

2015 General Membership Meeting Minutes

Upper Marlboro, MD

The meeting was called to order by LV President Annetta Cheek at 6:13 PM EST.

LV Officers present: President Annetta Cheek, Vice President Carole Patterson, Secretary Debra DeFrank, LRO Ann Dolan - substituted for Lisa Little, OfG Randy Theen, Membership Officer Chris Lietzau, Midwest KG President Nick Reinhard, KG North President Roberta Haskell, and Southeast KG President Melissa Hepler.

Awards: Annetta awarded Honor pins to Anne Conroy, Chris Lietzau and Randy Theen for their contributions to the organization. 25 year plaques were awarded to Arkansas Schutzhund Club and Mid Rivers Working Dog Association.

President's report: Annetta commented the disciplinary section of the bylaws is being worked on by Shanna Burgin and will soon be sent out for review. She mentioned that finally we have someone who will work on the Handbook. Help is needed to get ads for the magazine and anyone interested, please contact Annetta or Shelly Timmerman. Email addresses – not all members wish to give their email addresses for the membership database but these are needed for communication purposes. They're not an obligation, but strongly encouraged. Annetta introduced parliamentarian Darlene Allen.

Vice President's report – no report

Secretary's report – no report

Treasurer's report – sent by Anne - the income and expense reports are posted on the Members Only section of the website. Work that has been done this year – scorebook application process has been returned to the members. The LV Secretary puts together the mailing lists for the magazine. There's an accurate membership roster. The ability to track membership dues from new applicants and renewals by individuals and clubs. Recommendations: form a foundation for donor benefits. Set up online giving that goes to the organization. Security of funds: Hire a bookkeeper for invoicing, accepting payments, bill receiving and payment. Reconciliations: QuickBooks format, bank, PayPal statement. Checks written by treasurer, but amounts provided by bookkeeper. Invest accrued member dues for educational events and services.

LRO report – Ann Dolan reporting for Lisa – to date, there have been 62 DVG trials, 11 outside organization trials and 8 cancellations. Ann added that Jani Turkia is our newest apprentice judge.

OfG report – Randy Theen stated he was asked to step in to fill a vacancy a year ago when Wayne Kemper resigned. There was an immediate need to get some helper certifications going and there were helper seminar/certifications held in all regions. He created a workflow process for helper books to be distributed. Paperwork has gone to Deb DeFrank who in turn keeps the files and distributes helper books. Also, new helper books were designed and printed but the old helper books are still valid. Randy also expressed the need for upgrading the helper tests.

Membership Officer's report – Chris reported the membership database is doing a good job. The online application is up and running on the DVG website. Members may pay through PayPal or send a check. The turnaround from Germany is usually 24 hours. The database is reconciled between the LV and Germany. She reminded that the LV has been paying for cancelled members for many years and that issue has been rectified. Two clubs canceled for 2016. They are Select Working Dog Club – West KG and Copper Creek DVG – Southeast KG. Two new clubs were formed in the Midwest KG. They are – Gateway Schutzhund Club in the St. Louis area and Red River Working Dog Club in the Dallas area. A new club in the West KG formed in the San Diego area – San Diego Diensthund DVG. We have approximately 850 members. Chris will know at the end of the year how many cancelled, how many new members were added and it will be determined if we are growing or not.

Training Director's Handbook Committee report – Ted Hartman reported the committee is working on the 20 year old handbook. They are bringing information in from Germany and will translate to see what's appropriate for the LV.

OfG Election – according to the bylaws, whenever there's a vacancy for an elected position, that position must be filled at the next General Membership meeting. There were 2 candidates and each gave a 2 minute presentation. The vote was by written ballot. Charlie Purdham – 260 votes. Ted Hartman – 493 votes.

Old Business:

Discussion of the additional adult added to a (VM) full member – Annetta pointed out this is a member who does not get the magazine that lives in the same household. She stated there are only about 10 members who fall into this category. West KG President Jeanita Davis suggested on the August 23rd LV Board teleconference to grandfather in those who are presently in this membership category but it will not be available for new members. Chris Lietzau moved the membership level "additional adult" added to a member in the same household gets grandfathered in the future, this category be eliminated. Joanne Fleming seconded. Vote by roll call – 389 yes votes; 364 no votes. The motion carried.

New Business:

Agenda item KG North

Offer a possible Search and Rescue title. Volker Sulimma related this will be a new sport hopefully next year in Germany by the SV and DVG. Every LV can send 2-3 judges to Germany for training. Volker explained this title will only be for sport and not work. The rules will be comprehensive, different titles, different things for area search and water. It will be very interesting and detailed. He stated the idea is to create one set of rules which is meant for SAR sport and competition. A question was raised about offering the watchdog title. Klaus Jurgen-Glueh replied that title will not be coming back.

Agenda items from the Southeast KG –

1. Hire an individual to work for the LV organization, discuss possible duties and responsibilities. A discussion followed asking how we will pay for this service, what one person will have all the answers. It was mentioned there's a lot of people in this organization who can answer questions. It was noted that this is a volunteer organization and who would do the payroll for the hired person. There was a suggestion to set up a mailbox. Also mentioned was if we grow, can volunteers handle 2000 – 5000 members without having to pay someone. The importance

of the Handbook was pointed out. Shelly added the website already has many contacts on there and also a forum. There was the comment if a person was found to hire, that person wouldn't be able to answer all questions and they would be directed back to the Board anyway. Melissa tabled it for now.

2. LV funded educational events. These events could be anything to help members. A discussion followed. Helper certifications are great but teaching training helpers is even more important. Getting the youth involved was also pointed out. It was suggested the LV allocate so much a year per KG and the KG's can apply for those funds to use for any event they want. Noted was the helper seminar/certification in addition to a handler seminar with judges assisting hosted in Tulsa in 2005-2006. There was strong member support for these events.
3. Breed trophies for the nationals – Klaus Jurgen-Glueh stated these trophies were OK to offer. A discussion followed if breed trophies should be offered in an all or mixed breed organization event. Annetta stated this is something we should ask the membership.

Non-affiliated memberships – there was a discussion regarding the former Sammelgruppen memberships for those who didn't belong to a club. It was mentioned these were discontinued for many reasons but how do we accommodate these people. It was noted that some clubs have members who live states away.

Liability insurance – administration issue.

Charging for replacement cards – Germany charges us for these and the LV has been paying these fees for many years. From now on, members will be charged \$5.00 - \$10.00 for these. It was suggested that members copy their membership cards as soon as they are received.

Handler sport passes – next meeting.

Mailing costs – Chris related we have to be careful that we don't have Germany mailing us things we don't really need as we get charged for that. Please ask before mailing or emailing things to Germany.

Trial fees – Annetta related that Germany charges us a fee when we have a trial. That's the \$20.00 club fee is that is charged to each club along with their renewals. She stated some small clubs have a trial every 3 years while larger clubs can have 2-3 trials per year so it doesn't seem fair to charge everyone the same fee. Possibly in the future, clubs will be charged their own trial fees of whatever Germany charges the LV.

Email address requirement – earlier discussion. Anyone applying for a new membership must provide an email address. It was argued that this was illegal as some people would have to buy a computer, etc. The parliamentarian stated it was not illegal as email addresses are free, can use your phone or go to the library. Chris strongly suggested providing an email address as it defeats the purpose of using the database as it was designed if we don't have email addresses.

AWDF funding – Annetta asked if we were getting enough for our money. Currently, the dues are \$600.00 per year. We also send a representative to the meeting (travel expenses). Is this something that is valuable to the membership? Has it outlived its usefulness or hasn't lived up to its promise. This has become a national event held once a year and that's all it is. We need to decide if the \$2000.00 to \$3000.00 we spend each year on dues and travel expenses is a good investment.

2016 National championship hosting – Melissa stated the 2016 DVG Nationals will be hosted by the Southeast KG as a KG and not by a club. At this time, they are looking at the stadium where the 2008 Nationals were held in Clermont, FL. It will probably be a night trial and sod fields for tracking.

ZTP title – a statement was made that the ZTP is in the FCI rules and is in our rules. ZTP is not confirmation or temperament, just tracking, obedience and protection work. Hartmut pointed out that it is an official title and it can be offered. We will have to work on getting the judges educated. The minimum number of dogs for a trial is 4 and ZTP can count as one of those. There was a discussion if other breed organizations won't recognize it and it was noted that some breed organizations don't offer it. Offering ZTP titles would open the opportunity for more people to trial and help reduce the costs of hosting trials. For some people, that's all they want. The FCI and DVG say we can offer the ZTP title and it's another title for a dog just like search and rescue. Hartmut suggested some clubs try to offer it as the IPO 1 is so hard and the ZTP would be a stepping stone after the BH. Each phase is not an option for all dogs. Also suggested was offering the VO title for dogs who are just not quite ready for the IPO 1 or older dogs who can't do the jump. Annetta mentioned this organization has been in the decline and we need to do everything we can to attract new members and our trials. Offering the ZTP and VO titles will encourage people to join and stay.

Nick Reinhard motioned to adjourn, Jeff Urlaub seconded. None opposed, the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 8:32 PM EST

Respectfully submitted,

Debra DeFrank
LV Secretary