

United Schutzhund Clubs of America

Board of Inquiry

Re: Findings of charges against North Central Regional Board Members, Regional Director Deb Krsnich, Assistant Regional Director Trisha Wicklund, Treasurer Angeli Modjeski, and Secretary Taylor Prchal.

Date: December 20, 2020

Charges and Investigation

Charges were filed by Max Artemchik against North Central Board (NCR) members Deb Krsnich, Trisha Wicklund, Angeli Modjeski, and Taylor Prchal. He alleged they are guilty of violating USCA bylaw Section 6, part c, by holding an election in an even numbered year. He further alleged that the election was improper and rigged because the Board members were allowed to vote along with club delegates and three clubs were allowed to vote by proxy while no other club was given this opportunity. The only contested position was Regional Breed Warden. The two people running for this position were Deb Krsnich and Kimberli Ward. The Regional Guidelines and the Helper Pre Selection Notes were also presented and voted on.

The BOI read all the responses from the four NCR board members and investigated further by interviewing the complainant and all four NCR Board members. All four NCR Board members claimed they were unaware they were violating USCA Bylaw Section 6, part c and the evidence showed that the region had been conducting elections in even numbered years for at least eight years. Also, evidence shows there is much precedent of the NCR Board members voting with the Regional Director voting as a tie breaker. This is violating USCA Bylaw Section 6, part 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 the votes cast by full member clubs in good standing in a mail ballot election.*

As for the proxy voting, Deb Krsnich stated that she was responsible for this. The other Board members knew nothing about the proxy voting until the meeting started. Deb Krsnich contacted three clubs she knew and arranged for three of her club members from Fox Valley to vote by proxy for them. She stated that she made sure the clubs voting preferences were made known to the people who acted as their proxies. She admitted that not all clubs in the region were contacted and given the opportunity to have someone vote for them. Her reasoning for planning the proxy voting was to ensure they had a quorum at the meeting.

Findings and Conclusion

The USCA Board of Inquiry interviewed the complainant, read the responses from all four accused NCR Board members, and also interviewed all four NCR Board members. We have determined the following:

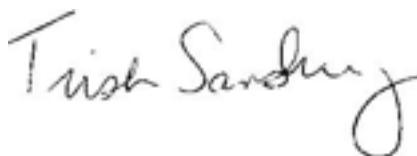
1. The NCR Board unknowingly and without malice violated USCA bylaw Section 6, part c, which requires elections to be held in odd numbered years. There was also precedent of this for years.
2. The NCR Board unknowingly and without malice violated USCA bylaw Section 6, part e. Allowing board members to cast votes during election is a violation of this bylaw.
3. There was no evidence of malice when Deb Krsnich solicited proxy votes from only three clubs, just lack of judgement. At the very least, every club should have had the opportunity to have a proxy vote. Although there is nowhere in USCA Bylaws that states proxy voting is allowed.

Recommendation

The USCA Board of Inquiry recommends the following:

1. The North Central Region election and voting at the 2020 Regional Meeting shall be null and void.
2. The North Central Region shall redo the election for all Board members using E-Ballot voting within one month of accepting the BOI Determination. This will include soliciting and accepting nominations for all positions. The people elected will hold this office until 2023.
3. The North Central region shall redo the voting for approval of the Regional Guidelines by E-Ballot voting within one month of accepting the BOI Determination.
4. The North Central Region shall redo the voting for approval of the Helper Pre Selection Notes by E Ballot voting within one month of accepting the BOI Determination.
5. The results of these E Ballots shall be reported to the USCA Board of Inquiry immediately.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Trish Sansbury", enclosed within a rectangular box.

Trish Sansbury

Chair, USCA Board of Inquiry