

May 27, 2010 AWDF Annual Meeting

Meeting began @ 8:22am EDT

In attendance:

President - Albert Govednik Vice President. - Lyle Roetemeyer
Treasurer- Sean O'Kane Secretary - Michelle Testa (via phone)
Executive Directors Glenn Stephenson, Dyan Harper, Vera Reeves

Club represented by Delegates:

FedAB. Rhonda Moses, USA –Johannes Grewe, USRC – Dan Williams,
WRSF- Ann Dolan, LV/DVG Amer. - Carole Patterson, AWMA – Anne Camper
NAWATA – Marcia Govednik, USBA - Mark Chase, & Hud Darrah
WPBTCA – Rondrell Marshal (late), AHNA – Barbara Baker
WBRTCA Patty Bartley, Anne Mare Chaffin, NAWBA Carol Walker
Clubs absent: UDC, USMRA NARA, WDSH, SACCI,

Presidents Report read to the attendees by President Albert Govednik

Welcome sport friends,

This past year was quite busy and eventful for our organization. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone particularly Vice President Lyle Roetemeyer, Secretary Michelle Testa and Treasurer Sean O'Kane who consistently work hard in making our federation a success.

Our federation is growing. I have had the opportunity to work with several member clubs during this past term, and I would like to think we have solidified these clubs while working through some issues. We also have four new clubs seeking membership within our federation.

I would like to thank Mr. Mike Diehl and the OG Indianapolis Schutzhund and Polizei club for hosting our 2010 AWDF championship.

Some of the things we accomplished this year include the standardization of score books within our federation. This has been a long project, and we still have to work out some details. I am very confident working with one score book throughout our federation will be a real good addition to our federation members. Unification of our score books just makes everything so much easier for our judges, trial secretaries, record keeping, etc.

Last December, the AWDF was again invited to the FCI working commission judges workshop. This event was held at the new DVG headquarters, and our host Christa Bremmer, was fantastic. Johannes Grewe, Craig Groh and myself attended this meeting located in Hemmer Germany. Frans Jansen, Wilfried Schapermeier, Robert Markschlager, Eberhard Uekoetter, and Gunter Diegel all lead discussions relating to judging and rules interpretations. It is very important for us to continue to attend these meetings, as we have been allowed to express our opinions. That's quite an important relationship because in America, our member clubs are the protectors of the breeds that were developed by our European friends.

The RH (Search and Rescue) program is growing in America. Stephanie Dunion, & 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 the AVP of the AKC's performance committee, Doug Ljunggren. I have been assured that the AKC is well aware of our organization. I'm of the opinion Mr. Ljunggren feels as if we are the best qualified SchH based club in America, however with the way the AKC runs their programs, clubs, etc; it would be quite difficult to work with one another.

I had the pleasure of meeting FCI Vice President Karl Reisinger while in Austria. I was able to spend some time with Mr. Reisinger, who is also a working dog man. He is well aware of the strength of our federation. Mondioring is making great strides internationally, and our people are very involved in this process, and are working hand in hand with the FCI.

A real highlight was that our FCI IPO Team finished 5th in the world. I had the pleasure of being a team captain, and a better group of people representing America would have been hard to find. Our team consisted of Phil Hoelcher, Carlos Rojas, Lisa Jacquin, Mark Natinski, Beth Bradley, & Frank Phillips.

There will be a new international rule book 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 to be presented to the FCI delegate body in the spring.

There is also a proposal that a handler must present a recognized score book from THEIR country, in order to compete in a world championship. (as an example a SV scorebook for a GSD living in America would not be acceptable).

All countries, even FCI countries do not have invitations to FCI working dog events.

FCI IPO Championship will be held on Sept 16-19 Finland.

We lost two great supporters of our federation this past year. I considered both dear friends. Eberhard Strasser, the past FCI working commission president, was a driving force for the working dog for many years. I considered Eberhard not only a friend but also a mentor. My closest SchH buddy was Mark Przybylski. Mark truly was a working dog man, and we are in strong national and international positions because of the work these men did on our behalf.

In closing, I would like to thank our membership for all of the support I have received in my past term, and my good friend Mark Przybylski for all of the memories.

Al Govednik

President AWDF

Vice Presidents report read to attendees by Vice President Lyle Roetemeyer

Since being elected as your AWDF Vice President three years ago, I have helped President Al Govednik on any project whenever asked. Prior to my election as Vice President, I served USA and the AWDF as a delegate to this board for several years. Since Al Govednik's first term as President of the AWDF; I have witnessed the AWDF come together and work as one for the betterment of the working breeds and the public acceptance of our breed surveys, tests and sports as being vital to the proper temperament and structure for the working dogs that are represented by our federation. President Al Govednik has continued to build friendships and support for the purpose of furthering the goals of the AWDF both nationally and internationally. He is respected throughout the world as the leader of our American Working Dog Federation. I have personally witnessed Al both here and in Europe representing the AWDF first and foremost with no agenda for personal gain. Without his continued unselfish work on all of our member club's behalf, we would not have been able to achieve many of the successes that are now accepted as the norm. Thank you Al!

I feel, without question, that we have been successful in furthering the goals of protecting the working heritage of our beloved working breeds, the breed evaluations and dog sports with which we are all actively involved. The AWDF continues to grow and as we grow we must continue to be true to our working breeds that our individual clubs represent. Continuing to build a strong future for our breed and sport clubs lies in our understanding of loyalty to the goals of the Federation and our ability to work with and support all member clubs of the AWDF. Enabling these goals starts with each one of our individual AWDF member clubs. It is important that those that are selected by their organizations to serve the AWDF in any capacity; whether it is as an officer, delegate, committee member, trial helper, etc.; continue to be given the positive support they need from the club they are representing in addition to the Federation as a whole.

As we continue to work together to build a strong future, we should continue our adherence to the FCI standards for structure and temperament. We must support our fellow member clubs in their efforts to promote the goals of the AWDF. We must respect each club's need to provide the best opportunities for their members. But at the same time, we must remain steadfast to our loyalty to the federation by not doing business with those organizations whose policies are not in the best interest of the AWDF. I ask each of you to continue to support the AWDF as the driving force that

it has become in helping our member clubs gain both national and international recognition and support.

For twenty plus years, the efforts of this Federation to protect and preserve our working breeds and breed evaluations have continued to ensure that our future generations will be able to experience the joy of owning a working dog with true working temperament. I hope and pray that as a federation we will never lose our focus in maintaining the proper temperament of our beloved breeds as working dogs.

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

Lyle Roetemeyer
AWDF Vice President

Secretary's report

Sean and Al asked that everyone review the minutes that had been handed out. Al asked if any one had any questions.

Vera made the motion to accept the May 11th Teleconference minutes in to record. Johannes seconded the motion to accept the minutes in to record. None were opposed to the motion.

May 11, 2010 TC minutes were accepted

Treasurer's Report

Sean stated that the budget is on the back page of the booklet everyone received. Any questions please see him.

Al G. welcomed the European Judges in attendance and thanked them for being a part of our event this year. Clemente Grosso and Robert Markschläger

Elections

President: Nomination of Al Govednik.

Carol Walker moved for nominations from the floor to close, Lyle seconded the motion, Al Govednik is elected President unanimously--uncontested

Treasurer: Nomination of Sean O'Kane. Carol Walker moved for nominations from the floor to close, Lyle seconded the motion, Sean O'Kane is elected Treasurer unanimously / uncontested

Director at Large:

Listed on the ballot for voting:

Vera Reeves, Glenn Stephenson, Sandi Purdy & Jay Swearingen

All resumes were included in the booklet handed out to all delegates and board members.

Sean distributed the ballot. Al recommended reading through the nominations. Johannes noted that nominees were not put forward by their organizations. Al let Johannes know that this was already discussed at the May 11th Conference call and is in the May 11th minutes. The topic will be handled in the changes proposed later in the meeting.

Al suggested that we talk about the clubs to be accepted while people reviewed the bio of the candidates.

The Cane Corso, Dutch Shepherd and NARA clubs are absent from the meeting. The Black Russian Terrier group talked about why they should be accepted. The club has been growing over the past year and a half. Included in the information stated by the WBRTCA was information on their breed suitability test. The club plans on hosting a seminar in August to go through how to judge. At nationals they will put on demonstration of the breed suitability test to the club, and will use FCI judges for conformation. The club has relationships with breeders in Europe. Glenn asked if they are corresponding with clubs elsewhere, response was yes just are not affiliated with them as of yet. Have 25 members. Have a good relationship with the AKC breed club. Al asked if they have judge's program, the response was directed back to the seminar being planned in August.

Sean O'Kane made the motion to accept American Working Black Russian Terrier Club of America, second by Michelle Testa. – Motion accepted

Carole Walker NAWBA mentions that it is a great opportunity for AWDF to work closely with a growing organization.

Sandy Purdy from LV/DVG America mentions that to vote on a club a delegate needs to be here to represent the club. Due to the other 3 clubs absence, Al asks to keep them as guests, Glenn agrees. Sean moves to keep Cane Corso, Dutch Shepherd, NARA as guests to be voted on next year. Michelle comments that SACCI hasn't been present at the annual meetings now 3 yrs in a row as well as being absent for most conference calls. The C& B/L state that clubs missing two years in a row have a penalty.) Michelle will send letter to SACCI to inform them. Barbara Baker second. – Motion passed

Sandy wanted to make it known that members from the two other clubs were here at the event but didn't come to the meeting, and that it doesn't send the right message about their interest in being part of the federation.

Elections cont. : Al asked the nominees present to make comments.

Glenn asked to make comments. Johannes asked Glenn what breed organization he represented/nominated him, Al responded again reminding Johannes that this subject is contained in a by-law change to be discussed later in the meeting. Vera Reeves made comments. Sandy Purdy made comments. Al asked if there were any nominations from the floor and none were posed. Al recommended for people to read resume of Jay Swearingen. Ballot was distributed.

Results:

Vera Reeves elected as DAL

Tie between Glenn Stephenson and Sandy Purdy

A re- ballot issued

Results:

Glenn Stephenson is elected as DAL 10/8

Al mentioned that we all agreed to honor each other's sanctions. It is important to let all organizations know. In order for it to be effective a club should contact the AWDF secretary with formal information and a signed letter of the sanctions.

Al went over new regulations for declaring for the FCI team as distributed in the packet of material.

Item #9; Glenn commented on this point, # 10 handles this, do we really need #9? Al commented that the comment in #10 that deals with issues with withdrawing will be reasonable. Glenn moved to accept the new regulations with the amendment to remove #9, second by Sean motion passed. The Board thanked Michelle Testa and Bill Bimrose for their time and efforts on this revision. The new regulations will be effective for then next year's qualifications

Federation American Bulldog - update

FedAB President Rhonda Moses gave an update on the reformation of the Federation of American Bulldog. They are trying to have a conference call with their interested membership in the near future. NWBA has been asked to send FEDAB a copy of incorporation papers. They have yet to receive them. NWBA recently had a trial that titled other breeds.

Board of Inquiry

Nominations from the floor: Bill Harper, DVG; Carole Patterson, DVG; Christopher Smith, AWMA; Frank Phillips, USA; Patty Bartley, WBRTCA; Ann Dolan, WRSF; Marcia Govednik, NAWATA. Dyan Harper moved to close nominations, Patty Barley second. The motion passed. All were elected unanimously. Marcia Govednik and Ann Dolan agreed to be alternates. BOI Chairperson is Carole Patterson

AWDF Dues increase

Al Govednik brought up the topic of a dues increase to AWDF.

Dues are currently \$200/yr and \$0.75 per member.

Carole Patterson asked what would \$0.25 increase per person be?

Sean commented that it wouldn't be that much of an increase and only DVG and USA would provide more money.

Sean suggests raising club dues because each club has a delegate and a vote. An increase to \$300 would provide about \$1000 for the AWDF. There would be comments that it would hurt some small clubs.

The old system used to be \$500 per club, no fee per member.

Glenn Stephenson suggested \$350. Sandy Purdy stated \$350 might be too much with the economy. Carole Walker states NAWBA has had a decline in membership, but budget in good shape so increase of \$100 may not be an issue – There was a suggestion of a scaled fee based on five year average of membership.

Sean clarified that each club has the same representation, so dues should be equal. Glenn Stephenson moved to have \$100 increase per club, second by Lyle Roetemeyer. Motion passed. Dues increase will be effective in 2011.

Constitution and by-law change.

Sean O'Kane asked to amend Article VI A to add "All members running for an elected position within the AWDF must have the approval (later discussion changed this to endorsement) of the member organization they represent. A letter from the member's organization signed by the President will serve as proof of such approval (later changed this to endorsement)." Johannes wants it to say that the member organization nominates the nominee. Glenn recommends change to "endorse." This would then also change the form to say that the person has the endorsement of the member's organization. Vera stated that the club can deny or support a nomination, to be done by discussion within the individual organizations.

Second amendment:

Glenn had question about A, strike "or the President may appoint members to these positions if they no longer wish to fill the position." Also change last sentence to have "2/3 vote of voting delegates present to open nominations from the floor." Motion made to accept the amendments as read by Patty Bartley, second by Carole Patterson, passed unanimously.

Article VI. Officers.

- A. The Executive Committee is elected at the annual meeting of the General Board by a majority vote of the current General Board. Any member of a regular member club is eligible for these offices. The nominations committee prepares a slate for the General Board to consider; individuals may also be nominated from the floor.

Suggested change to: Article VI. Officers

The Executive Committee is elected at the annual meeting of the General Board by a majority of the current General Board. Any member of a member club is eligible for these positions. These members must be in good standing with their member club as well as with the AWDF. The nominations committee will prepare a slate of candidates for the General Board to consider. All nominees must fill out a petition for nomination form and it must be submitted 45 days prior to the General Board Meeting. Nominees may submit a resume to the Nominating Committee to be posted on the AWDF website. If no petitions are taken out for the upcoming vacancies the people currently holding these offices may remain in place or the President may appoint members to these positions if they no longer wish to fill the position. Nomination from the floor would only be allowed if these position could not be filled from above methods. It would then take a 2/3 vote from the General Board to open the nominations to the floor.

Motion approved change to: Article VI. Officers

The Executive Committee is elected at the annual meeting of the General Board by a majority of the current General Board. Any member of a member club is eligible for these positions. These members must be in good standing with their member club as well as with the AWDF. The nominations committee will prepare a slate of candidates for the General Board to consider. All members running for an elected position within the AWDF must have the endorsement of their member organization. A letter from that organization signed by its President will serve as proof of such endorsement. All nominees must fill out a petition for nomination form and it must be submitted 45 days prior to the General Board Meeting. Nominees may submit a resume to the Nominating Committee to be posted on the AWDF website. Nomination from the floor would only be allowed if these positions could not be filled from above methods. A 2/3 vote from the voting delegates present at the General Board meeting is required to open the nominations from the floor.

Article VII – Nominating committee amendment

There was a question as to whether committee members need the same endorsement as officers (as in Article VI above) or just be members in good standing? Johannes wants to be sure that everyone represents their clubs and not just themselves. Dan Williams recommended that we avoid micromanaging stating that filling committees is difficult. Lyle agrees with Johannes because it is possible that someone can end up in an organization where it may be unknown that they were a problem in another prior organization; this is policing of who can serve. Vera also disagrees with self nominations. There was discussion that the people nominated to serve on AWDF's nominating committee should be approved by their respective member club's boards. Sean says this gives more power back to the organizations. Lyle said that this would mean that if someone is nominated from floor they must still have a letter of endorsement. Johannes moved to accept this as written: "All members running for the nomination committee within the AWDF must have the endorsement of the member organization they represent. A letter from the member organization signed by the President will serve as proof of such endorsement." Seconded by Vera. Unanimous. This entirely replaces Article VII.

Article VII. Committees

- A- a Nominations Committee. The nominations committee assembles a slate of candidates to fill existing or upcoming vacancies among the officers or at-large Executive Committee members. The Secretary circulates the slate to the General Board at least 30 days before the annual meeting. This committee is elected on even numbered years.

Suggested change to: Article VII. Committees

A - a. Nominations Committee. The nominations committee assembles a slate of candidates to fill existing or upcoming vacancies among officers, at-large executive committee members and committee members. These candidates must be in good standing with their member club as well as the AWDF. All nominees must fill out a petition for nomination form and it must be submitted no later than 45 days prior to the General Board Meeting. Nominees may submit a resume to the Nominating Committee to be posted on the AWDF website. The Secretary will circulate to the slate of candidates to the General Board at least 30 days before the annual meeting. This committee is elected on even years.

Motion approved change to: Article VII A- a. Committees

A- a. The nominations committee assembles a slate of candidates to fill existing or upcoming vacancies among the officers or at-large Executive Committee members. . All nominees must fill out a petition for nomination form and it must be submitted no later than 45 days prior to the General Board Meeting. Nominees may submit a resume to the Nominating Committee to be posted on the AWDF website. The Secretary circulates the slate to the General Board at least 30 days before the annual meeting. This committee is elected on even numbered years. All members running for the nomination committee within the AWDF must have the endorsement of the member organization they represent. A letter from the member organization signed by the President will serve as proof of such endorsement.

Submissions for 2011 AWDF Championship

Lyle Roetemeyer USA and John Whittenan of Motor City Working Dogs / AWMA club, are working on a bid submission. Location may be Bowling Green, Kentucky. They have two high school stadiums under consideration.

Al wants to also consider situations where a stadium isn't necessary similar to this year's event, It is important to have the right field conditions.

Sandy commented that DVG is considering not using a stadium anymore because of cost. The AWDF board should approve the site, Ron Marshall stated that people who compete internationally need stadium experience. Glenn said that AWDF should have an events committee to review the submitted sites and there have been site reviews in the past. The hope is that more organizations and clubs will be willing to host the event.

Dan Williams has announcement from USRC. Helpers working national events must have a classification from an AWDF membership club, regional or Level 2 classification.

Move to adjourn, motion by Sean, second by Lyle 10:25am