

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2016 * MATAMORAS, PA

President Valerie Seeley called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM. Valerie stated that the rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the GPCA in all cases to which they may be applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with GPCA Bylaws and any special rules of order the GPCA may adopt. Parliamentarian Ron Satz was introduced. Valerie stated that each member may speak for five (5) minutes on a motion and that all motions must be presented legibly, in writing, to the Secretary. The Board of Directors was introduced individually by the President. Roll call was taken by state. A quorum was present with 119 members in attendance and 5 guests.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT – Valerie Seeley made a very concise report and reiterated her statements which were published in the most recent Bulletin that from the time she was elected President of GPCA, she became the instant expert on all things GPCA. She further stated that there was a huge learning curve a HUGE learning curve, to overcome. Valerie also announced that Kevin Brown and Bret Zacher were appointed as Sergeants at Arms. Amy Zacher and Janet Ingram were appointed as Minute Review.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT—Kathy Lee stated that she received 19 reports from the Affiliated Clubs. This report was distributed at the Board of Directors meeting and in the Regional Rep meeting and the results were summarized for the general membership. This report will also be published in the Bulletin for review.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY—Linda McInturff reported that the membership figures were as follows: there are 597 full time members, 2 life time members, 1 junior member and 1 honorary member for a total of 601 members. The decline in numbers is probably due to the loss of Associate members however many of them have upgraded their memberships to full member status.

TREASURER'S REPORT—Mary Lou Mayer reviewed and discussed the account balances. The total amount (all funds included) in the treasury is \$109,466.43 as of December 31, 2015. Income for 2015 was \$90,739.43 and Expenses were \$89,458.17 so overall total for 2015 was \$1,281.26. The balances for the designated funds as of December 31, 2015 were: Health \$33,976.07, Historic Preservation \$3,511.40, Rescue \$12,130.84, National Specialties \$20,305.82, and General Fund \$39,542.30.

A question was posed by Gene Milgram regarding the fact that only \$100 was spent on Historic Preservation expenses although there is a balance of approximately \$3,511.40. Committee chair Joan Ziehl explained that the H.P. fund allows the committee to purchase items of historic relevance when they occur. Historic Preservation does not spend money just to be spending it. Joan graciously thanked all contributors to the H.P. fund so that these purchases can be continued in the future.

NOTE OF SPECIAL APPRECIATION—Valerie Seeley voiced the overwhelming appreciation we all share for some individuals who do such a great job for so many reasons and recognized:

- Joe Bruns for the GPCA website and constant monitoring it requires;
- Lisa Connor and Maria Davis for editing and publishing the Bulletins
- Stephanie Whitney for all of the database management issues.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES—Valerie Seeley reported that the Board of Directors voted to limit the terms of committee members to two years; however, they may renew their committee membership if they choose. Reports were made by the chairs of the following committees:

AKC Delegate—Bob Brown made a pitch for underwriting the expense of testing for NDG and pointed out that it involves only a cheek swab. Several persons have already volunteered to sponsor the testing for this recessive gene disease and it can be stamped out quickly by identifying whether a dog is affected, clear, or a carrier.

Delegate report: There are 4 meetings a year. This was the first year in a long while that registrations did not decline. However, AKC is looking for funds in many directions including now offering physical sales of dog related items and they have established an AKC store in New York.

AKC Sportsmanship Award—Bret Zacher reported that Kathy Liles was awarded the AKC Sportsmanship Award for 2015.

Bulletin Editors—Maria Davis thanked everyone for their contributions and encouraged participation from the membership.

Continuous Membership—Kevin Brown will hand out the pins later during the meeting.

Great Pyrenees Service Dog—Mary Lou Mayer asked members to please nominate dogs for service accomplishments. The deadline for nominations is in February and can be done on line.

Health Committee—Flo Laicher made 3 very quick requests for HC. The Health Committee is also underwriting blood draws for DNA collection to AKC and CHIC so that we will have access to the information when needed. Also, there were no nominations for Champion of Health this year so therefore there is no Champion of Health Award. And finally, please submit your health surveys for your pyrs. The information is extremely useful for reports and ongoing research projects with Canine Health Foundation. Ideally the survey should be submitted when the dog is 2 and has clearances, again if any changes occur in the dog's health, and when the dog passes.

Historic Preservation—Joan Ziehl thanked everyone for their donations and contributions.

Judges Education—Jean Pero reported that the participants had expressed good comments and feedback for the current program.

Junior Showmanship—Charles Hull reported that he was still working on the Junior Showmanship Hall of Fame and that he is also working on getting a section of the Bulletin dedicated to Junior showmanship. C.J. Dymont made the suggestion that other past Junior handlers mentor the new ones coming into the breed since this can be an intimidating breed to begin with. The suggestion met with approval.

Legislation—Bret Zacher stated that he forwards on the AKC legislative announcements to the states and cities that are affected by various proposed dog legislation.

Livestock Guardian Dogs—Valerie Seeley stated that the Board of Directors is going to send an inquiry to the general membership searching for LGD people and breeders.

National Specialty Judge Selection Committee—Joanne Krausman reported how the process of preparing the preliminary ballots worked this year and stated that there were 55 respondents who participated this year and 8 of the clubs as compared with last year where only 28 members responded and 3

of the regional clubs. Joanne felt that this increase in participation was a direct result of our electronic balloting. There are currently 89 judges on the preliminary list as opposed to last year where there were only 72.

Nominating Committee—Linda McInturff reported that there were 298 valid ballots and the new Board members will be Karen Justin, Bob Brown, and Amy Zacher. The ballot count is as follows:

Karen Justin	156
Robert Brown	147
Amy Zacher	143
Mary Lou Mayer	135
Greg Mills	84

Valerie Seeley stated that unfortunately Mary Lou Mayer was not re-elected and would be tremendously missed.

Performance/Companion Events—Erina Fitzgerald reminded everyone to stay and participate in the awards ceremony right after the Annual Meeting.

Rescue Liaison—Kathy Liles reported that the Rescue Report would be published in the Bulletin and also that GPCA is currently working toward getting more of the rescue groups to be more involved in the national rescue effort.

Studbook Data—Mary Ann Feller has been responsible for tracking this data for a long time and can no longer continue to do so. Thankfully Jo Stubbs has agreed to take over this vital role. Jo Stubbs also suggested that we investigate whether we can publish this information in the Bulletin. We purchase the information from AKC so we might be able to publish it. Jo will investigate further.

Titleholders—Jo Stubbs thanked everyone for responding, especially electronically, the first time she requested the information.

Versatility—Judy Skorup reported that we had several pyrs earn titles at this year's events. Judy encouraged everyone to participate and send in the appropriate information so that titles can be recognized.

Communications—Bret Zacher reported that he gets approximately 11 requests a month and he then forwards these requests to certain individuals to send responses. He is also responsible for the Blast e-mail, which only originate directly from the Board of Directors. Bret stressed the fact that if your email address is incorrect or if you have blocked the emails, it must be resubmitted to receive them in the future.

National Specialty Guidelines Committee—Kathy Lee and Whitney Coombs are currently working on the revisions to the guidelines.

Rescue Regional Coordinators—Kevin Brown spoke on behalf of the Western United States and requested assistance from anyone who might be involved in states other than Washington, Oregon and California so that he might have some local persons to contact for information or assistance.

Judge Selection for 2018 National Specialty—Joanne Krausman stated that the judge for the 2018 National Specialty will be Jean Boyd. The points for determining the ranking is as follows:

Jean Boyd	603
Tamra Green	257
Nancy Coombs	250
Keith Savage	233

Recognitions—Valerie Seeley asked each of the following to stand and be recognized by the membership:

- Committee Chairs
- Rescue Persons or those helping with rescue
- PFNE members who have helped with putting on the National Specialty
- Other National Specialty Show Chairs
- Past Presidents of GPCA
- Past members of the Board of Directors

NEW BUSINESS:

Valerie Seeley introduced Marcy Bankus, the show chair for the 2017 National Specialty which will be held at the Roberts Center in Wilmington, Ohio April 12 through April 16, 2017. The Great Pyrenees Club of Greater Chicago (GPCGC) will hold their Regional Specialty on April 17, 2017. The Sweepstakes judge will be Kunio Minakuchi and the Conformation judge will be Jon Cole.

For the 2017 National Specialty, Deanna Knighten, Non Regular Judge Selection Chair, announced that Jack Secrest will judge Futurity, Jean Pero will judge Puppy Sweepstakes, and Kathy Lee will judge Veteran Sweepstakes. The conformation judge for the 2017 National is Judy Cooper.

The 2018 National Specialty will be held in Colorado Springs, CO May 2 through May 5, 2018 at the Hotel Elegante. Jean Pero, the show chair for 2018, reported it is being held in a really nice site and Jean will be staying there for a week in the near future and can get more details at that time.

The 2019 National Specialty is tentatively scheduled to be held in Oconomowoc, WI, however the hotel was unwilling to sign a full contract as the hotel is possibly being sold but there are other possible locations which might be addressed at a later date.

Amy Zacher thanked the membership for participating with the On Line entry on the All In One form. She stated that it was a huge time saver and the work was donated by Joe Bruns.

MOTION #1: Michael Falatach moved that GPCA Board of Directors form a committee to revise and update the award policy to reflect the new AKC awards such as owner handler, groups, and grand champions. Motion was seconded by Catie Straiton. Mike revised his motion to an advisory status to the Awards Committee for consideration.

The discussion included acknowledging that the Awards policy which is in the Guidelines have not been available to the general membership. It was pointed out that the Board is currently revising them and updating the guidelines and they will be posted on the website in the near future.

The motion passed.

MOTION #2: Tamra Green moved that the host clubs for the GPCA National Specialty be required to furnish spiral bound catalogs instead of traditional book bound catalogs. Maria Davis seconded the motion. Flo Laicher pointed out that GPCA is the entity that conducts the National Specialty and therefore the GPCA Specialty guidelines should state that spiral bound catalogs will be required. The motion passed with Bret Zacher abstaining.

MOTION #3: Jean Pero moved that the Regional Specialty in Colorado in 2018 be held on Wednesday prior to the National Specialty. Keith Savage seconded the motion. Jean pointed out several points in favor of having it prior to the National Specialty. One of the Top Twenty judges pointed out that most dog clubs have their regional specialties prior to the National so that the National Specialty is the grand finale. She also noted that many members must be back at work on the Monday after the National and cannot stay over on Sunday as they must travel. There would also be more access to a larger pool of judges.

A great deal of discussion followed with Betty Jo Patrick and C. J. Dymont speaking against the motion. Ellie Schultz spoke in favor of the motion. Karen Justin spoke against the Wednesday proposal and for the Sunday regional. Betty Jo Patrick called the question and Janet Ingram seconded. Two-thirds of the members present voted in favor of calling the question.

The motion passed in favor of holding the 2018 Regional Specialty on Wednesday.

MOTION #4: Jean Boyd moved that in addition to the way Futurity classes are currently entered, an additional option of nominating would be to enter 2 puppies, pay \$20 from the first date of entering, thus committing at the earliest opportunity. Jean amended her motion to change the way the Futurity classes are entered by having two options: the first is the current one whereby one pays \$5 to nominate the unborn litter and then pays for any puppies that are individually entered between 4-6 months of age, or a second option would be to pay \$20 when nominating the unborn litter, and then any two puppies can be nominated with the names and information at a later date. This could all be done on line by credit card. The motion was seconded by Linda McInturff. Amy Zacher moved that the motion be referred to the Futurity Committee for consideration. Janet Ingram seconded the motion.

Mary Lou Mayer called the question and Janet Ingram seconded it. The motion passed and discussion ceased.

The motion to refer to committee passed.

MOTION #5: Maria Davis moved that the GPCA change the rule for judging the National Specialty from once every 5 to once every ten years to encourage a wider variety of judges. Victoria Coffman seconded the motion.

Many members spoke in favor of the motion including Judith Roman-Royer, Maria Davis, and Victoria Coffman. Numerous members also spoke against the motion including Jean Pero, Kathy Lee, Wayne Boyd, and Amy Zacher.

Kathy Lee called the question and Janet Ingram seconded it. The motion to call the question passed.

The motion to change the rule from once every five years to once every ten years was defeated with 14 votes for and 67 votes against.

MOTION #6: Sandy Dymont made a motion to get rid of the rule that any dog who is eligible for sweepstakes be allowed to enter. We had a 12-18 month dog who was of age (17 months) but not allowed to enter as he was 6 months at the 2015 National. She feels that if the puppy is under 18 months of age, it should be allowed to enter sweepstakes. Janet Ingram seconded the motion.

Valerie Seeley explained that the GPCA policy is that in Futurity the dog is eligible the first year it is eligible to show. The rule is the same for Puppy Sweepstakes—it is a carry-over.

Whitney Coombs noted that the GPCA policies are being rewritten and this is one of the policies which will be considered. As it exists right now, the policy is that the puppy can only be shown once. However, it was Whitney's opinion that if the puppy were under 18 months of age on the first day of the show, it should be allowed to show.

Flo Laicher agreed that there should not be a restriction for the puppy sweepstakes.

Marcy Bankus called the question and Bret Zacher seconded it. The motion passed and discussion ceased.

The motion to remove the restriction on Sweepstakes entries as long as the puppies are under 18 months of age passed.

Continuous Membership names were read and those persons were asked to pick up their pins after the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Linda McInturff,
Secretary