

GCA Board Meeting Minutes



Rose Mary Conner

RECORDING SECRETARY

LOMPOC, WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 2001

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

President Sue LeMieux called the regular Board Meeting of the Greyhound Club of America to order at 6:45 P.M. The following Board Members were in attendance:

Donna Arcaro
Rose Mary Conner
Beth Anne Gordon
Mary Ellen Gorske
Sue LeMieux
Shari Mason
June Matarazzo

Also in attendance were Helen Hamilton, Marjorie Leider, Ellen Lowdermilk, Maureen Lucas, and Gloria Reese.

Minutes from the last Board Meeting were approved as published in the Newsletter.

The Recording Secretary read reports for the following board officers and committees: Recording Secretary, AKC Gazette Columnist, Archives, Boutique, Education, Newsletter, Show Site Selection, and Statistician and Performance Awards. All will be published in Fall 2001 GCA Newsletter.

REPORTS

The following reports were accepted as published in the Summer 2001 *Newsletter*: Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, Delegate to AKC, and Judges Selection. A few points were discussed during the Reports that are not included in the reports themselves. They are as follows:

Beth Anne Gordon, Corresponding Secretary, distributed materials submitted by new membership applicants for Board review.

Rose Mary Conner moved "to accept Sheryl Bartel's membership application." The motion was voted on and passed.

In her capacity as Judges' Selection head, Beth Anne Gordon confirmed that contracts for all 6 judges selected are complete. Beth Anne will clarify existing Judges' selection guidelines and present to board.

Helen Hamilton, Health and Versatility Chair, gave an update on her five-year database of Greyhound health issues, with 160 dogs represented. There was a discussion around the legal implications of releasing specific information based on oral vs. written permission and the difference between getting information privately and releasing it in GCA's name, and the difference between individual and aggregate analysis and data.

Mary Ellen Gorske made a motion that "for anything that was sent as health information regarding GCA, no information with regard to name of dog or breeders can be released without written permission from the owner of that dog." Motion voted on and passed.

Sue LeMieux will draw up release form with Helen Hamilton. Beth Anne and Helen will get them out to database contributors. There was no versatility report from Helen.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business

NEW BUSINESS

The first item of new business discussed was the letter received from Mike Liosis, Director of AKC Club Relations, in response to an inquiry made by Rose Mary Conner and June Matarazzo asking for clarification of proper club voting procedures according to AKC guidelines.

Mr. Liosis' letter clearly outlined

the voting powers of the club membership and the Board of Directors. His letter also stated that "Motions made by the members which conflict with the Board of Directors general management power are out of order, and if adopted are null and void".

In a follow-up telephone conversation, Mr. Liosis indicated that before we vote to declare any membership motions or votes null and void, each needed to be studied on an individual basis. The Board felt that it did not want to pursue this line of action and instead agreed to let all prior votes stand. This decision was made out of consideration for the prior efforts of the membership.

Following our discussion about the voting powers of GCA membership and Board as set forth in our Constitution/Bylaws, Shari Mason made a motion that "Effective July 25, 2001, these are the issues which will be decided by the GCA membership as set forth in the GCA Constitution and Bylaws and by current directives of the AKC:

- Voting on applicants who have not been elected by the board
- Petitioning for special club meetings
- Nominating individuals for officer and board positions
- Voting for club officers and board members
- Participating on committees
- Voting to expel a member from the club
- Voting on breed standard revisions
- Bylaw amendments and dissolution of the club

"These are the decisions that will be made by the Board as set forth in the GCA Constitution and Bylaws and by current directives of the AKC:

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All other matters (than those on the above membership voting list) fall under the authority of the Board of Directors, under its general management power."

The motion was seconded by Mary Ellen Gorske, put to a vote, and passed.

The Board's next order of business was to appoint a committee, consisting of Beth Anne Gordon, June Matarazzo, and Marj Leider, to draft a policy that would permit the GCA membership to reconsider a Board decision if they wished to do so.

Mary Trubek has requested that the New Bolton Center in Kennett Square, PA be designated the permanent "default" location for the Eastern unless another site selection proposal is submitted and accepted. This would facilitate better long-term, standardized planning.

Donna Arcaro made a motion that "we name the New Bolton Center the default location of the Eastern Specialty." Passed unanimously.

The work on GCA Officer, Board, Committee Chair, and Committee job descriptions begun by Maggie Bryson needs to be completed. Sue LeMieux will complete this if other Board members will send her any information, guidelines, or job descriptions in their possession.

The *GCA Newsletter* staff has written and distributed to Specialty Show Chairmen new guidelines for providing Specialty coverage materials for *GCA Newsletter*.

Following several requests from the membership, the Board agreed to prepare a list of recommended mentors for GCA Specialties. If anyone has

suggestions for mentors, please email Shari Mason (for contact information, see the Board and Committee listing on page 5 of this *Newsletter*). The head of mentoring for a Specialty should be appointed by the Specialty Chair and approved by the head of the Education Committee.

June Matarazzo (Chair), Dee Dee Colella, and Susan Crutcher were named as the nominating committee for the three open 2002 Board member positions. June will contact and confirm the proposed committee members and solicit the two required alternates and report back to Sue LeMieux.

Shari Mason made a motion "to accept Linda Carlson's dues and check and reinstate her membership in GCA." Motion passed.

June Matarazzo made a motion "to make Mrs. Phillip Fell an honorary lifetime member for all her years of dedication in this breed." Mrs. Fell has been a GCA member since 1958. Motion passed unanimously. Sue asked that any other such issues and opportunities be brought to the Board's attention in the future.

The Recording Secretary shall attempt to populate the GCA membership database with the names of members' original sponsors. These names will be available to any member who needs to communicate with these sponsors for any membership issue.

Eric Liebes, Treasurer, requested that the Board consider whether we should establish GCA financial authority levels, i.e., what money amount can the President authorize without consulting the Board? Following a brief discussion on reimbursement or

case-by-case financial disbursement requests, it was decided not to establish such authorization limits, to continue the current policy of case-by-case Board decisions. No motion was made and the issue was dropped.

GCA is currently almost out of the *Form Follows Function* GCA educational booklets. They are currently sent to all new judges and distributed at seminars, three more of which are scheduled for the rest of this year.

Mary Ellen Gorske made a motion that "we authorize a reprinting of 500 copies of the FFF booklet and that a committee consisting of Mary Trubek, Maureen Lucas, and Sue LeMieux be formed to review the photographs before we print more." Motion passed.

Donna Arcaro made a motion that "we donate \$250 to Greyhound Friends for Life/Susan Netboy for the dogs they rescued in Fresno." Motion passed. Eric Liebes authorized to send this donation.

Cheryl Reynolds recommended via email that the board implement the AKC health surveys that most parent clubs use. Marj Leider spoke to the AKC about this, and they were unfamiliar with such forms, which must come from the Canine Health Foundation. No action was taken at this time.

The use of e-mail for Board communications and voting was discussed and it was agreed that, as long as we follow the guidelines insofar as giving enough time for discussion, response, etc., that e-mail could be used in this manner.

Beth Anne Gordon and Mary Ellen Gorske proposed internal club development of a GCA

Yearbook. They have done a great deal of preliminary research and financial analysis on this project. GCA would have ownership of this project; the go/no go decision would be the Board's. With Board approval, Beth Anne and Mary Ellen will continue as the committee in charge of further investigation and weighing financial scenarios. They will report to the Board at the Eastern, when a vote to further pursue this project or not will be made by the Board.

The issue of developing a new brochure for inquirers about Greyhounds was mentioned. No action will be taken at this time.

Mary Ellen Gorske is experiencing difficulty with the GCA website software and can no longer maintain the website. We need to find someone who can do this and will bring the issue up at general membership meeting.

The Board decided to take no action at this point on the issue of posting GCA material on websites other than GCA's, specifically AKC's website.

Board members agreed not to discuss current GCA Club business on Internet lists.

The board nominated Dr. Robert Smith in the Conformation category and Dean Wright in the Performance category for AKC Lifetime Achievement Awards.

Before entertaining a motion for adjournment, Sue LeMieux asked if there was any other New Business.

Mary Ellen Gorske made a motion to "Close the Stud Book to dogs of NGA registration". Quite a bit of discussion followed this motion. June said she believed that currently registered greyhounds and their get would be grandfathered in. They would

not be denied registration privileges. There should be no change in the current ILP registration or participation in performance events. This vote is a recommendation that will be sent to AKC. AKC makes the final decision. After more discussion, Shari Mason seconded the motion. A written ballot was taken of the seven members present. The motion passed with a count of six to one.

Donna Arcaro moved to adjourn the meeting at approximately 11:30 PM. ■

*In dog years,
I'm dead.*

—Unknown