

The Great Pyrenees Club of America Annual Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2018

Hotel Elegante, Colorado Springs, CO

Called to order 2:14 pm MST by President Valerie Seeley

Introduction of Officers & Board members

President Valerie Seeley, Vice President Kathy Lee, Treasurer Karen Justin, Secretary Amy Zacher, Officers; Bob Brown, Vince Chianese, Whitney Coombs, Deanna Knighten, Kathy Liles

Introduction of Parliamentarian Kevin Tebedo

Statement regarding the use of the current Roberts Rules to govern

Notice of speaking limitation of 5 minutes and motions must be written

Roll Call by State

Visitors identified themselves

Quorum ?: Secretary declared a quorum is present

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the last Annual Meeting were approved

President's Report:

1. **Dues Notice** Form changes. Members not paying dues by July 1 lose membership rights until dues are paid. Members not paying by October 1 will lose their membership and have to re-apply. A question will be added regarding serving on a committee.
2. **Judge Education Mentors** Guidelines have been changed to anyone meeting the requirements of 12 years membership in The Great Pyrenees Club of America (GPCA), breed 5 litters on site, and finished 4 Champions may be a Judge Education Mentor.
3. **President's Message**
Resigning from the Board of Directors (BOD, Board) at the end of this meeting

[Reprinted in its entirety]

This year will probably go on record as one of the most memorable years in GPCA history. There are many members of GPCA who were present during earlier times of controversy – members like Judy Brown and Judy Cooper who are celebrating 50 years of Continuous Membership in GPCA.

What made this year different, is that for the first time social media, specifically Facebook, was a major contributor to the discourse. Earlier this year, an interview with Tim Cook the CEO of Apple, revealed that he prohibits his young nephew from utilizing any social media. At a 2016 MIT Commencement speech, he warned about how social media can turn us anti-social and was quoted as saying “Sometimes the very technology that is meant to connect us divides us”.

Facebook, combined with a fusillade of Letters to the Editors of the Bulletin proved to be at the same time, both beneficial and deleterious. AKC in its' statements on club conflict

resolution, states that “all too often conversations by ...social media...can lead to misunderstandings.”

Both Facebook and the Bulletin were dotted with a combination of name calling, misinformation, and correct information to the point that the average GPCA member didn't have a clue as to what all of the turmoil was about. The result was a membership consisting of individuals who were advocates for their causes, members seeking an explanation of the issues, and sadly, members who were appalled by it all.

So today we meet as we do each year. We salute those who later today will be receiving awards for their, or their beloved Pyrenees accomplishments. We applaud the work of those who chair the committees that ensure that GPCA functions. The GPCA is more than Judges Education. Has the monumental work in Florida of the Rescue Committee led by its' Liaison Kathy Liles and Janet Ingram the Eastern Coordinator, fallen by the wayside as yesterday's news? That rescue effort sad as it was, demonstrated all the good that is represented by GPCA. Do I also need to comment on the activities of the Health Committee led by Flo Laicher?

In a previous President's report, I wrote that just because our opinions differ, it doesn't mean by definition they are right or wrong – just different. The GPCA BOD is made up of 9 individuals elected by you the membership, who may not agree all of the time. However, it's that mix that is renewed every 3 years, that keeps the GPCA fresh and current.

It is our choice to own Great Pyrenees and to belong to the GPCA. Both play an important part in our lives. We joined the GPCA because we believed we would gain some type of gratification and/or enjoyment from it. We continue to be members because our expectations have been fulfilled, and at the same time acknowledge that there will be times of conflict as we all try to improve both the breed and the organization

4. **Sergeant at Arms** for Annual Meeting, Kevin Brown, Greg Mills, Bret Zacher & Joan Zeihl
5. **Minute Review Committee** for Annual Meeting Rhonda Dalton, Ellie Schultz

VP's Report:

Affiliated Clubs full report published in the Bulletin

Secretary's Report:

Currently GPCA has 561 members. 408 renewals were on time this year. 154 between July 1 & Oct 1. For the last two years the BOD meetings minutes from the National Specialty week are transcribed and approved by the BOD before being posted.

Treasurer's Report:

The Annual Report will be published in the Bulletin. A large thank you to Judy Brown for continuing to do our financials work. The Board of Directors (BOD) has set up an Audit

Committee. We audited the Fath Medallions. There are currently 11. The BOD is pursuing the Bonding of the Treasurer.

Committee Reports

1. AKC Delegate

Bob Brown reported that he attended the 4 delegates meetings. One challenge the AKC is facing is decreasing registration. This year registrations have increased for the first time in 15 years. There has been some staff turnover at AKC and increase staff by about 30 people. A VP responsible for raising funds was let go. The approval process for judge approval is continually changing. If you are seeking approval be sure to get the latest information directly from AKC.

2. AKC Sportsmanship Award

Bret Zacher reported that awards were given to Janet Ingram, Kathy Lee, & Joan Ziehl for their support of the Florida rescue effort this year. Amy Zacher, Joe Bruns, and Judy Brown were also involved in collecting donations. The GPCA raised \$110,000.

3. Bulletin

Maria Church Davis advised that the next issue should be delivered this week.

4. Disaster Response

Renamed from Disaster Preparedness. The new chair will be Linda Whisenhunt.

5. Gazette Columnist

Carrie Stuart Parks thanked the membership for their input. She will be using social media to ask for more input.

6. GPCA Cares

Whit Coombs asked members to please be sure to let us know if you have news of illness or a death in the family.

7. Service Dog Awards

Marylou Mayer requested that members please submit nominations. We need only a paragraph emailed to the chair to nominate.

8. Health Committee

Flo Laicher thanked to all who came to this year's speaker. Please let me know if you have any future topic suggestions. Full report will be published in the Bulletin and on the Health Committee website.

9. Historic Preservation

- a. AKC Museum Joan Ziehl thanked Jo Stubbs for working with AKC Museum. After many "No"s, Jo drove to the museum and was given the Mary Crane papers. They also told her that whatever is not going to NY will be auctioned. If this goes through, then we need to raise funds. Any delegates and anyone with AKC connections could contact them and see if we can get "our stuff". Finally, the committee would like to contact HP or equivalent at other clubs to inform them of what AKC plans to do. Several other suggestions were made to raise funds. [Note from the Secretary: Information after the meeting informed us that this will be addressed by the AKC at the June delegates meeting and it does not appear they will be sending items to public auction before working with breed clubs.]

- b. There was a suggestion about a traveling Museum which was received positively.

10. Judges Education

Whit Coombs reported 9 Judges attended this year's program. Thanks to everyone who allowed their dogs to participate in the parts seminar and hands-on session.

11. Judge Selection

- a. Joanne Krausman reported the 2019 National Specialty judge will be Wayne Boyd.

- b. 2021 preliminary ballots coming with Dues Renewal.
- c. Joanne put a notice on our Facebook page and Rhonda Dalton and Peggy Watson joined and now the committee is three people.

12. Membership

Ilene Agosto said continuous membership pins will be available after the meeting.

13. Membership Growth

Judy Cooper sent suggestions to the Board:

- a. Members pay fine but don't lose membership for late dues payment. Members would lose continuous membership and have to restart.
- b. Junior members should not have to go through the membership process.
- c. Breeders should be able to sponsor puppy buyers as members without having known them for at least 1 year.
- d. Providing puppy buyers with a membership form would increase membership.

14. Non-Regular Judge Selection

The chair, Deanna Knighten, asked if you are, or know someone who is, willing to judge a non-regular class to please notify her.

15. Performance/Companion

- a. Erina Fitzgerald asked that people stay for the awards after the meeting.
- b. People working hard and doing lots of activities.

16. Public Relations

The BOD President acts as the representative for public relations. Valerie explained what the role entails.

17. Rescue

- a. Kathy Liles thanked everyone who donated to the Florida rescue situation.
- b. The Committee will be increasing the amount reimbursed from \$300 to \$500.
- c. Valerie called attention to the \$5000 awarded from Westminster KC primarily due to the Florida rescue.

18. Social Media

Peggy Watson noted that;

- a. this National Specialty is being video taped by a group of volunteers and posted to the National Specialty Facebook page. It is getting a lot of views domestically and internationally with positive feedback and
- b. social media can be negative but it also a really good opportunity to communicate among the membership and with the public, if handled properly, and is the way of the future.

19. Title Holders

Jo Stubbs noted:

- a. Stud Book report comes from AKC.
- b. Title Holders, please send pictures of any type, call name, and registered name. Jim Delaney sends Jo the pedigrees each year.
- c. Hall of Fame information is on our website.
- d. Show results statistics were kept by Jim Delaney until 2014. He discontinued due to many reasons. Jo has updated top 50 through 2017. The GPCA is now getting the AKC show results quarterly as of 2018. Hopefully this information will be on the website soon and updated quarterly.
- e. Lifetime Sires & Dams, and possibly Owner Handlers, hopefully will be included in the future.
- f. Please send any ideas you may have and email if you see any mistakes. Karen suggested adding marked/unmarked to the Title Holders.

20. Top Twenty

Marci Bankus. Thank you to 2018 regional Co-Chair Brenda Gleason. Terry Lendved is the Co-Chair for 2019. The 2019 Theme is Run for the Roses.

21. Versatility

Christine Palmer-Persen announced a new annual award, the Thea K Hinds Memorial Trophy for Versatility, will be given beginning in 2019.

22. Finance Manager

Valerie advised the role will be eliminated shortly and thanked Judy Brown for great work.

23. Election announcements

New Board of Directors are Rhonda Dalton and Janet Ingram.

24. Recognitions

Recognition of Committee Chairs

Recognition of members who have helped with Rescue

Recognition of Past National Specialty Show Chairs

Recognition of Past Presidents

Recognition of Past Members of the Board of Directors

Recognition of 2018 GPCA National Specialty Committee

Recognition of Retiring Board Members, Kathy Liles, Deanna Knighten, and Valerie Seeley.

Old Business

None

New Business

1. National Specialty

Bret Zacher reported:

- a. 2019 will be at Pheasant Run in St. Charles IL the week of April 15. Show Co-Chairs are Bret Zacher & Joan Hanover.
- b. The 2019 Non-regular Judges were announced by Deanna Knighten;
Puppy Sweeps – Mary Fleming
Futurity – Kim Lasley
Veteran Sweeps – Flo Laicher
Juniors – Bob Brown
Obedience & Rally – Cindy Fisher.
- c. 2020 Virginia Beach, VA – at the Founders Inn. Bret provided some details about the site. 2020 World Conference will be held in conjunction with this National Specialty.
- d. The 2020 Judge, Jean Pero, was announced by Joanne Krausman.
- e. 2021 is in the Midwest. Current prospects are Topeka, KS and Sawmill, OH. He is open to suggestions.

President Valerie Seely turned the meeting chairmanship over to Parliamentarian Kevin Tebedo for the remainder of New Business. Kevin reviewed the rules regarding voting and speaking.

2. Other

Motions from the floor

1. Motion AM20180504.01: All Top Twenty Qualifiers each year be allowed to participate in the event, even if they have won the event in a past year. The event be open to all for no fee to observe the event. Made by Bret Zacher. Seconded. Discussion. Amended.

2. Motion AM20180504.02: Divide motion AM20180504.01. Made by unknown. (Seconded by David Smith) Motion passed.
3. Motion AM20180504.03: All Top Twenty Qualifiers each year be allowed to participate in the event, even if they have won the event in a past year. Discussion. Question was called. Tie vote, therefore motion failed.
4. Motion AM20180504.04 The Top Twenty event be open to all for no fee to observe the event. Discussion. Question was called. Motion failed.
5. Motion AM20180504.05: Substitute motion AM20180504.04 with, direct the Top Twenty committee to include a possible way to raise funds each year for the following year to make it more affordable. Discussion. Question was called. Motion failed.

Kevin noted that while these motions are important, when a motion is voted on, it is not an automatic approval to be done. The motion will go to the BOD for approval. The Bylaws provide the BOD has 100% authority on running the operations of the club.

6. Motion AM20180504.06: Add to the BOD Candidate Biography form “How many terms in the last 25 years have you served on the GPCA board?”. Made by Eli Schultz. Seconded. Discussion. Motion passed.
7. Motion AM20180504.07: Made by Peggy Watson. That the membership present at this meeting vote to direct the BOD to remove the four members of the Judges Education committee who recently submitted a Letter to the Editor published in the Bulletin. Motion Out of Order.
8. Motion AM20180504.08: Made by Maria Church Davis. Allow no more than one Board member on any committee. Motion Out of Order.
9. Motion AM20180504.09: Made by Maria Church Davis. Rescind BOD motion 20171010.05 allowing committee chairs to select their committee members. Motion Out of Order

Kevin read several pertinent sections of the Bylaws.

10. Motion AM20180504.10: Made by Terry Denney-Combs. Seconded. Eliminate the Top Twenty competition and make it a showcase. Discussion. Question was called. Motion failed.
11. Motion AM20180504.11: Made by Kathy Lee. Seconded. The cocktail dress requirement for the Top Twenty event, as included in the committee guidelines, be removed. Discussion. Question was called. Motion passed.
12. Motion AM20180504.12: Made by Judith Roman-Royer. There should be no more than one member of any committee on the BOD and that every committee have one Board member appointed as advisor to the committee. Motion Out of Order.
13. Motion AM20180504.13: Made by Laurie Gottschalk. All be allowed to write in any person on the GPCA National Specialty ballot for consideration to judge the GPCA National Specialty following the AKC Guidelines for *Parent Club Request for Non-approved Individual to Judge a Specialty Show*. This includes but is not limited to GPCA Breeders current or retired, Professional handlers, Provisional Judges, and Foreign Judges. Out of Order.
14. Motion AM20180504.14: Made by Peggy. Seconded. Anyone on the Judges Education Committee meet the requirements of Breed Mentors. Discussion. Motion was withdrawn and sent back to the maker.
15. Motion AM20180504.15: Made by Judith Roman-Royer. That the current “feud” between members of the Judges Education committee be submitted to an AKC approved mediator for mediation, as suggested by the AKC booklet, *Working it Out*. Motion is Out of Order.
16. Motion to Adjourn made by Whit Coombs and seconded. Motion passed.

Two motions were not read.

3. Recognition of Continuous Membership

50 Years: Judy Brown & Judy Cooper

45 Years: Nancy Coombs, Sandy McCrady, Robert Smith, Betty Wade Warmack

40 Years: Phyllis Hammatt, Laura Prather, Sue Wilson

35 Years: Sandra Adams, Barb Berkesch, Donna Coffman, Judith Glaessgen, Sue King, Gail Knapp, Augusta Macrokanis, George Macrokanis , Dorothy Sisco, Carla Smith, Lynn Thigpen

30 Years: Pam Butler, Dennis Frisco, Joan Laguna, Kathy Lee, Steve Lee, Cheri Leinneweber, Tom Meade, Betty Jo Patrick, Richard Ray, Kim Salerno, Larry Warmack, Teresa Whittle,

25 Years: Angella Aleksa, Charlotte Bascom, Jeffery Bechtel, Patricia Bechtel, John Dewing, Virginia DuPont, Norma Egginton, Carol Graham, Guy Laperriere, Nicole Lavergne, Linda Lewellen, Priscilla Marsh, Christine Palmer-Persen, Roland Trinkka, Kathi Weir, Mary Wolff-Salin

20 Years: Dan Hodel, Mary McGuire, Gayleen Howard Miller, George Miller, Audra Payne, John Payne, Joan Ziehl

Adjournment 5:24 pm MST

Submitted by: Amy Zacher, Secretary