

UNITED SCHUTZHUND CLUBS OF AMERICA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 3, 2006
Dickson, Tennessee

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Executive Board meeting was called to order by President Lyle Roetemeyer at 2:40 P.M. Roll call by USA Office Manager Kelly Hope, with 10 Executive Board members attending. A quorum was not present.

Present: President Lyle Roetemeyer, Vice President Nathaniel Roque, Director of Judges Mark Przybylski, National Breed Warden Karen MacIntyre; Regional Directors Bill Bimrose, Randall Hoadley, Arthur Collins for Vicki Keller, John Oliver, Peggy Park, Mark Scarberry.

Absent: Secretary Sara Wallick, Treasurer Bill Plumb; Directors at Large Al Govednik, Mike Hamilton, Terry Macias, Howie Rodriguez; Regional Directors Pia Blackwell, Uwe Doose, Jerrold Gray, Randy Kromer, Lynne Lewis.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Executive Board meeting on November 2, 2005 could not be approved due to the lack of quorum.

OFFICER REPORTS

PRESIDENT – LYLE ROETEMEYER

Our best wishes and prayers are with our Secretary, Sara Wallick, in taking care of her husband who has been critically ill. He is now home, but is still seriously ill and our best wishes go out to both of them.

At the General Board meeting I spoke about the future growth of our organization being tied to our programs. Our Judges Program continues to gain strength and we have several new apprentice judges. The Helper Program has given us a vehicle to share knowledge for the good of all members.

Our breed registry needed database changes to make the system more efficient. I would like to thank Laurie Tollifson, USA member, for her help and expertise. She has worked diligently with Kelly Hope over the past few months, and I have asked Kelly to present a report on their progress.

Our National Events Committee asked for a significant increase in national event funding and it was increased by 25%, but still is not producing the desired effect of multiple bids for each event. Hosting a national event is a lot of hard work. Some who attend the event fail to respect the venue provided, thus causing issues. It is as important for competitors to respect the hosting club's venue as it is for the hosting clubs to provide a competitor friendly venue. In my opinion this is why we cannot get clubs to host events. I will ask the Executive Board to provide input on the possibility of making the GSD National Championship a USA-hosted event. Possibly more clubs would be prepared to provide a venue if event funding, planning, organization, and implementation are the responsibility of USA. This would allow us to host the best possible championship and share income with local venue hosts. I believe we have enough talented and experienced members within our organization to make this a reality for USA. Should we decide to begin this process in the near future, we must pay close attention to the Sieger Show and the positives and negatives incurred since it became a USA-hosted event. We had some issues at the 2006 Sieger Show that need to be discussed:

Catalog/Show Cards – The USA Office has not received the final catalog, which is required for all shows. Ratings are on the website; but the office needs the final catalog in order to answer any questions. Many show cards were not claimed at the closing ceremonies and USA incurred a minimal cost to mail them.

Crystal Video – USA has not received a DVD from Crystal Video for the 2005 or 2006 Sieger Show. During the Breed Advisory Committee meeting last November, Director of Judges Mark Przybylski and I voiced our opposition to paying travel expenses for companies that use our events to make a profit. It is my understanding we again paid for their flights and rooms, and the agreement was USA would receive a free copy of the DVD.

Volunteers – It is very difficult for a club to provide the manpower for this event with nearly the entire club entered in the event. We need to make sure the club/region providing the host venue for the Sieger Show has enough volunteers. At this year's event we had volunteers who were not able to take a break. There were extra rooms at the host hotel billed to USA for individuals who did not work at the show. It is obvious that we need more volunteer participation from within our organization; and I feel our money would be better spent helping to defer travel expenses of regional breed wardens and other working volunteers.

Show Grounds – The Executive Board made the decision a few years ago to have the Breed Advisory Committee run the Sieger Show to help avoid some of the past mistakes. Since that time the Sieger Show has been hosted in a stadium to make sure the participants had a quality grass surface. A few of the earlier venues had become so muddy and slippery that exhibiting a dog became very difficult. Unfortunately, the 2006 venue had the same problem. The soccer field was provided free of charge, but USA later paid a few hundred dollars for moving the soccer team to another site. We also paid for day security, which came to slightly over \$1,000; and also for trash removal, which is usually the responsibility of the hosting club.

Parking – At this year's show we did not have ample parking. There was a small gravel parking area, but the majority of vehicles were parked on dirt and grass, which quickly became mud.

Breeders Banquet – Many members arrived at the Breeders Banquet with the misunderstanding that a full dinner was being provided. I believe changing the name of the banquet can eliminate this from happening in the future.

Trophies – The USA Office has about 100 leftover trophies from the 2005 and 2006 Sieger shows. I suggest we inventory these trophies so we can cut trophy expenses for 2007. The average cost for replacement engraved plates is about \$3.25 each. This year's trophies were ordered from B&B in Germany and the company would not accept checks or MasterCard. A wire transfer had to be done in downtown St. Louis, which was an inconvenience. The trophies cost \$3,752.77 and customs was \$1,393.15. The trophies arrived at the hotel one day before the event began, were not packed well, and some were damaged. There were no engraved plates, so USA had to distribute trophies without plates. The plates arrived at the USA Office three weeks after the event, and the staff is waiting for the final catalog so the

plates can be sent to the members. Shipping costs for the plates will be incurred. Several competitors did not pick up their trophies we will need to decide if USA will pay for shipping the trophies or if we will ask those members to pay. We made a profit on the trophies because of generous donations; but will lose money if we pay to ship unclaimed trophies. The progeny group was cancelled due to weather, so those participant ribbons were not distributed and were shipped at a cost of \$93.

Trophy Order	-\$5,145.92
Ribbon Shipping	-93.00
Total Trophy Expense	-\$5,238.92
Trophy Donations	\$7,570.00
Net Trophy Profit	\$2,331.08

USA is the leader in the United States as steward of the German Shepherd Dog through our recognition of the German breed standard. We are also the leader of 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. It is important to fight these legislative efforts as if they were trying to take your rights to own and breed your dog, because that is the intention of many animal rights groups supporting this type of legislation. AWDF continues to have a legislative committee comprised of hard-working members, most of them USA members. Many of our fellow breed clubs have experienced a significant membership decline during the past couple of years. Our membership has grown slightly over the past year, and our trial and show entries have remained steady over that same period.

Participation in our regional championships should remain as a requirement to enter the GSD National Championship. Expanding the qualification process to include our other national events would, in my opinion, be seriously detrimental to the health of our regional championships. If we wish to promote the H.O.T. Championship, it is important that we understand a dog can be H.O.T. without being owned before one year of age. I believe we should ask the General Board to once again revisit this issue, rescind last year's rule change, and in its place add a category and placements at the H.O.T. Championship for the highest scoring handler bred, raised, and trained dog.

AWDF President Al Govednik has been having discussions with the DVG president for about a year regarding their desire to become a member of AWDF. DVG voted today in favor of joining AWDF and now will be voted on by AWDF for acceptance.

I would like to thank everyone for their dedication and support of the German Shepherd Dog and the United Schutzhund Clubs of America, in particular those committees that have worked very hard since I became president.

USA OFFICE MANAGER – KELLY HOPE

Website – A website person is checking the website daily for anything old that needs to be removed. I still make the changes because he does not feel comfortable changing the website yet. He may contact some of the Executive Board or committee members for ideas for the website.

Magazine – The Magazine Committee, with Chair Kathy Moacanin and Jennifer Aguilar Acevedo, who is an editor, has taken control of the magazine. We are trying to cut magazine costs because it is so expensive and advertising is going down. If you know of other members that can help, please let us know. Kathy has changed the membership application on the website, adding a section that asks if the new member has special

qualities/talents that can help the organization. We are trying to get more members involved.

Office Staff – We lost two full-time employees, now have two part-time people, and are doing well again. We had a database problem and one magazine issue did not have trial results. Randall Hoadley spent many hours entering trial information for the March/April issue, and we thank him very much. Several Executive Board members and USA members have stepped up and volunteered in various ways.

Member News – It is very important that you and your members look at the Members News & Info on the website. That is where all the new information is entered. The phones are answered from 10–3, but we are there 8–5. That is the only way I could use part-time workers to save money.

Bogdan Sergo – The SV notified the USA Office they would not accept titles awarded by Bogdan Sergo in September 2005 that were listed in our last magazine. The office had received notice that Mr. Sergo was no longer an SV judge as of October 27, 2005. He did not judge at a USA event after that date; therefore, I have requested the exact date of trials/clubs the SV is referring to. Some members have already received letters from the SV, so it has become an issue.

Club Renewals – The USA Office has been receiving club renewals without the required current membership list. We email the club contact, but usually either do not get a reply or get one stating someone else will be sending the list. The membership list is required and needs to be sent with the dues. The office would like approval to return the renewal letter and check with a note explaining what the office needs.

Royal Canin – In accordance with the Royal Canin contract, USA agreed to allow Royal Canin to send brochures to our members. Royal would like to send out a packet with a brochure, letter, and statistics sheet and has offered to pay a mailing house called ICS to send the packet. Royal would pay for all expenses, but I will need board approval to send the membership list to the mailing house. ICS would be willing to sign a disclosure agreement if the board would allow the office to send our membership list to them in order to bulk mail the brochures.

GSDCA – Lew Bunch, the new GSDCA president, noticed the USA Office was located in St. Louis and extended an invitation to Lyle and me to attend the GSDCA meeting held in Wentzville, Missouri. Lyle was unable to attend and asked Bill Bimrose to join me at the meeting. The invitation was in my opinion just a nice gesture. I was not drilled about anything to do with USA and we did not conduct any business. The GSDCA meeting was about their upcoming events. AKC representative Carmen Battaglia mentioned there has been a drop in German Shepherd Dog registrations through AKC.

Royal Canin Seminars – Royal Canin would like to conduct a seminar on their products at each national event. I have seen nothing but problems with the host clubs organizing them and Sharon Lund, the Royal rep, and I discussed this issue at the 2006 Sieger Show. Starting with the 2006 GSD National Championship, I will coordinate everything for Royal with the host club. It is very important that we accommodate this sponsor in conducting the seminars, as they are important to our members and show our support for our sponsor and their product.

Sponsor Brochures – It is a requirement that national event host clubs have our sponsors' brochures at the gate. Nathaniel and I have a list of items the office will send to each national

event host club such as free past issues of the magazine, USA brochures, sponsor brochures, and information on joining USA.

National Event Paperwork – At some of the national events the paperwork has not been prepared correctly. From now on, the USA Office will fill out the score sheets and judges sheets used at national events in order to let the clubs concentrate on preparation in other areas.

Elbow Evaluations – The USA Office has had many requests to send elbow x-rays along with hip x-rays to the SV Office. The SV directly charges the members \$52 U.S. The office does not send just elbow x-rays for the members; we only send them along with hip x-rays by request. Does USA want to start an elbow program? According to some members, elbow evaluations will be required in the near future to proceed with a breed survey.

USA Breed Registry – I have samples of the new USA Breed Registry. Laurie Tollifson has taken on this huge task for USA at no charge and it is running really well. During new business I will have a list of questions in order to complete this undertaking. Almost all the changes were done on the suggestion of members who received their first set of papers.

VICE PRESIDENT – NATHANIEL ROQUE

For the first quarter of 2006 I have been involved with the Helper Committee and the Magazine Committee. I have had communication with the 2008 WUSV Championship Committee and recently with the Director of Judges involving the upcoming Judges College, our upcoming Teaching Helper Program, and the incident that occurred at the North American Championship.

I am very pleased with the way the WUSV fund is growing. The graph Craig Groh has been sending out, which originates at the USA Office, shows the fund growing with membership renewals. We are at \$12,641 without a mandatory assessment and it is growing monthly. Regions and many clubs have donated as well as individual members, and some judges have donated their judging fees. I would like to ask regional directors to continue encouraging donations. I also think we should put together a promotional item such as a jacket or sweatshirt/t-shirt to sell to the membership.

I have had some communication with Ken Downing of WDA over the last two or three months. He was previously the GSDCA president. He doesn't have a Schutzhund background, but has been reaching out very much like Lew Bunch to get information and open a line of communication. I know past administrations have had problems with communicating and following up with meetings. It appears that Ken is making a strong effort to clean up WDA. They have been imposing some stricter rules and have finally put together a first-time rulebook. He is hoping that by showing WDA is taking care of its own business, we can come to a point in the near future where we can start to recognize them and possibly work with them for the good of the German shepherd working dog and the sport in the U.S. I have assured him that once they meet our requirements and show sincerity, we would be willing to open some kind of conversation with them.

AKC has approved their working dog sport program and some judges and members are worried about that taking away from what we do. In my opinion, the AKC working dog sport program helps validate our sport. In no way is the program as approved going to affect our membership. All they have done is approve a couple of clubs to host events, and those clubs are limited to a maximum of five trials per year for the Doberman,

German Shepherd Dog, Bouvier, and Rottweiler. If a German Shepherd Dog club hosts one of the five allowed trials, only German Shepherd Dogs can be entered since the events are breed specific. This will not affect us and our sport other than validate that AKC, the biggest kennel registry in the United States, is now starting to promote Schutzhund.

I am still concerned with the way we conduct our business. We constantly miss opportunities for local and national sponsorship, donations, member recruitment, and member retention. We need more people in place to perform these services. The new section on our membership application form to find what our membership has to offer is a start. I have been working with the Magazine Committee, and upcoming issues of the magazine will have a box as a filler asking for volunteers from USA for specific job responsibilities doing data entry, organizing, sponsorship, or recruitment. I would like to see our regional directors provided with a list of non-renewals for their region and be required to follow up to find out why they did not renew. Are they getting out of the sport, are they fed up with USA, did we not provide a product they wanted, or did they move to a competing organization?

Our organization isn't always well represented at national events. The President quite often shows up for draw night; then, because of scheduling or having to go to four or five events a year, can't stay through the whole event. Often at draw night or throughout the event there are no line officers available to answer questions. At the last three or four national events I have attended there have usually been no line officers present during closing ceremonies. I would like to propose we set up a schedule and hold our Executive Board more accountable for attending not only national events, but meetings as well. We need to more clearly define the job responsibilities of our Executive Board and get them out there doing the work. Our regional directors on a day-to-day basis deal with our clubs and our membership. Some of our line officers or Executive Board directors at large don't have a lot of specific job responsibility other than to vote on issues that come up within the Executive Board. I don't see any reason we can't stipulate that our four directors at large be required to pick one national event that they will attend and represent USA throughout that event. That does not mean they will be the only one there, because we need to distribute the work among other people. The National Breed Warden obviously is required to be at the Sieger Show, the President should be at the nationals, and so on down the line. It is evident from today's meeting that scheduling and real-life commitments often play a part, and there are legitimate excuses for not being able to attend. This is a volunteer organization, and that is one of its weaknesses. It is very difficult to hold volunteers accountable.

The United Kennel Club has approved a working dog program and offered to present Director of Judges Mark Przybylski with a working dog license for their new program. It strengthens our organization and presence within working dog organizations throughout the country and world to become more integrated with other affiliations. As long as our officers or judges are first and foremost responsible and loyal to USA, I think it shows more validity for our programs.

SECRETARY – SARA WALLICK (Read by Kelly Hope)

The Rules and Regulations document was updated after the first of the year. I will continue trying to improve this document. In February we began posting the pending Executive Board ballots on the website under Member News & Info in an effort to disseminate information to the membership more quickly.

Since the 2005 General Board meeting, we have acquired three new clubs but unfortunately have lost four.

New Clubs (3)

Columbus Hundesport Club (ME)
Der Michigan SchH Verein (ME)
TN Valley Working Dogs (ME)

Dissolutions (4)

Canyon K-9 Club (SW)
Desert Winds Schutzhund Club (RM/GP)
Piedmont Schutzhund Club (SE)
West Texas Working Dog Association (RM/GP)

Waivers (2005)

Boise Working Dog Association (PNW)
Buena Vista Working Dog Club (SC)
Texas Working Dogs (SC)
Mid America German Shepherd Dog Schutzhund Club (MC)
Chicagoland Schutzhund Club (MC)

Executive Board Ballots

The following e-ballots have been submitted since the 2005 Executive Board meeting:

E-Ballot #1-06 (Judge Emeritus Status for Willi Ortner)

Motion by Mark Przybylski that Willi Ortner be named a Judge Emeritus, and granted all of the privileges awarded with the title, based on his years of service as the USA Director of Judges and his standing as the first USA Judge.

Background: Willi Ortner retired just five months shy of the 15-year tenure required for Judge Emeritus status.

Vote: Yes-21. Motion carried unanimously 1/18/06.

E-Ballot #2-06 (National Event Slate of Judges)

Motion by Mark Przybylski that two USA judges be utilized for USA national events whenever possible; with the option of using one recognized non-USA judge in one of the three phases, and the non-USA judge rotated through the phases on a regular basis. Beginning in 2007, the USA Judges Committee will provide a possible slate of authorized USA judges for all USA national events by January 31 of the event year.

Background: It has become glaringly apparent over the past few years that the only judges we see in the stadium at our national events are SV judges, with the occasional Canadian SV judge thrown in for variety. Since 2001, there have only been two USA judges in the stadium for the obedience and protection phases. That could be construed as an insult to our fully licensed USA judges, of which many are more than qualified for the major events; and it certainly casts a cloud over all of the work they do every year officiating at the various local club trials. We need to utilize our USA judges as the ones who pick our World Team every year, exactly the same as Germany does. After all, we do not judge at their Bundessieger in any phase; not even the SV-licensed USA judges we had in our organization were ever afforded this honor. Therefore, our USA judges need to be more of a factor as well as a mainstay at our major events.

Vote: Yes-17, No-2, NFD-2. Motion carried 2/2/06.

E-Ballot #3-06 (Updated USA Breeding Regulations)

Motion by Karen MacIntyre to approve the updated USA Breeding Regulations as proposed by the Breed Advisory Committee.

Background: This is a complete update for translation corrections, clarifications, grammatical changes, renumbering, organizational changes, and hip certification clarification.

Vote: Yes-20, NR-1. Motion carried 2/5/06.

E-Ballot #4-06 (Updated USA Breed Survey Regulations)
Motion by Karen MacIntyre to approve the updated USA Breed Survey Regulations as proposed by the Breed Advisory Committee.

Background: This is a complete update for translation corrections, clarifications, grammatical changes, renumbering, organizational changes, and hip certification clarification.

Vote: Yes-20, NR-1. Motion carried 2/5/06.

E-Ballot #5-06 (2006 H.O.T./National Obedience/Youth Championships Slate of Judges)

Motion by Sara Wallick to approve the USA Judges Committee's recommended slate of judges for the 2006 H.O.T./National Obedience/Youth Championships:

Tracking – Mike Caputo (USA)
Obedience – Mark Przybylski (USA)
Protection – Nathaniel Roque (USA)

The Obedience Championship will be judged Olympic style, as has been done in the past.

Vote: Yes-21. Motion carried unanimously 2/23/06.

E-Ballot #6-06 (2006 North American and FH Championship Slate of Judges)

Motion by Mark Przybylski to approve the USA Judges Committee's recommended slate of judges for the 2006 North American and FH Championship:

Tracking – Doug Deacon (GSSCC/SV)
Obedience – Al Kerr (USA)
Protection – Bill Szentmiklosi (USA)

Vote: Yes-21. Motion carried unanimously 3/15/06.

E-Ballot #7-06 (Royal Canin Sponsorship Funds Budget)

Motion by Bill Plumb to approve the following budget for the Royal Canin sponsorship funds for the period April 1–June 30, 2006. After June 30 the Royal Canin funds budget will be included in the regular budget.

North American & FH Championship – \$4,000
H.O.T. Championship – \$4,000
Helper Committee – \$1,000
One Scheduled Regional Championship – \$200

Vote: Yes-9, No-2, NFD-6, NR-4. Motion carried 3/31/06.

E-Ballot #8-06 (Fiscal Year 2007 Budget)

Motion by Bill Plumb to approve the fiscal year 2007 budget of total income \$489,100, total expenses \$488,300, and net income \$800.

Vote: Yes-20, NR-1. Motion carried 5/28/06.

TREASURER – BILL PLUMB (Given by Lyle Roetemeyer)

Our total membership income for the month of May including individual, family, club, foreign, and youth is \$28,689.50 versus \$21,130.79 for last year, so we are up \$7,500 for the month. Year-to-date, with one month to go in the fiscal year, we are at \$267,620.71 for membership income versus \$264,504.29 last year at the same time.

We are expecting a good profit from the Sieger Show.

There were a tremendous number of donations and I want to thank everyone, especially Sherri Bushee, who worked so hard on trophy donations and other things. She is going to do the same thing for the 2008 World Championship.

DIRECTOR OF JUDGES – MARK PRZYBYLSKI

Randall Hoadley is doing an apprenticeship here this weekend and Frank Phillips just started his apprenticeship two weeks ago in Pennsylvania. We have two others: Israel Cruz was on sick leave and David Millmore was on personal leave, but they plan to come back. Warren Jones, apprentice judge applicant, will be starting soon. I sent out six packets this year and followed

up on packets sent previously, and about three assured me they would send in their packets. At the nationals we inadvertently failed to ratify Jim Elder's permanent license.

Twenty of our 25 judges and future judges have committed to attend the judges meeting in August. At the present rate, within two years we should have almost 30 licensed judges in USA. We will bring out some new/improved programs at this year's judges meeting. We have updated the apprentice judges program to make it more comprehensive for the judges grading the apprentices and for the apprentices. It was put together mostly by Bill Szentmiklosi with my help. We will also bring out a teaching judges program that we hope will bring even more respect and integrity to our judges program, and it was put together by me with help from Bill Szentmiklosi. We plan to look at the judges programs and try to make some changes to bring judges on line more quickly. There is a three-year probationary period now and we want to get judges out there more quickly.

Johannes Grewe is heading the efforts of USA judges to support the 2008 World Championship. A flow chart has been partially completed with phase directors for tracking, obedience, and protection named and second-in-commands.

It has come to our attention that Vic Wilms has had his SV license revoked. We are double checking this. He still has his FCI license, but many times the FCI follows what the SV does.

We passed a motion last year that said individual breed clubs in AWDf could petition USA on a case-by-case basis to recognize titles awarded at AWDf-affiliated clubs. We just received a letter from President Richard Quinn of the United States American Bulldog Club requesting this.

NATIONAL BREED WARDEN – KAREN MACINTYRE

I visited the Sieger Show venue in the middle of winter while it was pouring rain with a good snow pack, and the drainage was wonderful. That is why we chose that venue over some others. It was a professional soccer field, the town promised extra parking, and the host hotel across the street promised shuttles. We ran into problems with people wanting to park in the VIP parking area. Unfortunately, we got 6.5 inches of rain and 60 mph winds. We had to cancel the progeny group, which is the only group that is not a paid entry.

We had a record number of entries: 344 compared to 302 last year and 265 the year before. We had more countries represented than ever: Austria, Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, France, Italy, Serbia, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Argentina, Poland, Yugoslavia, and more. Because of the convenience of being on the East Coast with many hubs, we had a big draw from outside this country. USA-bred dogs comprised 55% of the dogs entered, held 61.7% of the top five placings, and dominated many classes. Of the 344 entries, 83 did not show. We always have a participant trophy, so it is very difficult to not have trophies left over because we cannot predict the no-shows. Due to the weather, we had the closing ceremonies at the hotel rather than the stadium, and a lot of people just left without their trophies. I do not believe we should ship those trophies, but we should ship the engraved plates.

Another big success for this show was that of the dogs that were insufficient or did not pass because of no heeling or no out, only two were USA-bred dogs. In the past, 50% of the dogs that were insufficient for no heeling or no out have been USA-bred dogs, so this was a significant improvement for USA. The percentage of dogs that did not pass was still the same.

Without the final numbers, we are showing about \$14,000 profit. Some places charge for the stadium; this one did not but did charge for maintenance, a police officer, and trash removal so it came out the same. The town also made it a requirement that we move the soccer team. I am surprised they even want us back when we are not getting charged for fixing the damage done to the field. A big issue was providing volunteers for poop scooping, because none of the competitors were doing it. Somebody even let their dog defecate in the elevator and left it there. The participants in all of our events do not care about the venue. This is the only venue that would allow dogs and I am still surprised they want us back, but they made big money on us.

The 2006 DVD from Crystal Video won't be out for a couple of months. I received my 2005 copy and was not aware the USA Office had not received one. The DVD that Crystal provides is in return for paying for their flight.

Unfortunately, the only volunteers were from my club and O.G. Wesconn.

Entry fee income from the Sieger Show was greater than our USA membership income for last month. We increased the fees, added late fees, and received \$30,000 just from entry fees. The biggest source for donations was trophies. We made the trophies nicer than last year hoping to attract more people and that seemed to have worked. In trying to save money, Stephanie Dunion found a company that gave a bigger discount and used Lufthansa to ship the trophies. We paid for customs, but the cost of these trophies was \$3,000 less than last year even with the extra expenses. The biggest thing that helped this event was promotion. We had members of my club and O.G. Wesconn reminding people a deadline was approaching. We need to have someone in charge of promoting the event. The only way we can get the numbers up is to make it convenient and promote the event. O.G. Wesconn offered to donate 15% of their take from the profits to the 2008 World Championship.

I had a complaint about the show at Inner City Schutzhund Club last weekend. One of the requirements for a show is having a catalog and one was not available. Our clubs are sometimes really bad at doing paperwork and submitting it on time. They miss paperwork and forget catalogs because they can get away with it. We don't have a structure in place for dealing with this problem, so some clubs are brought up on charges and some are not and we risk losing members because of it. We have a lot of competing organizations and risk losing clubs and members to them if we are not careful in how we deal with various problems.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – STANDING COMMITTEES

AUDITING COMMITTEE – KAY KOERNER (No report)

BOARD OF INQUIRY – JOHN KOERNER (Read by Kelly Hope)

Fortunately, the BOI has nothing to report, as there are no cases in progress.

Break from 5:00–5:25 P.M.

BREED ADVISORY COMMITTEE – KAREN MACINTYRE

We sent many emails to the Breed Advisory Committee asking them to personally query clubs, with a goal of trying to pick a co-hosting club for the 2007 Sieger Show before the 2006 Sieger Show. We pushed for months and advertised on the web, and still received just one bid from O.G. Wesconn. The Breed Advisory Committee voted unanimously for O.G. Wesconn among the members who responded, and that information was sent out before the Sieger Show. We do the same thing with the

judges. The Breed Advisory Committee comes up with a list of judges, narrows it down to five, and votes. Less than 50% of the Breed Advisory Committee helped with the Sieger Show. Even if committee members cannot attend, there are many things they can help with ahead of time; but we did not even get 50% participation. As far as the structure goes, the website, paperwork, etc. is going well. Promoting the show and getting volunteers are big issues for a volunteer organization.

JUDGES COMMITTEE – MARK PRZYBYLSKI (Given under Director of Judges Report)

NATIONAL EVENTS COMMITTEE – MARTIN VOLLRATH (Read by Lyle Roetemeyer)

The National Events Committee (NEC) has focused on two key issues. They are as follows:

1. More Bids for Each Event – We placed an ad in *Schutzhund USA* that generated a good response in that I have already received a bid for each event in 2007. This is, by far, the earliest I have ever seen bids in my five years of being on the NEC. I believe that by making this ad a permanent fixture in the magazine, the NEC could continue to keep the idea of hosting an event in people's minds. However, there is some frustration that we did not receive multiple bids, thereby offering a greater selection of host clubs to choose from.
2. More USA Funds for Host Clubs – It is the firm belief of the NEC that if USA offered additional funding, clubs that are financially "poor" but talent rich would seize the opportunity to host an event. Competitors and spectators agree that there is a notable difference at events where the host club has "gone all out" (i.e., securing the best facilities, having a barbeque, lavish draw nights, etc.) compared to other clubs running events on budgets that are already stretched thin. These "no frills" events have left a less than favorable impression with competitors and spectators alike, and do nothing to spread the word about how great an organization USA is.

I have received the following four bids and hopefully will receive more by the time of the General Board meeting.

- 2007 North American and FH Championship – Fayetteville Schutzhund Club (SE–North Carolina)
- 2007 H.O.T. Championship – German Shepherd Schutzhund Club (PNW–Washington)
- 2007 GSD National Championship – South County Schutzhund Club/San Jose German Shepherd Dog Club (NW–California)
- 2008 H.O.T. Championship – Fayetteville Schutzhund Club (SE–North Carolina)

(The President noted that the NEC is accepting bids up to the General Board meeting, so regional directors should remind their clubs the NEC is still accepting bids. We need to get venues selected at least two years out if possible.)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – RIFKY MACKEN (Read by Lyle Roetemeyer)

The members of the Nominating Committee have been meeting monthly by telephone to determine what positions will become vacant in this even year and to discuss how best to fill them. To this end we have been communicating with the incumbents to determine their interest in remaining in the same positions, and also have been attempting to identify "fresh faces" that should be included in the committees to provide the

necessary diversity. An advertisement has been scheduled in *Schutzhund USA* and the regional directors have also been contacted to identify members with requisite temperament to serve on the committees or as office bearers.

(The President noted that Rifky's wife is seriously ill with cancer and we should also keep his family in our thoughts and prayers and send our best wishes for a speedy recovery.)

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE – Howie Rodriguez (No report)

COMMITTEE REPORTS – SPECIAL COMMITTEES

BUDGET COMMITTEE – BILL PLUMB (No report)

BYLAWS COMMITTEE – NIA COTTRELL (No report)

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – VICKI KELLER (Read by Lyle Roetemeyer)

As the education funds were directed to helper training, the Helper Committee will report on how those efforts progressed.

HELPER COMMITTEE – NATHANIEL ROQUE

The Helper Committee has continued to work on refining the program for final approval at the 2006 General Board meeting. As the program evolves, we have been able to see what the members need to make this a valuable program for USA. The Helper Program is a giant leap ahead of any other organization's program on helper education. We are requiring more from our members, and in return expect to deliver more to them in the form of better trained, safer trial helpers doing more consistent work with a better database to track the quality of their work.

One of the proposed revisions to the program is changing the required time for basic and club helpers to attend a seminar and evaluation from two years to four years. There are not that many changes in the rules and requirements for helper work, and we did not feel there would be a safety issue in doing this for basic and club helpers who didn't aspire to work larger events. We believe this still gives us the opportunity to properly educate our basic- and club-level helpers and to track their progress and performance, because we will be revising the trial score sheet to reflect any unsatisfactory work documented by the trial judge. Unsatisfactory work at a trial will still require the helper to attend an additional seminar before being allowed to work another USA trial.

The second thing we are revising is allowing minors to be a part of the Helper Program with parent/guardian approval. We allow minors to be members and show dogs, but that was overlooked when the program was written. There was a minimum age of 18 in order to get a helper book, and we don't feel that is proper.

The third thing the committee has approved is allowing the Helper Committee to issue special circumstance waivers to allow a trial to continue in the event there is not a classified helper available. Situations that would allow issue of helper waivers would be helper injury immediately before a trial with no classified helper replacement available, last minute changes due to work, etc. The waivers would be issued by the Helper Program Director or in his absence a member of the Helper Committee. It still requires the helper working the trial to be a full USA member with a USA Helper Book who is approved by the trial judge regarding the quality and safety of work.

To date we have classified about 300 of the approximately 450 members who have helper books on record. We currently have 20 national-level helpers in our database and a larger

number of regional-level helpers. These national- and regional-level helpers will be those evaluated for the pre-selection process starting with the 2006 GSD National Championship and all 2007 events. The Helper Committee is proposing to announce the slate of helpers for the 2006 nationals by September 2006 and for the 2007 national events by February 2007. Overall feedback from participants at the helper seminars has been overwhelmingly positive.

Some of the education funds last year were diverted to the Helper Committee to help promote this program since it is directly USA education. The Helper Committee used that \$500 at the 2005 Helper College held in San Jose for the purchase of "Bite Me" hats, because the helpers and members have always loved them from the previous program Gary Park put together. We spent \$670 on hats, so I covered the excess and we distributed hats to everybody who attended the helper seminar as long as they were USA members: helpers, teaching helpers, members who donated their time and dogs, and pre-siding judges of the event. I have given Bill Plumb a complete list including membership numbers of those who received the hats.

At this year's national college we will be offering a helper college and a teaching helper college in order to bring more teaching helpers up to speed on paperwork and the final revision of the program. The \$2,000 budgeted for this year will be used to offset promotional item expense for that college and some of the room costs incurred by teaching helpers and committee members during the event.

At the 2006 General Board meeting we expect to announce a list of inactive teaching helpers. Of the teaching helpers grandfathered into the program, about 30% have been completely inactive to date as far as corresponding with the committee, putting on seminars, or participating in seminars. Teaching helpers that do not meet the required seminar participation will be immediately reclassified to regional level and within two years will have to attend a seminar. If their physical skills don't warrant regional level, they will be moved down to club level.

MAGAZINE COMMITTEE – KATHY MOACANIN (Given by Nathaniel Roque)

Kelly Hope, Jennifer Aguilar Acevedo, and one or two other members have really taken over the Magazine Committee. They are working very hard to improve the content of the magazine and reduce overall costs. In Sacramento Kathy, Jennifer, and I discussed ideas they had for the magazine. In general they were less repetitive filler, more quality articles, training articles, and articles about our membership. They had some great ideas for selling ads and recruiting writers, and Kathy had already recruited writers. The magazine has been shrinking the last couple of issues because a lot of the repetitive filler has been removed. Jennifer is a professional editor and she is looking at the cost of the magazine versus what we get out of it. She came up with ratios that showed the magazine is way out of budget for cost versus income for a commercial magazine or even a freebee. Currently we are spending almost \$100,000 a year on the magazine. We have talked to a couple of other publishers recently and are in the early process of seeing how we can start producing a better magazine with more meaningful content.

One of the articles written for a past magazine is going to be used in another dog obedience magazine with credits to USA.

There was some talk about going to a quarterly magazine or more of a newsletter, but that has been pretty much shelved because we feel *Schutzhund USA* is a showcase piece. It is the

best working dog organization magazine available. It has been suffering a lot in the last few years, but I think in the next two to three issues you will see a significant improvement and hopefully better ad sales at a reduced publishing cost.

USA K-9 COMMITTEE – MIKE DIEHL (No report)

YOUTH COMMITTEE – MIC PETERSON (No report)

2008 WUSV CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE – JOHANNES GREWE (Given by Lyle Roetemeyer)

The committee decided we needed to sign contracts before the end of 2007. The 2005 GSD National Championship hosts were interested in hosting the 2008 WUSV World Championship. The group, headed by Martin Vollrath, looked at two venues but could not get contracts signed within that time period, so withdrew their bid. The only other possible site was the Greater Cincinnati area (Ohio/Northern Kentucky), which Johannes was very impressed with during site selection. It has an international airport with Delta's second largest hub. There are direct flights to/from Frankfurt, London, Paris, Amsterdam, Milan, Barcelona, and Madrid; and many flights that connect from throughout the Eastern Bloc into Paris. USA Airways, American, United, Air France, Delta, Continental, Northwest, and USA3000 also fly into that airport.

The event should be scheduled for October 9–12, 2008. Most competitors will arrive on or before October 6, and October 7–8 will be training days. October 13 will be the WUSV meeting. I will be contacting SV President Henke, who is also WUSV president, for his approval of this site so we can move forward with signed contracts in preparation for hosting the event at this location.

I would like to thank Mike Hamilton for helping with site selection and gaining local club member support, and Craig Groh for his outstanding work on club charts and preparing a first budget.

It is the intention of the committee to have the Judges College during this event; and Director of Judges Mark Przybylski will be the head of the sport department taking care of tracking, obedience, protection, and training. Mark will appoint coordinators and assistants for each category and coordinators will name their people. Johannes will be giving a presentation at this year's Judges College.

The stadium is a minor-league baseball complex and the infield will be sodded at a cost of about \$4,000. It is a very nice stadium and has seats with backs/armrests, areas to get out of inclement weather, and areas to drink beer and smoke, which should make it very friendly to the Europeans. Tracking is 1,200 acres of very plush grass with good roads running through it.

(The Greater Cincinnati site proposed by the 2008 WUSV Committee was approved by the Executive Board after the meeting via email.)

NEW BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS ARISING FROM REPORTS

1. Membership

Kelly Hope put together regional lists of members who had not renewed and sent them to the regional directors in January. A few of the regional directors responded saying they contacted those members to find out why they did not renew, but there was no response from many of the regional directors. In the future they will contact non-renewing members to determine the reason. She gave the Youth Committee ideas to help bring

more youth to the H.O.T. Championship, but received no response.

2. Elbow Evaluations

The Breed Advisory Committee will start an elbow evaluation program.

3. Club Renewals

The USA Office will return club renewals if the current membership list and dues are not sent in the same envelope.

4. Royal Canin Brochures

It was agreed that having the Royal Canin brochures sent out by a mailing house would not conflict with the prohibition against giving out the USA membership list to anyone other than the editor, treasurer, and printer.

5. Bogdan Sergio

USA will recognize titles awarded by Bogdan Sergio prior to October 27, 2005, and acceptance by the SV of those titles is pending clarification.

6. USA Breed Registry Regulations

Kelly Hope proposed two changes under D. Breeding Regulations for USA Registered Litters:

From: D.2. Both parents must have a USA recognized working title and show rating of at least 'good.' Both parents must be registered with the USA.

To: D.2. Both parents must have a USA-recognized working title and show rating of at least "good." Both parents must be registered with USA *if residing in the U.S.*

From: F.4. One or more working titles missing among grandparents.

To: F.4. One or more grandparents do not have recognized working title.

Kelly Hope proposed eliminating the requirement that owners of USA-registered dogs must be USA members, because it does not make sense to require this of a pet puppy buyer. There will still be a \$10 fee for transfer of ownership, and the President pointed out our nonprofit status would require the previous owner to pay for the transfer of ownership.

A list of frequently asked questions and answers will be sent out with registrations to reduce the number of phone calls to the USA office.

Discussed changes to the content, format, styling, paper quality, addition of AWDF logo, linebreeding and littermate info including coat type, etc. Hip ratings from other countries will be added.

The President thanked Michele Scarberry for all of her help on the new USA Breed Registry.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

1. GSD National Championship Qualification Trials

Mark Scarberry proposed the qualification trials for entry in the GSD National Championship be the North American Championship, H.O.T. Championship, and regional championships. Discussion followed.

2. Clarification of H.O.T. Definition

Mark Przybylski will submit the following e-ballot after the meeting to clarify the H.O.T. definition:

Motion by Mark Przybylski that to qualify as Handler Owner Trained (H.O.T.), a dog acquired by a handler/owner/trainer on or after January 1, 2006 must have been owned by that handler/owner/trainer prior to the dog reaching one year of age,

and the same handler/owner/trainer must have trained and titled the dog to BH and current Schutzhund titles.

Dogs acquired prior to January 1, 2006, regardless of the age of the dog when ownership commenced, shall also be considered H.O.T. if the handler/dog team meets the previous H.O.T. criteria of being owned and trained by the handler/owner/trainer to BH and current Schutzhund titles.

The dog shall not have changed ownership at any point subsequent to acquisition by the handler/owner/trainer. Verification will be done through signed ownership transfer documents and also copies of the scorebook pages showing the titles, trial dates, and judges' names.

3. Budget

The budget was approved through E-Ballot #8-06 before the meeting. Peggy Park proposed amending the budget to give \$500 for Executive Board travel to each meeting to a maximum of \$1,000 per year.

4. Pre-Selection of National Event Helpers

Mark Scarberry pointed out that pre-selection was not in the Helper Program approved at the 2004 General Board meeting. Because of that omission, Nathaniel Roque agreed helper tryouts will be required for the 2006 GSD National Championship, and a revision will be made to the Helper Program that incorporates pre-selection for national events.

5. Sieger Show

There were concerns expressed about USA using the same venue for the Sieger Show next year as this year, and some members felt we should consider other locations. There were clubs that did not realize there was a deadline for submitting bids, and since that time have expressed interest in hosting the event.

6. AWDF Championship

Kelly Hope was asked to be the secretary for next year's AWDF Championship to handle trial paperwork etc. She has agreed to do so on her own time as there is no conflict of interest since USA is a member of AWDF.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 P.M.

Sara Wallick

Sara Wallick, Secretary

Attachment: Fiscal Year 2007 Budget

USA FISCAL YEAR 2007 BUDGET

INCOME		EXPENSES		EXPENSES (Continued)	
Dues		Office		Officer	
Individual	205,000	Wages	108,000	Gifts	1,200
Family	55,000	Benefits	10,800	Telephone	500
Club	20,000	Payroll Taxes	8,300	Printing and Supplies	1,500
Foreign	5,000	Total Personnel	127,100	Postage	500
Youth	1,500	Rent	20,000	Total	3,700
Total	286,500	Telephone	12,000		
		Postage	25,000	Committee	
Sponsorship		FedEx	4,000	Judges Meeting	8,000
Cash	35,000	Office Supplies	15,000	National Events	1,000
Product	2,500	Tech	5,000	Helper	2,000
Total	37,500	Other	2,000	Supplies	1,500
		Total	210,100	Total	12,500
Magazine		Magazine		Professional	
Single Issue	1,500	Printing	60,000	Audit and Tax	10,000
Advertising	18,000	Art Director	32,500	Legal	3,000
Postage	8,000	Postage	10,000	Total	13,000
Ad Preparation	1,000	Total	102,500		
Total	28,500			Insurance	
		Breed Registry		National Event	600
Registration		SV Fee	32,000	Liability	2,000
SV	30,000	Total	32,000	Workman's Comp	1,200
USA	0			D & O	2,500
Kennel	1,000	Resale		Total	6,300
Breed Surveys	7,500	Resale Supplies/Member Pins	12,000		
"a" Stamp	14,000	Total	12,000	Other	
Bescheinigung	5,000			Education	5,500
Other	1,500			Board Meetings	2,500
Total	59,000			Bank Fees	5,000
				Personal Property	500
Sale Items				Income Taxes	4,000
Rulebooks	9,000			Other	2,000
Scorebooks	10,000			Total	19,500
Scorebook Certifications	600				
Helper Books	1,000			TOTAL EXPENSES	488,300
Other	5,000				
Total	25,600			NET INCOME	800
Other					
Sieger Show	38,000				
Trial Recording Fees	12,000				
Miscellaneous	2,000				
Total	52,000				
TOTAL INCOME	489,100				