

UNITED SCHUTZHUND CLUBS OF AMERICA GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 8, 2007
Carrollton, Georgia

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The General Board meeting was called to order by President Lyle Roetemeyer at 9:35 A.M. Roll call was conducted with 17 Executive Board members and 35 club delegates present for a total of 52 voting delegates. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the General Board meeting on November 9, 2006 were approved as printed.

AWARDS (Presented before call to order)

Award of Appreciation presented to:

Laurie Tollifson for her outstanding work on developing the USA Breed Registry. She contributed innumerable hours on this project.

The Northwestern Region for hosting the 2006 North American & FH Championships.

Lyle and Debbie Roetemeyer/Cumberland Valley Schutzhund & Police Club for hosting the 2006 H.O.T. Championship.

Gary and Pam Hanrahan/Jefferson-St. Clair County Schutzhund Association for hosting the 2006 GSD National Championship.

OFFICER REPORTS

AWDF PRESIDENT – AL GOVEDNIK (Report given before call to order)

I make several phone calls all over the U.S. and Europe every month and never charge USA or AWDF for them. Numerous calls were regarding sponsorships for the organization. I'll have made four trips to Europe to meet with the FCI Working Commission. My airline and hotel costs have been covered, but meals, car rental, etc. have not been.

What do we as an organization get out of these trips? We now have four FCI-recognized judges and at least two more will be added. We were asked to submit the names of our best helpers for an international helper selection program. Earlier in the year, the FCI asked an American to oversee all ring sport programs outside of Europe.

I helped unite all the major working dog organizations in America, and there are talks going on that could add a few more as well. We created a new working dog program that is similar to SchH and IPO, but goes back to our past by identifying the stronger working dogs in each competition. The kennel club in Columbia, South America has asked for assistance in creating a working dog program.

I created a very good BSL Committee within the AWDF. We have had successes in Virginia and other states on the East Coast. I gave testimony at two local meetings regarding breed specific legislation, and am also an executive director of the ADOA.

The AWDF team placed fourth at the FCI World Championship and Ivan Balabanov won. By winning this event, Ivan gets an automatic invitation to the 2008 FCI World Championship in Belgium. This opens up an additional competitor spot on our FCI team.

The championship was held in Torino, Italy. While the stadium was very nice, there were logistical problems associated with hosting this type of an event in such a large city. The FCI Working Commission meeting was held close to the host hotel the Monday following the championship. It was stressed several times throughout the meeting that AWDF

will always be welcome to participate in FCI Working Commission events. There was even further discussion of a new working organization encompassing the entire world, and we will be an active part of this.

During a break I was asked to give a short statement for the local television station regarding America's involvement with the championship.

New judging guidelines were discussed. The FH2 start will change to become more consistent with the rest of tracking as of January 1. So, no more search box at the start.

I presented a list of ten AWDF club helpers to be added to the newly created FCI helper pool. There was a lot of discussion about cutting down on injuries to the dogs during championship events. Some countries felt that while it is an honor to host these events, finding quality helpers can be a problem. So now these countries have an option.

A report on the upcoming FCI FH Championship in Slovakia in April 2008 was given, followed by the FCI World Championship report for 2008 in Belgium. No docked or cropped dogs will be allowed to participate in Belgium. Statistics were discussed as well. We, as members of the AWDF, currently are second only to Germany in the number of dogs titled.

There was a discussion of IPO V. Currently, France, Italy, Hungary, Netherlands, Poland, Serbia, and Switzerland allow this competition. Mondioring was also discussed, and Ann Putegnat will be overseeing all of North America.

The newly elected FCI Working Commission officers are President Franz Janssen from the Netherlands, Vice President Wilfried Schäpermeier from Germany, and Robert Markschläger from Austria.

Eberhard Strasser recently stepped down as FCI Working Commission President after 20 years of service. I presented him with a small token of appreciation from the AWDF member clubs. Eberhard worked very hard with me, and created opportunities for all Americans within the FCI Working Commission.

PRESIDENT – LYLE ROETEMEYER

I would like to start with a moment of silence in remembrance of all of our friends who have passed away since the General Board last met. Notable among them were Randy Kromer, Northeastern Regional Director, Owen Tober, long-time member and training director of the Schutzhund Club of Buffalo, and Peter Meßler, former WUSV President.

World Events

In September, National Breed Warden Tim Burke and I attended the WUSV meeting in Braunschweig, Germany. There were 54 WUSV delegates present, down from the more than 70 delegates present in Oberhausen in 2006. The meeting started with a moment of silence for friends who had passed away during the year, including past WUSV President Peter Meßler. WUSV President Wolfgang Henke broke from tradition and asked Bernhard Norda and Rheinhardt Meyer to give their Sieger Show reports at the beginning of the meeting. We should all be encouraged by the report given by the SV Head Breed Warden Rheinhardt Meyer. He stated that meetings held since he became Head Breed Warden resulted in the decision to place more emphasis on the working temperament of the German Shepherd Dog with respect to breeding tests. He stated that it is incomprehensible to place a dog with a G rating and excellent working ability into a lower breed evaluation rating than a dog with a V rating and only satisfactory to

good working ability. Both are equal dogs in the working class, he stated. The difference is solely in which use or which sport the dog will be used.

In addition to the elected WUSV vice president board positions, President Henke appointed the Pakistan Club and Mexican Club presidents and SV Vice President Erich Orschler to the Central Commission that he announced the formation of at last year's meeting. Discussion of raising WUSV membership dues was tabled until next year to allow more time for WUSV to gain a better tax structure. There will be a WUSV judges seminar held July 11–13, 2008 in Germany.

The WUSV Championship schedule through 2017 was announced: 2008–USA (United Schutzhund Clubs of America), 2009–Germany, 2010–Spain, 2011–Ukraine, 2012–Austria, 2013–USA (GSDCA), 2014–Argentina, 2015–South Korea, 2016–Mexico, 2017–Holland.

Our USA team members at the 2007 WUSV Championship in Slovakia were HOT Champion Ello von Herretts Fire and Deleta Jones, GSD National Champion Basco ze Slovanskeho Domu and Mike Diehl, and Issa vom Haus Saffo and Ronnie Burmer. Joseph Mravik was Team Captain. The team finished tenth place overall. Congratulations to all of the team members.

I also was invited to attend the FCI IPO Championship in Torino, Italy and the FCI Working Commission meeting. The AWDF team finished in fourth place overall. They were led by individual champion Qenny Ot Vitosha and Ivan Balabanov, with Mücke vom Haus Vorkamp and Jim Lempner, Gismo von der Mohnwiese and Kevin Lanouette, Rasta von Germelhaus and Dave Kroyer, and Caraq von Löwenfels and Hardy Ernsting comprising the rest of the team. Congratulations to all of the team members and Team Captain Dean Calderon.

I was invited to attend the FCI Working Commission meeting and share our USA Helper Program. Several of the countries represented already have some kind of program in place. Discussion of forming an International Competition Helper Pool weighed the pros and cons of moving forward with this pool of helpers. This will be discussed again at their next meeting. It was obvious AWDF and USA are well respected by the members of the FCI Working Commission. The meeting marked the retirement of FCI Working Commission President Eberhard Strasser. Many longtime USA members remember his several visits to USA clubs to judge trials in the eighties. Mr. Strasser served on the FCI Working Commission for twenty years, and was President the past ten years. It was an honor for Al Govednik and me to pay our tributes to Mr. Strasser in his last meeting as President. Franz Janssen of the Netherlands was elected as the new President.

I would like to recognize USA Director at Large and American Working Dog Federation President Al Govednik for his efforts in building and strengthening the working relationship within the AWDF and with the FCI Working Commission.

My discussions with the WUSV and FCI delegates at these two meetings assure me that USA continues to be respected throughout the world community for our dedication to the preservation of the working German Shepherd Dog for more than thirty years.

Member donations for the 2008 WUSV Championship have eclipsed the \$40,000 mark and continue to grow! My sincere thanks to each and every member for their continued donations to help fund this prestigious world championship. Royal Canin will be the main sponsor for the 2008 WUSV Championship! This important agreement with Royal Canin, in addition to continued member donations, will allow us the

opportunity to provide a world-class venue for this event. Please look for articles about the upcoming 2008 WUSV Championship in future issues of *Schutzhund USA*. Currently there is a link on the USA website home page for those that wish to volunteer their help for the 2008 WUSV Championship. Volunteers are needed, and I thank the many members that have already volunteered their time and efforts to make this the very best world championship.

National

Please join me in recognizing our USA committees that have put so much effort into making our organization more responsive to the growing needs of our membership and the positive public recognition of our organization. We are moving in the right direction because of the dedication and work ethic of these committees.

I want to address the National Events Committee recommendations made to the Executive Board based upon the past few years of history. Several issues were discussed by the committee, including lack of clubs interested in hosting the events, difficulty in finding windows for spring events that did not overlap other organizations' national events, small turnouts by competitors and spectators for our springtime events, and a growing number of entries for the North American and the H.O.T. being the same dog/handler teams. Also considered was that some members want the H.O.T. to be a separate event because they do not want the extra pressure of showing in front of world team-caliber competitors. However, the last few years several competitors have qualified for the USA WUSV World Team and AWDF FCI World Team that showed in the H.O.T. The NEC will report on these matters and their recommendations to the Executive Board that resulted in the passage of E-Ballot #30-07.

AKC has begun the probationary phase of their WDS Program and announced their recognition of titles given by USA judges. The only AKC response to a meeting requested through the AWDF was a refusal to meet with our organizations.

Since Mike Hamilton became President in 1998, there has been a continued visitation of the need to decrease the size of our Executive Board. Today there is a bylaw change before you that would eliminate the Directors at Large. I am against this bylaw change, as I believe there is a better solution. We should consider dividing the United States into five at-large areas. These areas would incorporate the ten regions we now have and would be:

- Area 1 – New England and Northeastern Regions
- Area 2 – Mid-Eastern and Southeastern Regions
- Area 3 – North Central and Mid-Central Regions
- Area 4 – South Central and Southwestern Regions
- Area 5 – Pacific Northwest and Northwestern Regions

Directors for these areas would be elected at the General Board meeting for a two-year term and ideally should reside within the area, as they would be responsible for representing the views of the membership from within that area as well as have other assigned duties. The ten regional directors would no longer be members of the Executive Board, but would still retain their voting privileges at the General Board meeting. The Executive Board would then consist of eleven members: six line officers and five directors at large supplying regional representation on the Executive Board. We have a very large country that needs to maintain areas of representation on the Executive Board, but there is also a need to simplify our Executive Board to make running the business of USA more efficient.

In addition to this, I strongly suggest a change to the bylaws to have the BOI also handle appeals of a regional director's decision. These suggestions are for discussion.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to each and every member for his/her continued support of the United Schutzhund Clubs of America. For more than thirty years, the efforts of our membership to protect and preserve the German Shepherd Dog, as well as our working and breed evaluations, have continued to ensure our future generations will be able to experience the joy of owning a German Shepherd Dog with true working temperament. I hope and pray that as an organization we will never lose our focus in maintaining the German Shepherd Dog as a working dog.

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

VICE PRESIDENT – RANDALL HOADLEY

My first year as Vice President has gone by very fast. In that time a lot of changes have happened and will continue to take place.

Congratulations to the AWFDF team for their fourth place overall finish at the 2007 FCI Championship and special congratulations to the new FCI Champion, Ivan Balabanov with his dog Qenny Ot Vitosha. The USA team was well represented on the AWFDF team, which was comprised of Ivan Balabanov, James Lempner, Kevin Lanouette, David Kroyer, and Everhard Ernsting. Congratulations to all.

Congratulations also to the USA 2007 WUSV team for their tenth place overall finish this year. This team was comprised of a lot of new faces. They showed their dogs well and represented USA well.

In less than a year the 2008 WUSV will be here. I hope you have reserved your room and plan to attend the event. It will be a great time to see all the top competitors from all over the world in one place.

A special congratulation goes to National Breed Warden Tim Burke, the USA Office, and Laurie Tollifson. They put in numerous hours on the breed registry and we have started printing pedigrees and sending them to the USA membership. Although the process has been moving forward for quite some time, we are still in the learning process. Send any issues to the USA Office so we can better serve the USA membership.

During the past few years we lost an average of 1,200 members per year, which cost the organization approximately \$70k per year. This year was the first increase in the revenue portion of the budget in quite a few years. I believe this is due to the Executive Board obtaining the expired members list and contacting them and asking them to rejoin. In most cases we have found this to be quite successful if we can reach them in the first 30 days.

After our trip to the USA Office and speaking with the personnel, I was given the number for Gail Kendall. We spoke to her and she put together the media tutorial regarding the proper way to fill out the trial paperwork. She did an outstanding job and you can find the tutorial on the USA website.

The Magazine Committee is doing an outstanding job reducing expenditures and increasing revenues for the magazine. The revenue is increasing due to a policy created after going to the USA Office. No ad goes into the magazine without it being paid first. Therefore, we received 100% collections since January 2007. For the year 2008 we expect to decrease our loss by another \$32k. We are addressing our expenditures and trying to reduce this even more. The main issue now is keeping our price for postage low, and to do this we need to keep our ads-to-content percentages in balance.

SECRETARY – SARA WALICK

There is a trial secretary tutorial available on the USA website that was designed by Gail Kendall from the Phoenix Schutzhund Club. Incorrect trial paperwork has been a serious problem for the USA Office, and the staff spends an

inordinate amount of time correcting the paperwork. I encourage all trial secretaries to spend the 30 minutes going through this tutorial.

I would like to reiterate the comments our President has made about BSL/ADL legislation. All of the clubs need to get very involved in fighting this type of legislation.

The Rules and Regulations document will be updated after the first of the year, and I will be asking for guidance from Charlie Snyder of the Website Committee on ways to make the document less memory intensive, and perhaps therefore more user friendly for the membership.

Since the 2006 General Board meeting, we have acquired thirteen new clubs, but have lost nine.

New Clubs (13)

Brushy Mountain Schutzhund & Police Club (SE)
Cedar Valley Working Dogs (MC)
Central Pennsylvania Schutzhund Club (NE)
Coal Mountain Schutzhund Association (SE)
Endeavor Schutzhund Club (SC)
Hudson Valley Police & Schutzhund Club (NEW)
Iron Dog Schutzhund Club (SE)
Las Vegas Schutzhund Club (SW)
Lighthouse Schutzhund Club (NEW)
Outkast Schutzhund Club (NEW)
Scottsdale Schutzhund Club (SW)
So Cal Working Dog Association (SW)
Spirit Working Dog Club (SE)

Club Dissolutions (9)

Central Florida Police & Schutzhund Club (SE)
Delaware Valley Police & Schutzhund Club (NE)
Long Island Hard Dog Schutzhund Club (NE)
Mid Bay Working Dog Club (NW)
Northbay Working Dog Club (NW)
Red River Schutzhund Club (SC)
South Louisiana Schutzhund Club (SC)
Treffpunkt Schutzhund Verein (MC)
US-1 Schutzhund & Police Dog Club (NE)

Trial Waivers–2006

Hegins Valley Police & Schutzhund Club (NE)
Jacksonville Schutzhund Club (SE)
Mid-Rivers Schutzhund Club (MC)
Northbay Working Dog Club (NW)
Northern Indiana Schutzhund Club (ME)
Tri-County Schutzhund Verein of Western New York (NEW)

TREASURER – BILL PLUMB (Given by Sara Wallick)

The fiscal year ending June 30, 2007 was another financial success for USA. Net assets increased \$63,155 compared to \$26,064 the previous fiscal year. Our cash position as of June 30 was \$219,413 versus \$167,392 at the beginning of the fiscal year. Our cash position included \$34,040 in contributions for WUSV 2008. All income and expenses related to WUSV 2008 are treated as unearned income and prepaid expenses until the fiscal year of the event.

The primary items accounting for the change in performance for fiscal 2007 compared to fiscal 2006 are:

- The Magazine Committee did an outstanding job in increasing the financial performance of the magazine, with revenues increased almost \$16,000 while expenses decreased over \$6,000.
- The cost of operating the USA Office decreased a little over \$12,000, while maintaining a superior level of service to our members.
- Dues revenue increased about \$5,000 as our membership grew. Family membership showed the largest increase and youth membership also increased. Both of these are very positive indicators for USA.

Our sound financial performance continued during the first quarter of fiscal 2008. Net assets increased \$15,395 the first quarter compared to \$33,692 the first quarter last year. There is a timing difference comparing the first quarter this year with the first quarter last year, in that we received the sponsorship funds from Royal Canin during the first quarter last year and received them the second quarter this year. We need to continue to show our gratitude to Royal Canin for their financial support. The financial performance of the magazine continues to improve as the Magazine Committee has increased advertising revenue.

Our net assets were \$244,273 the end of the quarter. Our cash position exceeded \$250,000 the end of the quarter, including almost \$40,000 in contributions for WUSV 2008.

I hope you are as pleased as I am to see the solid financial position we have achieved, and I want to thank the membership for the support shown for our organization. Please contact me if you have any questions or want additional information.

DIRECTOR OF JUDGES – MARK PRZYBYLSKI

This year we sent out 11 judges packets to individuals showing interest in the USA Performance Judges Program. We currently have three apprentice judges well into the apprenticeship process: Israel Cruz (New Jersey), Frank Phillips (New Hampshire), and Warren Jones (Montana). Our two newest apprentice judges are Alvin Clemmons (Texas) and Arthur Collins (North Carolina). We also have two individuals working their way through the USA Breed Judges Program: Carla Griffith (Texas), who is currently a USA Performance Judge, and Richard Greba (Kentucky).

I unfortunately also need to announce that Al Kerr, one of our most respected and senior USA Performance Judges, has chosen to retire. Al was the USA National Champion twice (1985/1986) and three times USA FH Champion (1994/1995/1996). He is our fourth Judge Emeritus.

Our President, Lyle Roetemeyer, finished his apprenticeship some time ago, then requested a leave of absence due to the increasing workload as President and new developments in his personal life. He has asked to be removed from the USA Judges Program until he can devote the necessary time and energy required of a USA Judge.

SV Judge Dieter Dust has stated his intention to become a part of the USA Judges College and be one of our USA Performance Judges. He has followed the procedure to date and I will be presenting him to the Executive Board for approval in the very near future.

We also have received interest in the USA Judges Program from USA members in Canada.

Once again we have been invited to attend the FCI Judges Workshop in December of this year.

Ann Marie Chaffin and I are currently working on the USA rulebook to rectify mistakes and include the rule changes of the previous year that we clarified at our annual judges meeting this year with an in-depth PowerPoint presentation by SV Judge Walter Hoffman.

Willi Örtner has been awarded the Judges College Memorial Award.

NATIONAL BREED WARDEN – TIM BURKE

The 2007 Sieger Show was co-hosted by O.G. Boston Schutzhund Club in Danbury, Connecticut last year, and we had 352 entries. The USA Sieger was Teejay von Wilhendorf, an American-bred dog, and the USA Siegerin was Kelly von der Zenteiche. The 2008 Sieger Show will be co-hosted by the San Jose German Shepherd Dog Club in San Jose, California. Three major airports serve the area: San Jose, Oakland, and San Francisco. The host hotel is Holiday Inn San Jose. They

have a wonderful venue, Coyote Ranch, located across from the San Jose and South County clubs' training field.

The USA Office has processed a backlog of approximately 460 USA breed registrations. I really appreciate the hard work of the USA Office staff and our programmer, Laurie Tollifson. We are now processing the remaining litter registrations and new data is being added to the database. There is still some breed survey and other information that needs to be added to it.

We had an issue with USA/SV breed surveys. The SV would not translate the breed surveys because it was not part of our contract with them. We hired a translator, all back-logged breed surveys were translated and forwarded to the SV, and they are now being processed. We have been examining our registration system for improvement. Cost has been an issue, as well as the registration process itself. We are looking into making changes in how we do some of the processes within the USA Office, including on-line registration. Currently we have no written procedures in the USA Office. If something happens to the office staff, there is no written documentation on how things should be done with the registration system.

We are looking for a more robust database platform and web-based applications.

Lyle and I attended the WUSV meeting after the Sieger Show. We had an opportunity to meet with Herr Lux from the SV Office and talk briefly about issues before us that affect both organizations. A meeting has been scheduled for March 2008 in the U.S. to follow up on some of those issues, in particular adding elbow certification, at or least an a-stamp program with them, and we are going to have further discussions on the dual registration system.

Currently all of our registrations, files, etc. are hard copies in file cabinets in the USA Office. The process is cumbersome for the staff when somebody calls with a question, as the office employee has to put them on hold, find the right file cabinet, take the information back to their desk, answer the question, make a copy of the document, put it in the mail, then put the file back in the cabinet. A real concern is that in the event of any sort of disaster such as fire or flood, all of that information might be lost. We are planning to move that data to an electronic file system. A high-speed scanner was approved in the budget for this fiscal year and we are looking at whether it makes sense to do a just a high-speed scanner or combined scanner/copier. The goal would be to create PDF files from all that information to make accessing them by the USA Office easier and later on when we roll out some new applications, access them within the on-line system.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – STANDING COMMITTEES

AUDITING COMMITTEE – KAY KOERNER (Given by Gordon Esselmann)

The audit has been completed and everything was in order and very positive.

BOARD OF INQUIRY – MICHELE SCARBERRY (Given by Nia Cottrell)

The Board of Inquiry has been unusually busy this past year. Often there are no more than three cases that go to the BOI a year; but we have already concluded three since our report last year, two in which the BOI determined the charges were not sustained and one in which the charges were sustained. There are four cases currently pending before the BOI and there have been two additional cases filed within the past week. Three cases completed and six pending, which already easily doubles what the BOI generally processes.

BREED ADVISORY COMMITTEE – TIM BURKE (Given under National Breed Warden report)

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

NATIONAL EVENTS COMMITTEE – MARTIN VOLLRATH (Deferred to New Business/Given after Proposed Bylaw Amendment #14)

The NEC is committed to making our national events the best in the United States. We also need to be supportive of the ADWF. After two years of discussions we came up with E-Ballot #30-07 (USA Working Dog Championships). With the emergence of the AWDF Championship there are simply not enough competitors, spectators, and host clubs to support all the major Schutzhund events in the spring. In the fall we have just the GSD National Championship; but in the spring we have the AWDF Championship, H.O.T. Championship, and North American Championship. That doesn't even count the DVG Championship and WDA Championship. It is our goal for USA national events to grow to be the best. We go out of our way to find good clubs to host events, but we feel the spring events are a little diluted.

People go to a spring event and it is just not top of the line. There are a limited number of dogs, a small spectator turnout, very few vendors, no sponsors, and not much excitement. We want to bring excitement back to our national events. The clubs hosting *this* event have gone all out with the draw night, practice facilities, tracking, and website. We want that to happen in the spring also. The host clubs tell me they are disappointed because of the low entry. They take pride in their events and want a large entry with the stands full and the vendor area packed.

We came up with the USA Working Dog Championship, which would combine the H.O.T. and the North American championships. The USA Working Dog Champion would be on the cover of *Schutzhund USA*, as the North American Champion is now. The H.O.T. Champion or the high H.O.T. dog would also be on the cover of *Schutzhund USA*. At the trophy presentations there would be the top ten USA Working Dog Champions and the top ten H.O.T. Champions. The only thing different is there would be more dogs, more people, more spectators, and hopefully more excitement. If we can get the entries up to 70–80 dogs, with the Royal Canin sponsorship of \$4,000, parking fees, and stadium entry fees, a club could make \$3,000–\$5,000.

A lot of clubs are hesitant to host an event because they lose money. For example, at the last H.O.T. Championship in the Pacific Northwest, two weeks before the event I got a call from the host club saying they had only five entries and could not afford to pay for the tracking grounds. They either had to pull the event or needed money from USA right away. We had a big crisis! So the NEC arranged with USA to front the money. Otherwise, there would have been no H.O.T. Championship because the club threatened to pull the event. It ended up there was a total of 39 entries and the club broke even so they were happy. But it was a scary situation for the NEC, because the last thing we want is to have one of our events cancelled. It would be an embarrassment.

It has been very difficult to find host clubs and we are lucky to receive one bid for each event. For the 2008 slate of events the only club that gave us an unsolicited bid was O.G. Buckeye Schutzhund Club for the H.O.T. Championship. Hal Lymus did a great job by getting Merrimack Valley Working Dog Club to put in a bid for the North American Championship, and I was able to get Lone Star Schutzhund Club to put in a bid for the GSD National Championship.

The NEC feels that combining our two spring events will give USA one much more exciting event.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – RIFKY MACKEEEN (Given by Marie Weller)

This was the second year for most of us on the Nominating Committee. We held monthly conference calls to plan for this year's slate of candidates and discuss strategies to obtain qualified volunteers. In addition to selecting candidates from volunteers, we worked on fine-tuning the role of the Nominating Committee. We decided our committee should be more proactive and not just wait for people to volunteer. Volunteers are still the primary way of finding candidates, but we have begun actively recruiting. Discussions are held, then committee members contact potential candidates and attempt to recruit them. While this year's slate is not large, we are hoping that by being committed to our job we will be well prepared for next year's meeting as well.

We would also like to have USA consider having backup/support for some of the more labor-intensive, difficult-to-recruit positions such as Treasurer and Secretary. Both of these positions require a large amount of time, paperwork, and conference calls. Having a qualified backup person might be a way to introduce a member who is not able to make the full commitment to a labor-intensive position, and also make that position a little less labor intensive for the primary position holder. This is a suggestion for future discussion.

We would like to have you take the message back to your regions/clubs that this organization cannot run without the support of various officers and committees, and we would like to match members with positions in which they have a passion and knowledge base to provide the best support. Volunteers can/should contact the committee chair or members and discuss their interest in any of the positions. We would be more than happy to talk to you.

It has been a pleasure for us working on this committee this past term.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE – HOWIE RODRIGUEZ

I would like to address the suspension of the judges license of Randall Hoadley and give Randall the opportunity to tell us his side of the story. (Chair ruled this should be addressed under New Business.)

We are all one team when we are in Europe and work together; we are not different organizations. At that point everything has to stop politically because we are there to compete. This year we had a big problem. The team captain was an equipment dealer who goes to our events. I was hesitant about allowing somebody to be team captain who was not going to be fully dedicated to making sure the interests of the team were put first. Who we elect to that position is extremely important, but we chose somebody that was very ill prepared. I would appreciate it if Lyle would step up here and support me on this. I told Lyle about this.

(Lyle Roetemeyer: Assurances were made to the committee and me that the training field would be prepared; that everything was going to be taken care of. The person came highly recommended by one of the team members. Because the person was a resident of Slovakia, we felt he would be an excellent choice for the job because he knew the country, knew helpers in the area, and knew places where the team could train. However, the reports from the team were that was not forthcoming. There was also a big communication breakdown. Howie and I both consistently used email and telephone to make sure communication carried through, and it failed to happen in a proper manner many times. We had issues this year.)

Last year Wallace Payne brought up that the only country that requires a competitor to supply a letter from the club to the effect that you are a member in good standing is America. In talking to the rest of the Executive Board, they all feel the

information supplied in that letter is the only way we know that member is in good standing. I don't think we want to 86 that and I think the letter is necessary.

How important do you think it is to support our team? We give to the organization, yet the top three get the kudos. I know that is difficult, but are we going to support the team or not? It is difficult because we are two organizations, but at the field we have done a wonderful job and helped each other. Something needs to be done so that as an organization we make a final decision on what our position is on supporting the team that represents us at the WUSV Championship. If we could put something in place stating how much support we offer that would help tremendously. Every year it is up in the air and we pray for the best.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – SPECIAL COMMITTEES

BUDGET COMMITTEE – BILL PLUMB (Given by Lyle Roetemeyer)

We are in good financial condition because our membership has continued to grow since 2005. We were in a bit of a downward spiral during the early 2000's, but have corrected that. We are basically where we were last year as far as membership numbers. Last year we had a significant increase and a minor increase the year before. When we see that type of membership increase through the years it tends to make me believe the Executive Board and General Board have made good decisions for what is right for the organization in trying to move in the right direction. Thank you for all your help support.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE – NIA COTTRELL (Deferred to New Business)

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – RANDALL HOADLEY (Given under Vice President Report)

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE – RIFKY MACKEN (Given by Randall Hoadley)

The GEC did an outstanding job holding off AB 1634 in California. After this victory the committee is working toward putting together a proactive approach for upcoming events. It is time for USA to take a more proactive approach toward Breed Specific Legislation.

HELPER COMMITTEE – NATHANIEL ROQUE

The USA Helper Program is now entering its fourth year as an approved program. The goals and accomplishments of this program have in many ways been outstanding; we have led the way for other organizations by establishing a program to promote knowledge, safety, consistency, and performance in trial helper work.

Our new logo promotes the core values of our program: Safety–Knowledge–Performance. Our thanks to Tina Wagner and Michelle Testa for the logo artwork, along with committee members Dennis Vander Linde and James Laney. The final logo selected was from Tina. Thanks also to Julia Grayson for working very hard the past three weeks to make sure the hats and shirts were completed in time for this event. This year we had two very generous and supportive USA members, Larry Vinzant and Charles Ottesen, sponsor the total cost of the hats and shirts for this year's USA Helper College. There are some additional hats and shirts available for purchase during the event.

We currently have 52 entry level, 233 basic level, 137 club level, 59 regional level, 33 national level, 32 teaching helpers, and 10 teaching helper applicants for a total of 556 members participating in the USA Helper Program.

Since the inception of our program, other organizations have followed our guidelines and established new programs or improved their current programs. We have been asked by the

German Shepherd Schutzhund Club of Canada and the USRC to share our program content, materials, and work to promote reciprocity and acceptance of their helpers at our events. The WDA implemented an almost exact program as ours for their helpers. At the 2007 AWD Championship we were represented by three of the four helpers selected for the event: John Bochenek, Jim Laubmeier, and Lotus Perkins. Through the AWD we were asked to present a list of four USA helpers to the FCI for consideration for working international events. Also, at the 2007 FCI meeting the USA Helper Program was presented by our President, Lyle Roetemeyer, to the FCI for review. When others start doing what you are doing, it is usually a good sign that you are on the right track. I believe we are headed in the right direction with our current program.

We are looking forward to working with the WUSV Selection Committee and will be presenting helpers to them for final selection in March in Cincinnati. The committee will select a core group of helpers who have worked at least one of our national events over the past two years, are still active, and are able to work an event at that performance level or greater.

As with anything new there are growing pains—things that need improvement and refinement. Our Helper Program is still growing and needs some minor changes to address problems we find as we progress. The Helper Committee has worked as hard as any committee in USA for the past year, staying in touch by email and conference calls and having a committee member represent us at all national events in 2007.

Current changes to the Helper Program that will be implemented in 2008:

- Addition of trial helper information to the cover sheet of all USA trial paperwork. This will allow better tracking of the ratings, number of dogs worked, and type of event worked.
- New helper seminar and evaluation paperwork that is formatted similar to the trial paperwork for data entry. This will make the paperwork easier for the seminar secretary or teaching helper and give us more information on our helpers.
- The USA Office will be working with the Helper Committee to establish a database that is more current. I had been doing all the data entry and fell behind the past few months, but the helper list is now current.

Proposed changes to the Helper Program that will be presented to the Executive Board for approval when completed:

- Streamlining program content to make it up to date. This will mean cleaning up text and eliminating as many as ten pages of redundant or outdated information.
- We are working on a "fast track" for some of our basic level helpers to more quickly move up to club level. Currently, 15 dogs must be worked before a basic level helper can apply to be evaluated for club level. For some helpers in smaller clubs or areas, this could take three or four trials over a few years. There are many talented helpers working dogs every week in trial practice scenarios that are capable of being rated as club or even regional level helpers, but they cannot get the actual trial experience. Our "fast track" would allow a helper to apply to be evaluated to move up from basic to club level by either meeting the current 15-dog requirement, or by working at least two trials for a total of at least seven dogs, under two different judges, and receiving a performance rating by both judges of SG or V. We believe this will allow talented helpers to move up to club level faster, and then have the opportunity to work more trials and possibly regional events.

- We will be working with the teaching helpers to make the paperwork from seminars and evaluations more complete and sent in a timely manor, following the trial paperwork guidelines.

The National Breed Warden and Breed Advisory Committee have asked us to work with them to provide helper selection at the 2008 Sieger Show.

The Helper Committee is committed to continuing to share information on the USA website and in the magazine, and will do our best to have articles or updates in every issue. We would like to hear from the membership about questions or articles they want to see.

The 2007 Helper College yesterday had a turnout of 35 helpers; 15 of them teaching or apprentice teaching helpers. The college went well given the time available, but there was a serious lack of demo dogs. We will be contacting the National Events Committee to insure that GSD National Championship host clubs are more aware that one of the responsibilities is also supporting the Helper College by providing demo dogs as well as a location for the college. I want to thank Julia Grayson and Marie Weller for helping with the paperwork at the college and thank all of the members that attended and supported the program.

We had one apprentice complete his requirements to become a teaching helper at this year's college, A J Slaughter.

Helper tryouts were held after the Helper College. This year's helpers for the 2007 GSD National Championship are Lotus Perkins (front), Shane Garrehy (back), and Clark Niemitalo and Jim Laubmeier (alternates). These are four of USA's best national level helpers, and these helpers are in the final group to be presented to the WUSV for the 2008 World Championships. Congratulations!

I want to thank the USA membership for supporting the current program. I also want to thank my fellow committee members Danny Grayson, James Laney, Mark Przybylski, Lyle Roetemeyer, Dennis Vander Linde, and Doug Wendling for their commitment, support, and hard work for our USA Helper Program.

K-9 COMMITTEE – MIKE DIEHL (No report)

MAGAZINE COMMITTEE – KATHY MOACANIN

The Magazine Committee had a busy year. Last year Jennifer Acevedo and I reported our magazine was losing a lot of money. We were determined to find leaks and look for ways to build revenue. We've done both.

Cheryl Morris is our Art Director, and this past year she received her first raise in several years. In turn, she has worked very hard to recruit new advertisers and design a publication we can all be proud of.

In the fiscal year ending June 2006 the magazine lost a little over \$85,000. I came in about halfway through that fiscal year and set about reducing that loss. The fiscal year ending June 2007 showed a reduced loss of \$63,407. I am happy to report projections for this fiscal year are a loss of \$55,000. It may sound odd to be happy about a loss, but we will likely always show a loss since none of our membership dues is earmarked for the magazine.

The decreased loss is partially because Cheryl Morris is now preparing the pages of our magazine in a way that saves us approximately \$1,200 per issue. This new method is labor intensive, but well worth it. Another reason we were losing so much money is ad revenue was not being collected. Randall Hoadley visited the USA Office and a policy is now in place to collect 100% of ad revenue. There are still some ways to decrease our loss, and we are pursuing those.

In the past year I'm sure you've all noticed a lot of changes in *Schutzhund USA* magazine. We have a new look and more and better articles, which has led to an increase in advertisers.

I've recruited about ten section editors to write or solicit articles for each issue, and that has proven to be quite successful.

I would like to remind all of you that this is your publication. I love it when people send article ideas to me, and encourage you to continue sending them. *Schutzhund USA* is the face and voice of the United Schutzhund Clubs of America, and we owe it to our members to give them our best. We look forward to the continued growth of the magazine.

YOUTH COMMITTEE – MICHELE SCARBERRY (Given by Craig Groh)

We have had a very productive year, beginning with our Youth Championship hosted in the PNW Region. The 2006 Youth Champion was Taylor Franke of the German Shepherd Schutzhund Club. The very first winner of our academic award was Joelynn Zub from the Somis Schutzhund Club.

Hanna Axley was appointed as youth liaison to our magazine; her responsibility is to interview and write articles on youth participation. Alex Jacopino will assist the magazine as our Section Editor for National Events.

Charlie Snyder has added a youth page to the web site. The accomplishments of the youth participating in your clubs should be forwarded to Charlie for posting.

The Youth Sport Book was approved in April and is now available through the USA Office. To date there are 142 youth members.

The objective of the sport program is to provide various opportunities to our youth members, and to encourage their participation in all USA events. Youth will obtain points based on trials, shows, and assisting at regional and national events.

The Youth Committee is in the process of establishing a scholarship fund. Those assisting are:

- Tony Gorgas, retired from the Federal Government, is responsible for filing the appropriate paperwork in the State of Missouri.
- Jim Honda, instrumental with his guidance on legal matters.
- Craig Groh, with his accounting experiences.
- Joey Bratt, a high school guidance counselor.

Once the fund is established, we will announce the criteria. Obviously, the sport points will play an essential part in demonstrating to the committee those candidates who have committed their time and efforts to our sport.

Most scholarships have the same basic outline: Based on GPA and extracurricular activities. We expect the recipients to maintain USA membership, be residents attending a high school within the United States, demonstrate involvement in our sport, and show a positive interest toward college.

To fund the scholarship, donations will be accepted from corporate and individual sponsors. One thought was to ask each club to add a donation box to their trial entry forms, inviting every competitor to donate \$1 toward the fund.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to advance our sport and our youth.

WEBSITE COMMITTEE – SUE DICERO (Given by Randall Hoadley)

The Website Committee is doing an outstanding job of updating all the pages on the website. This is currently occupying all their time. I have asked Laurie Tollifson for her help to bring the website to a more database-driven website. What this means is that all the databases in the USA Office will talk to the database on the USA website. This is being done because the USA database is in Access and is running to maximum capacity at this time. We are also looking into a virtual website to help members update information in a more productive manner.

2008 WUSV REPORT – JOHANNES GREWE

We have a brochure available for the 2008 WUSV Championship that we hope you will take home to your club members. The idea is to get the members excited about the event!

The logo says “The German Shepherd Dog brings people together from around the world.” There were 34 nations represented in Bratislava. In Cincinnati we might have more and might have less, but should have a good portion of the world with us, and probably have 130 dogs or so.

The countdown is on, with only 336 days until the WUSV 2008 Championship. I want to thank USA and the members who have worked so hard to put this event together. Since last year our major sponsor (Royal Canin) and our equipment sponsor (Hallmark K9/Jim Hill) have been secured. The project plan has been further detailed and the budget has been finalized and approved by the EB. We exceeded our membership fund raising goal. Many positions have been identified and assigned, but we need many, many more. The logo has been finalized and is now on all the merchandise, and the website is live: WUSV2008.org.

Next, the website needs to be developed further, a detailed project plan needs to be finalized, additional event sponsors need to be secured, and all other positions assigned by key coordinators from the volunteer database. In March we have the WUSV coming from Germany to inspect the sites and do the helper tryouts.

Additional event sponsors need to be secured, but we have not been very active on this. In the beginning we thought we would make a very large profit on this event, but we have learned it is not possible for us to do that because if we do, we lose our tax status. Our projected expenses are \$162,000 and projected revenue is \$175,000. All numbers were generated using very conservative estimates. No funds are budgeted to come from the USA general fund.

I am happy about the amount of money that has been donated to the WUSV 2008 fund, but only 20% of our members have donated. It is a concern to see that the majority of the members are not involved. The amount of the donation does not matter. We would just like to see more of our members involved. Membership donations total about \$41,000 as of today. We are very pleased with this, of course, and some people donated very generously.

I would like to mention trophy donations. By now all the regions have received a package from Kari Mendoza asking the region to make a trophy donation. We felt this would be a good way to get the regions involved.

We have a detailed organization plan which shows the sport, logistics, auxiliary events, hospitality, administration, communications, website, event trial secretary, and press contact.

The event site is just the other side of the Ohio River, 12 miles outside Cincinnati, Ohio. The stadium (Florence Freedom Professional Baseball in Florence, Kentucky), tracking grounds, and host hotel (Drawbridge Inn in Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky) have all been secured. They are all located very close together and transportation will be available between them. The stadium has seats with backs, so they should be very comfortable, but the stadium has no cover. The hotel is very, very dog friendly. It is not the newest hotel, but is very nice.

There are three major components for such events: the plan, the money, and the staff. In Boston we had a problem because people signed up but then didn't show up. We talked to the people in Bratislava, and they experienced the same problem. We can use the stadium staff to help us, but we need help from the membership also. We have a volunteer database and a chart showing the staff needed at the event. We estimate

needing about 150 volunteers, and we presently only have about 35. Please contact us to volunteer.

The WUSV 2008 merchandise is available on the website, and we encourage the members to buy what they want before the event through the USA Office. That way we will not need to ship as much of the merchandise to Cincinnati. We would also like to sell as many tickets as possible for the Saturday night banquet well before the event. It will make it logistically much easier for us.

Break from 11:55 A.M.–1:30 P.M. Roll call with 15 Executive Board members and 36 club delegates for a total of 51 voting delegates. A quorum was present.

ELECTIONS

Board of Inquiry (1)

Jim Ackerman selected by NC.

Vote: Elected by acclamation.

Director at Large (1)

Ted Hartman selected by NC. Frank Phillips nominated by Pia Blackwell.

Vote: Frank Phillips–45 (*elected*), Ted Hartman–5.

Judges Committee/Members at Large (2)

Mike Gardner and Debbie Zappia selected by NC.

Vote: Elected by acclamation.

National Events Committee (4)

Hal Lymus, Willie Pope, Howie Rodriguez, and Martin Vollrath selected by NC.

Vote: Elected by acclamation.

Nominating Committee (5)

Ravi Iyer, Rita Ledda, Rifky Mackeen, Charles Norton, and Marie Weller selected by NC.

Vote: Elected by acclamation.

NEW BUSINESS

BYLAWS AMENDMENTS (Attached)

NEW BUSINESS ARISING FROM REPORTS

1. **Permanent Judge Licenses – Mark Przybylski** (None issued)

2. **Ratification of E-Ballot #30-07 (USA Working Dog Championships)**

Motion by Terry Macias to accept the following recommendations from the National Events Committee:

1. Combine the North American Championship, H.O.T. Championship, FH Championship, Youth National Championship, and Obedience National Championship into an event titled the USA Working Dog Championships.
2. The USA Working Dog Championships will use the same window in May that the North American Championship and FH Championship now hold.
3. This will provide one large event instead of two poorly attended smaller events, will make USA and the sport more affordable and attractive to new members, and will require finding one less championship host club.
4. The North American Championship and the H.O.T. Championship will be merged into one event with placings for the top ten dog/handler teams overall and the top ten dog/handler teams for the H.O.T. USA will sponsor the H.O.T. trophies.
5. National event bid forms for the USA Working Dog Championships must be submitted to the National Events Committee by May 1st of the prior year. National event bid forms for the GSD National Championship must be submitted to the National Events Committee by November 1st of the prior year.

6. Completed national event bid forms will be submitted to the Executive Board for approval. The Executive Board will strive to approve host clubs that are geographically separated.
7. The high-scoring SchH3 GSD/handler team at the USA Working Dog Championships will receive an automatic placing on the USA WUSV team provided they also have a qualifying score of at least 270 points at the GSD National Championship or the AWDF Championship.
8. The North American Championship/H.O.T. Championship will also offer SchH1 and SchH2.
9. The USA Working Dog Championship *recommended* schedule will be:
 - Wednesday
 - FH Championship and Obedience Championship (Draw night)
 - Thursday
 - FH Championship and Obedience Championship (Competition)
 - North American Championship/H.O.T. Championship (Helper selection)
 - North American Championship/H.O.T. Championship and Youth Championship (Draw night)
 - Friday
 - North American Championship/H.O.T. Championship (Competition starts)
 - Saturday
 - North American Championship/H.O.T. Championship (Competition continues)
 - Youth Championship (Stadium events)
 - Sunday
 - Youth Championship (Tracking events)
 - Closing Ceremonies

Motion by Dena McGowan to amend #9 to "The USA Working Dog Championship recommended schedule will be." and to ratify amended ballot. Motion carried (yes-35, no-6). The effective date will be 2009. Vote taken after National Events Committee report, then addressed National Events Bids.

3. **National Event Bids – Martin Vollrath**
 - 2008 North American & FH Championships
 - Merrimack Valley Working Dog Club (New England Region–Manchester, New Hampshire)*Motion to accept bid carried unanimously.*
 - 2008 H.O.T. Championship/Obedience Championship/Youth Championship
 - O.G. Buckeye Schutzhund Club (Mid-Eastern Region–Akron, Ohio)*Motion to accept bid carried unanimously.*
 - 2008 GSD National Championship
 - Austin Schutzhund Club/Lone Star Schutzhund Club (South Central Region–Austin, Texas)*Motion to accept bid carried unanimously.*

Break from 3:35–3:50 P.M. Roll call with 16 Executive Board members and 35 club delegates for a total of 51 voting delegates. A quorum was present. Addressed bylaws amendments #15–18, then addressed Other New Business.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

1. **Felony Prohibition for Teaching Helpers**

Motion by Nathaniel Roque to prohibit individuals who have been convicted of any felony from holding positions as teaching helpers. In order to effect the necessary background checks, USA will contract with a firm providing such services on an annual basis. The cost incurred in obtaining a background check will be borne by

the teaching helper. A teaching helper may petition the Executive Board of Directors for a waiver of the felony prohibition, based upon extraordinary circumstances. "Extraordinary circumstances" includes, but is not limited to, conduct that no longer constitutes a felony. The petition must be submitted in writing, and the Executive Board must review and render a decision within thirty (30) days of receipt of the petition. The Executive Board's decision shall be by ballot and is final.

Motion carried (yes-35, no-1).

2. **Judges College Memorial Award – Mark Przybylski**

2007 Judges College Memorial Award awarded to Willi Ortner during Director of Judges report.
3. **Approval of Artificial Insemination – Tim Burke**

Motion by Tim Burke to revise the USA Breeding Regulations to allow the use of artificial insemination.

USA BREEDING REGULATIONS

4.2.3. **Breeding Act**

Add:
A litter conceived through the use of artificial insemination can be entered into the USA Breed Book.

Exceptions to SV Regulations:

Add:

 3. Artificial Insemination
 - SV Regulation: The use of artificial insemination is prohibited.
 - USA Regulation: The use of artificial insemination is allowed.

Motion carried unanimously.
4. **E-Ballot #31-07 (Judges Committee Recommendation Regarding Randall Hoadley)**

Discussion about reason for charges and determination of USA Judges Committee. No motion made.

Motion by Dena McGowan to adjourn. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 P.M.

Sara Wallick
Sara Wallick, Secretary

- Attachments:
1. Proposed Bylaws Amendments–2007
 2. General Board Meeting Delegate List–2007

**PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS
2007**

(The amendments in this section prohibit individuals with felony convictions from holding positions as members of the Executive Board, assistant regional directors, regional breed wardens, and judges. In order to obtain the necessary background checks, USA will contract with a firm providing such services on an annual basis. The cost for such services will be borne by the individual elected to office.)

1. **Article VII, Section 2 (Boards of Directors/Executive Board of Directors)** – Submitted by Nathaniel Roque
Add:
 - h. Eligibility
Individuals who have been convicted of any felony are prohibited from holding positions as members of the Executive Board.
2. **Article VIII, Section 5.b. (Officers of the Association/ Nomination and Election of Officers/ Eligibility)** – Submitted by Nathaniel Roque
Add:
 - (ii) Individuals who have been convicted of any felony are prohibited from holding positions as officers.
3. **Article X, Section 5 (Regions, Regional Directors, and Regional Breed Wardens/Eligibility)** – Submitted by Nathaniel Roque
Add:
 - b. Individuals who have been convicted of any felony are prohibited from holding positions as regional directors or regional breed wardens.
4. **Article XI, Section 1.d. (Committees/Standing Committees/Judges Committee)** – Submitted by Nathaniel Roque
Add:
 - (vi) Individuals who have been convicted of any felony are prohibited from holding positions as judges.
Motion by Howie Rodriguez to accept amendments #1, #2, #3, and #4. Motion carried (yes-43, no-7).

(This waiver provides an appeal process for those with felony convictions.)

5. **Article XII (Felony Prohibition Waivers)** – Submitted by Bylaws Committee
New article:
Individuals with felony convictions are prohibited from serving as officers, directors at large, regional directors, assistant regional directors, regional breed wardens, and judges. In order to effect the necessary background checks, USA will contract with a firm providing such services on an annual basis. The cost incurred in obtaining a background check will be borne by the member elected to office. A member may petition the Executive Board of Directors for a waiver of the felony prohibition, based upon extraordinary circumstances. "Extraordinary circumstances" includes, but is not limited to, conduct that no longer constitutes a felony. The petition must be submitted in writing, and the Executive Board must review and render a decision within thirty (30) days of receipt of the petition. The Executive Board's decision shall be by ballot and is final.
Motion by David Witmer to accept amendment. Motion carried unanimously.

(This submittal limits the types of felonies that would prohibit a member from holding one of the named positions, and also provides an appeal process.)

6. **Felony Prohibition (Articles VII, VIII, X, and XI)** – Submitted by Tony Gorges

Individuals who are convicted of crimes for personal or financial gain or sexual misconduct are prohibited from holding any position of influence. (For example, but not limited to, Executive Board, Members at Large, Youth Committee, Helpers Committee, Teaching Helpers or equivalent Regional position. This is especially applicable to positions they may have contact with youth members of this organization.)

A member may appeal within thirty (30) days of notification of ineligibility. This must be done, in writing, to the USA Executive Board. The Executive Board must review and render a decision within thirty (30) days of receipt of an appeal. The Executive Board's decision is final and no other process may supersede it.

Screening is the responsibility of the individual and must be completed within six (6) months of election/appointment.

Amendment not considered since previous waiver approved.

(The change in this section updates USA Office responsibilities.)

7. **Article IV, Section 2.c. (Individual Membership/Rules for Individual Memberships/Resignation)** – Submitted by Bylaws Committee

From:

Any member of USA may resign from the association at any time and shall be deleted from the membership list. Resignations must be submitted to the Treasurer in writing...

To:

Any member of USA may resign from the association at any time and shall be deleted from the membership list. Resignations must be submitted to the **USA Office** in writing...

Motion by Dennis Vander Linde to accept amendment. Motion carried unanimously.

(This change reflects the terminology used in the article as well as in the previous article.)

8. **Article V (Membership of Clubs)** – Submitted by Bylaws Committee
Change: Title of article from Membership of Clubs to Club Membership.
Motion by Dennis Vander Linde to accept amendment. Motion carried unanimously.

(The changes in these article numbers rearrange the bylaws in a more logical sequence.)

9. **Article VI (Discipline)** – Submitted by Bylaws Committee
Renumber: From Article VI to Article XI.
10. **Article X (Regions, Regional Directors, Regional Breed Wardens)** – Submitted by Bylaws Committee
Renumber: From Article X to Article VI.

Motion by Dennis Vander Linde to accept amendments #9 and #10. Motion carried unanimously.

(The first two amendments provide minor clarifications, while the third amendment provides a remedy for non-compliance.)

11. Article VI, Section 1 (Discipline/Charges) – Submitted by Bylaws Committee

From:

Any full member of USA may prefer charges against any USA club and/or USA member for violating USA regulations or for conduct which is prejudicial to the interests of USA. To be heard, charges must be filed within one (1) year of the date of the alleged misconduct or rule violation, or from the time it was known or reasonably should have been known that a violation occurred.

To:

Any full member of USA may prefer charges against any USA club and/or USA member for violating USA regulations or for conduct *that* is prejudicial to the interests of USA. To be heard, charges must be filed within one (1) year of the date of the alleged misconduct or rule violation, or from the time it was known or reasonably should have been known that a violation *or misconduct* occurred.

Motion by Dena McGowan to accept amendment.

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Article VI, Section 3 (Discipline/Board of Inquiry Action) – Submitted by Bylaws Committee

From:

c. If the accused is found guilty, the Board of Inquiry shall recommend an appropriate disciplinary action and present that recommendation to either Board of Directors. The recommendation shall be sustained, modified, or rejected by the Board of Directors.

To:

c. If the accused *member* is found guilty, the Board of Inquiry shall recommend an appropriate disciplinary action and present that recommendation to either Board of Directors. The recommendation shall be sustained, modified, or rejected by the Board of Directors.

Add:

g. Non-compliance with the disciplinary decision(s) of the Executive Board and/or General Board of Directors shall result in suspension for a minimum of ninety (90) days.

Motion by Dena McGowan to accept amendment.

Motion carried unanimously.

(The changes in this section reflect the practice in effect for several years of allowing two alternates.)

13. Article VII, Section 1.e. (Boards of Directors/General Board of Directors/Delegates) – Submitted by Bylaws Committee

From:

(i) Each full member club may send one (1) voting delegate and one (1) alternate to the meetings of the General Board.

To:

(i) Each full member club may send one (1) voting delegate and **two (2) alternates** to the meetings of the General Board.

From:

f. A Delegate to USA shall be elected from the regular membership of each USA club. A full member club

may also elect an Alternate Delegate. The Delegate shall be the club's representative of record for a period of one year beginning on the date of the annual meeting of the General Board of Directors. A club may replace its Delegate and/or Alternate as necessary or desired. The USA Secretary must be notified immediately of the replacement.

To:

f. A delegate to USA shall be elected from the regular membership of each USA club. A full member club may also elect **two alternate delegates**. The delegate shall be the club's representative of record for a period of one year beginning on the date of the annual meeting of the General Board of Directors. A club may replace its delegate and/or **alternates** as necessary or desired. The USA Secretary must be notified immediately of the replacement.

Motion by Terry Macias to accept amendment. Motion carried unanimously.

(To decrease the Executive Board in numbers for decision making and decrease travel expenditures a minimum of \$3,000 per year. According to our current bylaws, Directors at Large have no stated duties and do not represent a specific group of members.)

14. Articles VII, VIII, and XI (Elimination of Directors at Large) – Submitted by Diane Madigan

Delete:

All references to "Directors at Large" in Articles VII, VIII, and XI.

Motion by Diane Madigan to accept amendment. Motion failed (yes-13, no-33).

(The changes in this article add a procedure for filling a vacancy in the office of Director at Large and clarify the vote required to fill vacant offices. The change in Section 6.a. will be irrelevant if the proposed amendments by Diane Madigan are adopted.)

15. Article VIII, Section 6 (Officers of the Association/ Vacancies) – Submitted by Bylaws Committee

From:

a. If the office of Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Director of Judges, or National Breed Warden should be vacated for any reason, or if the incumbent becomes incapacitated and cannot or is unwilling to perform the duties of office, the Executive Board shall elect a replacement. For the purposes of these bylaws incapacitation shall mean illness or death.

To:

a. If the office of Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Director of Judges, National Breed Warden **or Director(s) at Large** should be vacated for any reason, or if the incumbent becomes incapacitated and cannot or is unwilling to perform the duties of office, the Executive Board shall elect a replacement. For the purposes of these bylaws incapacitation shall mean illness or death.

From:

b. Nominations for the vacant office must be submitted to the Secretary. The Secretary shall conduct the balloting of the Executive Board. The Vice President shall conduct the balloting if the Secretary's office is vacant.

To:

b. Nominations for the vacant office must be submitted to the Secretary. The Secretary shall conduct the

balloting of the Executive Board. The Vice President shall conduct the balloting if the Secretary's office is vacant. ***Election shall be by a majority vote of the Executive Board.***

Motion by Craig Groh to accept amendment. Motion carried unanimously.

(These amendments simplify the language used. The second amendment additionally allows the USA Office to avoid the costs for printing, envelopes, labels, postage, and labor in distributing proposed bylaws amendments.)

16. Article XII. (Amendments) – Submitted by Bylaws Committee

From:

- a. These Constitution and Bylaws may be amended only by the General Board of Directors at the annual meeting. Any change, addition, or deletion to this Constitution or these Bylaws requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote, but no fewer than that equal to a minimal quorum for conducting business.

To:

- a. These Constitution and Bylaws may only be amended at the annual meeting of the General Board of Directors by a two-thirds vote.

From:

- b. Amendments to these Constitution and Bylaws may only be considered when written notice of the intent to introduce changes to an article has been mailed to each full member club, USA Officer, and Regional Director not less than thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting of the General Board of Directors. The proposed changes must be specified if such notice is published in the associations official publication not less than ninety (90) days prior to the meeting date then the requirement for mailing written notice shall be waved. If amendments to specific articles of this Constitution and Bylaws are proposed in compliance with this provision, further amendments may be made from the floor of the General Board of Directors meeting for that respective article

To:

- b. Amendments to ***these*** Constitution and Bylaws may only be considered when written notice of the ***proposed amendment*** has been mailed to ***all clubs and Executive Board members by electronic mail or regular mail*** not less than thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting of the General Board of Directors. The proposed changes must be specified. ***If*** such notice is published in the ***association's*** official publication not less than ninety (90) days prior to the meeting date, the requirement for mailing written notice shall be waved. If amendments to specific articles of these Constitution and Bylaws are proposed in compliance with this provision, further amendments may be made from the floor of the General Board of Directors meeting for that respective article.

Motion carried unanimously.

(These amendments standardize the meeting notification language with the language used for proposed bylaws amendments.)

17. Change Article VII, Section 1.c.(i) and (ii) (General Board of Directors/Meetings) – Submitted by Bylaws Committee

From:

- (i) The General Board of Directors shall choose one (1) date per calendar year between October 1 and November 20 on which it shall conduct its annual meeting. The Secretary shall notify all clubs and Executive Board members at least thirty days prior to any General Board meeting. Notification may be by electronic mail or regular mail and shall contain the date, time, location, and agenda for the meeting. The agenda shall also be posted on the USA website.

To:

- (i) The General Board of Directors shall choose one (1) date per calendar year between October 1 and November 20 on which it shall conduct its annual meeting. The Secretary shall ***mail notification of the meeting to all clubs and Executive Board members by electronic mail or regular mail*** not less than thirty (30) days prior to any General Board meeting. Notification shall contain the date, time, location, and agenda for the meeting. The agenda shall also be posted on the USA website.

From:

- (ii) A special meeting of the General Board of Directors shall be called if a petition is received by the USA Secretary signed by delegates of a majority of the full-member clubs in good standing. The Secretary shall notify all clubs and Executive Board members at least thirty days prior to any special General Board meeting. Notification may be by electronic mail or regular mail and shall contain the date, time, location, and agenda for the meeting. The agenda shall also be posted on the USA website.

To:

- (ii) A special meeting of the General Board of Directors shall be called if a petition is received by the Secretary signed by delegates of a majority of the full-member clubs in good standing. The Secretary shall ***mail notification of the meeting to all clubs and Executive Board members by electronic mail or regular mail*** not less than thirty (30) days prior to any special General Board meeting. Notification shall contain the date, time, location, and agenda for the meeting. The agenda shall also be posted on the USA website.

Motion carried unanimously.

18. Change Article VII, Section 2.c.(iii). (Executive Board of Directors/Meetings) – Submitted by Bylaws Committee

From:

- (iii) The Secretary shall notify all Executive Board members at least thirty days prior to any Executive Board meeting. Notification may be by electronic mail or regular mail and shall contain the date, time, location, and agenda for the meeting.

To:

- (iii) The Secretary shall ***mail notification of the meeting to all Executive Board members by electronic mail or regular mail*** not less than thirty days prior to any Executive Board meeting. Notification may be by electronic mail or regular mail and shall contain the date, time, location, and agenda for the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL BOARD MEETING DELEGATE LIST – 2007

Attachment 2

NUM	EXECUTIVE BOARD	DELEGATE	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
1	President	Lyle Roetemeyer	X	X	X			
2	Vice President	Randall Hoadley	X	X	X			
3	Secretary	Sara Wallick	X	X	X			
4	Treasurer	Bill Plumb–Absent						
5	Director of Judges	Mark Przybylski (Club delegate 2nd and 3rd)	X					
6	National Breed Warden	Tim Burke	X	X	X			
7	Director at Large	Al Govednik	X	X	X			
8	Director at Large	Terry Macias	X	X	X			
9	Director at Large	Frank Phillips (Elected after 2nd)						
10	Director at Large	Howie Rodriguez	X	X	X			
11	Director at Large	Nathaniel Roque (Club delegate 3rd)	X	X				
12	Regional Director (New England)	Pia Blackwell	X	X	X			
13	Regional Director (South Central)	Steve Cobb	X	X	X			
14	Regional Director (Southeastern)	Arthur Collins	X	X	X			
15	Regional Director (North Central)	Gordon Esselmann	X	X	X			
16	Regional Director (Mid-Central)	Scott Hedger	X	X	X			
17	Regional Director (Northeastern)	Pedro Jimenez	X		X			
18	Regional Director (Southwestern)	Michelle Kutelis–Absent (ARD Marie Weller)	X	X	X			
19	Regional Director (Pacific Northwest)	Lynne Lewis–Absent						
20	Regional Director (Mid-Eastern)	Mark Scarberry			X			
21	Regional Director (Northwestern)	David Witmer	X	X	X			
21	SUBTOTAL		17	15	16	0	0	0
8	MID-CENTRAL REGION							
1	Denver Mile High Schutzhund Club	Jen Corso/Bob Corso	X	X	X			
2	High Plains Schutzhund Club	Ann Marie Chaffin/Mark Chaffin	X	X				
3	Illinois Schutzhund & Police Dog Club	Cele Danner						
4	Machtig Strom Schutzhund Verein	Al Govednik/Marcia Govednik						
5	Mo-Kan Schutzhund Association	Mark Przybylski		X	X			
6	Rocky Mountain Schutzhund Club	Patty Bartley/Bonnie Blake	X	X				
7	St. Louis Schutzhund Association	Tony Gorges						
8	Working Dogs of Central Illinois	Jeff Govednik	X	X	X			
11	MID-EASTERN REGION							
1	Belleville Dogsport Association	Diane Madigan/Ron Dupuis		X	X			
2	Cedar Hill Working Dog Club	Jeff Lund						
3	Cumberland Valley Schutzhund & Police Club	Debbie Roetemeyer	X	X	X			
4	Falcnhurst Police Canine Corps	A. J. Slaughter, III/Nancy Brigham						
5	Greater Cincinnati Schutzhund Club	Dan Cox/Jason Wiggins						
6	Middle Tennessee Working Dog Association	Sheri Trudrung/Dave Taylor/Mary Bowden						
7	O.G. Buckeye Schutzhund Club	Michele Scarberry/Mark Scarberry/Steve Croley			X			
8	O.G. Indianapolis Schutzhund und Polizei	Jeff Lawless/Nate Harves/Sean O'Kane						
9	O.G. Landseite Schutzhund Club	Beate Reiff	X	X	X			
10	South Michigan Schutzhund & Police Club	Sean Murphy/Lisa Clark						
11	TN Valley Working Dogs	James Laney/Mel Laney/Dan Rose	X	X	X			
5	NEW ENGLAND REGION							
1	Baystate Police & Schutzhund Club	Kim McCormick	X	X	X			
2	Empire Working Dog Club	Debra Zappia/Jody Potter/Chris O'Donnell		X	X			
3	Inner City Schutzhund Club	John Horan/Pia Blackwell						
4	Merrimack Valley Working Dog Club	Ken Murphy/Don Yelle/Ivana Karlsen	X	X	X			
5	Outkast Schutzhund Club	Nandini Rao/Claudia Romard	X	X	X			
2	NORTH CENTRAL REGION							
1	Indian Creek Schutzhund Club	Jennifer Acevedo/William Kulla/Roni Hoff	X					
2	O.G. Bierstadt Schutzhund Club	Gordon Esselmann/Dorothy Esselmann	X	X	X			
7	NORTHEASTERN REGION							
1	Alpha K9 Schutzhund Club	Carlos Rojas/Frank Pinho						
2	Blitzberg Hundesport Club	Pedro Jimenez/Charlie Oren/Glyn Clayton						
3	Central Maryland Schutzhund Club	Molly Graf						

GENERAL BOARD MEETING DELEGATE LIST – 2007

Attachment 2

4	East Coast Schutzhund & Police Club	T. Floyd/Dana Palumbo	X						
5	Greater Baltimore Schutzhund Club	Gordon Campbell/James Baynard/Ania Milo	X	X	X				
6	Greater Philadelphia Schutzhund Club	Marv Sharfstein/James Hill							
7	Rivanna Schutzhund & Police Club	Ronald Harris/Armin Winkler							
3	NORTHWESTERN REGION								
1	Menlo Park Schutzhund Club	David Witmer							
2	San Jose German Shepherd Dog Club	Terry Macias/Carol Beasley/Chris Fodera	X	X	X				
3	South County Schutzhund Club	Martin Vollrath/David Deleissegues/Deleta Jones	X	X	X				
3	PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION								
1	Greater Seattle Working Dog Association	Nia Cottrell	X	X	X				
2	Snohomish Schutzhund Club	Natalie Gonzales	X	X	X				
3	Willamette Valley Schutzhund Club	Mary Dygert/Natalie Gonzales	X	X	X				
7	SOUTH CENTRAL REGION								
1	Ark-La-Tex Schutzhund Club	Melanie Cobb	X	X	X				
2	Buena Vista Working Dog Club	Betty Thomas/Adrian Ledda/Rita Ledda	X	X	X				
3	Central Texas Schutzhund Club	Hilde Taylor/Rene' Gelsomino							
4	DFW Working Dogs	Chris Bettin/Randall Hoadley							
5	Greater Houston Schutzhund Club	Dr. Dena McGowan	X	X	X				
6	Greater New Orleans Schutzhund Association	Will Jackson	X	X	X				
7	Lone Star Schutzhund Club	Jessy Gabriel/Rob Dunn/Keenan Freeman	X	X					
11	SOUTHEASTERN REGION								
1	Asheville Schutzhund Club	Gunder England/Ron Garrett							
2	Brushy Mountain Schutzhund & Police Club	Jerry Marshall	X	X	X				
3	Chattahoochee Schutzhund Club	Tracy Betenbaugh			X				
4	Coal Mountain Schutzhund Association	Dennis Vander Linde/Danny Linsley/Aaron Cason	X	X	X				
5	Fayetteville Schutzhund Club	Bobbie Wilson	X	X	X				
6	Georgia-Lina Schutzhund Club	Nancy Kille/William McClure/Teresa Hendrix	X	X	X				
7	Lake Valley Schutzhund Club	Vicki Keller		X	X				
8	Mountain Empire Schutzhund Club	Jim Hall							
9	O.G. Volmarstein Schutzhund Club	Floyd Wilson	X	X	X				
10	Rising Star Working Dog Club	Beverly Hudgins/Denise Kiah	X	X	X				
11	South Metro Atlanta Schutzhund Club	Bernard Stringer/Andres Castro	X	X	X				
7	SOUTHWESTERN REGION								
1	Golden State Schutzhund Club	Marie Weller/Lionel Madden							
2	Scottsdale Schutzhund Club	Jim Laubmeier/Chuck Wennerlund	X						
3	So Cal Working Dog Association	Laura Bollschweiler/Kathy Corcoran							
4	Somis Schutzhund Club	Craig Groh/Karen Groh/Kathy Moacanin	X	X	X				
5	Southwest Working Dog Association	Nathaniel Roque/Howie Rodriguez/Mike Stackhouse			X				
6	Sunland Schutzhund Club	Johannes Grewe	X	X	X				
7	West Coast Schutzhund Club	Lionel Madden	X	X	X				
64	SUBTOTAL (Club Delegates)	Current Club Total – 172 (188) / Quorum – 35	35	36	35	0	0	0	0
85	GRAND TOTAL		52	51	51	0	0	0	0