GWPCA Board Meeting Minutes September 2011

Call to Order: The regular meeting of German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America Board of Directors (BOD) was called to order via telephone conference call on September 13, 2011, at 5:39 pm PDT by Ray Calkins. In addition to Ray, BOD members present were Chuck Casanova, Bob Perry, Erika Brown, Liz Barrett-Dixon, Garnett Persinger, and Mary Hanson.

Finalize Agenda: The agenda was finalized with the addition of several items under new business.

Approval of minutes from August meeting: Garnett moved to approve the August minutes with the clarification and addition of items requested by Mary. Chuck seconded the motion carried by unanimous vote. Mary will finalize the August minutes and email to Angie for publication on the GWPCA website.

President's Report: Ray had nothing specific to report.

Secretary's Report: Mary received a valid petition to nominate Angie Johnson for Eastern Director.

Correspondence from AKC included 1) a reminder to update the list of GWPCA officers, as well as Club contacts for breeder referral, breed rescue contact, public education and judges' education coordinator, and 2) letter notifying us that Parent Club Approval may be granted for shows for multiple years. Mary asked for confirmation on the Club contacts. She will notify AKC of the change in breed rescue contact from Laura Myles to Diane Turner. Mary reported that she had sent Parent Club approvals for 4 events for 3 clubs: Ft. Detroit GWP Specialty and field trial; GWP SC field trial; GWPC E NE field trial. She will be emailing the local clubs to bring them up to date of Parent Club issues.

Mary has sent emails on Board actions to Judy Cheshire approving Maturity Criteria and to Sean Ferraro approving the ROM clarification.

In lieu of a letter drafted by the Board, Mary suggested to Angie that she compose a letter to the membership announcing the electronic WireNews. Ray has contacted Angie supporting the letter and the WireNews is now on the website.

In response to Mary's request for feedback on Lori Sargent's draft letter to new AKC GWP title-holders, Garnett volunteered to proof read it and send any revisions back to Mary for forwarding to Lori.

Treasurer's Report: Erika emailed the Board her partial Annual Report providing a sample of what she would like to prepare to show what came in and what went out. She is hoping that 2011Nationals is in the black. Her report was favorably received and she was encouraged to continue. Ray noted that Maturity has its own account; Erika noted that it is in the general fund but earmarked for maturity. Garnet moved and Chuck seconded to approve the Treasurer's report and the motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Committee Reports:

SEAC Report: Judy Cheshire's report was emailed to the Board. The issue of GWP awards was moved to new business.

FEAC Report: Liz reported that she has no feedback on DNA, but the topic will be added to FEAC agenda at Nationals meeting. She has been receiving names for judges for 2012 Nationals.

Directors' reports:

East Coast - Garnett had nothing major to report, but has discussed Meet the Breed issue (*see* under New Business) with two clubs.

Midwest – Nothing to report.

West Coast – Bob has been communicating with NCal club on 2012 Nationals show venue.

Rescue: Diane reported via Garnett that National rescue having trouble some cash transfer issues and Ray offered to look into it. Diane reported that rescues are increasing, some due to job loss or illness of the owners. Bob and Ray will look into contacting one breeder to seek help for re-homing some of the dogs.

Bylaws: Ray received an email from Mark who thinks they have things fairly well organized, but he would prefer to defer working on the Bylaws until winter when things are not so busy. Ray and Chuck will try and meet with him at Nationals.

Old Business:

Liability Insurance coverage for Directors and Officers: Chuck has talked to the broker for his business about bonding and fraud insurance. The broker suggested look at obtaining a Directors and Officers insurance rider that included employee dishonesty or a stand alone employee's dishonesty policy that would cover directors and officers. His broker is comfortable with the liability limits on our Equisure policy. He is still fact finding on bonding and fraud insurance and will have more to report at Nationals. He cautioned the Board to be sure that our decisions don't provoke a lawsuit. Erika reported a quote of $815 from Equisure for liability insurance to cover Directors and Officers. She will check to see what all it covers.

CHIC Program: Robin's recommendation on what programs to support with CHIC money was received by Erika and forwarded to the Board via email. There is at least $3000 available that includes money from Purina and our AKC Delegate. Ray favored focusing on health research that affect GWPs and recommended the money be donated in $1000 increments to ensure that a report from the researcher would be forthcoming. Based on Robin's recommendations and further discussion, the Board decided to contribute CHIC funds in $1000 increments to Grant #01418 PET 2.0 (Providing Engineered T-cells to treat lymphoma), Grant 1545- (A Pilot study to asses Folate Receptor Expression for better lymphoma protocols), and Grant #1484 (Identification and Characterization of a Canine antibody for vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF)). The Board felt that although Grant #1425 (Epilepsy research) was worthy and had support on the Board, they didn't want to fund any grant less than $1000. However, they would support funding $1000 toward Grant #1484 should the funds become available through CHIC in the future. Liz moved that we accept Robyn's recommendation on donating CHIC money for Grant #01418, Grant #01545, and Grant #1484; Bob seconded and there being no further discussion, the motion carried on a unanimous vote. Chuck will relay the Board's decision to Robin.

2011 Nationals: There was nothing new to report, but Liz had heard from Sue deGraw that entries are low.

2012 Nationals: No official report. Ray will contact Cindy and request a formal report to be given at Nationals.

2013 Nationals: Chuck has been exchanging emails with Judy and Rick regarding specialty dates coordination. Bob asked about the all-breed shows in Lincoln. Chuck responded the GWP specialty would be on Friday; there would be 4 days of all breed

shows. Ray asked Chuck to have someone give a brief report at Nationals. Rhonda has some things in place for the field events, e.g., chairmen, co-chairmen, trophy chairman, wranglers, etc. She has contacted the NE Field Trial Assoc. to let them know of the event.

GWPCA 2011 Nominations/Election/Ballot: Erika is still trying to locate costs for the previous election; she has only the invoice from Michelle and cannot locate the cost for counting the ballots (she cannot access computer files from Sue and has asked for hard copies). Ray asked Erika to ask Sue Mueller who she had used for the ballot count and stressed the importance of trying to get costs identified this week for approximately 500 ballots in approximately 375 envelopes (family members get two ballots in one envelope). Chuck reported that there were 207 ballots cast for President and a similar number for Vice-President and Directors. Mary will get two estimates from Club Count one for just counting the ballots and another for printing, mailing and counting the ballots. She will also ask for Club Count's credentials to ensure that the vote count follows guidance in the Bylaws. Mary will email the new nominees and ask them to send their bio to her for posting to the website once the deadline for additional nominations has passed (Sept. 15). Ray requested that all incumbents also send their bios to Mary so that all bios can go to Angie at one time and ASAP.

Eliminating Top Ten in WireNews: Ray re-opened the discussion from the last meeting on eliminating publication of the Top Ten in the WireNews. Several options were discussed, including limiting publication to two issues, creating a web page for this purpose, changing the format on the printed version, but no decision was made. Ray indicated he would discuss the issue at Nationals with the people who compile the statistics and come up with a plan. The topic was tabled until after the nationals

Cost of WireNews to lapsed members: Mary brought up unfinished business from Aug. meeting and asked the Board to clarify and make a decision regarding what the Club would charge for copies of the WireNews ordered outside of the copies sent to members. There was consensus that the chard for copies should cover publication and shipping. Costs are difficult to predict ahead of time given that different issues cost differently to finish depending on color ads. Ray suggested that we should charge a flat fee for the remainder of this year and revisit during the By-laws revision and after a new editor has been hired. Garnet moved to charge $15 for back or extra issues of WireNews the remainder of this year; Chuck seconded the motion and with no further discussion, the motion passed on a unanimous vote.

New Business:

Vote New Member Applications: Erika presented one new member to vote on. Bob moved to approve the application of Brian Silcott; Garnett seconded the motion and it passed on a unanimous vote.

Wire~News Editor Position: Ellen is moving and has resigned the position of Wire~News Editor, although she has offered to help with the transition. Advertisement for the position is in the electronic version of the Wire~News. Ray indicated there would be a major discussion on this at the Nationals. He needs to see an official application for the position.

Meet the Breed: Erika wanted to know if the Board had any guidelines on Meet the Breed. The issue has to do with two clubs putting on the event together, e.g., at the Eukanuba National in Florida in Dec. Garnett indicated the issue has been taken care of. No action was taken.

Renewing memberships: Erika asked how we will be reminding members about renewing. The Board application usually appears in last issue of the WireNews before end of year along with a reminder to renew, also possibly by email. Ray indicated there needs to be something in the November newsletter along with a dues statement; He will discuss with Ellen best way to handle it. Mary cited the Bylaws requirement to send each member a statement during the month of November for the following year's dues. There was consensus to table the discussion until Nationals meeting and no further action was taken. .

GWPCA Awards Judy has received inquires about creating Top Dog awards for Rally, NAVHDA UT, Grand Champion, etc., be added to the ones the Club currently hands out at Nationals. The discussion that followed revolved around the time involved in handing out awards at National, the cost of additional trophies, and which ones we really wanted to recognize. Chuck pointed out that one way to encourage people is to recognize their accomplishments, but it is expensive and the issue may boil down to money. It was suggested giving recognition, but maybe not a trophy. There was general agreement the topic needs broader discussion and adding new awards for this year was tabled for now to be continued at Nationals Board meeting when there will be a new trophy chairman. Mary will advise Judy that for practical reasons, e.g., lack of time, there will be no new awards this year and that the discussion will be on the Board meeting at Nationals. A new policy on Club awards is likely after the first of the year.

Breeder of Merit program: AKC has asked for input for on requirements for the GWP on their Breeder of Merit program. Ray needs to discussion with AKC and our CHIC Committee. Chuck will visit with Robin and explore the requirements and get back to Ray. The item was tabled for now.

Next Board Meeting: The next Board meeting will take place on the grounds at Nationals in Oct. Board will meet at Nationals on Friday and decide the best time,

Adjournment: Garnett move to adjourn, Bob seconded, the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm PDT.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Hanson,
GWPCA Secretary