

## April 7, 2011 Annual Meeting Minutes

Meeting began 8:08 am CST

Secretary announces that this meeting will be recorded

Roll Call:

Attendance:

Pres.: Al Govednik, Vice President: Lyle Roetemeyer

Secretary: Michelle Testa, Treasurer: Sean O'Kane (late)

Executive Delegates: Dyan Harper, Glenn Stephenson (via phone)

### Member Clubs & Delegate attendance

United Doberman Club – Tammy Weldon

United States Rottweiler Club - Dan Williams

United Schutzhund Clubs of America - Frank Phillips

Working Riesenschнауzer Federation - Tim Nyx,

North American Working Bouvier Association – Carol Walker , Charles Price

United States Mondioring Association – Lisa Geller

American Working Malinois Association - Anne Camper

Federation American Bulldog - Rhonda Moses

Working Pit Bull Terrier Club of America – Ron Marshall (late)

N A Working Airedale Terrier Association - Marcia Govednik

LV/DVG America – Bill Harper

Working Black Russian Terrier Club of America Patty Bartley, Anne Marie Chaffin

North American Ring Association (guest member) Dave Kroyer

Working Dutch Shepherd Association (guest member) Michelle Testa to read on behalf of WDSA President Les Flores

### Absent from the meeting:

Executive Director - Vera Reeves

United States Boxer Association

Authentic Hovawarts of North America

The Society in America for the Cane Corso Italiano

### President Report:

President Govednik asked that all cell phones be on vibrate or turned off and read his report to the attendees.

Sport friends,

As always I would like to begin by thanking our host club, Motor City Working Dog Club, their parent organization, the AWMA, and the community of Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Thanks also go out to fellow judges Pentti Rapila from Finland, and Marcus Neutz from Germany. To date this is our largest championship event, and that is certainly a credit to everyone involved.

I have had the pleasure of being the American Working Dog Federation president since 2004. During this time we have made great strides in relation to the working dog in America and abroad. We currently have 14 member clubs and 3 guests clubs in our federation, and are working on increasing the size of a few others. I would like to thank my executive board, the USA, and specifically Lyle Roetemeyer, for all of the help, and support throughout. As a federation, we have all kinds of potential, but again without strong USA support we wouldn't have gained the recognition, and respect that we enjoy today.

I would like to clarify a few things. The FCI is the umbrella organization for all of Europe. The VDH, ie the German Kennel club is member of the FCI. The SV, and the DVG are members of the VDH. The AWDF is loosely modeled after the FCI, in that we are the umbrella organization for our federation clubs, USA, DVG, AWMA, etc. Our members are those people that are supporting the European breeding programs, and our European friends have recognized that fact.

Some of the accomplishments that we have made during this time include, most of our USA judges have become either FCI, and or SV recognized. The federation submits the names of our helpers for international consideration. Opportunities exist now for our members to participate and place in all FCI world championship events. These include IPO, IPOFH, and RH world championships. Of note here is that all countries (even FCI countries) do not have an invitation to FCI working commission events. We have worked to create a standardized score book throughout our federation. This is quite important because it is now required to have a score book from the country you live in to participate internationally. As an example you must use USA stamped AWDF score book to compete on our FCI world

championship team even if the dog is a German import with a SV score book. We have also developed our own working dog program, the AWD, and is going strong. For several years now we have had people working from within our federation fighting BSL's, and other legislations that would inhibit our sport. Lastly we have developed a strong working relationship with the FCI working commission. This helps us with rules, rule interpretations, securing judges, and numerous other things.

Last December, the AWDF was again invited to the FCI working commission judge's workshop. This event was held just outside of Madrid Spain. Karen MacIntyre and I attended this meeting.

Frans Jansen, Robert Markschlager, Edgar Shirkl, Piere Walstrum and Gunter Diegel all lead discussions relating to judging and rules interpretations. This was an important meeting in that these men were the writers of the upcoming rule changes that we will start using in January 2012.

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.

I am proud to announce that our 2010 FCI IPO Team finished 3rd in the world. I had the pleasure of being the team captain, and a better group of people representing America would have been hard to find. Our team consisted of Phil Hoelcher, Sean O'Kane, Lisa Jacquin, Ann Rammelsberg, John Soares. Mike Diehl & Jose Rodriguez played a major role in helping our team while we were in Finland as well.

There will be a new international rule book in 2012. It was quite nice to be consulted regarding some of the changes by the FCI working commission during the revamping of the rules.

The FCI working commission has made a ruling relating to how a team is governed during an event. The dog/handler team is under the jurisdiction of the hosting organization from the time they hand in their scorebooks, until the time the scorebooks are returned. This includes time away from the stadium. This was a result of several unfortunate incidents involving competitors from other countries.

If at any time a dog shows inappropriate behavior, such as Biting or dog aggression, that dog is to be dismissed from the competition.

While in Finland I was approached by the Swedish kennel club asking if we would be interested in becoming involved with the Nordic Championships. This event features Messenger Dog work, Obedience, and Protection. The style of these disciplines is being reworked to become more similar to the new IPO rules. I felt we would have people that would certainly be interested in this type of competition as well.

The 2011 FCI IPOFH championship will be held in Croatia from April 14-17

The 2011 FCI IPO championship will be held in Germany from September 8-11

Please check the AWDF website [www.AWDF.net](http://www.AWDF.net) for updates concerning our FCI team selection process.

Al Govednik

AWDF President

The President added to his report:

The name for our sport will become universally known as IPO beginning 2012.

In closing Al G. asked that all Executive board members and delegates at this year's event to be on alert. Pay attention to dog and handler behavior and to speak up if problems or misconduct should arise.

### Vice President Report:

Lyle Roetemeyer read his report to the attendees

It has been an honor to represent the member clubs of the American working Dog federation as your Vice President. During my time as the Federation's Vice President, 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 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. We must continue to support each others sanctions against those whose actions would do harm to the federation. Today you will be presented with a proposal to do this appropriately.

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.

We must also consider the need for the AWDF leadership to receive the necessary respect from whoever hosts our Championship. The refusal of the local club to provide copies of contracts to the president and treasurer for this weekend's championship has led to great personal expense to many members, including the AWDF President over the past few days to secure tracking grounds and contracts, tracking articles and other items deemed unnecessary by the hosting club. The AWDF's need to have the host club provide copies of these contracts is imperative to insure that our AWDF Championship is being properly and legally hosted at all venues. The refusal to supply those copies by this year's host exemplifies not only a lack of respect for the federation but a willingness to place their own needs above the best interest of the AWDF who only wishes to insure that the venues for this event have been contracted legally and the necessary materials to host the event are in place.

For twenty plus years, the efforts of this federation to protect and preserve our working breeds and breed evaluations have continued to insure that our future generations will be able to experience the joy of owning a working dog with the 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 and in all walks of your life!

Lyle Roetemeyer  
AWDF Vice President

### Secretary's Report

Michelle Testa began by thanking Judy Johnson for her hard work and continued help with the AWDF website. Judy's quick response to her requests insures that our official website is current.

Michelle asked if any one has a question with the March minutes.

Dyan Harper made a motion to accept the March 14, Teleconference minutes. The motion was seconded

Al G. asked the attendees if anyone was opposed to accepting the minutes as written. None were opposed. All were in favor of accepting the minutes as written. The March 14<sup>th</sup> 2011 meeting minutes were accepted into record.

### Treasurer Report

Sean O'Kane reports that the AWDF account has \$22, 766.12. He stated a second account has approximately \$ 2000; This account is used to wire funds internationally. The Secretary asked that Sean email her a copy of the budget. Sean speaks in regards to his resignation. Sean stated that in the last 6 – 8 months he hasn't given the AWDF the time it needs. He will remain the treasurer for USCA. Al spoke in regards to the new AWDF Treasurer Cathy Markos. She has been on the past few conference calls but due to a serious family situation was unable to attend today's meeting.

### Elections

Vice President

Lyle Roetemeyer- ran uncontested was elected by acclimation

Executive Director at Large

Dyan Harper – ran uncontested and was elected by acclimation

Secretary position candidates: Michelle Testa & Chantal P. Young

There was a review of resumes from the two candidates and a discussion of and by the candidates.

Ms. Young was not present at the meeting. Al G. spoke briefly on her resume mentioning her educational experience and that she speaks several different languages. Lyle asked WRSF delegate Tim Nyx if she is an officer of the Riesenschнауzer club. Tim stated yes, she is the WRSF treasurer. Al G. read Ms. Young's list of references and asked if any of her listed references were available. There were no references from the resume present on her behalf. Tim states that Chantal is qualified to be able to handle the position of Secretary. She is well educated and very flexible.

Al asked the attendees if there were any further questions in regards to Chantal. There were none.

Al then asked Michelle to talk about her re election.

Michelle spoke briefly about her experience and that she would like to continue on as AWDF Secretary. Al asked if she had references present. Michelle stated that Glenn Stephenson was present by phone for the meeting and she presented a letter of recommendation written by Glenn. VP Lyle Roetemeyer read the letter of recommendation on Glenn's behalf.

Al asked if anyone else had any questions for Michelle.

Carol Walker delegate from NAWBA commented on how Michelle has been very responsive and helpful to her as the new person/ delegate to AWDF.

Secretary election results by ballot

Michelle Testa - 13 votes

Chantal P. Young - 5 votes

#### Nominations committee

Al asked for volunteers to this committee. He also questioned that because it is difficult to fill this committee should it become appointed instead of elected. Lyle and Michelle both stated that according to the AWDF Constitution and by-laws it is not allowed. It would require a change in the Constitution and by laws.

Dyan Harper, Patty Bartley, Frank Phillips and Michelle Testa volunteered for the committee

Tim Nyx made the motion to accept the volunteers to the Nomination Committee

Lyle Roetemeyer seconded the motion.

All were in favor and none opposed.

Nomination committee is elected

The AWDF Secretary will send the Nomination Committee the section from the Constitution and By-laws for the committee to read.

#### Events committee

Al stated that this committee will be a lot stronger of a committee going forward. More planning for the AWDF Championship is needed due to the size of the event. More people will be involved going forward. We want to give the best we can provide. Dan Williams from USRC recommended the need for a checklist,/ process to follow.

The AWDF does not have a process or manual in place.

It was stated that FCI working dog event manual, USA manual and the LV/DVG documents are available as a reference. It is important that all paperwork is done in advance. There was discussion of limiting this event.

Suggestions were made for the future:

- a) Going back to the original event of a "team challenge"
- b) Increase to a 4 day event,
- c) Eliminating the IPO1,IPO2 and new titles
- d) Hosting the FH championship on Wednesday and Thursday

Another suggestion was to have set number of slots for each organization, Lisa Geller suggested having certain number of slots per club and those slots that can't be filled be opened up to be filled by other clubs .

Patty Bartley stated that location of where the event will be held may dictate entry numbers?

President Govednik will chair this committee Anne Camper, Patty Bartley, Dave Kroyer, Lyle Roetemeyer, & Carol Walker

Next meeting, the changes in regards to the event can be discussed further

The Secretary read the motion. Lyle Roetemeyer made the motion to accept the Events committee.

The motion was seconded

#### Old Business

##### Guest Clubs

Society in America for the Cane Corso Italiano

3 years in a row have not attended the AWDF GBM. They have paid dues.

Michelle stated that Ish Moore has made the conference calls since he came on board with the SACCI club.

They were suspended last year. As a guest member they do not have voting rights.

Rhonda Clark from Fed AB: explains a situation regarding the submission of membership from a second club.

Does the guest club have a guarantee as a spot as a member with in the AWDF?

The Secretary read from the constitution & by-Laws Article III section - B: membership and application acceptance - C: Guest Status.

There is no procedure in regards to how long a club can stay in guest status of AWDF

The question was raised as to whether SACCI has score books .The answer was yes as they are allowed to compete.

The suggestion was made that a liaison/ mentoring position may need to be applied to mentor them.

Rondell Marshall states he will speak with Ish Moore.

Michelle Testa made the motion that the Society in America for the Cane Corso Italiano to remain as a guest member within AWDF with requirement they are present at the 2012 AWDF annual meeting.

Lyle Roetemeyer seconded the motion

The 2/3 vote was met by a show of hands. There were none opposed to the motion.

Motioned passed. S.A.C.C.I is to remain in guest status.

#### North American Ring Association

Dave Kroyer spoke on behalf of N.A.R.A. Answering a question stated by Dan Williams, Dave Kroyer replied North American Ring Association has over 15 clubs and around 250 members

Al French Kennel Club asked why we did not have French Ring in the AWDF with in a short time NARA contacted Lisa Geller asked about NARA and ARC and that if they both become recognized in France and asked to be a member or if they have a larger organization. AWDF only allows one club. ARC

Dave Kroyer states that ARC is under another Kennel club.

A motion was made by Carol Walker to accept North American Ring Association. The motion was seconded The 2/3 vote was met by a show of hands. There were none opposed to the motion.

Motion passed. North American Ring Association is a full member of the AWDF

#### Working Dutch Shepherd Association

Michelle Testa read a report from President Les Flores to the delegates and board. WDSA President Flores was in Holland attending a meeting with the NHC (Netherlands Hollander Herder Club) and could not be at the AWDF event & meeting.

It was reported that the Working Dutch Shepherd Association is now affiliated with the Werhondengroep de Hollander. This group hosts the Working Dutch Shepherd International Championship for IPO every year. The membership is at 22 full members and there are trials scheduled for this year.

Dyan Harper made the motion to accept the Working Dutch Shepherd Association into the AWDF as a full member

Tim Nyx seconded the motion

The 2/3 vote was met by a show of hands. There were none opposed to the motion.

Motioned passed. Working Dutch Shepherd Association is a full member of AWDF.

#### 2011 Championship conflict for flight schedules

With 120 entries our scheduling will not fit into 3 days If the schedule stands without an adjustment we will be finished at such a late hour in the evening with the last flights beginning as late as 9pm on Friday and Saturday

Suggestion to move the IPO1 and IPO 2 on to adjacent field

This field is in visible view of the IPO3 OB and PRO or distraction from gunfire

Scheduling practice Friday and trial on Saturday

The question was asked if the field was something we could use if the stadium wasn't available.

The answer was yes.

The executive board and delegates agree that in order to improve the schedule and finish the event at a reasonable hour on Sunday is to move the IPO1's and IPO2's to separate field

IPO1 and 2 entries will be notified at draw night and practice schedule will be allowed for these entries on the new field.

If any of these handlers have problems or questions to please see Al Govednik.

#### Judges program for AWDF member clubs

If you would like to do an apprenticeship with a judge from USCA please use the proper procedure and ask permission. You need the USCA DOJ 's permission as well as having permission from the club hosting the trial. The judge must also be a teaching judge.

We have been discussing the development of an AWDF judge program. Things are still in the beginning stages. The details are still being worked out. Dan Williams asks about a time line for this process to have an end results. Al agrees to set a goal to have it solved. Lyle states that the USCA is still discussing the situation.

#### Championship helper restriction policy

This applies only to the AWDF Championship event.

Effective with the 2012 AWDF Championship, no helper selected for the championship may work any dog entered in the event for 14 days immediately preceding the date of the actual competition day of the Championship. Any handler or helper who violates this rule will be subject to discipline and excluded from participating in the championship

Anne Camper made the motion to accept the Helper restriction policy

Dan Williams seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion

Motion passed

Ron Marshall asked who actually made up the helper selection committee and selected the helper for this event.

The Secretary responded:

USCA - Chairperson Dennis Vander Linde, Lyle Roetemeyer & James Laney

LV/DVG – James Akin Otiko

Al also stated that these people have the opportunity to see a lot more of these helpers than him; he also asked that if any one would like to be on any of these committees to please contact him.

#### New Business

##### Club sanctioning policy

A situation arose that a competitor entered the 2011 AWDF Championship through UScA then decided to switch and enter through another club LV/DVG .

He cancelled / stop payment on his check after the check was already deposited into the UScA account.

Lyle mentioned that in the state of TN where this competitor is from this is against the law.

Sean asked that Al bring this up and Al feels that this is unsportsmanlike.

The Secretary stated that she was made aware of the double entry and contacted Pam Niccum of UScA to be sure she was aware of the situation. The Secretary continued that Pam and she weren't sure what this competitor was going to do with his entry fee.

UScA has had this situation happen to them before.

The suggestion was made that this is a BOI situation either through the AWDF or UScA

Patty Bartley states that someone broke the law, and we should follow through with charges.

Carol Walker asks if the checks are made out to AWDF. The response was no. Al states that breed clubs are responsible for their entries. She then continues by stating that if that is who the check is made out to the recourse is through UScA. If UScA posts a sanction against this competitor then it would be up to the AWDF member clubs to uphold the sanction.

With this situation; Al just wanted to bring this to everyone's attention so that these situations do not happen again.

The Secretary states that having the online entries made it easy to catch this issue.

A suggestion was made that with the development of the new events procedure this type of situation needs to be addressed. Things need to be clearly spelled out.

Suggestion of additional clauses to be added to the entry forms.

Al asks that the club sanctioning policy to be tabled until the next conference call.

The power point program that Lyle and Al were supposed to bring to the meeting was unavailable.

The Secretary did not receive this power point presentation prior to the meeting.

This program was developed by an attorney.

Anne Camper - Sanction policies need to be some what flexible and be substantiated so individual clubs can make a choice to uphold another clubs sanction

Patty Bartley states that any club not wanting to uphold a sanction maybe submit to the AWDF BOI

Anne camper made the motion to table the Sanctioning police until the next meeting

Carol Walker seconded the motion

All were in favor of the motion – Sanction Policy tabled until next meeting

##### Trophy sponsorship situation

Dan Williams asked about trophy sponsorships and a time line for clubs to receive first refusal.

The events committee should work up a procedure.

A suggestion was made about a deadline for trophy sponsorship for posting on the website

Marcia Govednik states that Jeff Govednik will no longer be involved in the trophy sponsorships.

Submission bids for 2012 AWDF Championship

There were no submissions to the Secretary prior to the annual meeting

Both the Cumberland Valley Schutzhund Club and Ron Marshall of Commonwealth Working Dog Club expressed interest.

Al Govednik. in closing states that the things we talked about are actually positive problems.

Al asks that if anyone sees something that needs to be done please step up. Let's leave this place better than we found it.

A motion to adjourn was made by Lyle Roetemeyer and is seconded by Carol Walker. All who were present were in favor. The meeting closed 10:30 am cst