Please note that due to the inability to verify a member’s vote, no business was conducted that
required a vote.

Call to order at 3:02 pm, EDST by President Rhonda Dalton.

Roll Call of Board of Directors only: Marcy Bankus, Vince Chianese, Whitney Coombs, Rhonda Dalton, Dave Daugherty, Greg Mills, Ellie Schultz, Jo Stubbs, Amy Zacher present.

President’s Report:

Good afternoon everyone. This has been a year like no other. For our club...for America...and for the world. So, it’s only fitting that, on behalf of the GPCA Board of Directors, I would like to welcome you to our very first, and hopefully our very last, virtual GPCA Annual Meeting teleconference call. While I wish we were all in Virginia Beach together, I am glad that modern technology has allowed us to meet and connect this way. If you believe everything you read on Facebook, most of us have gained 10 pounds, need a haircut, and have no pants on! All kidding aside, I hope and pray that you and your families are safe and well.

Even in such trying times, or perhaps especially in such trying times, I am grateful to have had the opportunity to be President of this wonderful organization. It has truly been a pleasure to work with this incredible Board of Directors this year, to serve our members and work together on behalf of our amazing breed. Instead of the usual 12 monthly board meetings, this year we had an amazing total of 23 conference call board meetings, and a seemingly endless amount of emails. While it wasn't always easy, we were able to work together and get things done on behalf of our club and breed.

In January, right before the Coronavirus hit, this dedicated Board of Directors took over the 2020 National Specialty and World Conference. In just 3 months, with a grand total of almost 1800 emails, 16 Conference Calls, and an abundance of blood, sweat and tears, we put together a GPCA National and World Conference that we could all be proud of. And then, unfortunately, we had to take it all apart again when we found ourselves and our club in the midst of a worldwide pandemic. I can assure you that it was bittersweet to postpone our 2020 National and World Conference. Bitter, because we were all looking forward to getting together at this very special event, we worked so hard on…. but sweet, because we were able to reschedule the 2020 National Specialty during the same week as the 2021 National Specialty next year. Hopefully, we will have twice the dogs and twice the fun. We hope you can join us in Virginia Beach for a weeklong celebration, where we can all get together again, in person, on behalf of our wonderful and noble breed, the Great Pyrenees.

We would like to thank each and every one of you who pitched in and offered to help with this year’s National…and hope you will be able to help us again next year. It was truly wonderful to see so many of you pulling together and offering your assistance. For those of you who
volunteered to participate, we all know it takes a village to run a National Specialty. In our case, this year it took almost two villages...one to put it together, and another to postpone this annual event, while we’ve all been in lock-down and practicing social distancing.

Before we proceed to do the rest of our committee reports, and end with the announcement that everyone is waiting for, the results of our Annual Election, I would like to offer a special shout-out to our two retiring board members, Whitney Coombs and Vincent Chianese. For Whit, this past term marks 24 years of dedicated service on the Board of the GPCA. 24 amazing years, where he always gave his heart and soul to the club and our breed. I can safely say from personal experience that these two very special men served during some trying times in our club, and it’s somehow only fitting that they end their terms by helping to see the GPCA through this national and global crisis. Talk about going out with a bang! You have no idea of the contributions these two have made in our time of need. I’m sure it wasn’t always fun or easy, but we are grateful for their hard work and dedication. So, I’m not going to say goodbye to Whit and Vince, just thank you for your service...so far. I’m sure that their commitment to the breed will continue for years, if not decades, to come.

Usually, after this meeting, the next morning would have us gather together to see the very best this breed has to offer. The most beautiful dogs, the best Great Pyrenees breeders and owners and handlers on the planet, would all be taking to the ring to strut their stuff and make us proud. Well at the end of this meeting, you don’t have to wait until the next morning to see the magnificence of the Great Pyrenees. When this teleconference is over, just go take a look at your own incredible dogs...the very best dogs in the world, which happens to be the Great Pyrenees you love best. Hug them closely, show them how much you love them, and tell them how hard we are all working to make this a better world for them...and for all of our members.

Please stay safe at home with your family and dogs this year and be ready to come out in force at Virginia Beach in 2021. I can’t wait to see you all with your beautiful Pyrs, where we plan to have one of our regular Annual Meetings, only better...with the kind of fun, parties, good food (and drinks), great friends and hoopla you all deserve at a Great Pyrenees National Specialty. I urge you all to participate and pitch in to make next year our best Nationals ever.

In the meantime, as always, if you have any ideas or concerns, please feel free to contact the GPCA Secretary or any board member, who will share them with the new GPCA Board of Directors. It is imperative that we all continue to work together to protect the breed we all love. I hope that you will all treat your next President as well as you have treated me. It truly has been an honor. Thank you.

**Secretary’s Report:**

I thank all the members that have called into this meeting and bearing with us in the unusual venue and circumstances.

The GPCA currently has 540 members in 11 countries with 538 voting members. There are 2 Lifetime members, 1 Honorary member and 1 Junior member. Last year there were 548 members with 543 voting members. Thank you
Treasurer’s Report

For the financial report, during the period of January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, GPCA had a total income of $80,498 with expenses $104,683. As a result, the club recorded a loss of $24,185. However, much of that reported loss resulted from approved expenditures from our designated funds. These included $6,241 Health Committee funds there were approved for health studies, $3,883 of Historic Preservation funds that were used for acquisitions, $7,176 of Rescue Committee funds for rescue activities, and $5,841 in current year expenses for the 2019 National Specialty of last year. As of December 31, 2019, the balance in the general fund and designated funds totaled $119,518. These funds are held in the following accounts: PayPal has $2,546, Wells Fargo general checking account holds $7,190, Wells Fargo money market account has $109,783. Obviously, the club is in sound financial condition. A full financial report will be included in the second quarter, 2020 GPCA Bulletin. As some of you have already received your membership renewal notices, you may have noted that the Board has decided to keep dues payment amounts the same in 2021 as they were in 2020.

Report for the GPCA 2020 National Show event/2021 National Specialty and Great Pyrenees World Conference

AKC has approved our intention to hold two Specialties back-to-back during our GPCA specialty week of April 3–10, 2021. The 2021 National will be recognized by AKC as GPCA's only National in that year. However, GPCA will hold our postponed 2020 National Specialty immediately preceding the 2021 National. We will call it the 2020 GPCA National Specialty. We will award all trophies as 2020 GPCA National Specialty trophies. We will identify it as our 2020 National on all advertising, records, and publications. The breed, obedience, and non-regular judges selected to do the 2020 National will judge at the 2020 GPCA National Specialty when it is held in 2021.

At this point, AKC will not approve two National Specialties in the same calendar year for any breed. Therefore, the 2020 Best of Breed winner will not receive an invitation to exhibit at Crufts and Reserve Winners Dog and Reserve Winners Bitch will not receive championship points.

Because there have been a significant number of Parent Club National Specialties cancelled in 2020, GPCA will petition AKC to allow both of our Shows to be recognized as National Specialties.

In addition to the 2020 and 2021 National Specialties, we will also host the World Conference during the GPCA specialty week of April 3-10, 2021.

Report of the Judge Selection Committee for the 2022 National Specialty Judge results (as told by President Rhonda Dalton).

This is from Joanne Krausman, our National Specialty Judge Selection Committee Chair who would have loved to report to you but sent it to me instead. The 2022 National Specialty will be
held in Region 2. The Judge will be Carrie Stuart Parks. The 2023 National Specialty will be held in Region 3. The first round of Judge selection process for 2023 is complete. Thanks to all our members and Regional Clubs who have submitted names for the preliminary ballot. You will be receiving ballots with your dues renewals within the next 2 weeks. Please note that we have a new Independent Tabulator, Megan Scheffler. Her contact information is on your ballots. We are sad to report our longtime Independent Tabulator Kim Foster passed away last year. Last year, 25 preliminary ballots were incorrectly submitted and therefore invalid. Most of last year’s errors involved our members’ failure to write members’ names on the return address corner of the envelope. You may put more than one ballot into an envelope, but just remember to list each member’s name on the envelope. We want every vote to count, so please read and follow the directions.

**Recognition of serving for 40 years as the AKC Delegate, Dr. Bob Brown by President Rhonda Dalton.**

We have a very special recognition for a retiring Committee Chairs, our AKC Delegate, Dr. Bob Brown. Where do I start when talking about someone like Dr. Robert Brown? He’s been a member of the GPCA for 53 years and has represented our breed and members as our AKC Delegate for the past 40 years. He regularly flew across the country to attend the Delegate meetings, serving as Chairman of the Delegates Parent Club Committee and pioneering the Parent Club conferences. We owe Bob a great deal of gratitude for his dedication and devotion to the GPCA. I am sure if we were all together today, he would be receiving a standing ovation.

On a personal note, I owe everything to Bob who may or may not remember about 30 years ago, I called him for help. My first home-bred bitch, a Ch. Starlaxy Halley’s Comet granddaughter had pyometra. Of course, my vet at the time wanted to spay her immediately. Bob suggested that I try a treatment first that not only saved her uterus but allowed her to give birth to 2 healthy litters of 8 and 10 puppies. I was just able to use one of her son’s twenty-three-year-old frozen semen to produce 10 beautiful puppies last November. I personally will be forever indebted to him.

**Announcement of the 2020-2021 Board of Directors election results by President Rhonda Dalton**

Our new, 3-year term Board Members are: Carrie Stuart Parks, Joan Ziehl and Ellie Schultz. Our new, 1-year term Board Members are: Flo Laicher and Lisa Connor. Congratulations to our new Board members and goodbye to our retiring Board Members. Thank you all for your dedicated service to the GPCA.

**Per President Rhonda Dalton:** I thank Bret Zacher for hosting this meeting. I wish we could all be together and speaking with and seeing each other, but I’d like to thank you all for attending this meeting virtually. Please stay safe at your homes with your families and dogs. I look forward to seeing you next year in Virginia Beach.

**Adjournment** at 3:21 pm, EDST by President Rhonda Dalton

Respectfully submitted,
Ellie Schultz, GPCA Secretary