

**UNITED SCHUTZHUND CLUBS OF AMERICA
GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

November 5, 2009

Davenport, Iowa

(Revised)

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The General Board meeting was called to order by President Lyle Roetemeyer at 8:35 A.M. Roll call was conducted with 16 Executive Board members and 48 club delegates present for a total of 64 voting delegates. A quorum was present. (After roll call 1 Executive Board member and 1 club delegate arrived.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the General Board meeting on November 8, 2007 were approved as printed. The minutes of the General Board meeting on November 6, 2008 (revised) were approved as printed.

OFFICER REPORTS

PRESIDENT – LYLE ROETEMEYER

We lost many good friends this past year, among them Mo Weldon and Eberhard Strasser. This would have marked the 13th consecutive year our very good friend and Director of Judges, Mark Przybylski, would have delivered his address to this body. He gave unselfishly to the development and progress of the organization and members. As his family surely misses him, so will the entire world of working dog enthusiasts. Please join me in a moment of silence in commemoration of the life of a devoted husband, father, mentor, and friend.

Congratulations to our USA dog/handler teams that represented us at the 2009 WUSV Championship by finishing in 4th place! Team members were Chuck vom Dorneburger Bach/Dan Cox (11th place), Erri z Blatenskeho zamku/Mike Diehl (16th place), USA alternate Niko vom Paterhof/Lisa Jacquin, Dasko v.d. Daelenberghütte/Pete Kovach, Aceofnike van het Bleekhof/Charley Mezaros, Nando vom Schloß Zweibrüggen/Dana Palumbo, and USA Team Captain T. Floyd.

Please join me in thanking Machtig Strom Schutzhund Verein for their hard work and efforts in hosting this 2009 GSD National Championship and providing this excellent venue!

As an organization, we should be very proud of our accomplishments over the past 33 years. We continue to have excellent relations with the SV and as a full member within the WUSV. I look forward to continuing our working relationship between the SV and USA in the months and years to come.

I was present at the WUSV meeting in Ulm, Germany this past August. USA National Breed Warden Tim Burke joined me for the meeting. The WUSV continues to grow. A motion was presented and passed unanimously that the WUSV would ask the FCI Working Commission to once again make the Attack on Handler from the Blind an exercise in the protection phase of the IPO/SchH/VPG1 routine. There was also an announcement of the formation of the WUSV World Universal Sieger competition. The first annual Universal Sieger event will be held in Austria.

The WUSV meeting in October after the WUSV Championship had the largest turnout of member clubs ever to attend. Johannes Grewe attended the meeting, as I had to return home due to work commitments. During the championship I had the opportunity to meet with the new SV General Secretary, Herr Hartmut Setecki, to discuss

issues pertaining to scheduling of SV judges. Johannes and I also met with SV/WUSV President Wolfgang Henke and Clemens Lux to discuss pertinent issues within the United States and finalize the agreement naming 11 of our USA judges as SV-recognized judges within the United States. I thank Herr Henke, Herr Lux, Herr Diegel, and Johannes Grewe for their efforts on behalf of both organizations to make this agreement a reality! Next year's WUSV Championship will be hosted in Spain.

During the past year, I continued my work to establish stronger relations for USA on national and world levels. I was re-elected as AWDF Vice President. This year's AWDF Championship was the largest ever, with over 90 entries.

Inclusion of DVG America in the AWDF over a year ago helped continue the process of strengthening and protecting all member clubs of the AWDF here and in the world. It gave all members of the Federation, and therefore USA as well, the opportunity to work with and establish friendships with some of Europe's and the world's most powerful leaders in addition to the SV. This has helped establish USA as a strong leader and protector of the GSD and all working dogs in the United States and in the world scene.

During the past year I committed myself to the open dialogue between the WDA and USA. Those discussions actually led to discussion and agreement to work out details of a merger. Unfortunately, the possibility of a merger dissipated when the WDA signed a contract to continue their association with the GSDCA.

Our Helper Program is world renown and several other organizations in the world, with our permission, have used all or most of our program to develop their own. I served as Chair of this committee during the development of our current program. When I was re-elected as Vice President in 2004, I asked former President Jim Elder to appoint Dennis Vander Linde as the Helper Committee Chair. Dennis did an outstanding job, but asked to step down a few months later due to family responsibilities. Nathaniel Roque became the Helper Committee Chair and has done an outstanding job. As Nathaniel has now taken on the responsibility of USA Director of Judges, he asked to step down as chair. It gives me great pleasure to thank Nathaniel for a job well done and to announce that Dennis Vander Linde has accepted my appointment as Chair of the USA Helper Committee.

Our National Events Committee has struggled to find experienced clubs to host our national events. It is time USA becomes the main host of all of our national events and works with local/regional venue hosts to provide the very best and most consistently organized national events in the United States.

Charlie Snyder has put forth a huge effort to get information on our USA website in a timely manner. I am currently looking at proposals from companies that will progress a much-needed reorganization of our website so that further implementation of new resources for our membership can become a reality.

Our General Education Committee, Secretary Sara Wallick, Lisa Camuso, Mike Gardner, myself, and countless others have spent an enormous amount of time trying to help stave off repeated attempts in several states

and locales that have brought forth legislation that is not in the best interest of dog owners. We have won several battles and I thank all of you who took the time to fight what seems to be a never-ending battle. There have been several organizations that helped us stave off ill-conceived legislation. Save Our Pets and PetPAC are two of the major players in the fight against BSL and mandatory spay/neuter.

Pam Niccum has done an excellent job as Office Manager since November 1, 2008. We upgraded our computer hardware and software systems at the USA Office this past fiscal year and have added one new member to our staff.

We have maintained positive membership growth since early 2006. We have come together to fight against anti-dog legislation and understand the necessity to educate those whose bias is based upon ignorance. The strategy to build strength within the AWDF for the common good of all member clubs of the Federation has brought us closer to our goals to protect the working GSD, as well as all working dogs, in our country. Our strength as an organization and member of the AWDF has also given us greater opportunities and strengthened our relationships throughout the world. We cannot stand alone in the face of a constant onslaught of BSL and anti-dog legislation. As the AWDF has become a beacon of strength for member clubs, we must continue open discussions with GSD organizations that recognize and adhere to the FCI and SV standard for the breed for structure, health, and temperament.

Today we will vote upon a very important proposed bylaw change. If it passes it will prohibit USA members from also being members of competing GSD clubs based in the United States. There has been much discussion and we are all passionate about our dogs and our organization. Regardless of the outcome of today's vote, I ask each of you to put aside any ill feelings and continue to work together for the best interests of the GSD and USA.

I would like each of you to take time to be thankful for what we have accomplished the past few years as an organization. If all of us put forth the positive and selfless effort on even the smallest scale that is exhibited by many of our members in our local clubs, many more would become successful. As members, we should pledge to understand we are all part of the same group. We should both welcome and encourage newcomers when they attend our local club training sessions. Let us be thankful for our members as friends of the breed and sport!

I wish to express my sincere thanks to each and every member for their continued support and their spirit of camaraderie in furthering the goals of USA. For more than 33 years the efforts of our membership to protect and preserve the GSD through the use of our breed evaluations have continued to ensure that future generations will be able to experience the joy of owning a GSD with true working temperament.

VICE PRESIDENT – CRAIG GROH

The Vice President's number one responsibility is to assume the office of the President if it should become necessary for whatever reason. Thankfully, I have not had to fulfill this responsibility.

Some of you may not know that a long time ago I served on the USA Executive Board as a Director at Large. I was new to the sport and to the organization. I was elected on the platform of bringing new blood into the good old boys' network. To make a long story short, there were too many of them and it didn't go well. That was then and this is now. Today we have an Executive Board

that has a common vision. We communicate well and work together cohesively.

During the past year I worked closely with our President, the office staff, the EB, and the organization not to just bring about change, but to help move this organization forward. We have streamlined operations throughout the organization and at the office through the use of technology and process improvements.

The membership survey that was taken earlier in the year provided us with valuable statistical data and membership feedback.

The number one feedback request was for more educational material and opportunities. Since then I have been involved with the GEC to help provide guidance to this committee to further develop our training and education programs. As you will hear later in the GEC report, they are pursuing and completing various projects to meet the needs of the organization. Just two days ago the EB passed a motion proposed by Sean O'Kane to approve spending up to \$15,000 to fund educational regional seminars.

One of the other areas for improvement identified in the survey was communication. Lyle recently appointed me to chair the Communication Committee. This committee was designed to integrate the GEC, magazine, and website committees. The chairs of these committees make up the Communication Committee.

The project I have been deeply involved with and am most proud of is the Schutzhund USA Youth Scholarship. The future of this sport and our organization lies in the hands of our youth. The opportunities this program provides our youth to help them be the best they can be are extraordinary. Please remember this program is open to all youth that are members of any AWDF member organization. Also please remember all contributions to this organization are 100% tax deductible.

I would like to remind all of you that everyone is entitled to their opinion. Voice yours, be passionate, be honest, be open—but above all be respectful. In the end, when the majority has made decisions, let's all accept them, support them, and move forward together.

USA continues to thrive, grow, and be the premier working dog organization representing the GSD in this country and around the world. Working together, we continue to bring this organization to a new level.

SECRETARY – SARA WALLICK

Even more so than last year, we are faced with a never-ending onslaught of anti-dog and breed-specific legislation. Thank you to the members who stepped up to help in this battle. We won again in California, defeating a statewide bill (at least temporarily), but there are county and city ordinances that have been proposed in California. Many other states are also being faced with the same type of state, county, and city legislation. Our opponents are very well funded and very well organized. If we are to have any hope of defeating this anti-dog and breed specific legislation, *all* of our members need to make the effort to contact their political representatives when it is proposed in their area—as it undoubtedly will be. Politicians are somewhat influenced by opposition letters from organizations, but they are far more influenced by input from their constituents.

Last year I promised to post the individual documents in the big Rules and Regulations document separately on the USA website because some members have trouble downloading such a large file. I am partway through updating everything, but unfortunately events in my life interfered and that project is not completed yet. We plan

to still have the complete Rules and Regulations document available for those who want it.

We have had three instances this past year of clubs that failed to provide the mandatory three-week event notification to the other clubs in their regions. I would like to remind all the clubs that the notification requirement is a bylaw provision. Please make sure that your clubs provide the required three-week notice to the other clubs in the region.

TREASURER – SEAN O’KANE

The 2009 revenue was \$543,867, up from 2008 fiscal year of \$509,168. For the 2008 taxes we paid \$5,500 to have this audited with the changes in the tax laws. In 2009 that jumped to \$21,995, so at last year’s GBM we switched to having a review done versus a full audit and the cost will probably be a third of what last year’s audit was. In 2008 we paid \$199.50 for legal fees. Last year we paid \$25,082.18 in legal fees, so we are hoping to have that fixed also. We had a few problems that needed to be taken care of, but hopefully that is done. I am proposing a bylaw amendment that we make all clubs due on June 1, so hopefully that will alleviate some of the confusion and late renewals.

DIRECTOR OF JUDGES – NATHANIEL ROQUE

On behalf of the USA Judges College, I’d like to start my term as the USA Director of Judges by expressing our deepest condolences to Debbie Przybylski and her family for their loss. Director of Judges Mark Przybylski was truly a friend and supporter of USA and the GSD. He may well have been one of the longest-serving Executive Board members in the history of this organization, having served as a regional director and then as Director of Judges. Under Mark’s leadership we have seen the USA Judges College grow to the largest number of licensed judges in our history, have gained SV recognition for a majority of our judges, FCI recognition for some, and some of our judges are also licensed to award the RH title. Like many others, I will remember Mark as my friend and mentor. He will be greatly missed by many in the sport and I believe he will be forever remembered. This year’s Judges College Memorial Award is being awarded to Mark for his outstanding efforts for USA.

Over the past eight years I had many discussions and some preparation with Mark regarding the possibility of me seeking the support of the Judges College to run for Director of Judges when Mark was ready to step down. This was never the way I envisioned it happening and it is still a little overwhelming that my friend and one of my mentors is not at my side for counsel and support. In the wake of Mark’s passing, I was asked by our President if I would accept the position of interim DOJ since he and others were aware that Mark and I had discussed the possibility of me succeeding him as DOJ. I accepted as long as I had the support of the USA Judges College. The college was polled and I am honored to have their support representing them as their new DOJ. I have accepted the position and hope that the delegates at this meeting will uphold the judges’ decision and the Executive Board’s decision to elect me as Director of Judges.

I believe the USA Judges College has a great deal of influence on the future of our organization, the GSD, and all working dogs here in the United States. Our judges’ performance scores and ratings strongly influence the decisions of breeders and owners in this country based on show and trial results. Because of this, it is important we continue to keep our judges current on rules and

regulations and maintain our Annual Judges College to “measure and calibrate” the performance of our judges. Our annual Judges College will continue and, if possible, will be held in conjunction with our Working Dog Championship or the AWDF Championship. I believe this will benefit the judges and membership by allowing them to meet at a USA event where they can interact with the competitors and membership. Holding this meeting at one of the “all breed” championship events will also benefit the judges and handlers by involving more interaction with different breeds of working dogs. The working portion of the college will not interfere with the event and all practical work will be done from the sidelines, unlike the previous Colleges that were held at the HOT Championship and had multiple judges on the field.

At this time we already have 177 events scheduled, both trials and shows, going into 2010. We currently have 22 USA judges and 3 members in the Apprentice Judges Program. There is obviously a need for more judges in our organization, but they must continue to maintain the quality and integrity measured as a baseline for our USA Judges College. I will continue to develop our Apprentice Judges Program because it is important to the future of USA. We have implemented a number of changes in the last couple of years thanks to new forms and format, a more formalized process and structure for our apprentices, developed in part by Mark Przybylski and USA Judge Bill Szentmiklosi. I will continue to work with our Judges College to mentor and teach our apprentice judges and to recruit new candidates for the Judges Program.

As Director of Judges I will remain active with the USA Helper Committee and one of my goals is to involve more of our judges in the USA Helper Program, by trying to get more judges to become teaching helpers. This will give clubs the ability to schedule one person who can hold a helper seminar and judge a trial on the same weekend for the club.

Through our affiliation with the AWDF, and because of AWDF President/USA Judge Al Govednik’s hard work, we have already had the opportunity to have some of our USA judges receive FCI license recognition. I believe this, as well as the newly awarded SV recognition that many of our USA judges received this year thanks to the efforts and hard work of Johannes Grewe and Lyle Roetemeyer, is extremely important to our organization and membership, and I will continue to develop stronger lines of communication with the WUSV and FCI organizations. It is important that we have the proper representation at both the FCI and WUSV meetings. With 11 of our USA judges now fully recognized by the SV as SV judges here in the United States, we can provide titles that are fully recognized by the SV for SV breed surveys, shows, and registration. This gives our clubs more opportunities without having the expense of bringing in an SV Judge.

Communication is important, so I will have a message from the Director of Judges in each magazine and plan to introduce the membership to our Judges College in the form of a “Meet your USA Judges” article. This will include a short bio/resume and photo of our judges, as well as listing what each judge is licensed to judge. I would also like to develop the “Ask the Judge” section we had in the past, so if you have questions or situations you have seen, please send them to me by email and I will try to incorporate them into a magazine article.

As Vice President I made the statement that I believed that USA was the “premier working dog organization in the United States of America.” That is still my belief, and

with the knowledge and support of our USA Judges College and the continued support of our membership, I believe we can continue to lead the way for the GSD and all working dog breeds in the United States.

NATIONAL BREED WARDEN – TIM BURKE

The 2009 Sieger Show was co-hosted by Hauptstadt Schutzhund Verein in Arlington Heights, Illinois (Chicago). There were 355 entries. The host hotel was the Arlington Heights Sheraton and the venue was attached to the hotel. The USA Sieger Show profit was \$19,063.19, with the local club sent \$2,911.60 and a profit to USA of a little over \$16,000. A plaque was presented to club.

2009 USA Siegerin – Clarissa Blue-Iris, owned by Martha S. Kuehn and Walter Kötters, with multiple VA's.

2009 USA Sieger – Liedo vom Kuckucksland, owned by Megan Judge, VA six times and now twice USA Sieger. **Performance Awards** (These are the dogs, as determined by the judge, who delivered outstanding performances on the performance test. Almost all of these dogs are USA-bred dogs.):

Males – Bac von der Eichendorfschule, BeDarthvader von Theishof, Boy von Zorra, Intro von Bullinger, Ork von der Werther-Muhle, Yasso vom Mittelwest

Females – Aspen vom Mittelwest, Bali von der Bermbacher Scheune, Brisca von Roten Acker. CoCo vom Haus Thalie, Nikola vom Wustenberger-Land, Sonja von Monroe Haus

American-Bred Champions – Highest American Bred Working Male: Titan vom Mittelwest, Highest American Bred Working Female: Aspen vom Mittelwest, Highest American Bred Male 18-24: Danny von Wilhendorf, Highest American Bred Female 18-24 Month: Winnie vom Mittelwest, Highest American Bred Male 12-18 Month: Vegas of my Body Guard, Highest American Bred Female 12-18 Month: Olivia vom Mittelwest

We received no bids for the 2010 Sieger Show, so it was decided to make it a USA-only hosted event in 2010. It will be held June 4–6, 2010 in Lake Geneva, WI. The host hotel will be The Lodge at Lake Geneva and the venue will be at the host hotel. The judges will be USA Judge Johannes Grewe (males) and SV Judge Hans Peter Schweimer (females).

We attended the WUSV meeting in Ulm, Germany. A couple of things that affect us on the breeding side are:

- The SV in 2010 will allow long stock coat with undercoat dogs under a separate registry. They may be shown at breed shows with a separate ring and judge.
- The WUSV Universal Sieger is a new program starting in 2011 in Austria. A tournament format will be implemented. The dogs will be trialed and shown the same weekend. At the end of the event the Universal Sieger will be awarded. The USA Universal Sieger program is not getting the participation we would like. Countries are asked to declare their participation by April 2010.

This has been mentioned today already, but breed legislation is rampant. It is well funded and is being driven by a couple of organizations here in the United States. Spay and neuter legislation was recently defeated in California, but individual city and county governments are trying to move forward with this type of legislation. We had a sneak attack in Nevada, without public input, using a couple of the legislators that also happened to be on the board of the Humane Society. We will continue to see state and local governments push for this legislation that is driven by special interest groups. It is *very, very* important to us as members to get involved now! Please use the passion you have for the sport and get involved in breed

legislation locally, and also get involved with the Humane Society boards in order to know exactly what they are going to do. We must all be involved in this fight. Get involved with your local politicians and educate them on our sport and our respective breeds.

We have a great genetic pool of dogs here in the United States. It would be a shame if we were not able to breed that genetic pool, and it could come to that—it is that serious. We must *all* be involved in this fight.

AWDF PRESIDENT – AL GOVEDNIK

This past year was busy and eventful for our organization. I thank everyone, particularly USA President Lyle Roetemeyer and Sean O'Kane, who consistently work hard to make our Federation a success.

Just prior to last year's National Championship, while attending the FCI IPO Championship in Belgium, FCI Working Commission President Frans Jansen was able to arrange a meeting with FCI Executive Director Yves DeClercq. Lyle Roetemeyer, Tim Burke, and I had a long discussion with Mr. DeClercq regarding AWDF and how the FCI views us. Shortly after that meeting I received a letter I shared with all AWDF delegates. The letter basically states we (AWDF) have been solid supporters of the FCI Working Commission for some time, and we will continue to be invited to participate in all FCI Working Commission activities.

I thank Jim Honda and the Free Dog!! Schutzhund Club for hosting our 2009 AWDF Championship. A lot of USA members stepped up to make the event a real success.

Our AWDF Secretary, Michelle Testa, has been doing a great job of getting our telephone conference meeting minutes posted in a timely fashion. Past meeting minutes and other notices are updated regularly on our AWDF website: www.AWDF.net. They include the revamped international team selection process.

One of our accomplishments this year was standardization of scorebooks within our Federation. This has been a long project, and we still have to work out some details. I am confident working with one scorebook throughout our Federation will benefit our membership. Unification of our scorebooks makes it much easier for our judges, trial secretaries, record keeping, etc.

Last December the AWDF was again invited to the FCI Working Commission Judges Workshop. Johannes Grewe, Sandi Purdy, and I attended the meeting in Nova Gorica, Slovenia. Frans Jansen, Wilfried Schapermeier, Robert Markschlager, Eberhard Uekoetter, and Günther Diegel all lead discussions relating to judging and rule interpretations. It is very important for us to continue attending these meetings, as we have been allowed to express our opinions. That is an important, because in America our member clubs are the protectors of the breeds that were developed in Europe.

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

As the AWDF President, I have spoken with AVP of AKC Performance Events, Doug Ljunggren, and was assured the AKC is well aware of our organization. I believe Mr. Ljunggren feels we are the premier dog organization in America.

Our own AWD titles became a reality this last year. The program was a culmination of work between several clubs and puts us in a good position, as we can now offer a truly American-based award to our membership.

We had the attack out of the blind before the WUSV decided to go back to it.

Mondioring is making great strides internationally, and our people are very involved and working hand-in-hand with the FCI.

A real highlight was our FCI IPO Team finished fifth in the world. Our team consisted of Phil Hoelcher, Carlos Rojas, Lisa Jaquin, Mark Natinski, Beth Bradley, and Frank Phillips.

There will be a new international rulebook by 2011.

There is a proposal in the FCI Working Commission for it to become illegal to provide cash or other substantial awards at competitions. Proper wording and regulations are being worked out and will be presented to the FCI delegate body in the spring. There is also a proposal that handlers must present a recognized scorebook from *their* country in order to compete in a world championship.

All countries, even FCI countries, do not have invitations to FCI working dog events. They are recognized, but the Working Commission invites those they want to.

- AWDF Championship will be held Memorial Day weekend hosted by O.G. Indianapolis
- FCI FH Championship will be held April 14–18 in Slovenia
- FCI IPO Championship will be held September 16-19 in Finland

We lost two great men this past year I considered dear friends: Eberhard Strasser, the past FCI Working Commission President, and Mark Przybylski, one of my closest Schutzhund buddies. We are in strong national and international positions because of the work these men did on our behalf. I would like to thank our entire membership for supporting the AWDF and Mark Przybylski for all of the memories.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – STANDING COMMITTEES

AUDITING COMMITTEE – KAY KOERNER (Read by Sara Wallick)

Gordie Esselmann and I have reviewed the audit for 2008–2009 years end and everything seems to be in order.

BOARD OF INQUIRY – SCOTT BOEDECKER

It was a quiet year for the Board of Inquiry. I corresponded with six individuals regarding proper rules and procedures on how to file charges. At the end of the year we had no official charges brought against anyone.

BREED ADVISORY COMMITTEE – TIM BURKE

One of the things under discussion right now is examining the performance test judging. We have used our Director of Judges for that test in the past. Nathaniel Roque, Johannes Grewe, and I have discussed whether we should continue that or let our Körmeisters take over the performance test. As you can imagine, we had a spirited discussion within the BAC. I encourage you to talk to your regional breed wardens and let them know your opinions on this subject. The BAC will also be taking up the issue of the long stock coat with undercoat for USA.

JUDGES COMMITTEE – NATHANIEL ROQUE

Since taking over as Director of Judges, it has been a bit overwhelming so my correspondence and interaction with the Judges Committee has consisted of one conference call and a few emails. Prior to me becoming DOJ, they did have one issue they were dealing with. They had made some preliminary determinations regarding one of our USA judges. We will be meeting via conference call during the next couple of weeks to make a final determination.

NATIONAL EVENTS COMMITTEE – MARTIN VOLLRATH

Thank you to Machtig Strom Schutzhund Verein for hosting the 2009 GSD National Championship. In honor of this, USA is awarding a plaque of appreciation. We all know how much work it is and we also know how rewarding it will be for you when it is all done! The National Events Committee is always looking for host clubs, so please talk to me or any other NEC member regarding hosting future events. We are always available by phone or by email. If you decide you want to host the Working Dog Championships or the GSD National Championship, we are more than happy to help you every step of the way. Hopefully we can get more clubs to put in bids.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – RIFKY MACKEEN (Read by Marie Weller)

Regular monthly meetings were conducted to identify suitable candidates for the positions this period. The committee determined if the incumbents were willing to continue in their respective roles in addition to identifying new candidates. A balance between maintaining some experience and bringing in fresh faces was what the committee wished to achieve and the best candidate was nominated.

The committee was always mindful their role was to make recommendations and the final determination would be made at the GBM.

In 2008, when two candidates made known their intent to run for President, the NC interviewed both prior to making recommendations. In addition, all candidates running for positions were afforded the opportunity of publishing their resumes on the USA website and USA blog. This process of interview and information dissemination will be continued and improved so there is healthy competition for the key positions vital for the organization to progress and prosper.

I thank my fellow committee members for their support and participation, and in particular Rita Ledda for her special contributions. Rita decided to not run again for this position, and the NC recommends she be replaced with Michele Scarberry.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE – THOMAS VOLLRATH

I would like to congratulate the United States team for its fourth place finish at the 2009 WUSV World Championship in Germany and give a special thanks to T. Floyd for volunteering his time to be this year's team captain. It is a very difficult job with a lot of stress. There are many details involved in planning and organizing not only for our own side of the event and our dogs but also for the other organization and their dogs. I would also like to thank Lisa Jaquin for being this year's alternate. It is hard it is to train for months to prepare your dog, travel halfway across the world, and then not compete. Lisa was supportive of the team, was very helpful with everybody, and was almost like an assistant team captain.

Next year's world championship will be in Spain and I would like to encourage everyone to send in their declarations. It is surprising how few declarations we actually get every year. We've had as low as eight to a high of 15–18, which isn't very many—especially when you consider how many are competing at our national events. So please remember to send in your declarations. So please remember to send in your declaration.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – SPECIAL COMMITTEES

BYLAWS COMMITTEE – NIA COTTRELL

Deferred to New Business.

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE (No report)

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE – RIFKY MACKEEEN (Read by Sara Wallick)

The GEC is maturing into an effective body capable of executing projects of value and interest to the membership. For the second year we are utilizing a major portion of our budget to fund and recognize clubs that understand they are not simply places to meet and train, but also need to conform to the norms expected of them by the general public.

The second major project underway and subject to Executive Board approval is the creation of a knowledge base of content, initially from *Schutzhund USA*, accessible through the web. This will have search capabilities allowing members to access articles for the last seven years or so and will be regularly updated. Content of interest from other public domain sources will also be phased in along with imbedded video (of trials and conformation shows).

We printed 5,000 copies of "Schutzhund and the German Shepherd Dog." This tri-fold document spells out what Schutzhund is all about and USA's role. It is meant to educate the general public and new members as to the do's and don'ts of Schutzhund. This will also be sent to all litter registrants to be handed to new puppy owners so they can appreciate the background and capabilities of the canines in the USA Registry. Copies are available to the clubs here at the GBM.

We are working with the USA Office to simplify the process to create new clubs within USA guidelines. Documents needed will be available on the USA website and blog and the process will be streamlined.

We invite members to submit additional projects for consideration. They can email us or use the USA blog. If any member is interested in joining the GEC, please contact any one of us.

I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their hard work and creativity, enabling us to execute and deliver. In particular, I would like to thank non-GEC members like Craig Groh, Sara Wallick, Sean O'Kane, and Nathaniel Roque for joining our monthly calls and providing us with senior level guidance and support.

The GEC announces the following awards:

2009 Regional Awards (Each of these clubs will receive checks for \$250 along with a plaque and pins for the members.)

Mid-Eastern – O.G. Buckeye Schutzhund Club
New England - Liberty Schutzhund Club
North Central – O.G. Bierstadt Schutzhund Club
Pacific Northwest - Big Sky Schutzhund Club
Southeastern - Iron Dog Schutzhund Club
Southwestern - Arizona Valley German Shepherd Schutzhund Club

2009 President's Award (This club will receive an additional check for \$350.)

O.G. Buckeye Schutzhund Club

HELPER COMMITTEE – NATHANIEL ROQUE

USA Helper Committee extends condolences to Debbie Przybylski and her family for their loss. Mark was a valued member of this committee. He participated in and supported the Helper Program from its inception, bringing his experience and insight as a judge, helper, trainer, and competitor to our program. He will be greatly missed by all the members of this committee.

Our USA Helper Program is entering its sixth year as an approved program of this organization. We continue to recruit more members, both as helpers and teaching

helpers. The Helper Program continues to lead the way in helper education for all working dog organizations in the United States through an education program focused on knowledge, safety, and performance in trial helper work.

During the past year we held 28 seminars and evaluations, including the 2008 National Helper College. There are currently 155 entry level (up from 71 last year), 475 basic level (up from 322 last year), 170 club level (up from 147 last year), 88 regional level (up from 65 last year), 28 national level (down from 38 last year), 34 teaching, and 1 apprentice teaching helpers. Totaling 950 USA members participating in the USA Helper Program (up from 667 last year).

The Helper Committee would like to congratulate the helpers selected to work our national events in 2009:

- Working Dog Championships: Steve Romard, Sean Murphy, and Chris Fodera
- Sieger Show: Lionel Madden and Charles Ottesen
- National Championship: Sean Murphy (front half), Steve Romard (front half alternate), Marcus Hampton (back half), and John Bochenek (back half alternate)

Thank you to all of our helpers in the program for your sportsmanship, hard work, and time.

The Helper Committee is committed to providing information on the USA website and in the magazine, and we will continue to do our best to provide articles or updates in a timely manner. We would like to hear from the membership in the form of questions or articles they want to see.

The 2009 National Helper College held yesterday had a turnout of 25 helpers and 5 Helper Committee members. This year the organization of the college was split, with Dennis Vander Linde heading the administrative duties and Mark Scarberry leading the practical portion. Charles Ottesen, who had the helper hats made, and Julia Grayson and Marie Weller, who did the administrative work, provided additional help. The college went well given the time available. The National Helper College is an entry stepping stone for new helpers, and an opportunity for committee members and teaching helpers to exchange information and insure we are all on the same page regarding the current Helper Program. Thanks to the members who attended and special thanks to the handlers who supplied dogs for the college and helper tryouts.

We had one apprentice complete the program last year and become a teaching helper (A J Slaughter), and we have one new apprentice teaching helper entering the program at this time (Dan Williams).

I want to thank the USA membership and the Helper Committee for their friendship and support during my time as Helper Committee Chairman. I am proud of the organization, our helpers, and this program; and it has been an honor to serve in this position the past five years. As the new Director of Judges, I will continue to serve as a committee member, but will no longer be the Chairman. I am very happy to introduce Dennis Vander Linde as the new Helper Committee Chairman. Dennis has been on the committee since the inception of the current Helper Program five years ago and has been involved in all aspects of the program from its start. I'm confident he will continue to steer the Helper Program to new and greater levels of success.

I thank my fellow committee members Danny Grayson, James Laney, Lyle Roetemeyer, Dennis Vander Linde, Mark Scarberry, and Mark Przybylski for their commitment, support, and hard work they have given to the USA Helper Program and me.

K-9 COMMITTEE – SCOTT HEDGER (No report)

MAGAZINE COMMITTEE – JENNIFER ACEVEDO

Schutzhund USA magazine exists to serve and educate the membership, and we've experienced more and more member involvement over the past few years. This is something we continue to work on, whether it's through contributed articles, feedback and suggestions for content, advertising, etc. We made an effort to improve the content and deliver the types of articles and information that the membership has requested. Another big reason for the improvements we've seen is the incredible team that has been assembled that has truly made the magazine a labor of love.

On the financial side this has been a tough year for everyone, and the publishing industry especially. Thus our revenues are down slightly and our costs are up slightly, but we are continually exploring opportunities to improve our bottom line. I want to thank everyone who has supported the magazine with their feedback and their support.

YOUTH COMMITTEE – MICHELE SCARBERRY (Read by Lyle Roetemeyer)

The Youth Committee had a very rewarding year. Cumberland Valley Schutzhund & Police Club (MER) hosted the first USA Working Dog Championship, and the Youth Championship was included in this event. The winner of our Academic Award was Veronica Adams of O.G. West Penn Schutzhund Club (MER), and our 2009 Youth Champion was Drake Freeman.

I attended the Sieger Show in Chicago and presented awards to six youth handlers; those handlers also assisted with the event. I attended the MER Conformation Championship, where nine youth participated in show handling and assisted with the event by emptying trash and helping with the decorations for the dinner. I hear from a lot of youth across the country, and they seem to be excited about achieving sport points and focus on obtaining a sport medal. The objective of the sport program is to provide various opportunities to our youth members and encourage their participation in all USA events. Youth will obtain points based on participation in trials, shows, and assisting at club, regional, and national events.

It was a privilege and honor to award the first Youth Scholarship to Joelynn Zub, who is the daughter of Karen and Craig Groh and a member of Somis Schutzhund Club. Joelynn is attending California Lutheran University this year. Joelynn competed at the 2007 USA HOT Youth Championship and received our first Academic Award (based on the athletic-academic accomplishments of the youth member).

The campaign for our 2010 scholarship winner is currently in progress. Please remind youth members of your clubs to seek participation. Information for the scholarship is on the website:

<http://www.schutzhundyouth.com>. All donations to the Schutzhund USA Youth Scholarship Fund are tax deductible. I encourage clubs to print copies of the donation form and post them at your next event. If each entry donated \$1, this would help to increase our fund for future generations.

The committee will also provide educational reimbursement to our youth who attend sanctioned educational seminars. Educational seminars must meet the committee requirement. The rule and reimbursement form are on the USA website.

We have once again established another year-end fundraiser through Malley's Candy. Please utilize the website to order your holiday candy. Our organization is ID#411115 and the website is www.malleys.com.

I am always open to new ideas—please feel free to contact me with input.

WEBSITE COMMITTEE

Lyle Roetemeyer stated there are meetings scheduled this weekend regarding the website. We have a couple of bids from companies which are interested in doing our website for us.

ELECTIONS (Ratification of Interim Positions)

OFFICERS – DIRECTOR OF JUDGES

Nathaniel Roque

Motion by Dena McGowan to vote by acclamation on ratification. *Motion carried.*

Vote: Elected by acclamation.

DIRECTOR AT LARGE

Motion by Dena McGowan to postpone election for vacant Director at Large position until after completion of bylaws amendments.

Motion carried unanimously. (The amendments reducing the Executive Board from the current 21 members to 20 members were accepted, eliminating the need for this election.)

ELECTIONS (Nominating Committee Slate of Candidates)

JUDGES COMMITTEE/MEMBERS AT LARGE (2)

Mike Gardner

Debbie Zappia

Vote: Elected by acclamation.

NATIONAL EVENTS COMMITTEE (4)

Hal Lymus

Willie Pope

Claudia Romard

Martin Vollrath

Vote: Elected by acclamation.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (5)

Ravi Iyer

Rifky Mackeen

Charles Norton

Michele Scarberry

Marie Weller

Vote: Elected by acclamation.

NEW BUSINESS

BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

General consensus to postpone consideration of bylaws amendments until after completion of New Business.

Break from 10:12 A.M.–10:30 A.M.

NEW BUSINESS ARISING FROM REPORTS

1. USA as National Event Host

Motion by Craig Groh that USA will be the primary host for national events and the National Events Committee will be responsible for the organization and administration of the event working with the local venue host.

Motion by Nathaniel Roque to table proposed motion to end of New Business when it can be represented with complete wording.

Motion to table carried unanimously.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

1. Renumbering of USA Bylaws

Motion by Nia Cottrell to authorize the Bylaws Committee to renumber the entire USA Bylaws so that it is numbered properly, logically, and consistently, and to make grammatical corrections that do not change the meaning of the sentence.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. HOT Points for Universal Sieger

Motion by Michele Scarberry to amend the Universal Sieger Regulations to add: Beginning with the year 2010, handler owned and trained dogs (HOT) will receive an additional five points.

(Additional points are awarded for dogs bred in the USA, so handler owned and trained dogs should also be awarded additional points.)

Motion failed (yes-11, no-53).

3. Membership Requirement for Regional/National/Helper Events

Motion by Nathaniel Roque that an entrant must be a USA member to be eligible to enter any USA-sanctioned regional, national, or helper event.

Motion carried (yes-63, no-1).

4. Membership Requirement for Club Events

Motion by Nathaniel Roque that an entrant must be a member of an AWDF member club to enter any USA-sanctioned club event.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Binding Arbitration Agreement

Motion by Sean O’Kane that members shall be required to agree to binding arbitration in the case of a legal dispute with USA by signing a statement on their membership application/renewal.

Motion carried (yes-61, no-3).

6. Clarification of Affiliation/Sanctioned Trial Scheduling

Motion by Ann Marie Chaffin that an affiliated club that hosts an affiliation trial and is approved shall be allowed to host a USA sanctioned trial the following day.

(Some clubs find it too expensive to host an affiliation trial and then a sanctioned trial at a later date. We have allowed this in the past.)

Motion amended by Ann Marie Chaffin to add: “approved by the presiding USA judge.”

Amended motion: An affiliated club that hosts an affiliation trial and is approved by the presiding USA judge shall be allowed to host a USA-sanctioned trial the following day.

Motion carried (yes-40, no-22).

7. Judges College Memorial Award – Nathaniel Roque

It is with feelings of sadness and loss that I have the honor to present the 2009 Judges College Memorial Award posthumously to Mark Przybylski.

Mark has been a part of USA as a national level helper, competitor, judge, and officer. As a judge he presided over many national events, judging in all three phases. He was one of the longest-running elected members of the USA Executive Board, having served as an ARD, RD, DOJ, and also as Judges Committee and Helper Committee member and performance judge—just to name a few of his most recent accomplishments for USA.

As Director of Judges, Mark was instrumental in building the USA Judges College into its largest number of licensed judges in USA history. Recently he participated as Sport Coordinator for the 2008 WUSV Championship and helped facilitate the licensing of USA judges as both FCI and SVF judges.

Breaking down Marks accomplishments could fill pages and pages of USA history, but what is most important is that he was always willing and ready to step up for the organization and the German shepherd dog that he loved.

This year we proudly present this plaque to honor Mark, and we are establishing the annual Mark Przybylski National Championship Award which will award \$600 annually to benefit the National Championship as the Judges College determines a specific need each year. This year we have decided to donate \$150 to each of the four selected helpers to help offset their expenses to work the event.

Break from 11:50 A.M.–1:30 P.M. Roll call was conducted with 17 Executive Board members and 41 club delegates present for a total of 58 voting delegates. A quorum was present. (After roll call 2 additional Executive Board members and 4 club delegates arrived.)

8. USA as National Event Host

Amended motion by Craig Groh that USA will be the primary host for all working dog National Events adhering to the following policies:

- The USA President will appoint an event chairperson for each event. The chairperson will be responsible for the organization and administration of the event while adhering to the USA National Events Manual.
- USA as the primary host of the event will bear any financial loss the event may incur.
- USA as the primary host of the event will receive 70%, and the local host club will receive 30% of any net profit the event may generate.
- A National Events Protocol will be developed and become part of the USA National Events Manual. This protocol will detail the regulations the event chairperson must follow. The USA Executive Board will approve this protocol no later than January 30, 2010.
- A budget will be developed and adhered to for each event. The USA Treasurer will process all financial transactions for the event.
- The event chairperson and the USA Treasurer will approve all contacts for the event.

Motion carried.

BYLAWS AMENDMENTS (Attachment)

Break from 2:55 P.M.–3:05 P.M. before consideration of proposed bylaw amendments #1, #2, and #3.

Motion by Dena McGowan to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 P.M.

Sara Wallick

Sara Wallick, Secretary

Attachments:

1. USA Bylaws Amendments–2009
2. General Board Meeting Delegate List–2009

USA BYLAWS AMENDMENTS 2009

The amendments were considered in a revised order from that submitted with the agenda, and the numbers shown below reflect the original numbers used with the agenda.

(This amendment allows well established and experienced clubs affiliated with other AWDf member clubs to become full-member USA clubs without being required to hold an affiliation trial.)

4. Article V, Section 1.b. (Club Membership/Full Member Clubs) – Submitted by Nia Cottrell

From:

- (ii) Being admitted directly into the United Schutzhund Clubs of America with full member club rank. Only clubs of exceptional qualification may bypass the affiliated club stage and be admitted directly into USA as a full member club.

To:

- (ii) Established clubs *in good standing* that are or have been affiliated with other American Working Dog Federation (AWDF) clubs may be admitted directly as full member clubs, without the requirement of an affiliation trial, if such clubs have operated continuously for the five (5) years prior to seeking USA affiliation and have conducted at least four *Schutzhund and/or HGH* trials during that five-year period.

Motion by Nia Cottrell to clarify amendment by adding the words "in good standing" and "Schutzhund and/or HGH" trials.

Revised amendment accepted (yes-46, no-8).

(This amendment allows clubs to host a USA-sanctioned event in lieu of a trial to meet the requirements for maintaining full-member status.)

5. Article V, Section 1.b. (Club Membership/Levels of Club Membership/Full Member Clubs) –

Submitted by Craig Groh

From:

- (v) Each full member club shall hold at least one (1) sanctioned USA Schutzhund trial or HGH Herding Dog Trial per calendar year beginning January 1 of the year after the year in which the club is granted full member status. The Regional Director shall approve any waiver of this requirement, provided the club's dues and membership list are current. The Regional Director will advise all the clubs in the region of the proposed waiver and the reasons thereof. Failure to comply with this provision will reduce the club to affiliated status for at least one (1) year. The affiliated club shall meet all the requirements once again to become a full member club.

To:

- (v) Each full member club shall hold at least one (1) *USA-sanctioned event* per calendar year beginning January 1 of the year after the year in which the club is granted full member status. *Every other year the USA-sanctioned event must be a USA-sanctioned trial.* The Regional

Director shall approve any waiver of this requirement, provided the club's dues and membership list are current. The Regional Director will advise all the clubs in the region of the proposed waiver and the reasons thereof. Failure to comply with this provision will reduce the club to affiliated status for at least one (1) year. The affiliated club shall meet all the requirements once again to become a full member club.

Motion by Dennis Vander Linde to add "Every other year the USA-sanctioned event must be a USA-sanctioned trial." Motion carried (yes-48, 6-no) Amendment as revised accepted (yes-46, no-8).

(This bylaw becomes obsolete upon the adoption amendment #4 above regarding direct admission as a full-member club.)

6. Article V, Section 1.c. (Club Membership/Full Member Clubs) – Submitted by Nia Cottrell

Delete:

- c. To be admitted directly to USA as a full member club, the club must:
- (i) Complete the requirements as outlined in this article, Section 1, Part a, Items (i) through (vii).
 - (ii) Be recommended by a Regional Director.
 - (iii) Demonstrate satisfactory performance in the training of dogs in the sport by conducting a practice trial, which was judged by some person who has been approved by the Board of Directors and is not a member of the club.
 - (iv) Be approved by the Regional Director. The Regional Director is to submit to the Executive Board and the club a letter of approval or disapproval, which must be accompanied by:
 - A list of club members, including the club officers.
 - A complete set of score sheets from the practice trial.
 - (v) In the event that the Regional Director does not approve the full member status of the club, then the club may appeal to the Executive Board, which has the authority to override the decision of the Regional Director.

Amendment accepted unanimously.

(This amendment will conform to proposed amendments #4 and #6 concerning direct admission.)

7. Article V, Section 1.d. (Club Membership/Full Member Clubs) – Submitted by Nia Cottrell

From:

- d. Upgrading of affiliated clubs to full member club status:

An affiliated club may be upgraded to full member club status when it has met the requirements outlined in this article, Section 1, Part c, Items (i) through (iv).

To:

- d. An affiliated club may be upgraded to full member club status when it has met the following requirements:
- (i) Demonstrate satisfactory performance in the training of dogs by conducting an affiliation trial, which was judged by an approved individual who is not a member of the club.
 - (ii) Be approved by the Regional Director. The Regional Director is to submit to the USA Office and the club a letter of approval or disapproval, which must be accompanied by:
 1. A list of club members, including the club officers.
 2. A complete set of score sheets from the affiliation trial.

Amendment accepted unanimously.

(This amendment clarifies the requirement that club membership lists include the list of officers.)

8. Article V, Section 2. (Club Membership/Relationship Between USA and Local Clubs) – Submitted by Sara Wallick

From:

- d. A complete and current membership list including full addresses must be included with the club's annual dues. This information will be sent to the USA Office for verification. Clubs that fail to submit both annual dues and membership lists will not be granted trial authorizations by the Regional Director. Should club lists and dues not be submitted by the due date, any previously approved trial authorizations will be recalled. Trial authorizations will be restored when dues and membership lists are submitted and approved.

To:

- d. A complete and current membership list, including full addresses **and a list of the club officers**, must be included with the club's annual dues. This information will be sent to the USA Office for verification. Clubs that fail to submit both annual dues and membership lists will not be granted trial authorizations by the Regional Director. Should club **membership** lists and dues not be submitted by the due date, any previously approved trial authorizations will be recalled. Trial authorizations will be restored when dues and membership lists are submitted and approved.

Amendment accepted unanimously.

(This amendment requires that all club dues shall be payable by June 1.)

9. Article V, Section 2. (Club Membership/Relationship Between USA and Local Clubs) – Submitted by Sean O'Kane

Add:

- e. Club dues shall be paid annually by June 1, with dues prorated for the year the club joins USA.

Amendment accepted unanimously.

(This amendment addresses clubs that become arrears in their USA dues and remain so for several months in some instances, yet may continue to participate in the same manner as clubs in good standing.)

10. Article V, Section 2. (Club Membership/Relationship Between USA and Clubs) – Submitted by Sean O'Kane and Nia Cottrell

Add:

- f. Clubs whose dues are more than sixty (60) days in arrears shall not be clubs in good standing and shall be dropped from full club membership in USA. Any event authorizations for clubs in arrears for dues shall be null and void.
- (i) Any club trials conducted while a club is not in good standing due to non-payment of dues shall not be USA-sanctioned events, and any titles obtained at such trials shall be null and void.
 - (ii) Only clubs in good standing may vote in regional and/or national meetings. Clubs in arrears for dues are not in good standing and shall not vote in regional or national meetings.

Amendment accepted unanimously.

(This amendment clarifies an ambiguity in the bylaws that can be interpreted to mean that a valid election cannot take place at a regional meeting unless all the clubs in good standing in the region are in attendance.)

11. Article VI, Section 6.e. (Regions, Regional Directors, Regional Breed Wardens/Nomination and Election) – Submitted by Nia Cottrell

From:

- e. To be elected, a candidate must receive a majority of the votes cast by the full member clubs in good standing in that particular region.

To:

- e. To be elected, a candidate must receive a majority of the votes cast by the full member clubs in good standing in that particular region who are in attendance at the regional meeting, **or** by the majority of votes cast by full member clubs in good standing in a mail ballot election.

Amendment accepted unanimously.

(This amendment reduces the voting time allowed on Executive Board ballots.)

12. Article VII, Section 2.f. (Boards of Directors/Executive Board of Directors/Voting) – Submitted by Sara Wallick

From:

- (iii) In lieu of calling a special meeting, members of the Executive Board of Directors may be polled by mail or electronic communication ballot. Two (2) weeks shall be allowed for the return of ballots before closing the vote. Complete and factual information on the subject(s) to be voted on must be supplied with each ballot. Voting by telephone on mail ballots is prohibited.

To:

(iii) In lieu of calling a special meeting, members of the Executive Board of Directors may be polled by mail or electronic communication ballot.

One (1) week shall be allowed for the return of ballots before closing the vote. Complete and factual information on the subject(s) to be voted on must be supplied with each ballot. Voting by telephone on mail ballots is prohibited.

Amendment accepted (no-1).

(These amendments reduce the Executive Board from the current 21 members to 20 members.)

13. Article VII, Section 2.a. (Boards of Directors/Executive Board of Directors/Definition) – Submitted by Sara Wallick
From:

a. The Executive Board of Directors shall consist of all elected USA Officers, Regional Directors, and of not fewer than four (4) and not more than five (5) representatives from the membership at large.

To:

a. The Executive Board of Directors shall consist of all elected USA Officers, Regional Directors, and **four (4)** representatives from the membership who shall be known as Directors at Large.

Amendment accepted (no-2).

14. Article VII, Section 2.b. (Boards of Directors/Executive Board of Directors/Definition) – Submitted by Sara Wallick
From:

b. The General Board of Directors shall elect from the list of full members of USA not fewer than four (4) and not more than five (5) persons, who are not USA officers, to be members of the Executive Board of Directors. They shall be known as Directors at Large. They shall serve a two (2) year term and shall be elected in even numbered years. The number of Directors at Large to be elected shall be that number, either four (4) or five (5) that when added to the number of USA officers and Regional Directors equals an odd number. The election for Directors at Large shall be by plurality.

To:

b. The General Board of Directors shall elect from the membership **four (4)** persons, who are not USA officers, to be members of the Executive Board of Directors. They shall be known as Directors at Large. They shall serve a two (2) year term and shall be elected in even numbered years. The election for Directors at Large shall be by plurality.

Amendment accepted unanimously.

(This amendment allows the President to appoint an interim officer to fill a vacancy until the Executive Board has conducted an election.)

15. Article VIII, Section 6.a. (Offices of the Association/Executive Board of Directors/Vacancies) – Submitted by Sara Wallick
From:

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.

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. **The President has the authority to appoint an interim officer until the Executive Board has conducted an election.**

Amendment accepted unanimously.

(These amendments prohibit USA members residing in the United States from being members of, or being affiliated with, competing German Shepherd Dog organizations in the United States. Membership in more than one U.S.-based German Shepherd Dog club presents a conflict of interest when making decisions that affect USA.)

1. Article IV, Section 2. (Individual Membership/Rules for Individual Membership) – Submitted by Johannes Grewe
Add:

e. USA members may not be members of, or be affiliated with, any competing German Shepherd Dog organization in the United States.

Amendment accepted (yes-36, no-17).

2. Article III.4. (Performance and Breeding Regulations) – Submitted by Johannes Grewe
Delete:

4. USA Judges may not be governing members or judges of competing U.S. German Shepherd Dog organizations.

Amendment accepted unanimously.

3. Article V, Section 2. (Club Membership/Relationship Between USA and Local Clubs) – Submitted by Johannes Grewe
From:

c. Member clubs shall not be members of other Schutzhund type organizations. Individual members of the club, however, may be members of other organizations.

To:

c. Member clubs may not be members of, or be affiliated with, any competing German Shepherd Dog organization in the United States.

Amendment accepted (yes-51, no-2).

GENERAL BOARD MEETING DELEGATE LIST – 2009

Attachment 2
(Revised)

NUM	EXECUTIVE BOARD	DELEGATE	1st	Late	2nd	Late	3rd	4th
1	President	Lyle Roetemeyer	X		X			
2	Vice President	Craig Groh	X		X			
3	Secretary	Sara Wallick	X		X			
4	Treasurer	Sean O'Kane	X			X		
5	Director of Judges	Nathaniel Roque	X		X			
6	National Breed Warden	Tim Burke	X		X			
7	Director at Large	Al Govednik	X		X			
8	Director at Large	Johannes Grewe	X		X			
9	Director at Large	Terry Macias	X		X			
10	Director at Large	Frank Phillips			X			
11	Regional Director (North Central)	Jennifer Acevedo	X		X			
12	Regional Director (New England)	Pia Blackwell	X		X			
13	Regional Director (Southeastern)	Arthur Collins						
14	Regional Director (Mid-Central)	Jeff Govednik		X	X			
15	Regional Director (Northeastern)	Pedro Jimenez	X		X			
16	Regional Director (Pacific Northwest)	Warren Jones	X		X			
17	Regional Director (South Central)	Dena McGowan	X		X			
18	Regional Director (Southwestern)	Thom Payne	X		X			
19	Regional Director (Mid-Eastern)	Mark Scarberry	X			X		
20	Regional Director (Northwestern)	David Witmer			X			
20	SUBTOTAL		16	1	17	2	0	0
12	MID-CENTRAL REGION							
1	Air Capital Schutzhund Club	Ila Schmidt/Joann Letcher/Russ Osburn						
2	Cedar Valley Working Dogs	Dale Bennett	X		X			
3	Denver Mile High Schutzhund Club	Noah England/Jennifer Corso/Robert Corso	X					
4	High Plains Schutzhund Club	Mark Chaffin/Ann Marie Chaffin	X		X			
5	Illinois Schutzhund and Police Club	Mark Chaffin/Mike Delaney/Carolyn Daniel	X					
6	Illinois South Central Schutzhund Club	Harley McCombe						
7	Machtig Strom Schutzhund Verein	Marcia Govednik/Brad Stout	X		X			
8	Mid-Rivers Schutzhund Club	Dyan Harper	X		X			
9	Mo-Kan Schutzhund Association	Scott Boedecker/Char Tarleton/Scott Hedger	X		X			
10	St. Louis Schutzhund Association	Brian McCauley/John Newsham						
11	Tornado Alley Schutzhund Club	Cathy Clark/John Letcher/David Martin	X		X			
12	Working Dogs of Central Illinois	Bill Bimrose	X		X			
11	MID-EASTERN REGION							
1	Cedar Hill Working Dog Club	Jeff Lund	X		X			
2	Cumberland Valley Schutzhund & Police Club	Debbie Roetemeyer	X					
3	Falconhurst Police Canine Corps	Nancy Brigham/Dan Brigham	X		X			
4	Harpeth River Schutzhund Group	Dean Calderon/Mark Soccoccio/Karla Calderon						
5	Metro-Detroit Schutzhund Club	John Bochenek	X		X			
6	Mid-Ohio Schutzhund	Jim Alloway/Tom Gillies	X		X			
7	Northern Indiana Schutzhund Club	Thomas Quaka/Veronica Hoff/Cynthia Russell	X			X		
8	O.G. Buckeye Schutzhund Club	Marcus Hampton/Dominic Scarberry	X					
9	O.G. Indianapolis Schutzhund und Polizei	Mike Diehl/Carolyn Daniel/Jeff Lawless	X					
10	South Michigan Schutzhund & Police Club	Lisa Clark/Sean Murphy/Donna Trouten	X		X			
11	3 Rivers Working Dog Association	Ron Byers/Ken Hilty/Ron Stokes				X		
7	NEW ENGLAND REGION							
1	Baystate Police and Schutzhund Club	Pia Blackwell						
2	Empire Working Dog Club	Debra Zappia/Patricia Bonino/Jody Potter		X	X			
3	O.G. Boston Schutzhund Club	Karen MacIntyre/Chris Banke/John Horan			X			
4	Ocean State Schutzhund Club	Ron Fox	X		X			
5	Outkast Schutzhund Club	Claudia Romard	X		X			
6	Quinebaug Schutzhund Club	Don Yelle/Ivana Karlsen	X		X			
7	Southern New Hampshire Working Dog Club	Elizabeth Lindblom/Dee Clark	X		X			
7	NORTH CENTRAL REGION							
1	Hauptstadt Schutzhund Verein	Shannon Robertson	X		X			
2	Indian Creek Schutzhund Club	Denise Piccici/Chris Hruby/Jennifer Acevedo	X		X			
3	Northern Illinois Schutzhund Club	Chris Olson	X		X			
4	O.G. Bierstadt Schutzhund Club	Gordon Esselmann/Dorothy Esselmann/Angie Fink	X		X			
5	St. Croix Valley Schutzhund Verein	Anne Conroy/Sharon West	X		X			
6	Ten Thousand Lakes Schutzhund Club	Joe Huntley/Dave Fletcher	X		X			
7	Turner Junction Working Dog Club	Robert Miller/Steve Zorn						
8	NORTHEASTERN REGION							
1	Alpha K9 Schutzhund Club	Carlos Rojas						
2	Blitzberg Hundesport Club	Pedro Jimenez/Glyn Clayton	X					
3	Free Dog!! Schutzhund Club	Nate Harves	X			X		
4	Greater Washington DC Schutzhund Group	Rick Burgos						
5	Metro Richmond Schutzhund Club	Bernard Stringer						
6	Nanjemay Renegade Rebels	Fernando Stanford/Steve Meyer				X		
7	Pine Barrens Schutzhund Club	Lena Melendez/John Donnelly						
8	Rivanna Schutzhund & Police Club	Ron Harris/Armin Winkler	X		X			

GENERAL BOARD MEETING DELEGATE LIST – 2009

Attachment 2
(Revised)

3	NORTHWESTERN REGION							
1	Menlo Park Schutzhund Club	Mike Ruckman	X	X				
2	San Jose German Shepherd Dog Club	Carol Beasley/Terry Macias	X	X				
3	South County Schutzhund Club	Martin Vollrath/Thomas Vollrath/David Delesseigues	X	X				
2	PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION							
1	Big Sky Schutzhund Club	Warren Jones/Glenn Stephenson/Samie Jones						
2	Cascade Schutzhund Verein	Nia Cottrell	X	X				
5	SOUTH CENTRAL REGION							
1	Buena Vista Working Dog Club	Adrian Ledda/Rita Ledda						
2	Central Texas Schutzhund Club	Kat Richard/Rene Gelsomino/Paul Robertson						
3	Greater Houston Schutzhund Club	Larry Vinzant/Jim Fallon						
4	Lone Star Schutzhund Club	Jessy Gabriel/Rob Dunn	X	X				
5	San Gabriel Hund Verein	Chris Aucoin	X	X				
5	SOUTHEASTERN REGION							
1	Coal Mountain Schutzhund Associaton	Dennis Vander Linde	X	X				
2	Fayetteville Schutzhund Club	Floyd Wilson/Bobbie Wilson	X					
3	Georgia-Lina Schutzhund Club	Teresa Hendrix	X	X				
4	O.G. Volmarstein Schutzhund Club	Bobbie Wilson/Floyd Wilson	X	X				
5	South Metro Atlanta Schutzhund Club	Chris Meverden/Cedric Greene/Wallace Payne	X	X				
7	SOUTHWESTERN REGION							
1	Aztec Schutzhund Club	Kris Taylor/Tyler Pluss	X	X				
2	Golden State Schutzhund Club	Marie Weller/Lionel Madden	X	X				
3	Phoenix Schutzhund Club	Bob Johantgen/Robin Caviglia						
4	Scottsdale Schutzhund Club	Kris Taylor	X	X				
5	Somis Schutzhund Club	Kathy Moacanin/Craig Groh	X	X				
6	Southwest Working Dog Association	Nathaniel Roque						
7	Sunland Schutzhund Club	Johannes Grewe/Loni Grewe	X	X				
67	SUBTOTAL (Club Delegates)	Current Club Total – 186 (205) / Quorum – 38	48	1	41	4	0	0
87	GRAND TOTAL		64	2	58	6	0	0