

AWDF Annual Meeting April 3, 2008 minutes

Meeting began @ 8:20am CST

Attendance: **President:** Al Govednik, (**absent but present to listen via phone**)

Vice President: Lyle Roetemeyer **Secretary:** Michelle Testa

Treasurer: Sean O'Kane

Executive Delegates: Glenn Stephenson Vera Reeves & Gary Patterson (**both absent**)

Clubs Present: Working Riesenschnauzer Federation, United Schutzhund Club of America, American Working Malinois Association, Federation American Bulldog, Working Pit Bull Terrier Club of America, North American Working Airedale Terrier Assoc., LV DVG America

Clubs Absent: United States Boxer Assoc, United Doberman Club, United States Rottweiler Club, North American Working Bouvier, United States Mondioring Assoc., Authentic Hovawarts of North America, The Society in America for the Cane Corso Italiano (Guest status)

Total attendees present for the annual meeting: 12

Lyle Roetemeyer began the meeting by thanking those present for attending. He continued by informing everyone that because of the last conference call the agenda had been updated and shortened. In President Al Govednik's absence Lyle asked Michelle Testa AWDF Secretary to read the president's report

"AWDF President report 2008"

I would like to start out my report by thanking the city of Gadsden, Alabama, the members of Jefferson-St. Clair County Schutzhund Association, and Machtig Strom Schutzhund Verein for hosting our 2008 AWDF championship. I would also like to point out to everyone, that Pam and Gary Hanrahan have again done a wonderful job putting together another world class event. For those new to the sport, the Hanrahans have hosted numerous national events over the years. I personally always look forward to attending championships that the Hanrahans host, because I know they always do a great job. Unfortunately, work commitments are keeping me from attending this year's event.

I feel as if we have accomplished quite a lot over the last 2 years. I am again seeking all of your support for the office of President. I'll try to summarize everything we have worked on during this past term.

Communication within our federation is getting better all the time. We have had numerous telephone conferences during the last few years, and now we are getting the minutes posted on our web site in a timely fashion. This makes it easier for everyone to keep abreast of what problems or programs we are working on.

Our federation keeps growing. We developed a good working relationship with DVG America, and together we united to create a stronger AWDF. We had to do some work with our Bylaws, to make it possible to include the DVG, but we worked through that. The latest addition is the Cane Corso club. SACCI has recently applied for membership in our Federation.

Our organization had some tough issues to deal with over the last few years. One of those was our budget. As we continue to grow, our operating costs also get greater. As a group, over the period of several months, while using our conference calls, we worked out a plan to improve our cash flow. We now have quite a good budget to work with, and we are working to improve that as well.

The AWDF took 4th place in the FCI IPO championship. It was an honor to be asked by our team to accompany them onto the stadium field during the championship parade and closing ceremonies. During this weekend, I was asked to give a interview for an Italian television network. During this interview, I described how hard our organization works towards the preservation of the working dog in America, and explained to our Italian friends, that we are the people, i.e. organization, that represents the working dog in America.

Over the last 2 years, I have attended 4 FCI working commission meetings, and I was able to sit in, and voice opinions on numerous topics, including the IPOV, the FH2 start, Mondioring, and the promotion of all working dog sport programs in Europe as well as those of our AWDF member clubs. We have also developed a good relationship with the FCI working commission in that we are active with trading ideas, rules etc. Case in point, the FCI working commission was looking for some ideas to create a international championship event manual. The USA provided the FCI working commission a copy of its national events manual. We were given a copy of the finished FCI working commission manual, and there were several parts of the USA's manual, that they were able to adopt into their own program. We also have shared judges and helper programs as well. As an organization, we are in a good position regarding rule changes, updates etc. This was not always the case in the past.

One area that I felt we needed to do better with was getting more of our membership involved with the international working dog movement. While it's important that we do well on the competition field, we have made ourselves an asset for the FCI working commission. Several of our members are getting an opportunity to work with the working commission. During the last 2 years, we were able to get 5 AWDF member club judges FCI-recognized through the working commission. We also received an invitation for the AWDF to send more judges to the FCI judges meetings in the future. This includes the DVG judges as well. At the working commission meeting in Torino, Italy, I provided a list of 10 AWDF member club helpers that were to be added to an international helper list.

We are currently involved with the FCI Rescue commission and have made contact with the IRO, as well as the SV with regards to Search and Rescue. This opens our federation, and our country up to numerous opportunities, particularly growth.

We now have 2 American Mondioring judges, and Ann Putegnat oversees all Mondioring activities in North America for the FCI Mondioring commission.

I believe a real highlight of this last term was developing our own working dog program. Gary Patterson, Lyle Roetemeyer, Mark Przybylski, Ann Marie Chaffin, Bill Webber & myself all worked together to make this a reality. We will be promoting this during the upcoming trial season.

I believe as our membership sees our hard work, we are getting more people interested in helping out. We now have a full nominating committee, and board of inquiry.

A big area of concern is what I call the anti working-dog legislations that seem to be popping up all over our country. Our legislative committee has been active in doing everything in our power to make sure our working dogs are safe from poorly drafted legislation. As part of my commitment to this, I am an executive director of the American Dog Owners Association (ADOA)

In September of 2007, I had the opportunity to present the out going working commission president, and our good friend, Eberhard Strasser, with a retirement gift. This was a special situation for our organization, as well as for me. Herr Strasser was quite instrumental in our inclusion in many FCI working commission committees and programs. He is truly our friend, and I was quite honored to be allowed to attend this function. The new working commission president, Frans Jansen, has assured me that our participation in the FCI working commission is essential to the working dog. Mr. Jansen plans to continue to help us, in the same way as Herr Strasser was able to.

Listed below are some of the personal things I'm able to do with our membership. I am quite active with my own dogs, and am the training director of my own multi-breed club. I support numerous clubs with trial entries, I have done tracking seminars, helper seminars, and as a teaching judge, I am able to work with novice judges. All of these things offer me a unique position because it gives me an opportunity to visit with people from all over the country regarding the AWDF. I have found that we have quite a few people in our federation that are always willing to offer opinions, and ideas, as well as ask questions. I feel as if I have a certain amount of respect from my fellow AWDF members, because I really am quite active in our community. I also would like to thank the organization for giving me an opportunity to compete in the upcoming FCI IPO FH world championship.

As with any organization, we are always looking for support. I would like to thank those people that provided sponsorship for our international teams the last few years. Eurosport, Bill Campbell of K9 koncepts, Andres Aportela, and the USA have been among the most generous people or groups. I would ask everyone to please support these people whenever you have a chance.

*Our future looks bright as we have many avenues for growth, both in America and abroad.
Yours in Sport,
Al Govednik
AWDF President"*

Lyle thanks Al for all he has done for the AWDF and asks for people to support him in the election.

Vice President's Report as read by Lyle Roetemeyer:

Vice President's Message:

Meaningful success rarely comes from a single action. Success is better defined as a consistent pattern as opposed to an isolated event. Success is ours when we persistently embody the discipline, the integrity, the positive attitude, the respect for fellow members and all of the other attributes that define success. We also have many members of our federation that have given countless hours of work to making this board, our committees and our annual events very positive functioning pieces of our success. The amount of time and effort that have been put

forth by President Al Govednik, myself and countless others to promote open and honest discussions amongst our federation as well as members of the world community of working dog enthusiasts have proven successful. As a united federation, I am extremely pleased with our efforts to protect the working heritage of our breeds. Our efforts as member clubs of the American Working Dog Federation will continue to be defined as a success as long as we are all willing to continue this pattern of consistency. I am extremely grateful and appreciative of everyone's efforts.

The future is bright for the American Working Dog Federation because the future continues to be created by positive hard working people within our organization. Those members who wish to be negative make a lot of noise about how bad they think things are for them. Those who are positive, quietly and steadily make real improvements and contributions to our federation. Problems will always crop up and there will always be challenges. It is the same in all walks of life. Yet, we should be mindful that there are those among us that have the vision and the drive to transform challenges into opportunities. Those that have courage, commitment and discipline will continue to build a better federation for all of our members. For every high-profile guru of doom who complains about how unfairly they have been treated and/or attempt to slander fellow members, there are hundreds of others who are working tirelessly to make our organization even better. For every self proclaimed crisis that is rumored and bandied about from chat list to chat list, there are hundreds of real and meaningful successes that go unnoticed, but those successes do have an enormously positive influence on our federation's present and future. While negative thinking members continue to obsess over the past and/or their lack of having their personal agendas promoted, positive members are busy working to build the future for all member clubs of the American Working Dog Federation.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to each and every member for their continued support of their member clubs and their spirit of camaraderie in furthering the goals of our Federation. For nearly twenty years, the efforts of this Federation to protect and preserve our working breeds and breed evaluations have continued to ensure that our future generations will be able to experience the joy of owning a working dog with true working temperament. I hope and pray that as a federation we will never lose our focus in maintaining the proper temperament of our beloved breeds as working dogs.

I wish each of you happiness and success with your dogs in all walks of your life!

Lyle Roetemeyer

Treasurer Report

Lyle Thanks Sean for stepping in and taking over for Cele Danner and thanked Cele for all her hard work in the past.

Sean begins by saying we now have a single account that began with \$1974.00 left over from last year.

He asked that we add a miscellaneous section to our budget because we now have a situation of over payment that was made by a member club for the purchase of score books.

Sean O'Kane motions to add the Misc section to the budget, Bill Bimrose 2nd - all were in favor. Motioned passed

A huge thanks goes out to the USA Schutzhund Club for making the trophy purchase affordable.

The budget for the score books is fine

Sean continues to say that there are some situations that could assist the budget for the championship. He states that he is presently working with an attorney to complete a contract that will insure clarification of responsibilities of the AWDF and the hosting club or clubs when putting on our championship event

Our membership is over 6000 strong and a recent register is available to the delegates for review. If any one has any questions Sean asks that they send him an email or give him a call.

Secretary Report.

Michelle asks if there are any questions or if someone noticed anything amiss

Bill Harper (DVG America) suggested that when the minutes are posted they should be listed as “draft” until the next conference call when they are actually voted in as accepted. Then the “draft” status can be changed to “official” Michelle thanked him for the suggestion and moving forward this will be the procedure for presenting minutes to the public.

Jeff Govednik (representative for the Airedale Club) motioned to accept the March 24th conference minutes, Bill Bimrose 2nd all were in favor – Minutes approved.

Elections - Bill Bimrose.

President

Lyle asks if there were any nominations from the floor – no nominations

Lyle asks that the nominations be closed - Ann Camper motions to close nominations and Dyan Harper 2nds- all in favor – none opposed

Lyle asks that Al Govednik be elected as President

Michelle T. motions for the election of Al Govednik as President, Dyan Harper 2nds - all in favor - none opposed

All Govednik is elected as President of AWDF

Treasurer

Lyle asks if there were any nominations from the floor – no nominations

Lyle asks that the nominations be closed. Jeff G. motions to close nominations, Glenn Stephenson 2nds – all in favor –none opposed - nominations closed

Bill Bimrose motions to accept Sean O’Kane as Treasurer, Dyan Harper 2nds –all in favor – none opposed

Sean O’Kane is elected as Treasurer.

Executive members at Large Vera Reeves & Glenn Stephenson

Lyle asks if there were any nominations from the floor – no nominations

Lyle asks that the nominations be closed – Michelle T. motions to close nominations and Jeff G. 2nds - all in favor – none opposed

Ann C. motions to accept Glenn S & Vera R as the Executive members at Large - Dyan Harper 2nds –all in favor – none opposed

Glenn Stephenson and Vera Reeves accepted as the Executive members at Large

Board of Inquiry

Bill Bimrose states that Chris Taylor (FAB) had agreed to be on the list for the BOI but he had not sent in his resume to the committee Lyle suggested that it would be a positive situation that there be a diverse group from all the member clubs of AWDF in the BOI.

Lyle asks if there were any nominations from the floor –
Bill Harper (DVG America) and Bill Bimrose were both then nominated from the floor.
Lyle asks that the nominations be closed - Michelle motioned to close nominations, Sean 2nd – all in favor – none opposed- motioned passed

There were now 9 people to fill 7 positions
A ballot was prepared by Sean O’Kane on his computer.

Ballot results:

Carol Patterson – 10 votes

Nia Cotrell - 1 vote

Ron Marshall 6 votes

Floyd Wilson 3 votes

Arthur Collins 7 votes

Chris Taylor 3 votes

Michael Woods 6 votes

Bill Bimrose 9 votes

Bill Harper 9 votes

Removing the 2 names with the lowest votes there had been ties between some of the nominees.

A new ballot was created to decide the 1 remaining BOI position and 1 of the 2 alternates resulting in Ron Marshall being voted on to the BOI and Michael Woods & Floyd Wilson becoming the 2 alternates

Elected BOI - Carole Patterson, Ron Marshall, Bill Bimrose, Bill Harper, Arthur Collins

Alternates: Floyd Wilson & Michael Woods

Nomination Committee

Lyle asks if there were any nominations from the floor

Bill Bimrose was nominated from the floor

Lyle asks that the nominations be closed- motioned to close by Michelle T. 2nd by Dyan H. - all in favor – none opposed- motioned passed

Motion by acclamation to accept the 3 nominees by Glenn S. 2nd by Jeff G.- all in favor- none opposed – motioned passed

Nomination Committee elected – Bill Bimrose, Maugh Vail & George Markos

Lyle asks Michelle to notify new committee members of the election results.

Constitution & Bylaw Changes

Lyle R moved that the changes to the C& B/L be moved to a mail ballot

Anne Camper motioned to do the mail Ballot

Sanderetta F. 2nd the motion

All in favor – none opposed- motioned passed.

New Business

Member Club Delegate Responsibilities to the AWDF

Representation

Each club according to the AWDF C & B/L (Article IV-B) is allowed to have 2 members in good standing to represent their club at AWDF teleconferences and annual meetings.

It is important to the forward progress of the Federation that member clubs are represented and participate actively in these meetings. The AWDF relies and greatly appreciates all delegate participation as the Federation strongly feels these people are not only a member club representative but the major link of communication from these clubs to the AWDF.

Communication

It is important AWDF club members have correct and current information.

AWDF member clubs should evaluate and select delegates that are not only able to attend meetings but are willing to be active communicators.

Meetings are our first-line think-tank, it is where we get business and projects discussed and accomplished. If a delegate for any reason can not make a meeting the AWDF still feels your voice is important and would like delegates to notify the board of your absence as well as your club's positions on relevant subjects listed for a meeting. If there is an appointment of someone to temporarily replace your club's delegate for a specific meeting it is asked that you let the board know who this representative will be prior to this specific meeting.

It is the member club's responsibility to replace delegates when the club feels this delegate is no longer meeting the requirements of representation to the AWDF. It is the club delegate's responsibility to inform its respective club when they themselves for any reason can no longer fulfill their clubs needs as an AWDF representative.

Communication is very important to future of the AWDF and its member clubs

AWDF member clubs should notify the Secretary and Treasurer when any delegate is replaced so we may keep our contact info current.

The AWDF is consistently moving forward and as work in progress is developing it is important that information is passed on to members. The Federation has in place a means to do this with a delegate group list where information is available; questions can be posted, where emails are exchanged as well as the capability to secure information in archives. The Federation is now consistently posting to the group list for this exact purpose and strongly feels that delegates assist in furthering the appropriate and current information provided on to the members of their respective clubs. If a Delegate is uncertain on passing on information on any subject at any time they should contact the Executive board for clarification.

Your club is our membership body. They should be able to share their collective ideas and opinions on current programs, issues and processes of the AWDF to their delegate of which that club delegate's responsibility should be to communicate this information on to the Executive board and delegates at meetings that contain the relevant subjects and vice-versa the AWDF asks that delegates will hopefully do the same for the Federation.

WRSF sanctioning of a club member

Sanderetta Frusetta presents to the AWDF board that the WRSF is considering sanctioning a member of the WRSF club, for statements made against AWDF Pres. Al Govednik, USA Pres. Lyle Roetemeyer and the FCI commission.

After further discussion Sanderetta Frusetta made the motion that the AWDF Exec board to take formal action against this member in regards to the inflammatory statements made.

Glenn S. 2nds the motion- none opposed– motioned passed

AWDF Score book clarification

USA will still require all scorebooks from organizations to be stamped and numbered

Sean is working on putting together a data base.

The question arose as to how to validate the breed of dog on an AWDF score book. It was stated that actually to have each dog identified correctly would be to use the tattoo or microchip info as the official ID of all dogs

Lyle suggests that each breed club should probably submit their registry to the AWDF as well as for clarification which registries they accept (AKC, UKC etc)

Anne Camper brought up the potential confusion as some of these internet registries that are cropping up are beginning to cause some deception as to who or what is considered a recognized breed registry. This would especially affect breeds that are not yet recognized with the more identifiable registries for example AKC doesn't recognize the Dutch Shepherd.

The AWDF score book was developed with all good intentions and as a sign of the times may need to be revisited. This subject is quite complicated and really needs further research. Lyle directs that this subject should be tabled to a conference call and that each member club submit a list of registries they accept for identification over the next month so this can be reviewed. Dyan H. 2nd – all in favor – motion to table the subject to a conference call approved.

AWDF Championship planning

Anne Camper has a document that can be used as an outline for submitting a bid for an event. Lyle asks that she send it to Michelle so she may post it to the delegates for their contribution. This bid outline once developed should be sent to any party wishing to submit a bid for the AWDF Championship.

Sean O'Kane states that he knows of an events coordinator that has handled many large k9 events and suggested this person to be brought in (no cost to the AWDF) to assist in the planning of the 2009 event. Lyle feels that an events committee should be developed as well to assure a smooth process overall.

James Honda of Gillette, NJ has notified Sean that he is interested in submitting a bid for the 2009 event. Sean has not heard from any one else in regards to hosting our Championship.

It was mentioned that a secured deadline for bids should be decided as soon as possible. Once decided, Michelle will email the webmaster for immediate posting to the website.

Entry submission and deadline issue

A deadline needs to be set as an over all umbrella date for all member clubs.

All dates including late entry dates need to be standard across the board.

Instructions as to “how to enter” are already available on the Championship site but it is strongly advised that the member clubs post the same information on their individual websites and official discussion groups.

All competitors who want to enter the AWDF CH should send entries to their individuals AWDF member clubs ONLY. Each member club will then send entries on to the event trial secretary. A suggestion was made that this statement be posted in the event basics under “Trial Secretary” in replacement of the Trial Secretary’s name/ club. This would secure that entries are sent correctly from the beginning and cease any entries being sent to the hosting club by accident and or getting lost.

Sponsors

Acquiring and retaining sponsors has been difficult because of economics. To continue to maintain personal contact with sponsors and vendors a suggestion was made that asking companies to contribute in sponsoring pieces of the event for example the decoys, trial equipment and event apparel.

Sanderetta F. made the suggestion of looking outside into big businesses, banks, United Airlines and other major corporations. Sanderetta F. (WRSF) will email Al Govednik with ideas and assist in researching this avenue.

Hunting Dog Sports

Rhonda Moses brought up the subject of hunting sports and hog catching and asked what stance the AWDF had on this subject.

The AWDF doesn’t take a stance on hunting dog sports other than what is allowed by law.

Sean O’Kane motioned that the meeting be adjourned, Bill Bimrose 2nd the motion- all were in favor

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am CST