

## May 31, 2011 Conference Call Minutes

Meeting began 8:10pm CST

### **Attendance:**

**Pres.:** Al Govednik **Secretary:** Michelle Testa **Treasurer:** Sean O'Kane

**Executive Delegates:** Vera Reeves, Dyan Harper (late)

Cathy Markos (incoming Treasurer)

### **Member Clubs & Delegate attendance**

**United States Boxer Association** - Mark Chase

**United Doberman Club** - May Jacobson Wendy Schmidt

**United States Rottweiler Club** Dan Williams

**United Schutzhund Clubs of America** – Craig Groh

**North American Working Bouvier** – Carol Walker

**American Working Malinois Association** - Anne Camper

**Federation American Bulldog** -, Parker Barnette

**Working Pit Bull Terrier Club of America** - Ron Marshall

**LV/DVG America** - Carole Patterson

**Working Black Russian Terrier Club of America** - Patty Bartley, Ann Marie Chaffin

**Working Dutch Shepherd Association** - Les Flores

**The Society in America for the Cane Corso Italiano** - Ish Moore

### **Absent from the call:**

**Vice Pres.:** Lyle Roetemeyer

**Working Riesenschauzer Federation** - Tim Nyx, Chantal P. Young

**North American Ring Association** - Dave Kroyer

**Authentic Hovawarts of North America** - Barbara Baker

**United States Mondioring Association** – Lisa Geller

**N A Working Airedale Terrier Association** - Marcia Govednik

### **Guest on the call**

Nathaniel Roque - UScA Director of Judges

### **President Report:**

2011AWDF event

Al.G. stated that the event had one the largest entries with some really nice performances. He concluded that until all the finances from the event are complete he will hold off on speaking further in regards to the event

Craig Groh asked Al why he is not reporting on the 2011 AWDF event. Al replied that he would like to have everything finished up before he will give a report. Al mentioned that he may discuss this under new business.

### **Vice President Report:**

Nothing to report

**Treasurer Report** – Sean states that he has not resigned yet as he wants to close up all the financials from the 2011 AWDF event before he hands over the treasury to Cathy Markos.

The AWDF account has as of today \$12,719.23 & the second account still contains \$2000. Sean continues that he still has approximately \$1000 in checks to deposit and there are still monies due in from our annual event.

All bills are paid and up to date.

Patty Bartley asks Sean if he would please deposit the WBRTcA check as soon as possible so she can have it off her account. Sean apologizes stating that he will get to the bank to make deposits so as soon as possible. He continues by letting the call attendees know that he had never produced a budget for this past year as well.

Sean apologized and reiterated that this is why he is resigning from the position. He just hasn't had time to do the job correctly.

### **Secretary's Report**

April 7, 2011 annual meeting minutes

Carole Patterson made the motion to accept the annual meeting minutes into record. Carol Walker seconded the motion. No one opposed. April 7, 2011 annual meeting minutes were accepted into the record.

### **Old Business**

#### **Judges program**

Al begins the topic by reminding everyone that there will be rule changes in 2012. He would like to do his best to get all AWDF member club judges on the same page to start of the new year and prevent any further misunderstandings over AWDF member clubs using other AWDF member club judges. After speaking with UScA DOJ Nathaniel Roque, UScA has agreed to allow other AWDF member club judges and apprentice judges to attend the UScA judging college being held the first weekend in August.

Frans Jansen from the FCI Working Commission who assisted in putting the new rules together will be heading up the educational event.

Al G. feels this is a great opportunity for the AWDF clubs and appreciates everyone making the effort to attend the call on short notice. Al then asks UScA DOJ Nathaniel Roque to speak further about the event.

Nathaniel R. spoke to the call attendees stating that Al put together this meeting with Frans Jansen. It was to coordinate this event for the AWDF member clubs. This is the reason he had canceled the judges college at the UScA Working Dog Championship in order to have this opportunity to work with Mr. Jansen. Mr. Roque stated that he is happy to invite all the judges and apprentice judges under the AWDF to assist in getting everyone on the same page.

The Judge's College will be held at the UScA Club Machtig Strom SchH Verein on August 5 & 6 2011

Fees for the event are still being worked out. In approximately 7-10 days he should be able to notify the AWDF on the final details.

Hotels and travel are still being worked on as well.

The Judging College will be held on Saturday August 6<sup>th</sup> with a meet and great dinner being held on Friday evening August 5<sup>th</sup>. The program will be mostly administrative with some practical work.

The question was asked as to how many people from each club will be able to attend.

Nathaniel answered that numbers are not a problem but keep it to judges and apprentice judges only. Non judges and committee members will not be allowed. He continued by stating that a DVD has been created for purchase and will notify the AWDF when it is available as well as when he receives the final version of the rule changes.

Mark Chase asked if the FCI executive board approved all the rule changes.

Nathaniel stated yes it is the translations of the rules that are holding things up.

Craig Groh asked if the Canadian judges were invited. Nathaniel responded yes that he has contacted Doug Deacon. It will be up to Mr. Deacon as to which Canadian judges will attend.

Carole Patterson felt that this is a great Idea to have this opportunity and she will contact LV/DVG America – DOJ - Hartmut Beckman in hopes that he will be available to attend.

Carol Walker of NAWBA asked: Since NAWBA does not have a judges program yet what is the time table for the written rules to be received? She continued stating that NAWBA is very much interested in being sure the correct rules and regulations are passed on to her membership.

Nathaniel stated as soon as he receives them he will forward the document to the AWDF.

DOJ Nathaniel Roque was thanked for his time and he signed off the call.

Dan Williams asked if there will be time available for practical judging at the college. He suggested that it would be a good time to have several breeds available so judges can have the opportunity to evaluate breeds other than the GSD.

## **New Business**

### **Reciprocity between judges and clubs**

Mark Chase & Ron Marshall felt this subject needed to be addressed.

Wendy Schmidt agreed.

There was an incident a few weeks ago where a WPBTcA judge's title was not accepted by a UScA judge resulting in the handler having to repeat a title the same day they went for a new title.

Al Govednik. stated that everyone has an idea of what they want to see in their individual judges program.

Different clubs have different standards and the Judges' College will assist in setting this standard. We have a couple of clubs forming new judges programs and this college couldn't come at a better time.

Vera suggests that once a basic standard is set this problem should be resolved.

The Secretary mentioned that this incident was a mistake by one judge. The WPBTcA has a program in place that was approved by UScA. They all need to be aware that there are judges in other AWDF member clubs that may not be known. She concluded that it would help if the AWDF had a current list of judges from all the member clubs.

Mark Chase mentioned that the AWDF should follow the VDH standard.

The question was asked as to which clubs will be presenting new judge's programs. Al Govednik stated that the WRSF is currently working on one. Vera Reeves stated that the WRSF will be sending their 2 official WRSF Judges to the UScA College.

Vera continued on stating that the WRSF program is in the works as their European affiliate is requiring that a program be implemented. She concluded that the WRSF program will follow the international rules and will be at an even a higher standard than UScA.. She hopes that the PSK will then accept the WRSF judges once the program is finalized. Vera concluded that the PSK President is in full support of the project.

Carole Patterson stated that she spoke to Christa Bremmer in regards to AWDF member club's apprentice judges apprenticing under LV/DVG America judges. Ms. Bremmer responded stating that as long as the AWDF member club has an international affiliation in Europe then they may do so. Carole Patterson then said she would send Vera the DVG guidelines for the apprentice judging program.

Mark Chase states that USABOX is already allowed to send apprentices to Europe to work under their European club affiliate.

Al G. states that WBRTcA also has a judges program in place.

Ron Marshall returned to the topic at hand concerning his club's judges program. He then voiced his concerns that due to this last situation he felt that the WPBTcA judges would not be taken seriously and it has compromised their program.

Al then asked if Ron Marshall would feel it best to have a conference call between UScA and WPBTcA to further discuss the situation. Ron Marshall agreed.

Dan Williams spoke about how quickly and professional problems his club has had in the past were resolved. Judges need to be on guard and careful about what they say or send out as some may take that information as exact gospel. People may then misinterpret and possibly pass on bad information. Carole Patterson agreed.

Al Govednik. concluded that this situation was a mistake and as soon as we are all on the same page this can all be resolved.

In the end we will all have a better feel as to how all American judges are recognized.

### **Dog Aggression**

Al G. informed the call attendees that there was yet another dog bite incident. This happened at the UScA WDC event.

Bill Bimrose (UScA apprentice judge & AWDF committee member) was bitten severely on his left hand. The bite was unprovoked and happened at tracking. Al states we are all responsible from the club level all the way up to the judges in regards to dogs that can be a danger to others.

The question was asked as to how we can inform people of dog /handler teams that are potentially dangerous.

It was mentioned that UScA has a dog aggression policy in place.

[http://germanshepherddog.com/policy\\_dogaggression.htm](http://germanshepherddog.com/policy_dogaggression.htm)

Mark Chase states that it is the trial secretary's responsibility to inform judges of potential issues.

The response was that most club trial secretaries are not fully informed of the duties of this position.

There was mention of the difficulty of judges being impartial when already being informed of a dog whose temperament may not meet the passing grade.

Craig Groh stated that he checks and reads all competitors score books before judging a trial to be sure there are no issues that would jeopardize anyone's safety. He continued that he has no problem being an impartial judge after reviewing the score books.

### **Jill Makstaller case**

Carole Patterson updated everyone on the LV/DVG situation in regards to Jill Makstaller and her attempt to use a DVG club membership from Germany to enter a Schutzhund trial here in America. The club involved; has been contacted, its board was on vacation and will be addressing the topic at their next meeting. Carole stated they will get back in touch with her soon.

### **\$200 fine for clubs consecutively missing the AWDF annual meeting**

#### **“Article IV**

**N.** If a member club is absent from two consecutive annual meetings, it is considered not in good standing and may not vote or participate in AWDF events. The club must pay a \$200.00 fine to reestablish its good standing status.”

Ish Moore of S.A.C.C.I asked for clarification of the policy and was told his club would have to pay the fine.

The Secretary stated that she was contacted by Eric Storm on 4/20/11 in regards to late dues and she mentioned that SACCI may have to pay a fine (not would have to pay) for missing 2 annual meetings in a row.

### **2012 AWDF Championship event**

Vera Reeves asked if anyone has put in a bid to host the event next year.

The Secretary asked if the events committee had met to discuss the projects discussed at the annual meeting.

Al G. responded that the committee had not met as of yet.

He continued that there had been a couple of clubs that spoke up and showed interest but nothing as of yet has been sent in as a formal bid.

There was a short discussion about what could be done to maintain a doable size event.

Wendy Schmidt stated this 2011 event was so large due to the judges AWDF selected for the event. A number of others agreed.

The secretary made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mark Chase seconded the motion.

All were in favor. The conference call adjourned at 9:30 CST.