

# Common Position Paper

## GCA 2002 Opposition Slate

We are writing this to ask you to support an exceptionally qualified slate of dedicated members who have volunteered to help you regain control of the Greyhound Club of America.

The GCA has had a rich tradition of open governance and of leadership which pursued policies reflecting the will of the membership at large. The membership wanted to have top notch Specialty events and a superior club newsletter. Those goals were successfully realized time and time again. The membership desires were measured not by rumor & secret conversations but by referendums, discussions at club meetings, and elections. Over the years GCA members have voted on Specialty issues including locations, judges and status and also on the emotional question of NGA dogs in our stud book. Our fair leaders then acted in accordance with the wishes of the membership. All votes and deliberations of the Board were open to membership, even deliberations about new member applications.

Increasingly, in the last two years this tradition has been ignored by the current Board. Fair and open governance has been replaced by secret votes and deliberations. When the fair minded members of the Board received admonitions from the Recording Secretary Rose Mary Conner, to be sure to keep all Board processes secret and confidential we forgot to ask one question: "Why?" Why were Board votes and discussions suddenly secret in a club which had a long, proud tradition and policy of completely open leadership? At the time it seemed harmless and businesslike, but in retrospect it was part of a fundamental change in the relationship between the Board and the membership. It was a terribly negative change.

In this environment of deliberate secrecy the Board of the GCA has stolen control of our club from the membership. Two main issues evidence the poor behavior of the

current Board: 1) Closing the club membership to anyone who they think might oppose their views and doing this by creating a Byzantine and bizarre set of secret criteria for evaluating new member applicants. This is in direct conflict with the current club policy (1994) of open new member discussions at open Board meetings. It is also in conflict with our well settled tradition of electing to membership all applicants except those who have actually been part of animal abuse, puppy milling or other malicious acts. And 2) Holding a Board vote on the status of the NGA dogs in our stud book, a vote which overturned a fair vote of the membership at large. This action, which has made our club an object of ridicule in the dog fancy, is inexplicable given the GCA's rich and positive tradition of relying on the membership to guide the main issues for the Club and Breed. Arguing that this action was legal by Parliamentary and Constitutional standards is irrelevant. The action was morally aberrant and in opposition to how the GCA has been run for many years. Now, the AKC Board has set a policy of a 2/3rds vote of club membership for future stud book changes. This underscores that the Board's actions were an inappropriate abuse of power.

The members of the Opposition Slate, when elected, commit to returning control of the club to you, the membership. We will do this by reestablishing the club's rich tradition of open and fair governance. Board meetings will be open and new member discussions will be held at those Board meetings, instead of in secret, just a few weeks later. The processes and results of e-mail or postal mail business conducted by the Board will be made available to the membership. Individual voting records of Board votes will be made public. The membership will be included in essential decisions, like the stud book issue.

The Opposition Slate is comprised of long time GCA members with deep and demonstrated commitment to the breed and the club. We have been leaders in the GCA and in the dog fancy at large. We include:

- 2 past GCA Presidents (*Pat & Gail*)
- 5 past GCA Specialty Chairs  
(*Conformation, Obedience & Lure Trial, each many times: Pat & Gail, Western; Linda, Eastern; Susan & Eric, Southern*)
- 4 past or present long-time GCA Board members  
(*Beth Anne, Gail, Pat, Eric*)
- Owners or breeders of more than 100 AKC Champions
- 2 past Presidents of the Greyhound Club of Northern California (*Gail & Eric*)
- Lots of experience in fair and successful leadership of All Breed Clubs (*Susan: Fort Worth KC; Eric: Evergreen CO KC, Ft Bend KC; Gail: Sacramento Dog Training Club*)
- 3 AKC Judges (*Pat, Gail & Eric*)
- Past AKC Gazette columnists  
(*Gail, Greyhound; Eric, Ibizan Hound*)

We ask for your support in the upcoming election so that we can make the GCA a fair and open organization again. Our Opposition Slate has both the will and the ability to achieve this goal. Because the current Board had demonstrated its ability to ignore minority members of the Board, even when all they are asking for are fair and open procedures, we ask you to vote for the *entire* Opposition Slate.

—Eric Liebes, for: ■

### *Your Opposition Slate*

Pat Ide, *President*

Linda Bell, *Vice President*

P. Gail Burnham, *Recording Sec*

Beth Anne Gordon, *Corres Sec*

Susan Crutcher, *Treasurer*

Eric Liebes, *Board Member*

Please  
**CAST YOUR VOTE**  
**FOR THIS ENTIRE SLATE**  
**OF CANDIDATES:**

**PAT IDE**  
 President

**LINDA BELL**  
 Vice President

**P GAIL BURNHAM**  
 Recording Secretary

**BETH ANNE GORDON**  
 Corresponding Secretary

**SUSAN CRUTCHER**  
 Treasurer

**ERIC LIEBES**  
 Board Member



Pat Ide



Linda Bell



P Gail Burnham



Eric Liebes



Beth Anne Gordon



Susan Crutcher

This booklet laid out and opposition slate supported  
 by Jeanne Haggard

## Table of Contents

IPC	Common Position Paper	Eric Liebes
pg 1	Your Opposition Slate of Candidates	
pg 1	Member's Statement	Dani Edgerton, Marti Bradford, Joan Malak, Mary Trubek
pg 2	Issues Surrounding the Closing of the AKC Studbook	Eric Liebes
pg 3	Eric Liebes' Letter of Resignation	Eric Liebes
pg 4	Chronology of Studbook Issue in the GCA	
pg 6	Professional Parliamentarian Report	Linda Juteau, CPP, PRP
pg 6	Firing of Parliamentarian	Joan Malak
pg 7	Membership Statistics of the Last Decade	
pg 8	Resignation Letter of Past Newsletter Editor	Dani Edgerton
pg 8	Cover Letter from Rose Mary Conner	Rose Mary Conner
pg 9	Membership Criteria for New Applicants	
pg 9	Comments on Membership Criteria	Dani Edgerton

## Member's Statement

Over the past two years we, as members of the Greyhound Club of America, have begun to feel increasingly disenfranchised by the actions (or in some cases inactions) of the current Board of Directors. We elect a Board to represent the interests of the membership of the GCA, not to undermine our rights as members.

We believe that the members of the GCA are entitled to the following rights:

- the right to decide democratically (*by a vote of the membership*) the issues of importance to us
- the right to sponsor new members with a full grasp of the criteria on which they will be judged
- the right to know all of the actions and votes of our Board
- the right to disagree with the Board and have places to air those arguments (*i.e., newsletter, meetings*)
- the right to hear all sides of any issue, including those with which the Board does not agree

We feel the current Board has been neither respectful nor even remotely interested in these rights of the members. We offer the following documents as evidence of that disregard. Included in this booklet are:

- *Eric Liebes' Issues Surrounding the Closing*—which shows an alternate view, a view the Board did not want printed in the GCA Newsletter
- *Eric Liebes' Letter of of Resignation from the Board*—a voice from the inside the current Board
- *Chronology of the Studbook Issue*—evidences the secrecy and disregard of the current Board for the GCA membership
- *Opinion of Professional Parliamentarian*—backed up our former Parliamentarian regarding the ballot vote of 1997 on the Stud Book issue and opined the Board vote on the same issue out of order
- *Membership Stats*—showing how out of line the current membership rejections are when viewed with GCA history in mind
- *Introduction to the Membership Criteria*—even the rights of members in good standing to sponsor new members are undermined
- *Membership Criteria*—by which the latest set of applicants was evaluated, changed from previous criteria unbeknownst to the membership or the applicant sponsors

We ask you, the membership of the GCA, to place your votes for the entire opposition slate to give the rights of the membership back to the members.

Signed, *Dani Edgerton, Marti Bradford, Joan Malak and Mary Trubek*

# Issues Surrounding the Closing of the AKC Studbook to NGA Greyhounds

An Alternative Opinion from a Board Member

Three Officers of the Greyhound Club of America have composed a white paper explaining many of the issues surrounding the current heated discussion of closing the AKC Studbook to dogs of track registry. You have probably seen that white paper titled: "Closing the AKC Stud Book to Dogs of NGA Registration: The Facts from the Source".

I am currently the longest tenured officer in the Greyhound Club of America (Treasurer, 6th year). I was challenged in the 2000 election and garnered the most votes of any opposed candidate. I am in the minority position on the Board in the matter of the studbook. I was absent from the meeting when the motion was passed, but my vote would not have changed the decision (6 to 1). I do not challenge the authority of the Board to make this decision based on the interpretation of our Constitution and Board authority made by Mr. Liosis of the AKC in his letter of June 5, 2001. I have not been the source of any rumored or published criticisms to which the white paper refers. I have never owned a Greyhound of track background. Until now, I have restricted my comments to discussions within the Board. The white paper was written by several Board members without any discussion within the Board as a whole and I have decided to respond to parts of that document.

First of all, my personal choice to support continued registration of NGA dogs within the AKC has a very simple basis. These are demonstrably purebred Greyhounds. As objectionable as the racing industry is, no one has questioned the legitimacy of their registry. Also, we have no hope of educating the owners of these dogs (dogs that have gratefully escaped from the racing part of the industry, into rescue and then family homes) if we exclude them from our registry and therefore some of our events. If the owners of these dogs

are excluded, they have no hope of learning and adopting the AKC's Mission and Objectives. The owners will not be bound by the GCA's ethical code. The studbook has been open for many years and none of the dire consequences feared have occurred. I am not threatened by the contention that our proper Greyhounds will be overshadowed by their plain cousins in the show ring. That is a Judge's Education issue.

So much for the topic at the heart of this disagreement. The Board voted in a legitimate way and the recommendation to close the studbook has been made to the AKC. The issues that I would like to discuss in response to the above referenced white paper are as follows:

1. The Board of the GCA thinks that they know the mind of the membership, and 2. The Board of the GCA has given legitimacy to a closed petition, a violation of democracy.

This is not meant to be a comprehensive argument on this complex issue. The implementation of closing the studbook alone has implications in the relationships of the AKC with other Kennel Clubs around the world that will require careful consideration. This note is meant to be a window into issues about which I disagree with the majority of the GCA Board. I am not alone in my concerns on the Board or within the membership, but I choose to speak only for myself.

1. The Board of the GCA thinks that they know the mind of the membership.

As was described in the white paper, the GCA held a vote of the general membership in 1997 about the studbook issue. All members had an opportunity to vote. No one has challenged the fairness of this referendum. A clear majority of the voters decided to keep the studbook open. (As reported in the white paper 46 to keep open, 36 to close).

This was the mind of the general membership and the Board at the time felt (properly) bound by that vote. I was a member of that Board.

The GCA had a history of asking the General Membership to vote to decide important issues. Mr. Liosis' written opinion of June, 2001 and the Board vote of July 2001 has reversed this policy, but I argue that we had governed the club this way for years and cannot ignore those results. More inappropriate still is the "recount" of this vote five years later. The white paper adds the count of those who did not vote and contends that the vote was not a majority decision. By all democratic principles it was a majority vote. Those who choose not to vote do not count in an election or referendum.

At this time, a GCA Constitutional amendment has been proposed to allow for membership votes on club issues. This will reinstate a long standing policy of the GCA. If that amendment passes, it will reverse Mr. Liosis' ruling.

The recent election of the nominating committee slate of three Board members has been claimed, in the white paper, as confirmation that the membership supports the closing of the studbook. There was much written campaigning that focussed on this as the major issue of the election. The election, however, was for three Board members, not the studbook issue. Voters cast their ballots for the people's names not the studbook issue. I have publicly held the position that the studbook should be kept open for many years. Shall my easy re-election as Treasurer in 2000 also be considered a referendum on this one issue?

I contend that if we want to know what the position of the membership is on this issue, we should ask them, not "recount" the results of a legitimate vote of the

past or assume we know the reasons for their election choices. For a matter of this much importance a membership vote is appropriate.

2. The Board of the GCA has given legitimacy to a closed petition, a violation of democracy.

I have little to say about this matter. The petition has no legitimate status as a mechanism of determining the mind of the club. It was distributed to only some of the membership, it was distributed to only some of the Board. I have yet to see a copy of the wording of the petition. It is certainly possible that there was significant pressure applied to those who were undecided about this issue and were asked to sign the closed, private petition.

The proper use of this petition would have been for the Board to interpret it as an alert to open discussion on the issue. To the extent it was used in this way, it is OK. To contend that it reverses a previously held democratic vote or is an accurate measure of the mind of the club is inappropriate.

### In Summary

I am not a fan of the Racing industry nor of the type of Greyhound (no specific type) that they produce. Many more of these dogs are coming into family ownership through rescue each year than the responsible breeders of proper AKC type greyhounds produce. This raises many issues: education, health, and maintenance of good breed type among them. Closing the studbook to these purebred dogs does not solve these issues, it just pushes the issues aside to (perhaps) be dealt with later. These pure bred dogs and their owners will be abandoned by the AKC if they are excluded from the registry. This strikes me as an action in opposition to the Mission and Objectives of the AKC.

The Board of the GCA has made a recommendation to the AKC to close the studbook to NGA bred dogs. Members of the GCA Board claim that they are acting on behalf

of the majority of GCA members in this very important issue. The statistics that support this claim are flawed. The petition that they say demonstrates it was a private document, not a measure of the majority opinion in the club.

Now the AKC must decide what to do with the GCA recommendation. The white paper that three GCA Board members wrote represents

that the Board was acting on behalf of the majority of the GCA members. I contend that they cannot know what the majority of the membership believes. They have not asked. The last time the membership was actually asked (1997) the opposite was true.

Eric Liebes, Ph.D,  
Treasurer, GCA  
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## Eric Liebes' Letter of Resignation

as Treasurer of the GCA Board of Directors

May 20, 2002

At this time (and with much regret) I resign my position as Treasurer of the Greyhound Club of America. I feel I must do this now for several reasons. The Board of the GCA has become a one issue body. Every issue is decided in light of the Stud Book matter. It has become impossible for a voice of reason (and that had been my role on the Board for the previous five years) to have any positive effect. Almost every vote in the last year has been decided by a 6 to 3 or 7 to 2 vote. I am always in the minority; I am consistently embarrassed by the actions of the Board.

The Board, in its confident majority, is not following good procedure. The current membership elections are being conducted by e-mail. This is in spite of the specific instructions in our Constitution: "Applicants may be elected at any meeting of the board of directors or by written vote of the directors by mail." Also in spite of real time objections raised to the procedure by three Board members.

Recently it has become clear that the "Board" is making decisions without me. Last year the Recording Secretary sent a letter citing a Board "decision" for which there was no Board vote. I (and one other Board member) objected, she apologized. Now this is happening again and it is clear that nothing can be done to stop it. The specific example: I was informed by our Newsletter Editor that she had been told that the Board had decided to take over editorial oversight of the Newsletter. I'm on the Board and there was no discussion or

vote. I am also on the Editorial Board for the Newsletter and we have still not been informed that our authority has been revoked.

The final straw for me is the rejection of the membership applications of George and Sally Bell. This is an embarrassment for the Board and for the GCA. George Bell is one of the preeminent Sighthound experts in the world. The two weak letters against them pointed out that they were performance oriented. There was positive discussion from 2 of the Board members and strong endorsement letters from previous Presidents of the GCA. So now it is clear, the GCA Board's obsession with the Stud Book issue has taken them to the conclusion that greyhound performance is bad. The club is closed to anyone who disagrees.

I can no longer be a party to it. My participation on the Board is having no positive impact on policy or procedure. My continued participation might be construed as support of the process and decisions on record. This is not true. The GCA can find someone else to manage the clubs funds in a (hopefully) responsible manner for the rest of the year. I await Sue's instructions about how transfer our funds to a new Treasurer. That Treasurer's first job can be to refund the Bell's application fees. I apologize to those who voted for me in my three elections. You can trust that I will support any opposition slate to the current group in power.

—Eric Liebes ■

# Chronology of Stud Book Issue in the Greyhound Club of America

## \* *Early history*

Except for one 11-year period (1949-1960), the American Kennel Club stud book for Greyhounds has been open to coursing and racing Greyhounds registered with the National Greyhound Association (originally named the National Coursing Association). There have been show and coursing champions who were originally NGA-registered, and there have been champions whose pedigrees are a mix of show and racing lines.

## \* *1994*

The GCA Board voted that membership application meetings would not be closed. The Board has not rescinded that vote, but that guideline does not appear in the standing rules document sent out from the Club to all new applicants.

## \* *1997: Membership Ballot*

The Greyhound Club of America conducts a mail ballot of the full membership on the issue of the AKC Greyhound stud book. The members vote to leave the stud book open to dogs from the National Greyhound Association (*the racing registry*). A little more than half of the Club membership returns ballots, and, of the members voting, 56% vote to keep NGA dogs eligible for AKC registration, while 43% vote to close the stud book.

## \* *Fall 2000 through Spring 2001: Petition*

A petition was circulated by some GCA members to ask the AKC to close the stud book to racing Greyhounds registered with the NGA. The authors are Maureen Lucas and Lois Bires. Both GCA members and non-members were invited to sign. No independent validation of the number of members signing has been allowed. In an email to a greyhound-related mailing list, one of the petition's authors stated that the petition garnered the signatures of 50% of the members plus one more. Two signers asked to be taken off the list of signatures shortly after they signed it, because they had been badgered into the signing and do not agree with the petition's goal. They were

told their names would not be removed—one signer was publicly berated about this at a dog show. When some GCA members asked to see the petitions or a list of members who have signed, they were refused. The only "validation" of signatures was performed by Club members who agreed with the petition.

\* *Spring 2001: GCA Directors Contact AKC*  
Rose Mary Connor and June Matarazzo, the GCA Recording Secretary and Board Member, respectively, write to the AKC. Their letter asked about the decision-making rights of Club members and the scope of the authority of the GCA Board of Directors.

\* *June 2001: Reply from Mike Liosis*  
Michael Liosis, AKC Director of Club Relations states that, outside of legal mandates or explicit statements in the Club bylaws, the voting rights of the members are limited to voting on applicants who have not been elected by the board, voting for Club officers and board members, and voting to expel a member from the Club. According to Liosis, "All other matters fall under the authority of the board."

\* *27 June 2001: Letter from Rose Mary Conner to Liosis*

In a letter from GCA Recording Secretary Rose Mary Conner, Conner recounts a phone conversation with Liosis where they discussed organizing a review of the status of all past motions made by the membership. Conner writes: "...you strongly suggested that major initiatives not be brought to a vote, for fear of possible challenges, given the current murky status of so many issues and prior voting patterns. You specifically advised this caution to the current initiative to close the GCA Stud Book [sic] to dogs of NGA registry. In this case... you indicated that the question...needs to be researched in Robert's Rules of Order before an opinion could be made as to its current status."

\* *25 July 2001: GCA Board Curbs Members' Rights and Votes to Close Stud Book*  
At their July meeting, the GCA Board voted to ask the AKC to close the stud book. Additionally, the Board

approved a motion that outlined "the issues which will be decided by the GCA membership", limiting Club members to deciding such issues as the nomination and election of Club officers and "participating on committees." The Board also appointed a committee of Beth Anne Gordon (Corresponding Secretary), Marj Leider, and June Matarazzo (board member) to examine what members of the Club could do if they wished to overturn a board decision.

\* *26 July 2001: GCA General Membership Meeting*

A member attempted to make a motion to put the question of closing the stud book to a vote of the general membership. The motion is ruled out of order. (Under Robert's Rules of Order, "The conduct of ALL business is controlled by the general will of the whole membership—the right of the deliberate majority to decide. Complementary is the right of at least a strong minority to require the majority to be deliberate—to act according to its considered judgment AFTER a full and fair 'working through' of the issues involved.")

\* *10 August 2001: Letter from GCA President to Membership*

In this letter from Sue Lemieux, the Club President outlines the new limitations on the power of members to make decisions affecting the Greyhound Club of America. The letter reports on a board vote which says, in part, "...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." Some members note that the list includes, "Participating on committees" but the board subsequently removes a number of members from standing committees without any vote or poll of the membership as a whole. The Editorial Review Board, which oversees issues involving the Club Newsletter, is repopulated with members who agree with the Board's position on the stud book. Now, when members submit articles regarding the health of racing Greyhounds (since that is



relevant to the stud book debate), they are told that discussion of this issue is not allowed in the Newsletter. In fact, all debate on the Club issues seems to have been banned from the Newsletter in 2002.

\* *27 September 2001: Committee Report on Members' Rights*

The board-appointed committee to examine "member's rights with regard to a board decision" reports back to the GCA board. With assistance from the Club Parliamentarian, they reviewed the Club constitution and bylaws as well as Robert's Rules of Order. The report examined the claim by Michael Liosis that the members of a club do not have the power to make any decisions other than those explicitly listed in the bylaws.

The committee found that Liosis was incorrect in his interpretation of the Club bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order. It states, "This report started out as an investigation of a means for the membership to overturn a decision of the Board. As stated earlier, such a means is not necessary, because the Board is subservient to the will of the membership. The GCA has established the custom of deciding substantive issues by mail ballot."

The report is submitted but the GCA board never officially comments on it. The Board does, however, fire the Club Parliamentarian (see account on page 6), replacing her with one of the authors of the petition to close the stud book. In a letter sent to the AKC delegates' email list, Club officers deny that this report was a factor in changing the Club Parliamentarian. Rather, they say that "One of our President's requirements was that the Parliamentarian attend all Board meetings," and they claim that, according to the AKC, "some of our prior voting difficulties had been exacerbated by our Parliamentarian's off-target rulings." Some members have noted that the new parliamentarian did not attend the board meeting at the Western Specialty, so presumably the attendance requirement was subsequently dropped.

\* *24 September 2001: GCA Board request sent to AKC*

The AKC received the official request from the Board of the GCA to close the stud book to dogs of NGA registration.

\* *5 October 2001: GCA Members Meeting*

At the members meeting held at the Eastern Specialty, members were told by Club officers that the petition circulated to close the stud book was never considered as an official document by the GCA Board. However, we later learned that Club Officers submitted the petition to the AKC Board when they requested the closure of the stud book. The identities of those who signed the petition remain a secret and have never been disclosed to anyone who favors an open stud book.

\* *7-8 January 2002: AKC Board of Directors Meeting*

The AKC Board voted to "place a moratorium on the processing of applications for National Greyhound Association dogs until further action is taken by the AKC Board."

\* *March 2002: A bylaws amendment ballot, initiated by a Club member, was submitted to the membership.*

The board recommended a "no" vote on the issue and provided letters from an AKC official in support of their position. The balloting is done NON-anonymously.

As a Club member since 1986, I know that all previous GCA mail ballots were anonymized. This was usually done with a double envelope system where a blank inner envelope contained the vote. This ballot had no provision for anonymity or privacy. This is particularly odd because the vote receiver was the Recording Secretary. The Recording Secretary was not an impartial party, since she was one of the Club officers recommending a "no" vote on the ballot. An independent vote receiver or teller was not engaged.

\* *20 March 2002: Professional Parliamentarian's Report*

Some members commissioned Linda A. Juteau, CPP, PRP, a professional parliamentarian, to examine the director's vote on the stud book. She concludes that the Board's vote regarding the stud book was out of order. This report was sent to the AKC bearing a Board "decision" for which there was no "Board vote."

\* *Spring-Fall 2002: Board votes on membership applications*

With two exceptions, the GCA Board voted down all applicants who were sponsored by any member who stated they favor an open stud book. In conversation, the Club President says that the opinions of the sponsors were one of the factors taken into consideration when deciding on applications. Most of the applicants rejected have been Greyhound fanciers for a decade or more and four of those deemed unworthy have approximately 30 years in the breed. The GCA Board rejected more than twice as many applicants in this single year than were rejected in the 11 previous years. The final straw was the rejection for membership of conformation and coursing judges George and Sally Bell, sighthound experts who have bred, shown, and coursed Greyhounds for more than three decades.

The most recent crop of applicants were not considered nor voted on at an open meeting. They were discussed in private, via email, and no record of the discussions were made available to Club members. One 2001 applicant who had participated in both conformation and coursing was sent a rejection letter that specifically stated that he was turned down for his opinions. However, when the recent crop of applicants were rejected, they were sent letters stating that they did not get into the Club because they did not receive six votes. In other words, they were told: you didn't get in because you didn't get in.

Apparently there are now two different classes of membership in the GCA. There are full members, a class that includes those who agree with the board's position on the stud book and other matters. These are the members who can sponsor new GCA members, participate on Club committees, and write for the Newsletter. And now we have an unofficial class of limited members, those who feel the stud book should be left open. These are the members who can pay dues. ■

(The relevant documents mentioned in this article are available on the following web page: <http://www.raingoddess.com/akc/>)

# Professional Parliamentarian

## Researches the Question of the 1997 GCA Ballot Vote

March 20, 2002

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### PARLIAMENTARY OPINION QUESTION

The question which I have been asked to address in this opinion, as I understand it is:

*Did the Board of Directors of the Greyhound Club of America, Inc., which initiated the ballot vote of the general membership on the question of whether to close the AKC Stud Book to NGA registered dogs, act properly in reversing the vote of membership?*

### BACKGROUND

In the Spring 1997 Greyhound Club of America Newsletter, the then Board of Directors distributed a ballot to the general membership to vote on the topic of closing the Stud Book to NGA registered dogs. According to the information provided to me, "the board initiated both the discussion and the decision to send the issue to the membership for a vote. They deemed the issue of such significant weight and uncertainty as to require a vote of the membership for resolution. The issue was defeated by the membership and recorded in the Fall 1997 issue of the Greyhound Club of America Newsletter. It was that board's decision to accept and abide by this vote."

The issue came up again before the current Board of Directors at its July 25, 2001 meeting, in an attempt to "correct past voting mistakes." The Board was relying on information provided by Mr. Michael Liosis, Director of Club Relations of The American Kennel Club, in his letter of

June 5, 2001, 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." Under the Constitution of the Greyhound Club of America, Inc. the Board of Directors had "general management of the Club's affairs."

A review of The American Kennel Club Bylaws and the Bylaws of the Greyhound Club of America, Inc. did not reveal any provisions for "restricting" the rights of the membership of the Greyhound Club of America, Inc. to only those matters listed in Mr. Liosis' letter of June 5, 2001. "A board within an organized society is an instrumentality of the society's full assembly, to which it is subordinate." RONR (10th ed.), p. 9, 1. 5-8 "In any event, no action of the board can conflict with any action taken by the assembly of the society; and except in matters placed by the bylaws exclusively under the control of the board, the society's assembly can give the board instructions which it must carry out, and can countermand any action of the board if it is not too late (as it would be, for example, when a contract has already been made.)" RONR (10th ed.) p. 466 1. 7-14.

### SOURCES AND DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AND/OR CITED

This list is available on  
<http://www.raingoddess.com/akc/>

### OPINION

It is my professional opinion that the action taken by the Board of Directors in the Spring of 1997, regarding a ballot vote of the entire membership on whether or not to close the Stud Book to dogs of NGA registration, was in order. The ballot vote of the membership on said issue was properly conducted and was a legal vote.

The action taken by the Board of Directors at the July 25, 2001 Board Meeting, at which a motion was made to "Close the Stud Book to dogs of

NGA registration," was out of order. This opinion is based on the documentation presented to me. If there are other facts or documents which were not provided, a different conclusion may have been reached.

—Linda A. Juteau, CPP, PRP ■

### Parliamentarian Firing

Approximately 5-1/2 years ago, I received a phone call from Marj Leider who, at that time, was the President of the Greyhound Club of America. She asked if I would be interested in serving as the Club's Parliamentarian. I had recently taken a class in Parliamentary procedure and felt comfortable in accepting the position. I told her that I was honored to accept. I served in that position for several years, giving advice and/or written opinions whenever requested. I was careful to research every topic that I was questioned about and to present references and explanations with each response.

Some time after Sue LeMieux was elected President, she called and informed me that the Board of the GCA had reviewed the requirements for the position of Parliamentarian. They had decided that the Parliamentarian should attend every Board meeting as well as every General Membership meeting. She asked if I would be able to do so. I told her that although I attend the Eastern every year, I would not be able to attend the Western and/or the Southern Specialties in the immediate future. Several weeks later I received a letter informing me that I was no longer the Club Parliamentarian.

—Joan Malak ■

# Membership Statistics from the Last Decade

## compiled from the GCA Archives

The Greyhound Club of America, like most breed clubs, does not publish announcements when it rejects applicants to the club. However, some members have reviewed the minutes of the GCA Board and the official Club news pages published in the Newsletter, and have discussed the history of applications to the Club with members of long standing. The following tables provide twelve years of statistics on approvals and rejections of applicants for club membership.

From the year 1990 through 2000, only three applicants for membership in the Greyhound Club of America were refused. However, in 2001 through the first 9 months of 2002, there have been 11 refusals.

Of the 2002 applicants, the majority of those accepted for membership had sponsors who were officers or board members of the GCA. All of the rejected applicants were sponsored by members who have objected to the Board's vote to close the stud book to Greyhounds registered with the National Greyhound Association.

The GCA Constitution and Bylaws requires that membership applications be discussed at board meetings, the recent rejections of applications were done without any discussion at a meeting. The votes were conducted by email, and the actual vote tallies have not been disclosed. The GCA Board voted in 1994 to keep their meetings open during the discussions of prospective members. This was done to prevent someone from being blackballed by rumor or innuendo that could not be substantiated if subjected to public scrutiny. The current GCA Board has chosen to ignore this rule and has conducted their discussions and voting on new members in private.

The current GCA Standing Rules include the following:

"Membership applications will not be considered until board members have reviewed all pertinent information and that information has been published in the Newsletter."

"The Recording Secretary shall initiate and report out all balloting by any means."

No negative information was published in the Newsletter about any of the recently rejected applicants, yet they were voted down. The Board votes on membership applications were not "reported out", and applicants and sponsors have been unable to learn the reasons for the votes which resulted in the applications being rejected.

It was suggested by one Club officer that the current year's number of applications was unusually large. There is some irony in that claim. There have been 16 membership applications voted on by the GCA board so far this year. By way of comparison, GCA board member Shari Mason, her husband, and her daughter were all welcomed into the club in a year when 20 new members were inducted. Treasurer Herman Leider, as well as Board member Mary Ellen Gorske and her spouse, joined the GCA in 1994 when 22 new members were accepted. And Club President Sue LeMieux was accepted in 1995, a year when 13 new members joined.

YEAR	APPLICATIONS	ACCEPTED	REFUSED
1990	13	13	0
1991	22	20	2
1992	17	17	0
1993	9	9	0
1994	22	22	0
1995	13	13	0
1996	5	5	0
1997	6	6	0
1998	7	7	0
1999	9	8	1
2000	9	8*	1
2001	16	6	10

\* One honorary member

A few years back, a GCA committee proposed altering the Club constitution to add a new class of "associate members" and to impose more stringent requirements for full membership. This proposal was intended to limit full membership to what the committee considered to be "the most serious fanciers of the Greyhound breed." The general membership voted against these changes. Now it seems that the directors of the Club have imposed barriers to membership that are even more restrictive.

Most of the applicants rejected in the past year have considerable experience in the breed. All owned show champions and many owned coursing champions as well. Some rejected applicants had over 25 years experience showing and breeding Greyhounds, and in many cases, the applicants turned down in the past year had more experience in the breed than the GCA directors who were voting on their applications.

There appears to be a bias among the GCA's directors to reject applicants who may favor keeping the stud book open. It is a violation of the Greyhound Club of America's duty to the breed to reject experienced, qualified fanciers of diverse opinions solely because of their views on a single controversial matter.



*The original Editorial Review Board (ERB) was created to give the Newsletter Editor a sounding board on articles that she deemed problematic. It is my opinion that these new duties of the ERB, overseeing the entire Newsletter, including ads, were created to stop the Newsletter from disseminating information to the membership contrary to Board opinion. I believe this to be censorship of the most important source of information and news for the GCA membership.*

*—Dani Edgerton*

## Newsletter Editor Resignation

Dear Sue,

Please consider this my official resignation as Editor of the GCA Newsletter. I would like to state, for the record, that my sole reason for resigning is the restructuring of the Editorial Review Board and the explanation to me as to the new duties of that Board.

The new duties of the Editorial Review Board were given to me as follows: 1) to review all material being considered for the Newsletter, including ads, reports and articles, 2) the modification of said material to be in line with the GCA and AKC core documents, 3) sending out materials that need to be reviewed by specific committees (specifically stated was the Health Committee) and 4) review of the complete document prior to finalization (read printing).

In short, the Editorial Review Board will be doing the job of Editor. I see this new policy as burdensome in terms of time and money, as well as placing the so-called editor in the position of moving materials from place to place with no real authority.

My experience with this Newsletter and other publications leads me to offer the following suggestions. There are two possibilities.

Suggestion one, appoint an editor whom you can trust and allow that person to make editorial decisions with the help, if they deem necessary, of a true Editorial Review Board. Give the editor any guidelines the Board of Directors feels they must impose, such as all medical articles are to be review by the Health committee, then allow the editor to carry out that duty. (Linda Carlson is a good choice for editor here.)

Suggestion two, have the Editorial Review Board serve as the editor, thereby eliminating the meaningless position of editor under the new system and also resolving the issue of duplication of effort. With this option, the person moving the paper around could be the production manager.

Dani Edgerton ■

## Cover Letter from Rose Mary Conner Sent with the Membership Criteria

**CONFIDENTIAL GCA BOARD INFORMATION - NONE OF THIS MATERIAL IS TO BE DISCUSSED OR DISTRIBUTED BEYOND GCA BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS.**

To all GCA Board Members:

We will be discussing the new applicants for GCA membership at the Board Meeting at Lompoc.

In the past ten years (1992-2001), the number of people applying for and being accepted into GCA membership has averaged 8 per year. As of now, midway through 2002, the Board has been presented with 19 membership applications, with at least three more waiting in the wings. The current complement of 16 new applications is unprecedented in GCA history.

In order to ensure that each of these applicants is considered fairly and equally, we have consulted with several executives at the AKC, who have had experience with other AKC Parent Clubs who have been challenged by such spikes in membership applications. It was their unanimous advice that it is consistency of process in evaluating these applications by common standards that is critical, not the outcome itself. This will require that we look at these and possibly, future applicants differently.

These AKC executives emphasized that we must look to our Constitution, bylaws, and other GCA and AKC core documents as our primary resource for evaluating each applicant, employing the same process, same scrutiny and due diligence, and same questions for each applicant individually. They both said that quotations and alleged statements or actions by applicants (and sponsors) would be most useful and appropriate in evaluation.

As a part of Board due diligence in this process, I was asked by our President, Sue LeMieux, to: 1. compile such quotations and alleged statements or actions from public internet and other sources, and 2. develop such charts, tables, or other tools which will allow us to exercise the required consistency of process in our consideration of all candidates for all feasible candidates and sponsors. This is enclosed for those candidates where I was able to garner such insight, to be supplemented by firsthand input at the Board meeting.

Because this is somewhat lengthy, please review all this material prior to our Board meeting, as well as, obviously, the applications and sponsors' letters, and any other materials you may have that would provide insight on these candidates. Please bring all these with you to the Board meeting.

I emphasize that this is important and private GCA Board Membership business, not to be copied, forwarded, or in any way reproduced for distribution or discussed outside the GCA Board without specific permission from the President.

Thank you,  
Rose Mary Conner  
GCA Recording Secretary ■

# Membership Criteria used by the GCA Board of Directors for the Summer 2002 Applicants to the GCA

Per Robert's Rules of Order, GCA's Parliamentary authority, "In most societies it is understood that members are required to be of honorable character and reputation, and certain types of associations may have particular codes of ethics to enforce. ... An organization has the ultimate right to make and enforce its own rules and to require that its members refrain from conduct injurious to the organization or its purposes. ... Since a society has the right to prescribe and enforce its standards for membership, it has the right to investigate the character of its members as may be necessary to this enforcement."

## SECTION 1: INSIGHTS

### CONDUCT AND CHARACTER I

GCA and AKC core documents below set basic standards for appropriate member behavior. Has the candidate made any alleged derogatory public statements orally or in writing against the GCA, AKC, AKC Greyhounds, or GCA Board or members?

### CONDUCT AND CHARACTER II

As above. This has a broader implication than I above, and can apply to either the corporate entity or individual members/staff, including, but not limited to, alleged actions, words, behaviors which violate GCA/ AKC rules and core documents, may be injurious to its reputation, image, or the orderly conduct of its business. In other words, has the candidate engaged in any alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the AKC, GCA purebred dog events, or in violation of GCA's bylaws, constitution, ethical standards, policies, or rules?

### MEMBERSHIP I

To the best of your knowledge, do you believe that there is a specific cause, issue, or other influence, which has prompted the candidate to apply for GCA membership at this particular time, as opposed to previously?

### MEMBERSHIP II

To the best of your knowledge,

do you believe that this candidate will positively contribute to and support the objectives and activities of a Parent Breed club whose primary venue is conformation showing?

### BREEDING I

One of GCA's Constitutional objectives is to promote quality breeding to the AKC Breed Standard. To the best of your knowledge, does this candidate endorse the potential breeding or actual incorporation of dogs, which are not purposefully bred to the AKC Breed Standard, into breeding programs?

### BREEDING II

To the best of your knowledge, is this candidate primarily interested in (1) companion or ILP Greyhounds, or in (2) improving breeding stock in the show ring, purposefully bred to the breed standard?

### GOVERNANCE I

To the best of your knowledge, do you believe that this candidate will agree to accept any majority vote of the Club as the wishes of the Club, and to support the GCA Board's commitment to the proper conduct of business, as set forth in GCA bylaws, and responsibility to the majority of the Club membership?

### GOVERNANCE II

To the best of your knowledge, do you believe that this candidate will positively support the achievement of established GCA Parent Club goals, breed and Standard guardianship, operational compliance with AKC guidelines, active support of GCA's Specialties, consensus and community?

## SECTION 2: ACTIVITIES

- Competes in conformation venue
- ... in coursing venue
- ... in other performance venues
- ... exclusively in conformation venue
- ... exclusively in coursing venue
- ... exclusively in other performance venues
- Is active in AKC rescue/ adoption
- ... in NGA rescue/ adoption
- Has attended recent GCA Specialties
- ... exhibited/ owned dogs at recent GCA Specialties
- ... helped at recent GCA Specialties
- ... previously contributed positively to GCA activities

## SECTION 3: NUMBERS

*Note: For these purposes only, "AKC Greyhound" = show-lines only for at least 4 generations, and "NGA/Mixed Greyhounds" = pure NGA or mixed NGA /show lines for at least 4 generations.*

### Applicant ...

- Has owned Greyhounds for \_\_\_ years  
(include only years actively involved)
- Currently owns \_\_\_ AKC Greyhounds
- Currently owns \_\_\_ NGA/mixed Greyhounds
- Has bred \_\_\_ AKC Greyhound litters
- Has bred \_\_\_ litters of NGA/mixed Greyhounds
- Has finished \_\_\_ AKC Greyhounds
- Has finished \_\_\_ NGA/mixed Greyhounds
- Has exhibited Greyhounds for \_\_\_ years

## SECTION 4: PREFERENCES (per applicant)

- Is interested in Specialties
- ... the Newsletter
- ... the Health Comm.
- ... Rescue
- ... Judges Selection
- ... Boutique
- ... Breeder Referral
- ... Statistics
- ... Education
- ... Archives

## Comments on Membership Criteria

*The information used in this evaluation (with the exception of section 4) was gathered by the Board through other sources, and was not gleaned from any documentation provided by the applicants. These other sources include internet chat lists where comments were used out of context. Of particular note:*

*Conduct and Character I: Is a candidate not allowed to disagree with the Board or the AKC on any issue?*

*Membership I: If an applicant is fully qualified, why would their stand on any particular issue matter? Isn't the point of organization membership partly to have a say in issues that may effect one's own interest?*

*Membership II: Since when did the primary venue of our parent club become conformation showing?*

*Breeding I: "Dogs not bred purposefully to the AKC standard"—does this include dogs from other countries and light-eyed greyhounds?*

*Breeding II: Presumably, if you are interested in companion or ILP Greyhounds you are less of a candidate.*

*Governance I: Each candidate signs a statement to this effect on their applications.*

*Sections 2 & 3: Would any of these make this applicant a less than desirable member of the GCA?*

—Dani Edgerton

Please cast your votes for:

## YOUR **GCA** OPPOSITION SLATE

**PAT IDE**  
President

**LINDA BELL**  
Vice President

**P GAIL BURNHAM**  
Recording Secretary

**BETH ANNE GORDON**  
Corresponding Secretary

**SUSAN CRUTCHER**  
Treasurer

**ERIC LIEBES**  
Board Member

The Opposition Slate will return control of the GCA **TO YOU**

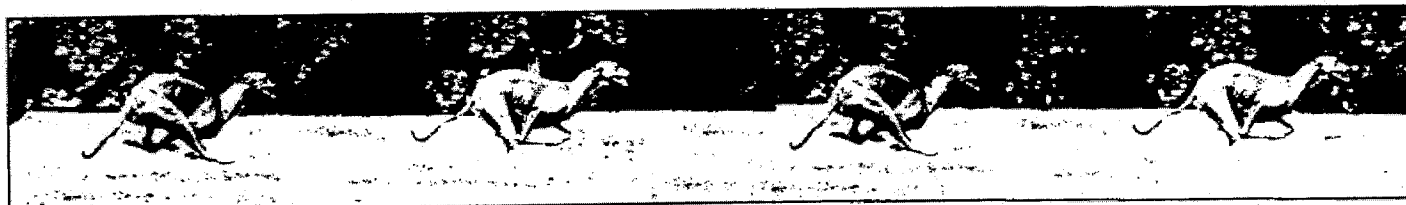
### WE WILL:

- reestablish open and fair governance
- open Board meetings for new member discussions
- report e-mail and postal mail Board business to the membership
- make public the Board's voting records
- include membership in essential decisions

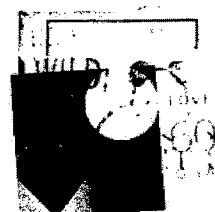
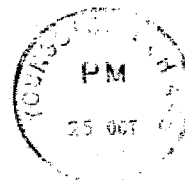
We are **LONG-TIME LEADERS** of the GCA.

### WE INCLUDE:

- 2 past GCA Presidents
- 5 past GCA Specialty Chairs
- 4 past or present long-time GCA Board members
- 2 past Presidents of the Greyhound Club of Northern California
- 3 AKC Judges
- Owner/breeders of 100+ AKC Greyhound Champions



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Let's take back control of  
the Greyhound Club of America