

UNITED SCHUTZHUND CLUBS OF AMERICA GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 3, 2005
San Jose, California

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The General Board meeting was called to order by President Lyle Roetemeyer at 8:02 A.M. Roll call by Secretary Sara Wallick with 10 Executive Board members and 36 club delegates present for a total for 46 voting delegates. A quorum was not present as 37 club delegates were required. One more club delegate arrived at 8:35 A.M. giving a quorum. Two more club delegates arrived at 8:45 A.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the General Board meeting on November 4, 2004 and the Executive Board meeting on May 1, 2005 were approved as printed.

E-Ballots #1-05 through #23-05 were approved as published. E-Ballots #24-05 through #26-05 approval deferred to 2006.

OFFICER REPORTS

PRESIDENT – LYLE ROETEMEYER

Thank you to South County Schutzhund Club and San Jose German Shepherd Dog Club for providing the venue for the Helper College yesterday and the helper tryouts and barbeque last night. It was a grand success and I look forward to a great weekend.

The United Schutzhund Clubs of America continues to lead the way in the United States as steward of the German Shepherd Dog with regard to health, temperament, intelligence, and structure. This past year we introduced two new programs that will become an important part of the future for our organization and the German Shepherd Dog.

The Helper Program has been bringing helpers and handlers together to share knowledge and support efforts to have safe and knowledgeable helpers. I wish to express my gratitude to past and present Helper Committee members for their contribution to our organization's past, present, and most importantly, future.

The breed registry was also implemented this past year. Many members are using our registry, and I encourage all of you to do so. This program is for our membership and will benefit our breed and organization for years to come, but we must all be active in registering our German Shepherd Dogs with USA to make this become a real benefit. As with many new programs, there are some issues that must be resolved to make this program cost efficient. The database continues to build, and entering information into the system will be less labor intensive as the system is filled. I have had several discussions with our Office Manager, Kelly Hope, about possible ways to make the process less labor intensive and more cost efficient. We have scheduled a meeting tomorrow to further discuss some of the issues and target a solution.

I ask all of our elected committees to continue to improve upon their work from the previous year. Our Sieger Show is under the direction of the Breed Advisory Committee; those

interested in providing the host venue for this event should contact our National Breed Warden, Karen MacIntyre. We held two Sieger Shows this past fiscal year, so it may look conflictive in the treasurer's report to see that much income from the Sieger Show. The disturbing fact is that after all bills were paid, we made \$8,500 on the Sieger Show in Nashville and lost close to \$9,000 at the Sieger Show in Reno. This must not happen again.

Our National Events Committee must identify prospective national event hosts at least two years out. I challenge this committee to identify and help procure sponsors for our national events. The National Events Manual is in need of a rewrite, and the committee you elect today must be able to deliver this document within the next six months.

Our Nominating Committee elected today must also be proactive. As a former chair of this committee, I wrote the help wanted ad that still runs every year in our magazine. It is *our organization*. This committee *must* get that message across and get members involved.

Our World Championship Team selection process must be a two-score qualification process. We abandoned that process when we eliminated one of our national events back in 2003, but that one-score qualification was only to be for one year. I suggest we use a two-score system using the following championships as qualification events: GSD National Championship, North American Championship, H.O.T. Championship (if H.O.T.), and AWDF Championship. At least one of the qualifying scores must come from the GSD National Championship or North American Championship. We discussed this last night at the Executive Board meeting and it passed overwhelmingly. We must also attempt to open discussions again with the GSDCA to clear up misunderstandings in the verbal agreement regarding alternates showing on the WUSV Championship Team. I will work to resolve this issue and hopefully get the agreement in writing. I would also like to have a round of applause for our team members at this year's event, and to thank Dean Calderon for his efforts as our team captain.

Our Judges Committee has brought some needed changes to the meeting to vote upon this year, and we must continue to recruit more qualified members into the Judges Program.

We have added a Youth Championship to the H.O.T. Championship, and I will appoint two members to work with Michael Peterson on our Youth Committee. Terry Macias has already agreed to be an active member of this committee.

I have appointed Willie Pope as a member of the 2008 World Championship Committee. His insight from his experience as tracking judge at this year's WUSV Championship will prove valuable, as we have been asked to host the WUSV in 2008 because of Germany's desire to host the 2009 Championship. I would like to thank Willie and recognize him for being the tracking judge, attending the meetings, and representing USA.

We have had numerous lawyers tell us for several years that our bylaws are too cumbersome and filled with rules that should not be part of our bylaws. I will appoint a special

committee to hopefully resolve that issue. Sara Wallick, Nia Cottrell, and I will be working to simplify our bylaws and determine the rules that need to be put into our Rules and Regulations. The findings and suggested changes will be made at the 2006 General Board meeting.

USA is a leader in the United States as steward of the German Shepherd Dog, but we are also a leader in the working dog community. Our efforts as a member of AWDF have been important, and we must continue to help lead the fight against breed specific and other anti-dog legislation as it arises in this country. It is very important to fight each and every one of these legislative efforts as if they were trying to take away your rights to own and breed your dog, because that is the intention of many animal rights groups that support this type of legislation. AWDF has a legislative committee comprised of three hardworking members. Two of them are USA members, and I wish to thank Lisa Quinn and Kris Taves for their continued efforts. Many of our fellow breed clubs have experienced a significant decline in membership during the past couple of years. Our membership has declined very slightly over the past year, and yet our trial and show entries are up over the same period. Attendance at USA-sanctioned helper seminars has also been very positive.

Marketing ourselves to the public is a challenge I will make to the regional directors and local clubs. We must further develop relationships with local schools and civic clubs to help educate the public about the intelligence and soundness of our German Shepherd Dogs, and the importance the sport of schutzhund plays as a breed evaluation.

Our regional championships did not draw as well as last year, and I believe that to a certain degree the dramatic rise in the cost of fuel kept many of our members from supporting some of these events.

As we look forward to the 2006 trial season, we should remember to be thankful for the sponsorship and support we received in 2005 from our Primary Sponsor, Royal Canin, and our Silver Sponsor, Tri-Tronics. We value our partnership with these outstanding sponsors and look forward to a spirit of continued partnership with both companies for years to come.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for their dedication and support of the German Shepherd Dog and the United Schutzhund Clubs of America.

VICE PRESIDENT – NATHANIEL ROQUE

I have the pleasure of presenting an award of appreciation from USA to Lyle and Debbie Roetemeyer, Amoreena Wynn, the Cumberland Valley Schutzhund & Police Club, and the Mid-Eastern Region for hosting the 2004 GSD National Championship.

Upon becoming vice president six months ago, Lyle asked me to focus mainly on establishing the new Helper Program and working within the Helper Committee, so the majority of my report will be deferred to the Helper Committee report. I took it upon myself to contact some of the Executive Board members and many of the USA members around the country to pose some questions to gather information for myself to determine the needs of this organization. I would like to have the membership try to answer these questions over the next few months and get information back to me so I can address it to the Executive Board. There were five basic questions:

#1 “What is your #1 problem with USA?” For the majority of the Executive Board members and many of the

individual members, it came down to communication. People feel they are not in the loop in the communication process. The general membership, from local club members to some Executive Board members, feels there isn’t a strong level of communication. We have begun to address that problem. Lyle reinstated the web-based newsletter, and some of the committees are making a much stronger effort to get material into the magazine to convey information to the general membership. I think the organization and Executive Board are starting to address those needs, and improving communication at all levels in this organization is going to take out a lot of the problems we are experiencing.

#2 “What is it you like best about USA; what keeps you in this organization?” Overwhelming the answer was we provide the best bang for the buck. We provide more events, better judges, more judges, better quality of dog training, and our magazine and website exceed what the other working dog organizations have.

#3 “What can we do to improve?” Again this comes down to communication. Many of the club-level members are looking for ways to get education or get something back from the organization to help them at whatever level they are participating. Better communication is going to help that. Developing more programs, or expanding and developing the programs we have, will help. Our Helper Program is an excellent example of something that has taken off in six months and truly been embraced by the general membership. I believe this organization has an obligation to provide more programs for our membership.

#4 “What are the specific needs in your region and clubs?” These answers are extremely varied depending on the region and activity level in the different regions, but essentially it came down to the need for more judges, which is something our Director of Judges is addressing. We need more judges in order to make trials easier and less costly for clubs.

#5 “What do you feel our involvement with the SV, WDA, AKC, and AWDF should be?” This summed up our involvement in the working dog community, and gets into a very heated area for a lot of people. Most feel we need to continue to establish our relationship with the SV. We don’t need to allow them to dictate how we run our organization, but do need to continue working with the SV in order to remain recognized internationally. Our involvement with the AWDF seems to be overwhelmingly supported. Members feel the total number of working dogs and working dog members in the United States is small, and we need unity in order to protect ourselves from some of the legislation Lyle brought up in his report.

I ask you all to look at these questions. They will be published on the website. Give me input so we can determine which direction to push our Executive Board to address some of these needs.

In the newsletter report for the VP, I made some comments about the business of USA. I believe the way USA is structured is ineffective from a business point of view. Our decision-making process is ineffective because we require too many micro-managing decisions to go through the Executive Board for a vote and then be ratified by the General Board. I think we need to more clearly define the job descriptions of our elected officers and allow them to perform the duties of their offices to effectively run USA. If they don’t perform up to our expectations, we need to replace them at an election.

We should put people in place to do a job and allow them to run with it.

We need to reach out to our membership and take advantage of the wealth of knowledge available from our members. We have 4,500 to 5,500 members, and yet we can barely put together a quorum here for a General Board meeting. The people who are here are generally the same faces I have seen for the last twelve years. We need to get that experience working for us. We are not just *customers* of USA; we *are* USA. We all own a part of it, and if we don't get friends, neighbors, and other club members who have something to give to be an active part of this organization, we will continue to waiver along right where we are, fighting the same problems we have been fighting for ten or twelve years.

There has been some concern about the decline in membership. I have talked to AWDF President Al Govednik, and also had some information shared with me over the last couple of years through the SV. The majority of working dog organizations throughout the world are suffering a little bit of decrease in membership; and if you look back historically at our USA membership, we always fluctuate up and down in a very cyclic pattern. Owning a working dog and being involved in working dog sports is a very unique hobby or business interest; and due to the cost, time, and lifestyle change, it is not a sport/hobby that is easily marketed. In order to maintain our membership, we need to provide the best product we can and involve our membership in delivering that product. We need to improve our communication and reach out and enlist our membership to find that united goal. Over the next year, if I am reelected as vice president, I will work with the Executive Board to focus on some of the needs of the membership and try to improve the areas I have talked about.

SECRETARY – SARA WALLICK

There is a revised and reformatted Rules and Regulations document on the website. It is very long, but you will hopefully find it easier to read and far easier to navigate. It incorporates a table of contents with links for the main document as well as for the bylaws, and the Helper Program links table of content links will be added during the next revision. The bookmarks and links used in the document make it possible to go directly to the various sections without scrolling.

Several months ago we started putting the Executive Board ballots on the website as they are processed, and I hope this helps disseminate information more quickly. There will be more of the old ballots added as time permits. We also plan to have all of the USA minutes going back to 1977 available on the website, initially as scanned documents and perhaps later as searchable documents.

New Clubs (5)

Alaska Schutzhund Club (PNW)
Aloha Schutzhund Club (NW)
Lake Valley Schutzhund Club (SE)
Northeast Iowa Schutzhund Club (NC)
Southern California Schutzhund Club (SW)

Name Changes (5)

Denver Area Working Group (RM/GP) to
Above The Peak Schutzhund Club
Hunde Arbeits Verein Schutzhund Club (NE) to
Lehigh Valley Schutzhund & Police Association
North Coast Schutzhund Club (ME) to
Feuerlands Hundesport

O.G. Solano Schutzhund Club (NW) to
Sacramento Valley Schutzhund Club
Western Indiana Schutzhund & Police Club (ME) to
O.G. Indianapolis Schutzhund und Polizei

Region Changes (1)

O.G. Volmarstein Schutzhund Club (NE back to SE)

Dissolutions (7)

Allgemeiner Schutzhund Club of Long Island (NE)
Empire Schutzhund & Police Dog Club (NewE)
Feather River Schutzhund Club (NW)
Gateway Schutzhund Dawg Club (MC)
Kenai Schutzhund Club (PNW)
Nature Coast Sport Dog Club (SE)
Seagoville Working Dog Club (SC)

Waivers (Since 2004 GBM)

German Shepherd Schutzhund Club (PNW)
South Louisiana Schutzhund Club (SC)
Texas Working Dogs (SC)
Tri-State Schutzhund Association (PNW)

Waivers (2005)

Mid America German Shepherd Dog Schutzhund Club (NC)

TREASURER – BILL PLUMB (Read by Lyle Roetemeyer)

From a financial perspective, the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2005 was successful. We had a positive cash flow and income exceeded expenses. We ended the year with free cash of about \$87,000, up from about \$76,000 at the beginning of the year. Our total net assets at the end of the year totaled \$131,676 versus \$106,933 at the beginning of the year.

There are some negative trends that either started or continued this fiscal year. Membership revenue was down about \$10,000 for the year. Membership revenue was on the increase for the first three months of the year, and then it reversed and began trending down.

Magazine revenue was down about \$12,000, which is a continuing trend that has been going on for several years. The net cost of the magazine that is covered by dues was \$63,000, up from \$51,000 the previous year.

We are currently under audit by the IRS for fiscal 2004 and not-for-profit status. We responded to one request for information, and have just received a second request for more detailed information. From looking at the areas they are focusing on, I suspect that we will need to have a more formal and detailed expense reimbursement policy and practice in the future.

DIRECTOR OF JUDGES – MARK PRZYBYLSKI

Today we will vote on granting permanent licenses for two judges, and two more judges will be eligible for their probationary licenses this year. The Judges Committee would like to streamline the way we bring apprentice judges into the program. One way of doing that is to have the Judges Committee vote on granting their three-year probationary licenses. The General Board will still make the final decision on their permanent licenses after the three-year period is up, but we could grant their probationary licenses so they can start judging. We think this will streamline the process and also make the Judges Committee a more valuable tool to the organization.

This year I sent out eleven judges packets and have received four of them back, so the possibility of getting a few more judges looks very promising for 2006. Currently we have 16 working dog judges, will hopefully add two more today,

and we have three breed judges. We still need to increase the number, especially in the breed judges program, in order to go forward with what is required for our breed registry. We have two apprentice judges who have yet to complete their apprenticeships, Lyle Roetemeyer and Israel Cruz, and one apprentice judge applicant, Randall Hoadley, who just entered the program last year. One of our apprentice judge applicants, Al Hudson, had to drop out because he had a stroke and is trying to recover from that. Hopefully he will be able to enter the program again.

I want to touch on is something the majority of the USA judges and a lot of the members are very concerned about, which is the watering down of the rules we see from year to year. They have heard the rumor about the courage test possibly going away. First, it is only a rumor; but then you hear that it won't happen for at least five years. That makes it a little bit more than a rumor. Members are worried we will lose more and more of schutzhund that attracted so many of us to the sport. We have discussed whether USA should come up with our own titles that bring back the old rules of schutzhund, such as the attack on handler and other things we considered important. We could possibly call them SchH1-3 or USA1-3, and still keep our international avenues open by following the VPG rules. Going back to the way schutzhund used to be may be a way to hold USA to a higher standard. Hopefully we still want to keep our avenues open to the SV and the other organizations, but we want to guide the way for the working dog in America. This is something we have kicked around and will a lot more, but I am voicing their concerns so you can all hear me at once. It is something I would like to have you think about.

NATIONAL BREED WARDEN – KAREN MACINTYRE

The 2006 Sieger Show will be held in Danbury, Connecticut, hosted by O.G. Wesconn Schutzhund Club. The judges selected by the Breed Advisory Committee were approved at the Executive Board meeting last night and will be Lothar Quoll, Henning Setzer, and Karen MacIntyre. We have a contract with the host hotel, the Sheraton in Danbury, for rooms and conference space for April 17-25th at \$89/night. There are a lot of airports to fly into: Hartford, JFK, Boston, and Newark. One of the biggest issues we have with Sieger Shows is that people come with groups of dogs. It is hard to get flights into many of these places. That was a complaint about Reno and Nashville. We shouldn't have that issue in 2006, but now we have the issue of airlines not wanting to fly dogs anymore. We have to work on that along with all the breed legislation.

As Lyle mentioned, we have some issues with our new USA Registry. A lot of them seemed to come from the fact that what got out somehow is a review form and not what Johannes and the Breed Advisory Committee had decided on. I have a huge list, and if anybody wants more details they are welcome to talk to me. If anybody has issues, please talk to me about them, because we are going to want to straighten this out really fast. My belief is we shouldn't have a program at all if we can't do it right. So I need feedback from everybody on what they have for registrations. Pia Blackwell has given me a lot of feedback and samples, etc. One of the issues is a database. Without a proper database we really can't move forward. It is very time intensive to type in pedigrees. The SV has a program that costs about \$100 a year for their database. It

doesn't include what we have except for what we process for breed surveys through Germany. One of the issues is there are breed surveyed dogs *in* those pedigrees and they are not shown *on* those pedigrees. We want these pedigrees to show breed, breed survey, and linebreeding information—and you could easily get that from databases that are already available. Databases are available; we just have to figure out a way for us to be able to use them. I can't do my job effectively as a breed warden without databases. A lot of what I should be doing includes research and checking up on what is going on with the breed. As an engineer it drives me crazy to not be able to do that on the computer. The database is a key thing, but I have lists of others if anybody wants more detail.

The biggest thing I tackled so far this year was trying to make our breeding documents accurate. I had Angelika Clark and Sara Wallick help with the breeding regulations and breed survey regulations, because it was very labor intensive to make sure all the rules are accurately reflected. It looks like there are a lot of changes, but they are not really changes. They are corrections, updates, English corrections, and organizations. Right now the Breed Advisory Committee is reviewing the revised documents. The only big change, for which we had an e-ballot, was the hip certification clarification. We were only accepting the German "a" stamp and OFA, whereas Germany accepts many "a" stamps. We can now accept all the "a" stamps that Germany accepts for their breed surveys. The office has a list of all the countries we accept.

One of the issues we are going to try to address is the individual registration program. I think the original intent for having that program was for dogs coming into the organization that were already registered with AKC, but the litter was not registered. Also, there are a lot of people who just don't want to follow the breeding rules and we didn't have a really good litter registration program, so we had the individual registration program. This program has created a lot of conflicts for the office, particularly when it comes to breed shows and breed surveys. We have individual dogs from the same litter with different kennel names. Then they are entered in the same class in a show and a German judge asks how that can be.

AKC allows incest breedings and A.I. breedings, whereas in Germany they are banned. I am not totally against A.I. breedings. One of the things AKC did do well is require DNA testing for AI breedings. This is something we need to look into as far as whether we accept AI or not.

Information storing, details of the individual registration, and our current documents are key things we need to focus on. I have a lot more, but I will defer most of that for the Breed Advisory Committee report.

AWDF PRESIDENT – AL GOVEDNIK/USA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER (Read by Nathaniel Roque)

The AWDF Championship was held in Nashville, Tennessee last spring, and Lyle Roetemeyer's club provided the venue. Free seminars were given by our judges as well as a search and rescue lecture. These activities were very well attended. We tried to create an event where everyone, novices as well as experienced handlers, would have the chance to learn new techniques/skills, compete at some level, and have some fun. During that week I was reelected as the AWDF President.

The 2006 AWDF Championship will be held March 29–April 2 in Gadsden, Alabama, with Gary and Pam Hanrahan's

club as host. All entries into this event *must* go through the respective breed clubs, including USA. This is in part because a USA member pursued legal action against our host club, their club president, the USA President, and me stemming from our refusal to allow a mixed dog into our competition. There was no loss of funds to USA over this issue. Lyle can explain this situation if anyone would like more information.

One very important question I feel needs to be answered is, “What is AWDF doing for us?” I completely understand that we need to provide more than an outlet for a few members to compete at the FCI Championship. The board and I are doing our best to be proactive in dealing with dog sport, our members, creating educational programs, etc.

A large portion of our strength in the American working dog community comes directly from supporting fellow working dog enthusiasts. I feel that USA got away from that position to an extent until recently. Please remember that the people and clubs that make up AWDF look up to USA for guidance as well as support. A large number of the non-GSD fanciers are also USA members. It isn’t enough to just say you are going to support something. You need to take a little more time to get involved if you want to see some progress.

Here are some of the things AWDF has been doing over the past year:

- I have been getting regular emails from FCI Working Commission President, Eberhard Strasser and passing them along to the appropriate people. Herr Strasser wants us to know that the FCI wants to build a strong working relationship with USA.

- I contacted the American Red Cross and the American Dog Owners Association on behalf of AWDF after hurricane Katrina and offered help with relief efforts.

- AWDF has been active in protecting our working dogs as well as our sport. We have been working with the American Dog Owners Association to develop reasonable animal-rights legislation, with some success. We are also fighting against breed-specific legislation.

- AWDF is redesigning our bylaws to keep up with the changing working dog environment in America. A committee is currently designing our own American-based working competition, which would be in addition to the current IPO/SchH rules offered at our events. Another change would prevent effecting a bylaw amendment with little or no notice. Another issue addressed is that of sportsmanship.

- AWDF is growing. I have been talking with Carole Patterson, DVG President, regarding working toward common goals for our working dogs in America. I believe we will have DVG support in working with animal rights issues. The Hovawart club has asked to join our organization, and I hope to have an alliance with a national police dog association soon.

I had a great opportunity to become involved with the FCI Working Commission during my visit to the FCI Championship in Holland. I went prepared with numbers, records, and other information to share with the commission. Throughout the days leading up to the FCI Working Commission meeting, I was asked to explain our position on numerous topics. I gave copies of our Judges Program and Helper Program, and presented an overview of USA’s involvement with the working dog in America. Everyone was very positive with me.

The day prior to the official meeting I was asked to talk to Eberhard Strasser, Working Commission President. At various times during our meeting, several other representatives from

different countries sat in and asked questions. Among them were Paavo Rapila from Finland and Louis Quadroni from Switzerland. I was asked specific questions and gave specific answers. I believe these people know and understand a lot more about our problems than we have been led to believe. I don’t know if the information I shared with Herr Strasser was ever given in this fashion before. Our conversation gave me some options to try to become more involved with the FCI. We need to get some kind of position toward bitework from AKC—either pro, con, or even a “no answer,” I was told. Once a position has been taken, the Working Commission would be able to work with us in becoming a full member of the commission. If that happens, our working programs such as our Judges Program will become FCI recognized.

I was asked to think about including at least one FCI judge at our Judges College and was told to keep in mind that the SV comes to the FCI for rules. Lastly, I was asked if AWDF would be willing to host the 2011 FCI Championship, and I agreed. The following day at the official meeting it was announced we would, in fact, host the championship in 2011.

I was asked my opinion during the meeting on several topics. I didn’t have a formal vote, but believe I made a very strong, positive impression with all the countries represented at the meeting. I pointed out that in America we have a lot of strengths within our organization. We are blessed with passionate working dog people as well as a great amount of diversity within our membership, and with these strengths we are able to support virtually all of the FCI-recognized working programs. Not all countries can say that. I pointed out that AWDF is embracing the entire working dog heritage, including all of the respective breeding programs developed in Europe. I made sure to point out that USA is the largest, most active member within AWDF and is certainly at the forefront of all of our activities.

Our relationship with AWDF provides us with great options. For example, AWDF only answers to our own membership and we are still allowed into international events. We have internationally recognized judges to officiate our events and still have an opportunity to grow.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – STANDING COMMITTEES

AUDITING COMMITTEE – KAY KOERNER

The financial statements were distributed. We are being audited by the IRS. I was not able to get with the rest of the committee.

Lyle Roetemeyer: We have complied fully with the IRS audit. One of the items being looked at is selling rulebooks to non-USA members. We have nonprofit status, and monies and proceeds are to support our membership. By selling something to a nonmember we might be in violation of that. It is minor, but those are a few of the things we need to look at. As Bill stated in his report, there is the possibility of having to verify expenses for judges, etc.

BOARD OF INQUIRY – KOHN KOERNER (Read by Kay Koerner)

The BOI did not hear any new cases in the past year. A request for a hearing was received, but it was not heard as the complaints were personal and/or at the club business level. The complaint did not concern USA.

BREED ADVISORY COMMITTEE – KAREN MACINTYRE

The Breed Advisory Committee recommended a slate of 2006 Sieger Show judges, which the Executive Board approved last night. We are currently reviewing all the document changes I mentioned in the NBW report, and shortly will have those distributed. We have been trying to publish clarifications in the magazine as things come up, such as the adult non-working show class is not a regular class—and regular classes are the only ones that are accepted for ratings for a breed survey. Whenever we found things that were not clear, we tried to push to publish them; but I think that very soon we will have the documents correct. As an engineer, I realize that until you have your specs right, you can't get a good product. We have a whole bunch of problems with our specs right now. We have some bylaw changes we are going to talk about. A lot of our bylaw changes are actually changes that should be in these documents; we have things in different places, but they don't automatically go through all the documents.

A few people have recommended having Universal Sieger and Universal Siegerin titles to encourage more participation. We don't have a lot of entries yet. We had six dogs/handlers declare for Universal Sieger, but only two actually made it to the Nationals. I do think we need to encourage more participation, and two titles is one way of doing it. The working dog people tell me the program is weighted more toward the show people, and the show people tell me the program is weighted more toward the working people, so we are probably in the right place. I think one of the things that would help to alleviate some of these issues is to raise our minimum standard for the Universal Sieger. No one wants to see a VA dog barely pass at the Nationals, get a Sufficient, and be Universal Sieger. On the other hand, you don't want to see a dog win the Nationals, but has a G and is KKL2, as Universal Sieger. The Breed Advisory Committee needs to work on making a minimum level, so when you say Universal Sieger you mean a balanced dog. The minimum level needs to be on both sides. I think the points are probably at the right place—we just don't have the minimum level set at the right place.

JUDGES COMMITTEE – MARK PRZYBYLSKI

As I mentioned in my judges report, we will be bringing up the Judges Committee material mostly because it is voting in new judges, voting permanent licenses, and also voting on the motion to streamline the process by which we grant apprentices up their probationary judges licenses. We will cover that under new business.

NATIONAL EVENTS COMMITTEE – VICKI KELLER (Submitted with agenda)

The NEC has conducted surveys of the past three national events and the results were published in the last issue of Schutzhund USA (with the exception of the 2005 North American & FH Championship, which will be available at the General Board meeting). For 2006, the Northwest Region has received approval for the North American & FH Championship, and the only bid received for the GSD National Championship is from Fayetteville Schutzhund Club. That bid will be presented to the General Board in November. The Sieger Show will be hosted in April 2006 by John Henkel's club, O.G. Wesconn Schutzhund Club. Experienced, capable

clubs and members will host the 2006 national events. We are now looking for 2007 host clubs. Royal Canin sponsorship is available for regional and national championship events this year. We are most thankful and appreciative of their support, and would like all our competitors to please say thank you personally to the company and their representatives.

Howie Rodriguez: The feedback the NEC receives is there is an on-going financial problem. There is no financial support from USA, and that is why clubs are afraid to take on a national event. USA needs to guarantee at least \$7,500 for each of the four events. We feel that is the minimum required, with more required as the sport grows. These events should be first-class showcases for USA, and USA needs to be known as the premier showcase for the German Shepherd. Where else can we showcase our talents and the quality of this organization other than at these events; but we are not earmarking any money toward them. The second issue is finding host clubs. The current system of four voluntary clubs is not working. We recommend going back to a fixed rotation schedule, as that is the only thing that will guarantee these events are put on in a timely, effective manner. These four events are the face of USA, and nothing but the best judges and facilities should be acceptable any more. You must give the NEC the tools we need to do our job.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – CARL JOHNSON (Given by Dennis Vander Linde)

The current candidates are:

Vice President – Nathaniel Roque

Judges Committee Members-at-Large (2) – Willi Ortner, Debbie Zappia, Nikki Banfield

National Events Committee (4) – Patty Garcia, Hal Lymus, Howie Rodriguez, Martin Vollrath

Nominating Committee (5) – Pam Hanrahan, Rita Ledda, Rifky Mackeen

Hal Lymus and Rifky Mackeen were respondents to our help wanted advertisements that appeared in the previous two USA magazines. Nikki Banfield has stated she would also consider an appointment to one of the other committees; and Floyd Wilson has stated he would accept any nomination, including Vice President, if it will help USA.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE – HOWIE RODRIGUEZ

In light of what has happened with regional participation in order to qualify for the World Championship, we have altered our report. We were going to make some recommendations, but I think we need to clear up what is on the plate right now as far as regional participation.

We need to congratulate Wallace Payne on his fabulous placement at the WUSV Championship.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – SPECIAL COMMITTEES

BUDGET COMMITTEE – BILL PLUMB (No report)

BYLAWS COMMITTEE – JOHN KOERNER (Read by Kay Koerner)

The Bylaw Committee did not receive nor review any proposed bylaw changes for the year 2005. Those presented with the agenda are not from the committee as per the traditional procedure.

Lyle Roetemeyer: John Koerner has resigned from the committee. He felt he did not receive the bylaws submitted with the agenda in a timely manner. Many of them are good bylaws amendments, but John didn't have the opportunity to look at them until they were already being distributed to the clubs. I was not privy to that beforehand and felt everybody on the committee had received them in time before they were distributed.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – VICKI KELLER (Read by Sara Wallick)

Six regions hosted helper seminars for our last fiscal year, which ended in June. These regions were:

Mid-Central Region	Northwestern Region
Mid-Eastern Region	Southeastern Region
Northeastern Region	Southwestern Region

There was also a seminar hosted in the Pacific Northwest Region, but they did not use Education Committee funds for the event. All evaluations from the participants were generally positive, with suggestions for longer sessions and more dogs to work.

Lyle Roetemeyer: We have received more funds from Royal Canin. The dispersal of funds will not be as large as it was for last year's educational program, since that money came directly from a surplus of funds in the treasury that we don't have now. There is a small set of funds, and we will continue with the same process for the rest of this fiscal year for education. Please continue to educate your regions. While the funds have been very helpful for the Helper Program, they are not just for the Helper Program. If regions want to host other educational seminars, those seminars must be free to the members of the region. The funds are for education and the good of this organization.

HELPER COMMITTEE – NATHANIEL ROQUE

Since the May 2005 start date for the Helper Program, our Helper Committee has spent many hours overseeing the start of the new program. To date the Helper Program has completed 21 seminars and two national colleges. A total of 167 helpers have successfully completed the seminar/evaluation process in the first six months of the program. That makes 167 out of approximately 450 total helpers; so in six months we have successfully gotten 37% of the helpers through seminars, evaluated them, and given them a classification based on the new program. The helpers who have completed the program have earned the following classifications: 16 teaching helpers have conducted seminars/evaluations, with 10 helpers classified as national level, 7 helpers classified as regional level, 25 classified as club level, and 125 classified as basic level who are allowed to work club trials. This year at the 2005 National Helper College we had 21 helpers in attendance as well as quite a few spectators, and overall I would say it was quite a success. Evaluations from all of the seminars and evaluations have been reviewed, as well as email comments sent to USA and the Helper Committee. For the most part they have been overwhelmingly positive, further showing us the need for education for our general membership.

Our first apprentice teaching helpers voted in by the Helper Committee were Wayne Wolcott (SW), who started his apprenticeship yesterday at his first national college, and A. J. Slaughter (ME). We have four new teaching helper appli-

cants that will be going through review from the committee: Bill Kulla (NC), Troy Dean (SW), Marco Osorio (SW), and Scott Boedecker (MC).

The Helper Committee has focused on improving and revising the final program based on information gathered from teaching helpers, helpers attending the program, and spectators at the program. We have been getting this information through event evaluations and interviewing people who participated in the program. We strongly encourage feedback from the membership to help us give you the program that meets our organizational needs. Some of the current recommendations being evaluated are extending the current seminar/evaluation attendance requirement for basic and club level helpers from mandatory reclassification every two years to every four years. We are trying to make it easier for them to remain in the program. We believe this will greatly ease the burden of expense and time for basic and club level helpers, but still allow them to be properly reviewed, evaluated, and updated on rule changes to maintain a safe level of work for club trials. We are considering recommending that national level helpers, regional helpers, and teaching helpers must still maintain their level of classification by attending a seminar at least once every two years.

At any time a helper may attend additional seminars/evaluations to be reevaluated to have his/her classification changed. Also, any helper receiving an unsatisfactory rating from a judge for trial work must attend a seminar/classification and attain a passing grade to continue to perform helper work at USA trials. The committee has also worked to greatly improve and simplify the data tracking process for our helpers and the paperwork used to document the seminar/evaluation process. As the program grows, we continue to see small areas that require change and we will work to address these changes.

Until the program is in full force in November 2006, we may lose some teaching helpers due to inactivity, failure to hold seminars/evaluations, or non-involvement in the program. This was partially expected due to the large number of teaching helpers grandfathered into the program to give easy accessibility to teachers in all areas of the country. As the program works itself out, we will be better able to see the specific need for the number of teachers. Teaching helpers that don't meet the requirements of the program to maintain their status will be reclassified as regional level helpers until they complete their upcoming seminar/evaluation to determine a more correct classification.

The Helper Committee extends our thanks to all of our present teaching helpers and new apprentice teaching helpers, as well as the membership of USA, for embracing and supporting this program. I also want to thank my fellow committee members for working very diligently and putting in a lot of frustrating time working out this program, especially Dennis Vander Linde, James Laney, Doug Wendling, Danny Grayson, Mark Przybylski, and Lyle Roetemeyer, as well as the previous Helper Committee members, T. Floyd, Gary Park, Danny Grayson, and Mark Chaffin, for initiating the Helper Program, getting it started, and allowing it to grow to the point where it is now. My final thanks are to our host club for allowing us to have our Helper College here this year, and to all of the members, spectators, and teaching helpers that participated yesterday.

K-9 COMMITTEE – MIKE DIEHL (No report)

2008 WUSV CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE – VICKI KELLER
(Submitted with agenda)

Our committee has been gathering and evaluating data on possible sites for the WUSV championship. Three possible sites have been identified:

1. St. Louis has the Busch soccer complex, but tracking has not been located and local club membership in the area is small.
2. Atlanta has a baseball stadium facility, tracking, and a large local membership.
3. The Lexington area has a horse park arena and tracking, but no local club.

This is all preliminary. Until we have a starting bank account it is difficult to determine what exactly we can afford. Phil Jobe has contacted the organizers of last year's championship in Holland; they used 150 volunteers for seven days to man the event. We have their organizational chart and schedule. A primary goal is to secure funding and locate a site with volunteer potential. Anyone who is willing to assist would be most welcome!

Howie Rodriguez: We have been asked to host the WUSV Championship in 2008 because Germany wants to host it in 2009. We will be asking one of the clubs currently planning to host a 2007 national event to give that up in order to try out the WUSV venue. We need to proof the venue one year in advance by holding a national event there. I would like to have ads on the website and in the magazine to motivate our members to volunteer right now to create a fund for seed money. Funds will be held in an interest-bearing escrow account set up by Bill Plumb. We need about \$90,000 seed money to begin putting this event together, and would like to ask each member to sacrifice \$25 so we can come up with it. We cannot get a venue to host an event of this magnitude without seed money, and that is also how we attract sponsors. This event is going to require a lot of money and a lot of people. This is not a national event—this is big—and to do it right and not have a fiasco like we had in Boston, it needs to be done correctly. Everything needs to be accounted for.

We are looking at the Cincinnati/Lexington area. I went to Lexington two years ago and thought it was a wonderful area with great tracking and hotels. I met with the chamber of commerce, horse park manager, etc. trying to get the ball rolling. The Cincinnati area is also great. Lexington is a two-hour drive from Cincinnati. There are 11 major cities in Europe that fly direct to Cincinnati, which makes it easy for the Europeans and their dogs. If anybody has other proposals, please let us know.

Lyle Roetemeyer: Vicki sent a report regarding the Busch soccer stadium facilities in St. Louis, which are outstanding. The problem in St. Louis is tracking, and that is something we are probably not going to be able to resolve. Cities with soccer complexes like the one in St. Louis would be excellent and very well received by the European community.

The Greater Cincinnati Schutzhund Club is interested in the 2007 GSD National Championship and has hosted many regional championships, last year with over 60 entries. They have over 1,200 acres of beautiful tracking and have several stadiums lined up. The committee will definitely be looking at that area. They have football stadiums, but the time of year for the World Championship conflicts with high school football season. They also have a baseball stadium built last year that they have permission to use. They would take the pitchers

mound out and sod the infield. That would give it a month to grow before we hosted a championship there. We need to look at areas with available tracking—and we need to move on it as soon as possible.

YOUTH COMMITTEE – MIC PETERSON (No report)

Lyle Roetemeyer: The Executive Board made a Youth Championship part of the H.O.T. Championship and it will be introduced into this year's H.O.T. Championship.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. H.O.T. Definition Revision

Motion by Molly Graf to revise the definition of H.O.T. to include the requirement that the dog must be owned no later than one year of age.

Motion carried (yes–29, no–3, abstain–1). This rule will go into effect 30 days after publication in the magazine.

Break from 10:05–10:30 A.M. Roll call with 12 Executive Board members and 41 club delegates for a total of 53 voting delegates. A quorum was present.

ELECTIONS

Vice President

No candidates selected by NC. Nathaniel Roque and Floyd Wilson nominated from floor. *Vote:* Nathaniel Roque–47 (*elected*), Floyd Wilson–4.

Judges Committee Members at Large (2 positions)

Willi Ortner and Debbie Zappia selected by NC. Nikki Banfield's name withdrawn because of potential conflict of interest since she is a judge. Thomas Payne nominated from floor.

Vote: Willi Ortner–44 (*elected*), Debbie Zappia–39 (*elected*), Thomas Payne–21.

National Events Committee (4 positions)

Patti Garcia, Hal Lymus, Howie Rodriguez, and Martin Vollrath selected by NC. Willie Pope nominated from floor.

Vote: Martin Vollrath–51 (*elected*), Howie Rodriguez–48 (*elected*), Willie Pope–45 (*elected*), Hal Lymus–35 (*elected*), Patti Garcia–26.

Nominating Committee (5 positions)

Pam Hanrahan, Rita Ledda, and Rifky Mackeen selected by NC. Nikki Banfield added by NC. Marie Weller nominated from floor.

Vote: All five candidates elected by acclamation.

NEW BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS ARISING FROM COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. National Events Bids

2006 North American & FH Championship:

- Northwestern Region in Sacramento, California (May 4–7).

Motion to accept bid carried.

2006 H.O.T. Championship/Youth Championship:

- Cumberland Valley Schutzhund & Police Club (Mid-Eastern Region) in Nashville, Tennessee.

Motion to accept bid carried.

2006 GSD National Championship:

- Fayetteville Schutzhund Club (Southeastern Region) in Fayetteville, North Carolina.
- Jefferson-St. Clair County (Southeastern Region) in Gadsden, Alabama.
Vote: Jefferson-St. Clair County—49 (*selected*), Fayetteville Schutzhund Club (4).

2. USA Performance Judges Program

Motion by Mark Przybylski to change USA Performance Judges Program, Section 3.J.

From: After completion of all of the above-mentioned requirements, all of the Apprentice's records will be reviewed by the USA Director of Judge's and the Judge's Committee for recommendation to the General Board for licensing.

To: After completion of the above-mentioned requirements, the USA Director of Judges and the USA Judges Committee will review all of the apprentices' records and will grant probationary judges licenses to apprentice judges who have successfully completed their apprenticeship.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. USA Breed Judges Program

Motion by Mark Przybylski to change USA Breed Judges Program, Section 3.J.

From: After completion of all of the above-mentioned requirements, all of the Apprentice's records will be reviewed by the USA Director of Judge's and the Judge's Committee for recommendation to the General Board for licensing.

To: After completion of the above-mentioned requirements, the USA Director of Judges, USA National Breed Warden, and USA Judges Committee will review all of the apprentices' records and will grant probationary judges licenses to apprentice judges who have successfully completed their apprenticeship.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Permanent Judges Licenses

Mark Przybylski reported the Judges Committee has recommended that Nathaniel Roque and Johannes Grewe be given their permanent judges licenses. Motion by John Oliver to approve both as permanent judges.

Nathaniel Roque – Approved unanimously.

Johannes Grewe – Approved.

5. Universal Sieger Standard Revision

Motion by Karen MacIntyre that to qualify for the title of Universal Sieger, the dog must be pronounced and at least SG at the Sieger Show and pronounced and at least G at the GSD National Championship.

Motion carried (yes-34, no-8).

6. Universal Sieger Point System Revision

Motion by Karen MacIntyre to change the point system for USA-bred dogs. Beginning with the year 2006, dogs bred in the U.S. competing for the Universal Sieger title will receive an additional five points. (USA-bred dogs were previously awarded five points for each event.)

Motion carried (yes-27, no-7, abstain-6).

7. H.O.T. Definition Revision Effective Date

Motion by Mark Przybylski that to be considered a H.O.T. dog, as of January 1, 2006 you must have owned the dog before it was one year of age. Any dogs before that date, as

long as you can show ownership before January 1, 2006, will still be considered a H.O.T. dog under the current H.O.T. requirements.

Motion carried.

8. Judges College Memorial Award

The second annual Judges College Memorial Award was presented to Jim Hill by Director of Judges Mark Przybylski.

BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

Motion by Kay Koerner to send the proposed bylaws amendments back to by Bylaws Committee because they were not received in time for review. Discussion followed about whether it was worthwhile voting on the proposed amendments since the bylaws will be undergoing a complete revision.

Motion carried (yes-29, no-14).

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

1. Guidelines for Executive Board Ballots

Motion by Sara Wallick to supersede 1985 GBM ruling regarding guidelines for Executive Board ballots:

From: Any Executive Board member may propose a request for a mail ballot as long as it is seconded by another EB member. It will be treated as a motion on the floor. There be three choices on the ballot: "Yes," "No," and "More Discussion Needed." If a majority vote for the "More Discussion Needed," the item goes to the next meeting.

To: Any Executive Board member may submit a ballot if it has been seconded. There shall be four choices on the ballots: "Yes," "No," "More Discussion Needed," and "Abstain." If a majority of the members vote for "More Discussion Needed," the item will be on the agenda for the next Executive Board meeting.

Motion carried (yes-29, no-3).

2. Regional Participation Definition

Motion by Nia Cottrell to ratify Executive Board decision that to qualify for participation the handler/dog team at a minimum must begin one or more phases of the trial. If while participating the dog is pulled due to injury or illness, the process outlined under Section D "Pulling a Dog from a Trial" under General Rules and Regulations in the USA Trial Rules will apply. A notation in the scorebook of "terminated (or discontinued) because of injury or illness" is acceptable to qualify for participation. A handler/dog team that cannot attempt the exercises or achieve a partial score due to a pre-existing injury is not qualified as having participated. Disqualification for unsportsmanlike conduct does not qualify as participation.

Motion carried (yes-46, no-3).

3. Regional Participation Waivers

Motion by Nia Cottrell to give regional directors the authority to issue waivers of participation in regional championships, with good cause shown.

Motion withdrawn.

4. Regional Training Director Reimbursement

Motion by Nia Cottrell to eliminate the provision in the Regional Policy that gives the same financial consideration to regional training directors as that accorded judges.

Motion carried (yes-47, no-2).

5. Regional Participation for Entry to GSD National Championship

Motion by Nia Cottrell to ratify Executive Board decision to change definition of regional participation:

From: Regional participation is not required for entry to the GSD National Championship if the handler has participated in or is selected as an FCI or WUSV team member for that year.

To: Regional participation is not required for entry to the GSD National Championship if the handler/dog team was selected by USA or AWDF for a WUSV or FCI team and participated that year.

Motion carried.

6. World Championship Team Selection

Motion by Howie Rodriguez to ratify the Executive Board decision that the World Championship Team selection process must be a two-score qualification process. The GSD National Championship, the North American Championship, the H.O.T. Championship (if H.O.T.), and the AWDF Championship will be the qualifying events. At least one of the qualifying scores must come from the GSD National Championship or North American Championship.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Funds for National Event Host Clubs

Motion by Howie Rodriguez that USA provide at least \$7,500 to the hosting clubs of each USA national event, except for the Sieger Show. (The need for a dues increase was discussed, with the General Board in favor. A proposal for a dues increase will be on the agenda for next year’s meeting.)

Motion tabled to be brought up at 2006 GBM.

Lyle Roetemeyer: Last year the National Events Committee asked for \$3,000 and we had sponsorship from Royal Canin that provided it. Now we are asking for \$7,500, but we don’t have it in the treasury. Part of a lengthy discussion last night was the venue issue. When clubs and communities are willing to host events but people go in and trash the place, it is not easy to host an event there again. At last year’s National Championship, the Holiday Inn wanted us to come back, and it would be nice to be able to do so. Glenciff High School was the only school that wanted to work with us because of football season. Because of the people who decided to do bitework at the elementary school next door while kids were getting on the buses, we are not going to be able to go back there. That venue is gone because of irresponsible members. We have to do a better job of policing ourselves. One of the biggest headaches is picking up after people. Think about what you are doing and pick up after yourselves, maybe then we will have a chance for more venues. We do need more money for events, but we don’t have it in the treasury. We have to find more companies than just Royal Canin that want to be sponsors of these events.

8. GSD National Championship Entry Qualification

Motion by Wallace Payne that the organization recognize a 270 score or better at a WUSV or FCI championship while representing USA as qualification for entry into the GSD National Championship.

Motion withdrawn.

9. National Event NEC Contact Requirement

Motion by Howie Rodriguez that in order for the NEC to ensure the organization of a properly prepared trial, the trial

chairperson must contact the NEC chairperson at least six months prior to the event.

Motion carried.

10. Motion by Dena McGowan to adjourn.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Sara Wallick

Sara Wallick, Secretary

Attachment: Delegate List

