

MINUTES

Executive Board Conference Call Meeting

March 14, 2004

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

President Jim Elder called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm EST, Secretary Diane Madigan took roll call, 17 Executive Board Members were present. See Attachment #1

II. OFFICER'S REPORTS

President, Jim Elder welcomed all to our first conference call meeting and stated that this system will be on a trial basis and would like feedback after the meeting. Jim also stated that one drawback to conference calls is the inability to vote on specific motions, therefore this meeting will be followed by mail ballots where required. Jim thanked those that have stepped up to help USA in the last four months, the revised Rulebook and the Performance Guidelines are completed. Jim thanked those members in particular the Office Staff, Sammie Jones, Mark Przybylski and Diane Madigan, that stepped up to complete this task. Jim also thanked Kelly Hope, Diane Madigan and the new webmaster for their help in launching the website, there are some changes that need to be made, but the responses from our membership have been very positive.

Jim has been approached by "The Wag" an equipment supplier offering a partnership proposal. This company would like us to sell equipment with them for a 50% discount on items purchased for resale through USA at events or through e-commerce. Jim will forward the proposal to Diane for distribution to the E-Board.

Jim reported on a correspondence he received early in January from Helmut Lux, from the SV Office. This letter was addressed only to him and was sent directly to his home rather than going through our business office. To paraphrase; it stated that if we do not accept SV Judges titles at WDA events they will no longer send judges to USA. When Jim responded to Mr. Lux, he copied his letter to Mr. Henke, SV President, and Gunther Diegel, SV National Training Director. In Jim's letter he conveyed the results of the motion from our General Board that stated that we would not accept WDA scorebooks, and also a conversation he had with Gunther Diegel at our National Championship in November, where he advised Mr. Diegel that of course we would recognize SV Judges scores in USA scorebooks and any other USA recognized scorebooks.

Jim also reported on a letter that he sent to both Mr. Henke and Mr. Diegel regarding delays at the SV Registration Office. We have 180+ individual

registrations that were sent to the SV. Some of these individual registrations were sent over a year ago. In conversations we have had with their employees this is apparently because their employees are on sick or maternity leave. Jim has asked for their assistance in completing and returning the registration paperwork to our members.

Jim's main concern for this meeting is based on what is going on in our registration department. Jim feels that we need to no longer require USA/SV registry to enter our National Events, and that it is time to start our own registry. He stated that it would take us 3-4 months to train the office staff. Members would then have the option of either the SV's additional pedigree or USA's.

Contracts with the SV have stated that the processing time for registrations will be 4 weeks. Jim again stated that we need to put a moratorium on requiring USA/SV registration for entry to our National Events until this problem is resolved. In the mean time we need to get our registry up and running with a nominal charge of \$15-\$20. Jim guaranteed a 4 week turn around.

Vice President's Report: Lyle has been in charge of putting together the 2004 National Championship and finding a site for the Sieger Show. Lyle Roetemeyer will later give a report on the helper committee.

Secretary, Diane Madigan: Since the General Board Meeting the Secretaries Office has processed 7 mail ballots and updated the Rules and Regulations Manual. Diane has also worked closely with the USA Office and the Regional Directors in approving 2003 trial waivers. There were 19 clubs that did not host their required annual trial. Four of these clubs have been dropped from our roster for failure to pay club dues or not maintaining the required 5 members as well as not hosting their required trial. They are:

(NE) Long Island Hard Dog SchH Club
(SE) High Drive SchH Club (SE)
Tennessee Valley Schutzhund Club
(NC) O.G. Wisconsin SchH Club

Thirteen Trial Waivers were recorded:

(ME) East Fork SchH Club
(NEW) Empire State SchH Club
(NW) SchH Hawaii
Way Out West SchH Club
(SW) West Coast SchH Club
(NC) Chicagoland SchH Club
Minnesota Valley SchH Verein
Stateline SchH Club
(SC) Seagoville Working Dog Club
(NE) Delaware Valley Police & SchH Club
Mid-Atlantic Working Dog Club
Northern Virginia VPG Club
Alexandria SchH Verein

Diane believes that 10% of our clubs not hosting trials should be a concern. In one region this percentage is as high as 30% not hosting trials. History tells us that when clubs do not meet their annual trial requirement most likely they are in trouble and in need of direction and support. Regional Dues should be used to support regional programs that will educate its members via seminars, fun matches, and other team building events.

Diane's major winter project was stepping up to help with the enormous task of preparing the organization for the March 1st VDH Rule Changes. Mark Przybylski quickly developed a team consisting of Geli Clark, Kelly Hope, Nathaniel Roque, Sammie Jones, and herself. The team worked seamlessly to conquer this challenge. Support from Günther Diegel, SV-Head Judge and the SV Office must also be recognized.

If you have received your replacement section for the rulebook or ordered your Judges Guidelines, you will notice that the formatting is identical to the other sections of the binder. This uniformity was a conscientious effort on our part. Diane asked that a statement go on record, that our organization is very appreciative for Sammie Jones' efforts in formatting both of these documents. All trial forms are now available as downloads from the website, saving our clubs and Office personnel time and expense processing trial form orders.

Because we rely on e-mail so heavily, it is critical for all Board members to notify the Secretary if they are without e-mail for any length of time. In closing, Diane asked all officers to forward an electronic copy of their reports.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Plumb's report is included with budget however our free cash position is very good.

Director of Judges: No Report

National Breed Warden: Johannes Grewe is working on the Sieger Show.

Committee Reports: Were sent with the Agenda.

Helper Committee: Lyle Roetemeyer was asked by Jim to bring a new helper program forward and get some new life and some new people involved. At Jim's request Lyle contacted some people and Jim appointed the following to the committee:

Lyle Roetemeyer chair, Mark Przybylski as DOJ, Nathaniel Roque, Dennis Vander Linde, Doug Wendling, James Laney, and Danny Grayson. The program was based on the early 2003 program that was dropped for lack of participation by the old helper committee. Jim

proposed that we move some of the old committee members into the new program as Teaching Helpers.

Jim asked that we give the newly appointed helper committee 30 days to review the new program and recommend any changes to the Board. He also asked that they send the program to the National Events Committee for their review within those 30 days and ask them to give a recommendation for the helper selection for 2005 events.

Nominating Committee: After the elections in October, Diane sent an e-mail to all members of this committee asking for information on who was their elected chair and did not receive a response. Carl Johnson will attempt to hold an election for the chair of this committee.

USA-K9: Jim Elder will contact Mike Diehl with regard to this committee. The NEC will try to work with this committee for a possible demonstration at the National.

Youth Committee: New Business from Report for the General Board Meeting; to extend the youth membership age to 21 years old.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2004-2005 Budget

E-ballot #5-04 Motion by Bill Plumb from the 2004 EBM to accept the budget as amended.

Total Revenue \$536,750. Total Expenses \$524,520.
Net Income \$12,230 **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Discussion regarding the Budget:

Julia Grayson asked for a line item for the Helper Committee sighting income from sales of hats and helperbooks. Bill said that this income is listed under other income and is such a small item that he doesn't see the benefit of listing it separately. Helperbook income so far this year is \$445. Bill asked that the Helper Committee provide an amount that they would like to spend, that figure would be placed on the list of expenses.

15% of any profit from the 2004 Sieger Show will go to the host club, Cumberland Valley. Diane Madigan asked if infield equipment purchased by USA and used at the 2003 Sieger Show would be used at the 2004 event. Johannes answered, Yes it will be shipped to the host club.

B. AWDF

Appointed by Jim Elder; Lyle Roetemeyer and Al Govednik will be USA' delegates to the upcoming AWDF annual meeting and elections. Prior to the conference call, Diane Madigan sent a list to the Board with her concerns for future business practices of the AWDF:

- Has our organization verified membership information for entered GSDs for their upcoming event? (*To date they had not, and the close of entries was March 10th for the 2004 event*).

- Tax Status: Did the organization file a Federal tax return for the previous year?
- Election process. Did they follow correct parliamentary procedure?
- Events: Do they follow FCI/IPO rules including a draw for tracking?
- Team Selection: Do they follow their own guidelines for the 2003 and the 2004 team selection including Team Captain?
- Was there an annual report for 2003 including a financial statement?

Both Lyle and Al spoke about these concerns. Al suggested that USA make a more positive effort by supporting our representatives that we send to the meeting. Al stated that he will be running for President, Richard Quinn is running for Vice President, Ann Marie Chaffin is running for Secretary, Nancy Brigham, for Treasurer. Discussion was held about titles earned under appointed AWDF club judges. Diane read a statement from the VDH rules: "BH titles are only recognized if they were obtained through a club/organization, which belongs to the AZG (VDH-Expert Committee VPG/Agility/Obedience).

Jim and the Board wished Al the best of luck and offered assistance.

C. National Events Committee:

1. Development of a helper pre-selection process for our National Events starting in 2005.

Jim asked that items concerning National Event helper selection be tabled for 30 days, during which time the newly appointed Helper Committee review work with the National Events Committee and make their recommendations to the Board. **Tabled for 30 days.**

2. It has been suggested that selected helpers be allowed to work dogs entered in the event up to the closing date for entries to the event. **Tabled for 30 days.**
3. For future events starting in 2005, should helper tryouts be limited to host region's helpers, zone helpers, or everyone. **Tabled for 30 days.**
4. It has been suggested that selected helpers and alternates be reimbursed at the same rate as our judges. Except for the Sieger Show (USA's sponsored event), the host

club will be required to pay these expenses. **Tabled for 30 days.**

5. E-ballot #06-04 (Bid Proposal for National Events)
Motion by Vicki Keller seconded by Howie Rodriguez to recommend to the General Board that a bid solicitation process for national event sites be used beginning in 2005. Potential host clubs will be asked to submit written bids by August 1. Bids will be presented to the General Board and sites chosen by General Board vote. Regional Directors are responsible for recommending potential sites to the NEC.

The bid proposal will include the following information...host club and officers...insurance information...funds available for financing event expenses and past regional and national event experience. Contracts for tracking, stadium and practice facilities, motels and draw night location should be included. Also a video or photos of the stadium (with a dog working) and tracking are necessary. Finally the number of USA members willing to help and availability of sponsorship money should be included in the bid proposal. Regional Directors must be involved in soliciting bids. **APPROVED VOTE: Yes-14, No-3, Needs Further Discussion-3, Abstain-1,**

Background NEC Report:

Our National Events sites; the North American Championship and German Shepherd Dog National Championship will be chosen on the basis of a bid process. A bid proposal form will be published in the magazine and on the web site and all bids are to be received by the NEC by August 1. Acceptable bids will then be presented at the General Board meeting for vote and approval. In the event that no acceptable bids are received Regional Directors will be asked to recommend sites.

6. Recommendation for host clubs to consider scheduling National Events to avoid Easter and Halloween. Sent back to the committee for a recommendation to possibly expand the window for the National Championship. Kay Koerner reminded the committee that a change in the window will require a bylaw change. Bylaw changes need to be submitted to the Bylaw Committee at least 6 weeks before the General Board Meeting. Kay also asked that the National Events Committee update our National Events Manual.
7. As recommended by the NEC. Motion to increase entry filing fees for National Events from \$6 to \$10-\$20. After discussion, it was suggested that

sponsorship be a part of the event planning process coordinated. Jim will take responsibility for finding a volunteer to administer his sponsorship program.

8. E-ballot #07-04 (Scheduling flights at National Events)

As recommended by the NEC, events follow a one phase per day schedule. The dog handler team would do tracking one day...obedience another day and protection another day.

APPROVED

VOTE: Yes-17, No-2, Needs Further Discussion-2

9. As suggested through the NEC; to select the world teams from 2 events in the same calendar year....for example NA in April...Nationals in JuneFCI in September and WUSV in October. Concerns were expressed about summer air travel; Jim asked that the committee develop a viable schedule for our National Events. The NEC was cautioned that this would require a bylaw change. Howie and Jim Elder thanked the member of committee for their active participation in the organization

Background from NEC Report: Consideration of high temperatures in many parts of the country which would preclude summer events and members who are not interested in international competition would prefer the current time frame. This issue should be further discussed by the NEC.

Roll Call #2: See Attachment #1

D. AWDF Certified Scorebooks: Discussion regarding the recognition of appointed AWDF judges and BH titles earned by our judges at AWDF events was held. Diane again referenced the VDH Rule: "BH titles are only recognized if they were obtained through a club/organization, which belongs to the AZG", and also stated that we are mandated to follow VDH rules. Jim asked Mark Przybylski to clarify and send a statement to the Board, and also send the statement to our judges.

E. Education Program, E-ballot #08-04 Based upon Vicki Keller's response to a questionnaire, Vicki asked that we develop a mock trial/fun trial program. Recommend that helper education receive priority in USA education efforts in 2005. This education would be delivered at the regional level. **APPROVED**

VOTE: Yes-18, No-2, Needs Further Discussion-1,

Lyle suggested that regional or National helpers be required to participate at a Regional Helper Seminar. Diane suggested that the education and helper program overlap so that in the near future, helpers at a club trial would be required to attend a seminar to obtain training on correct and safe trial procedures before working a trial. Currently the only requirement for a helper at a club trial is a \$5 helperbook.

F. Event Authorizations and follow-up for dual member clubs and clubs that host illegal events.

G. E-ballot #09-04 (Event Authorizations)

Motion by Nathaniel Roque, seconded by Carl Johnson:

The Regional Director has the authority to automatically suspend a club for one year if it is found to have hosted another organization's event on the same day as that given on a USA Event Authorization. This will also incur if a club is found to have hosted an event that is not authorized on a particular day i.e. Friday afternoon without an EA. All suspensions will be printed in the magazine. Suspended clubs will need to be re-affiliated and that club's trial will not count toward the club's annual trial requirement.

APPROVED

VOTE: Yes-19, Abstain-2

Nathaniel Roque expressed a need for Regional Directors to advise all clubs when they request an event authorization that this procedure will be enforced. Clubs will need to advise the Regional Director of their intentions of hosting a one-two or even a Friday event at the time a request is made for an Event Authorization.

VI. NEW BUSINESS ARISING FROM REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Discussion SV's S&R Program. There was a general consensus that this program could promote participation at the very low level as herding. Because of equipment needed, it would not be practical to insist that all clubs be required to offer this program. John Koerner from California who has been active with the California Search & Rescue for over 25 years and has gone on over 400 searches gave the following recommendations. He believes that the methods are different in this country than those in Europe. In addition, all S&R dogs in the US must be certified through FEMA and/or connected with local fire and police departments. Jim Elder asked the RDs to reread the SV's S&R Program and to poll clubs in their regions for interest in doing this as an addition to Schutzhund. There was also mention of a possible demonstration at the National Championship.

Carl Johnson, Mideast RD, will meet with Walter Hoffmann at the Mideast Regional Championship over Labor Day weekend. He will then report to the Board any additional

information about the SV Program and answer any questions that may arise from regional feedback.

2. Carl Johnson discussed pre-selection of helpers for our 2004 National Championship. Carl feels that within his region there has not been much support from helpers for helper tryouts. He feels that there should be more time allotted to helper tryouts and feels that we must do something different for 2004. Carl recommends that each helper be seen working a minimum of two dogs. Carl suggested we use the same announcement that is currently in the magazine and turn it into an open call for helpers giving the scheduled time and place for tryouts. Jim agreed and apologized to the region for any confusion in the selection process as published in the magazine.

VII. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Johannes stated that there is a need to correct the omission of an HGH title as an allowable prerequisite for the breed survey and will provide Diane with wording for a mail ballot.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Jim Elder adjourned the conference call meeting at 5:20 pm EST.

To the best of my knowledge this is an accurate record of the proceedings from this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Madigan

April 3, 2004

Attachment #1

**DELEGATE POLING and ATTENDANCE
EBM Conference Call and E-Ballots
March 14, 2004**

	Roll Call.	2 nd Roll Call	#5 Budget	#6 NE bid	#7 NE flights	#8 Educ.	#9 EA
Jim Elder	X	X	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Lyle Roetemeyer	X	X	Y	NFD	Y	Y	Y
Diane Madigan	X	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bill Plumb	X	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mark Przybylski	X	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Johannes Grewe	X	X	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Kay Koerner	X	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Al Govednik	X	X	Y	NFD	Y	N	Y
Michael Hamilton	-	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Howie Rodriguez	X	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bill Bimrose	X	>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ray Blomberg	X	>	Y	A	N	NFD	A
Jerrold Gray	-	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Julia Grayson	X	X	Y	Y	NFD	Y	Y
Carl Johnson	X	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Vicki Keller	X	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Randy Kromer	-	-	Y	Y	NFD	Y	Y
John Oliver	X	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Nathaniel Roque	X	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Diane Vegsund	X	X	Y	NFD	N	Y	Y
David Wood	1:05 pm	>	Y	N	Y	N	A

* Y-Yes N-No A-Abstain (-) – Did Not Attend Meeting (>) – Left Meeting NDF- Needs Further Discussion NR-No Response