had the pleasure of being the team captain, and a better group of people representing America would have been hard to find. Our team consisted of Phil Hoelcher, Sean O'Kane, Lisa Jacquin, Ann Rammelsberg, and John Soares. Mike Diehl and Jose Rodriguez played a major role in helping our team while we were in Finland.

There will be a new international rule book in 2011. It was quite nice to be consulted regarding some of the changes by the FCI Working Dog Commission during the revamping of the rules.

As far as how a team is governed during an event, the dog/handler team is under the jurisdiction of the hosting organization from the time they hand in their scorebooks, until the time the scorebooks are returned. This includes time away from the stadium. This was a result of several unfortunate incidents involving competitors from other countries. If at any time a dog shows inappropriate behavior, such as biting or dog aggression, that dog is to be dismissed from the competition.

While in Finland, I was approached by the Swedish Kennel Club asking if we would be interested in becoming involved with the Nordic Championships. This event features Messenger Dog work, Obedience, and Protection. The style of these disciplines are being reworked to become more similar to the new IPO rules. I felt we would have people that would certainly be interested in this type of competition as well.

The 2011 FCI IPO-FH Championship will be held in Croatia from April 14 -17. The 2011 FCI IPO Championship will be held in Germany from September 8-11.

Please check the AWDF website www.AWDF.net for updates concerning our FCI Team selection process.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – STANDING COMMITTEES

AUDITING COMMITTEE – KAY KOERNER (Read by Sara Wallick)

The Accountants Review Report by Larson Allen CPA was sent to the three Audit Committee members. We have reviewed the report and find it to be an excellent report. However, it is not a true audit.

The following statement was made by the accountant. “It is substantially less in scope than an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, the objective of which is expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.”

United Schutzhund Clubs of America, Inc, should have a “real audit” at least every second or third year.

BOARD OF INQUIRY – SCOTT BOEDECKER

As the Chair of the BOI, I had correspondence with 3 individuals this year regarding proper process for filing BOI charges.

The BOI heard one case containing multiple charges of violations of USCA Bylaws against 4 separate members. The BOI did not find willful violation with any of the charges. The 3 of the 5 charges were "not sustained", unanimously, by the Board, and 2 charges received a majority vote of "non decision" with 1 vote of "not sustained."

The BOI recommendation was modified by the EB to agree with the dissenting opinion of "not sustained" on the 2 "non decision" charges. The EB findings cite that the modification was based on USCA Bylaws that mandate the BOI to reach a decision after accepting the case.

It was also the recommendation of the Board that USCA investigate the matter of how the defendants' response document was made available to parties outside of the BOI, the defendants, and council as the document is a confidential piece of the investigation.

BREED ADVISORY COMMITTEE – NO REPORT

JUDGE'S COMMITTEE – NATHANIEL ROQUE

There were no disciplinary actions taken by the Judge's Committee this year.

We did vote in and issue a Probationary License to Andrea Duggan.

One committee member is up for re-election today. Judge Carla Griffith is seeking re-election and I would like to ask you all to support her in her re-election. She is a strong committee member and a valued member of our committee.

NATIONAL EVENTS COMMITTEE – MARTIN VOLLRATH

2010 turned out to be another successful year for USCA.

First we would like to thank the Mid-Ohio Schutzhund Club for hosting the Working Dog Championships with 76 dogs.

Secondly, we would like to thank the Blue Tahoe Schutzhund Club for hosting this year's Nationals with 49 entries.

Next year's Working Dog Championships is being hosted by Machtig Strom Schutzhund Verein. in Davenport, Iowa.

Lastly, this is the last week the N.E.C. is accepting bids on the 2011 Nationals. If you are interested or have any questions please come and see me.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – RIFKY MACKEEEN (Read by Marie Weller)

We continue to make progress in reaching out to the general membership in filling current vacancies and have made the entire process as transparent as possible by advertising early in all three of the USCA's media, website and magazine. The year 2010 turned out to be another successful year for USCA.

Like previously, we have had telephone meetings whenever necessary with potential candidates to discern their suitability for the position. We thank all those who participated in the process allowing us to successfully present a mix of veteran and new candidates for your consideration.

My sincere thanks to my colleagues on the committee for giving their time and effort, which once again allows us to have a complete list of candidates for your consideration.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE – NO REPORT

COMMITTEE REPORTS – SPECIAL COMMITTEES

BYLAWS COMMITTEE – NIA COTTRELL

A clerical error was discovered which appeared to eliminate the voting rights of Directors at Large (DALs). The DALs had always (under various names) had the right to vote in both EB and GBM meetings. In fact, they have voted for the last thirty years without incident. In 1988, there was a clerical error which resulted in the DAL positions not being included with those EB positions having a vote in the GBM. The fact, that this was a clerical error was confirmed by the then-secretary, as well as the complete absence of any action by the GBM in the intervening years regarding the DAL's voting rights in the GBM.

I consulted a professional registered parliamentarian registered and/or certified by both major certifying organizations on how best to address the matter. His advice was that the organization simply needed to correct the error in the bylaws and have the GBM minutes reflect that the error was discovered and corrected, in order for anyone years down the line to understand how and why the voting issue appeared to “change”.

The Bylaw Committee Chair was also contacted several times regarding the parliamentary authority, particularly with respect to disciplinary issues. This also came up in questions from General Education Committee, when it was drafting sample bylaws for inclusion in the forming club packets. Robert's Rules of Parliamentary Procedure are simply more accessible to members and much more complete. Further, when members seek the advice of registered parliamentarians, they find it difficult in many parts of the country to find one versed in Sturgis. Consequently, it makes more sense for the organization to adopt Robert's as its parliamentary authority. Accordingly, a proposed bylaw amendment was drafted for consideration by the 2010 GBM, which if adopted, would replace Sturgis with Robert's as the organization's parliamentary authority.

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE – CRAIG GROH (No report)

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE – RIFKY MACKEN (Read by Craig Groh)

We have come a long way since the GEC was formed several years ago and are maturing into a committee with a reputation for execution of projects, which are of general and educational interest.

Of course this would not have been possible if not for the past and current membership of this committee which meets monthly. My sincere thanks to all of them and also to the line officers who participate in our calls and other wise assist us. We will welcome participation by the general membership and receiving suggestions on how we can serve them more effectively.

We also need new members and will welcome those who can help.

We have done several projects and have published several articles of general and educational interest and are not planning on enumerating them in this report. The major use of our budget is for the Regional Directors and Presidents awards and the winners this year are as follows.

2010 President's Award:

O.G West Penn SchH Club (also Regional Winner for Mid-Eastern Region)

This year we are also awarding a prize for runner up which was awarded to:

Quinebaug SchH Club (also Regional Winner for New England Region)

2010 Regional Awards:

Mid-Central – Joint Winners Machtig Strom and Cedar Valley Working Dogs

Mid-Eastern – O.G. West Penn SchH Club

New England – Quinebaug SchH Club

North Central – O.G. Bierstadt Schutzhund Club

North Eastern Region – East Coast SchH Club

Pacific Northwest – Hundesport Alaska Inc.

HELPER COMMITTEE – DENNIS VANDER LINDE

On file with the secretary.

K-9 COMMITTEE – SCOTT HEDGER

Tom Huelsman, a retired K-9 officer, has been appointed to the committee by Lyle. The K-9 committee is formulating a demonstration for the Working Dog Championships next spring. A formal competition for police officers will be held at next year's Nationals.

MAGAZINE COMMITTEE – JENNIFER ACEVEDO

This has been an interesting year for the magazine. We lost the Z in Schutzhund USA and the good news is that we have found it. I am making a pledge to you that it will not go missing again.

We are continuing to reduce expenses by streamlining our printing processes. We have been working on this for the past 4 or 5 years. Printing costs are down by \$10,000, and we are still showing a loss over all for the magazine. Revenue is really key to this so please encourage club members and yourselves in supporting the magazine with your advertising that is critical to our success.

I would like to thank our excellent and very engaged team. We would never be able to do this without them. Co-chair Yvette Woodward, who works harder than anyone I know, Jeff Govednik, who keeps us all laughing when we want to bang our heads against the table and Cheryl Morris, Art Director, who keeps us all in line.

This is your magazine and the best way to make it better is by getting involved.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE – RAVI IYER
ON FILE WITH THE SECRETARY

YOUTH COMMITTEE – MICHELE SCARBERRY (Read by Craig Groh)

Our 2010 Youth Championship/Working Dog Championship was hosted in the Mid-Eastern Region by Mid-Ohio Schutzhund. Three youths participated in the event: Samantha Jimenez, Destinee Napolitano, and Veronica Adams. Destinee and Veronica, both of O.G. West Penn Schutzhund Club (MER), received the award for Academic Excellence. Veronica Adams participated in the Obedience Championship and received the 2010 Youth Obedience Champion Award. Samantha Jimenez participated at the SchH 3 level and turned in a truly impressive, inspirational performance in obedience and protection, but unfortunately did not pass tracking.

Craig Groh and I attended the USCA Sieger Show in Geneva, Wisconsin, and we had the pleasure to observe and speak with numerous youth members who participated in handling and showing. Tessa Martinez opened the event by singing the National Anthem. The comradeship among the youth was wonderful to see; they were enjoying each other, swimming, eating, playing games, and dogs.

I am very pleased to announce that we have awarded our first Youth Master Gold Medal this year to Dominic Scarberry. Also, receiving a Youth Gold Sport Medal was Veronica Adams. Youth Silver Sport Medals were awarded to Dan Miller, Harold Sowle, and Sara Kelly. The Youth Bronze Sport Medal was awarded to Destinee Napolitano.

The Youth Scholarship Committee did not receive any scholarship applications this year. I personally contacted numerous AWFDF organizations searching for an applicant; unfortunately, no one was of age. Our campaign for the 2011 scholarship winner is currently in progress. Please remind the youth members of your clubs to seek participation! Information for the scholarship can be obtained on the web site: <http://www.schutzhundyouth.com>

I would also like to remind our clubs that the Youth Scholarship fund will provide educational reimbursement to any youth who attend a sanctioned educational seminar regarding our sport. Educational seminars must meet the committee requirement. The rules, and reimbursement form, can be obtained on the web site.

I would like to thank everyone who has made a donation in memory of our friend Glyn Clayton.

Finally, please remember that we have once again established another year-end fundraiser through Malley's Candy. Please utilize the web site to order your holiday candy: our organization is: ID# 411115 and the web site is: www.malleys.com

WEBSITE COMMITTEE (No report)

ELECTIONS

PRESIDENT

Lyle Roetemeyer and Mathew Levin selected by NC.
Vote: Lyle Roetemeyer–74 (elected), Mathew Levin–39.

Break from 10:47 A.M.–11:02 A.M.

VICE PRESIDENT

Craig Groh selected by NC. Jim Alloway nominated from the floor by Minnesota Valley SchH Verein. Jim Alloway declined nomination.

Vote: Craig Groh elected by acclamation.

SECRETARY

Nancy Brigham selected by NC. Jan Nielsen nominated by Diane Madigan.

Vote: Nancy Brigham–82 (elected), Jan Nielsen–32.

TREASURER

Sean O’Kane selected by NC.

Vote: Elected by acclamation.

DIRECTOR OF JUDGES

Nathaniel Roque selected by NC.

Vote: Yes-113,abstain-1

NATIONAL BREED WARDEN

Tim Burke selected by NC. Ron Harris nominated by Jim Hall.

Vote: Tim Burke–67 (elected), Ron Harris–47.

DIRECTORS AT LARGE (4 positions)

Jim Alloway, Al Govednik, Johannes Grewe, Ravi Iyer, Kathy Moacanin, Mark Ptaszek, Marie Weller, and Mike Williams selected by NC. Dennis Vander Linde nominated by Nathaniel Roque.

Vote: Al Govednik–65 (elected), Jim Alloway–57 (elected), Johannes Grewe–51 (elected), Dennis Vander Linde–50 (elected), Kathy Moacanin (45), Mike Williams (38), Ravi Iyer (37), Marie Weller (37), Mark Ptaszek (24).

AUDITING COMMITTEE (3 positions)

Raye Lynn Ackerman, Beth Shea, and Kris Taves selected by NC.

Vote: All three candidates elected by acclamation.

BOARD OF INQUIRY (5 positons/5 alternates)

Sara Wallick, Mike Gardner, John Bochenek, Trish Sansbury, Sean Murphy, Steve Roberts, Cathi Windus, Laurie Coppola, Lisa Matarrese, and Molly Graf selected by NC. Bill Bimrose nominated by Nathaniel Roque, John Horan nominated by Mike Diehl, Diane Madigan nominated by Vicki Keller.

Michelle Scarberry was nominated by Nia Cottrell but nomination could not be accepted, as Michelle was not present and had not sent written notice agreeing to the nomination.

Vote: Sara Wallick–81 (elected), Bill Bimrose–61 (elected), Mike Gardner–51 (elected), Sean Murphy–50 (elected), John Bochenek–46 (elected), Laurie Coppola–43 (elected alternate), John Horan–41 (elected alternate), Molly Graf–35 (elected alternate), Trish Sansbury–33 (elected alternate), Diane Madigan–30 (elected alternate), Lisa Matarrese–19, Steve Roberts–18, Cathi Windus–11.

JUDGES COMMITTEE/USA JUDGE (1 position)

Carla Griffth selected by NC.

Vote: Elected by acclamation.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE (4 positions)

Dale Franz, Gary Hanrahan, Lisa Jacquin, and Thomas Vollrath selected by NC. Mike Diehl nominated by Frank Phillips.

Vote: Mike Diehl–106 (elected), Thomas Vollrath–99 (elected), Lisa Jacquin–89 (elected), Gary Hanrahan–62 (elected), Dale Franz–48.

NEW BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS ARISING FROM REPORTS

1. Permanent Judge Licenses – Nathaniel Roque
Randall Hoadley (yes-72, no-35).
Frank Phillips (yes-105, no-3, abstain-1)

Break from 2:55 P.M.–3:05 P.M

BYLAWS AMENDMENTS (Attachment 1)

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

1. Judges College Memorial Award – Nathaniel Roque
This year's Judges College Memorial Award is being awarded to the 2010 National Tracklayers. They will receive \$500 to be divided up between them.
2. Dues Increase
Motion by Sean O’Kane to increase USA membership dues effective January 1, 2011.
Motion carried (yes-87, no-17).
3. Dues Increase
Motion by Sean O’Kane to increase USA membership dues effective January 1, 2011 to:
 - Single Membership – From \$60 (increase to \$90 or \$100)
 - Youth Membership – From \$12 (increase to \$25) (This will allow us to break even on the magazine cost.)
 - Single Foreign Membership – From \$75 (increase to \$125)
 - Family Foreign Membership – From \$112.50 (increase to \$187.50)
 - Senior Membership (age 65 and older) – \$60 (This is a new category.)

It was pointed out that the Bylaws do not specify a foreign membership or senior membership.

Kay Koerner makes a motion and it was seconded by Warren Jones that we increase membership dues to \$90 for Single membership, \$135 for Family membership and \$25 for Youth membership effective January 1, 2011.

Motion amended by David Wittmer to increase membership dues to Single \$100, Family \$150 and Youth \$50. Vote was taken between increasing single membership \$90 (which received 42 votes) and single membership to \$100 (which received 59 votes) There were 7 abstentions. As of 1/1/2011 Single membership will be \$100, Family membership will be \$150 and Youth membership will be \$25.

4. Entry Criteria for the USA Sieger Show Working Classes (Motion as revised by proposer)
Motion by Ravi Iyer to change the USA regulations pertaining to the conduct of the USA Sieger Show as follows:

- a. Effective January 1, 2012, any dog entered in the working classes of the USA Sieger Show that has been awarded the Excellent-Select (VA) title at a previous USA Sieger Show may be awarded the Excellent-Select (VA) title again at a USA Sieger Show only if an owner of the dog has provided proof of the dog earning a valid Schutzhund title equal to the level of its current title or at a higher level (if applicable) not more than 12 months prior to the date of the USA Sieger Show in which it is being shown.
- b. Dogs six years and older that have previously been awarded the Excellent-Select (VA) title at a previous USA Sieger Show and are entered in the working classes of the USA Sieger Show may be considered for award of the Excellent-Select (VA) title for another time as long as they show proof of earning a valid Schutzhund title equal to the level already earned by them or a higher level (if applicable) on a date after their fourth birthday.
- c. Effective January 1, 2011, the USA Sieger Show catalog and the USA Sieger Show website shall display the following details of the most recent Schutzhund titles awarded to all dogs entered in the working classes: (1) the Schutzhund title level, (2) the date of award, and (3) the name and affiliation of the judge who awarded the title.
- d. Proof shall consist of a valid scorebook that shows the titles and the dates they were earned.
- e. Other criteria for entry into the working classes shall remain unchanged.
- f. These criteria shall apply only to the USA Sieger Show where the highest award of the Excellent-Select (VA) title is awarded.
- g. The USA National Breed Warden or the USA Officer or the designated official responsible for the conduct of the show shall enforce these rules, and all judges who may be judging at the show shall fully comply with the enforcement of these criteria without exception or modification.
- h. The criteria listed in clauses (a) through (g) shall remain in force for a period of seven years from the date they become effective for the purpose of evaluation and review of their effectiveness by the General Board.

Motion tabled by proposer.

5. National Event Entry Requirements

Motion by Diane Madigan that the breed registry entry requirements for our national events will no longer be required.

Motion withdrawn.

6. WUSV Team Qualifying Events

Motion by Diane Madigan that the AWDF Championship will not be a qualifying event for the WUSV Team.

Motion withdrawn.

7. SchH3 Club

Motion by Diane Madigan that all USA-recognized Judge's titles at USA events will be accepted for our SchH3 Club program.

Motion withdrawn.

8. SchH3 Club

Motion by Kristen Boentgen to amend the rules for inclusion in the SchH 3 Club to allow titles earned under any FCI-recognized performance judge. This rule shall apply to all applicants, regardless of when the titles were earned.

Motion tabled due to lack of time.

9. USA as National Event Host

Motion by Peggy Park to renegotiate the terms of USA's co-hosting of national events.

Motion tabled due to lack of time.

10. GBM Webcast

Motion by Matt Levin to allow the USA GBM to be webcast.

Motion withdrawn.

11. Electronic Voting

Motion by Matt Levin to allow electronic voting at the GBM.

Motion withdrawn.

12. Webcast Equipment Purchase/Contract

Motion by Matt Levin to have the General Board authorize the Executive Board to either purchase the equipment for broadcasting the website, or enter into a contract to have the national events and the GBM webcast.

Motion withdrawn.

13. Electronic Voting Contract

Motion by Matt Levin to have the General Board authorize the Executive Board to enter into a contract with a company to provide electronic voting for USA at the General Board meeting.

Motion withdrawn.

Motion by Dena McGowan to adjourn. Second by Mark Chaffin.

Motion carried unanimously

ADJOURNMENT

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:50 P.M.

Nancy Brigham, Secretary

Attachments:

1. Proposed Bylaws Amendments–2010