



German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America Board of Directors Meeting Minutes January 17-18, 2025

The regular biannual meeting of the GSPCA Board of Directors (BOD) was held on January 17-18, 2025, via Zoom. Presiding over the meeting was Sharon Fitzpatrick, President. The Board of Directors (BOD) meeting was called to order at 3:39 p.m. EST on January 17th, and roll call was taken. Present were Sharon Fitzpatrick – President; Karen Nauer -Vice President; Lynn Pettinato – Corresponding Secretary; Melissa Campbell – Recording Secretary; Becky Feigh – East Central Section Director; Vanessa Carmean – South Central Director; Chris Fields- North Central Director; Dominic Pettinato - Northwest Director; and Fred Lowry South East Director

Tiffany Cessna – Northeastern Section Director, and Dan Schoenfelder – Southwest Section Director were absent.

Officers Reports:

Vice President's Report – Karen Nauer reviewed the written report she submitted.

Motion: Accept the report as submitted. Motion made by Fred Lowry. Second by Vanessa Carmean. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Dean reviewed the written report he submitted. Dean covered the report but deferred final approval until others can join during the January 18th call.

Corresponding Secretary's Report – Lynn Pettinato reviewed her submitted report.

Motion: Accept the report as submitted. Motion made by Vanessa Carmean. Second by Karen Nauer. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Item: Melissa Campbell will create a group text to inform Board of Directors (BOD) members when a motion has been sent out.

Recording Secretary's Report – Melissa Campbell did not submit a report.

AKC Delegate Report – Karen Nauer reviewed the report submitted by June Johnson.

Action Item: Karen Nauer will work with June Johnson to submit a letter to the AKC regarding Embark DNA and address the club's concerns about the accuracy of the results.

Motion: Accept the report as submitted. Motion made by Vanessa Carmean. Second by Becky Feigh. The motion carried unanimously.

Dominic Pettinato joined the meeting at 3:50 pm EST.

Sectional Director's Reports – Three directors submitted reports.

East Central Section Director's Report – Becky Feigh reviewed her submitted report.

Motion: Accept the report as submitted. Motion made by Karen Nauer. Second by Vanessa Carmean. The motion carried unanimously.

South East Director's Report- Fred Lowry reviewed his submitted report.

Motion: Accept the report as submitted. Motion made by Vanessa Carmean. Second by Chris Fields. The motion carried unanimously.

Northwest Director's Report - Dominic Pettinato reviewed the report he submitted.

Motion: Accept the report as submitted. Motion made by Vanessa Carmean. Second by Karen Nauer. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting recessed at 4:08 PM EST. The meeting resumed at 4:21 PM EST.

NSSEC: Becky Feigh reviewed the report submitted by Kim Abbott. Motion to accept the report as submitted. Motion made by Vanessa Carmen. Second by Karen Nauer. Motion carried unanimously.

Dominica Pettinato left the meeting at 4:45 pm EST.

Action Item: Lynn Pettinato, coordinate hotel room bookings for board members attending the National Specialty Show.

NAGDC: Fred Lowry reviewed his written report.

Action Item: Vanessa Carmean to send an updated executive committee list to Becky Feigh and copy Missy Neal to update the website.

Becky Feigh suggested that when you provide guidelines to people for their site, you share your past budget numbers so they can be more realistic based on past events.

Motion to accept the Alabama site for the 2026 NAGDC. Motion made by Fred Lowry. Second by Vanessa Carmean. The motion carried by the majority.

Motion to approve the report as submitted. Motion made by Becky Feigh. Second by Chris Fields. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting recessed at 5:25 pm EST. The meeting resumed at 5:35 pm EST.

NSS/NFT Futurity: Dean Browning reviewed the written reports submitted by Holly Faught.

Motion: To accept the report as submitted. Motion made by Becky Feigh. Second by Vanessa Carmean. The motion carried unanimously.

National Field Trial Futurity Rules: Holly Faught has taken over the futurity for the National Field Trial

Action Item: Sharon Fitzpatrick to add some language on the July date.

Action Item: Becky Feigh to ensure the language is consistent across both the show and field futurity.

Committee Reports:

Agility: Lynn Pettinato reviewed the written report submitted by Beth Janos.

Motion: To approve the report as submitted. Motion made by Karen Nauer. Second by Chris Fields. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Item: Karen Nauer to review Joe Venner's summary of stats calculations and determine what additional information needs to be communicated and sent to be included in the Journal.

Obedience/Rally: Lynn Pettinato reviewed the report submitted by Karen Combs.

Motion: To accept the report as submitted. Motion made by Vanessa Carmean. Second by Becky Feigh. The motion carried unanimously.

Breeder Referral: Lynn Pettinato provided an update on the new Breeder Referral Chair, Erin Brokkel.

Motion: Motion to accept the report as submitted. Motion made by Lynn Pettinato. Second by Becky Feigh.

Hall of Fame/Honorary Memberships: Fred Lowry reviewed the nomination of Betsy Yates submitted by Melissa Campbell.

Motion: To accept the nomination of Betsy Yates into the HOF. Motion made by Becky Feigh. Seconded by Dean Browning. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion: To extend an invitation to Betsy Yates to join the HOF committee. Motion made by Dean Browning. Seconded by Karen Nauer. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Item: Fred Lowry follows the established process to honor Betsy Yates as a new Hall of Fame member and invites her to join the Hall of Fame Committee.

Action Item: Fred Lowry to make sure Tiffany Cessna is aware that Betsy Yates will be at the 2025 NSS and will be recognized there.

Juniors: Lynn Pettinato reviewed the submitted report.

Motion: To award the 2023 GSP top junior handler a \$250 award to cover expenses related to showing at WKC. Motion made by Becky Feigh. Seconded by Dean Browning. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Item: Lynn Pettinato and Becky Feigh to review and refine the language regarding junior performance payouts and Westminster fund assistance.

Motion: To accept the report as submitted by Becky Feigh. Motion made by Becky Feigh. Seconded by Vanessa Carmean. The motion carried unanimously.

Legislation: No report submitted by Christopher Lee/Joseph Delhoste

Motion: To make the Legislation Committee dormant since there has been no activity for quite a while. Motion made by Vanessa Carmean. Second, by Chris Fields. The motion carried unanimously.

Meet The Breed: Becky Feigh reviewed the report submitted by Denise Avery.

Motion: To accept the report as submitted. Motion made by Vanessa Carmean. Lynn Pettinato seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Historian: No report submitted by Patte Titus

Regional Specialty: Lynn Pettinato reviewed her written report.

Motion: To accept the report as submitted. Motion made by Dean Browning. Second by Karen Nauer. The motion carried unanimously.

ROM: Becky Feigh reviewed the report submitted by Renee Lara.

Motion: To accept the report as submitted. Motion made by Lynn Pettinato. Second by Karen Nauer.

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Vanessa Carmean. The meeting recessed at 7:05 pm EST.

The Board of Directors (BOD) meeting was called to order at 10:06 am EST on January 18th, and roll call was taken. Present were Sharon Fitzpatrick Present were Sharon Fitzpatrick – President; Karen Nauer -Vice President; Lynn Pettinato – Corresponding Secretary; Melissa Campbell – Recording Secretary; Becky Feigh – East Central Section Director; Vanessa Carmean – South Central Director; Chris Fields- North Central Director; Dominic Pettinato - Northwest Director; and Fred Lowry South East Director; Tiffany Cessna- Northeastern Section Director, and Dan Schoenfelder – Southwest Section Director.

We had four guests join us at the start of the meeting. The guests present were H&W Committee members Jenny Blair, Jane Yates, and Debbie King. Additionally, Fleming Samuels joined from the Canine Health Foundation.

Health & Welfare: Karen Nauer turned the meeting over to Jane Yates, who introduced Fleming Samuels, Director of Philanthropy at the Canine Health Foundation.

The meeting primarily focused on establishing a 501(c)(3) foundation for health and welfare purposes. Jane, the legal advisor, explained that the foundation would be a separate entity from the GSPCA but would remain associated with it. The foundation would include a board member from the GSPCA, and its purpose would be to raise funds for charitable activities, such as underwriting studies and creating an educational database. Fleming, the director of philanthropy, emphasized the benefits of having a 501(c)(3) foundation, including increased opportunities for estate giving, corporate matching, and individual donations. She also emphasized the importance of maintaining a strong alliance between the 501(c)(3) organization and its parent club.

Concerns were raised about potential competition for funds between the GSPCA Health and Welfare Committee and the proposed 501(c) (3) foundation. However, Jane Yates clarified that the foundation would not be in direct competition with the committee and that the two entities could work together. Fleming also noted that some people might prefer to donate directly to the foundation rather than through the GSPCA.

Action Item: Jane Yates to develop a business plan with a defined mission statement for the proposed 501(c)(3) foundation.

Action Item: Karen Nauer to compile a list of questions and concerns from the Board of Directors (BOD) regarding the proposed 501(c)(3) foundation and send it to Jane.

Action Item: Jane Yates to draft bylaws for the proposed 501(c)(3) foundation.

Motion: To accept the report as submitted. Motion made by Dean Browning. Seconded by Lynn Pettinato. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting recessed at 11:10 am EST. The meeting resumed at 11:20 am EST.

President's Report – Sharon Fitzpatrick reviewed the written report she submitted.

Motion: Accept the report as submitted. Motion made by Dean Browning. Second by Vanessa Carmean. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Dean Browning continued his report with all BOD members being present. Dean presented a summary of the club's financial situation, highlighting a loss in this year's National Field Trial. He identified five structural issues that need to be addressed, including the cost of trophies, grounds rental, meals and banquet expenses, merchandise sales, catalogs, and the lease agreement. The complete P&L is in the attachments.

Action Item: Dan Schoenfelder to communicate the board's decision on trophy cost reduction to the National Field Trial Committee.

Action Item: Dean Browning, Dan Schoenfelder, and Sharon Fitzpatrick meet with Kevin Temple to review the final National Field Trial P&L statement.

Action Item: Dan Schoenfelder to approach the Bechtel's to renegotiate the grounds rental contract, including variable pricing based on the number of entries.

Motion: To accept the Treasurer's report as submitted. Vanessa Carmean made the motion. Seconded by Becky Feigh. The motion carried unanimously.

NFT EC: Dan Schoenfelder reviewed the report submitted by Kevin Temple.

Motion: To accept the report as submitted. Becky Feigh made the motion. Seconded by Vanessa Carmean. The motion carried unanimously.

FT Date Coordinator/Regional Field Trial: Dan Schoenfelder reviewed the written report submitted by Jan Erbe.

Motion: To accept the report as submitted. Vanessa Carmean made the motion. Seconded by Lynn Pettinato. The motion carried unanimously.

Versatility: Tiffany Cessna reviewed the written report submitted by David Nauer.

Motion: To accept the committee's recommendation on the pointing system for the various versatility awards. Motion made by Vanessa Carmean. Second by Dominic Pettinato. The motion carried unanimously.

Annual Awards: No report was submitted.

Action Item: Tiffany Cessna and Joe Venner to work on finding some other vendors for trophies.

HOF Dogs: Sharon Fitzpatrick reviewed the field dogs submitted by Mike Aldrich and the show dog submitted by Deb Longtin.

Motion: Motion to enter an executive session made by Vanessa Carmean. Second by Karen Nauer. The meeting entered executive session at 10:36 am EST. The meeting exited the executive session at 10:47 a.m. EST. A motion to come out of executive session was made by Becky Feigh. Fred Lowry was placed in a separate room while the BOD discussed the field dog HOF submission, since he is the current owner.

Motion: To approve DC Lowry's Eagle Ridge, von Rugerheim, for the GSPCA HOF. Motion made by Dean Browning. Second, by Vanessa Carmean. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion: To approve DC Free Flight's Bosefus for the GSPCA HOF. Motion made by Dominic Pettinato. Second, by Vanessa Carmean. The motion carried unanimously.

Sharon Fitzpatrick asked for a motion to approve NSC CH Khrispat's Megan a Point for the HOF. There was no motion made from the floor, and therefore, the dog will not be placed in the GSPCA HOF.

Action Item: Melissa Campbell to communicate with Deb Longtin on the failure to get a motion for the HOF nomination.

The meeting recessed at 12:45 pm EST. The meeting resumed at 1:15 pm EST.

Webmaster: Becky Feigh reviewed the report submitted by Missy Neal. Missy Neal has been working diligently to update the website with current information.

There was discussion about Becky Feigh drafting job descriptions for two positions: an event planner role focused on managing e-commerce and websites for club events, and a content manager role responsible for keeping the main website updated with fresh content from volunteers. The current webmaster, Missy Neal, is eligible to reapply for either role. This restructuring aims to enhance website management by separating responsibilities and introducing additional professional support, while potentially reducing costs.

Action Item: Becky Feigh to create job descriptions for the event planner role and the content manager role for the website.

Action Item: Becky Feigh to propose an organizational structure for the website roles.

Action Item: Becky Feigh to work with Missy Neal on getting Rip involved in getting training sessions set up for the committees to work on the website for their committee.

Motion: To accept the report as submitted. Motion made by Vanessa Carmean. Seconded by Becky Feigh. The motion carried unanimously.

Breed Education: No Report Submitted by Patte Titus

Shorthaired Journal: Sharon Fitzpatrick reviewed the report submitted.

Motion: To accept the report as submitted. Motion made by Chris Fields, seconded by Lynn Pettinato. The motion carried unanimously.

Judges' Education: Dominic Pettinato reviewed the report submitted by Maxine Moinier.

Motion: To accept the report as submitted. Motion made by Lynn Pettinato. Second by Tiffany Cessna. The motion carried unanimously.

Membership/Puppy Buyer Program: The Board of Directors (BOD) reviewed the current list of pending members.

A motion was made to go into the executive session. Motion made by Vanessa Carmean. Seconded by Karen Nauer. The meeting entered executive session at 1:40 pm EST. The meeting concluded its executive session with a motion made by Karen Nauer at 1:47 p.m. EST.

Motion: To accept the list of current members as submitted. Lynn Pettinato made the motion. Second by Tiffany Cessna. The motion carried by the majority.

Lynn Pettinato reviewed the membership report submitted by Tish Casbeer.

Motion: To accept the membership report as submitted. Motion made by Vanessa Carmean. Second by Dominic Pettinato. The motion carried unanimously.

Social Media: Lynn Pettinato reviewed her written report.

The Social Media Committee has made significant progress in enhancing the club's online presence. They have added new team members, secured a paid endorsement deal with Snoozer Pet Products, and successfully organized a fundraiser and education week about hemangiosarcoma. The committee aims to enhance coverage of national events by designating liaisons from each event committee to coordinate the sharing of content. They plan to generate revenue through endorsement deals and product donations.

Additionally, the committee emphasizes the importance of using the parent club's official social media pages for national events, rather than separate pages, to maintain consistent branding and reach a broader audience.

It would be beneficial to have a social media representative on all three national committees who can ensure an interface with the Social Media Committee to provide timely input and data for posting. Each person identified should work through Lynn Pettinato as the liaison to share with the social media committee.

Lastly, the Social Media team would like to note that alternative social media pages are unacceptable and subject to a logo and name moratorium, meaning that they cannot use any of our Logos for the club or the event to promote the national specialty show on unendorsed pages.

Karen Nauer will be including appointing a social media, journal, and website contact person for each national event in the revised running rules.

Motion: To accept the report as submitted. Motion made by Vanessa Carmean. Second by Becky Feigh. The motion carried unanimously.

Yearbook: Tiffany Cessna reviewed the report submitted by Deb Broad.

The committee discussed the financial and logistical challenges of producing the yearbook. They considered switching to a digital format, allowing members to print their copies at their own cost. The committee also talked about scanning and digitizing past yearbooks, with the option to make them available for purchase. The decision was made to proceed with a digital yearbook for the next edition, with members able to print their copies if they choose. Additionally, the committee agreed to work with Iron Mountain to scan and digitize the books from previous years.

Dean stated that in 2023, the yearbook incurred a loss of several thousand dollars and is projected to incur a negative balance again for 2024. It would be fiscally irresponsible to move forward with printing the yearbook.

Action Item: Tiffany Cessna to inform the Yearbook committee to select one copy of each year's yearbook for scanning.

Action Item: Dean Browning will get a contract with Iron Mountain to scan all current yearbook copies into digital copies.

Action Item: Tiffany Cessna to communicate the new digital format mandate to the yearbook committee and find out if digital copies currently exist.

Action Item: Tiffany Cessna will request the number of yearbooks sold to determine the total cost of printing and selling.

Motion: Mandate the ability to create an electronic copy, with an option for individuals to print a hard copy at their own expense starting in 2025. Motion made by Lynn Pettinato and seconded by Dean Browning. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion: To accept the report as submitted. Motion made by Dean Browning. Seconded by Becky Feigh. Motion carried unanimously.

Dan Schoenfelder left the meeting at 3:19 pm EST.

The meeting recessed at 3:20 pm EST. The meeting resumed at 3:30 pm EST.

National Rescue: No report was submitted; however, Sharon Fitzpatrick stated that everything in rescue is status quo and there are no needs for the BOD.

Water Test: Vanessa Carmean reviewed the report submitted by Jean Bernier.

Motion: To accept the report as submitted. Motion made by Dominic Pettinato. Second by Karen Nauer. The motion carried the majority.

Bird Dog Museum: No report submitted.

Unfinished Business:

January 2022

Sharon Fitzpatrick/Ed Brock will write the process for the members-only section, which outlines how suspended or expelled members are handled. **In Progress**

January 2024

Terry Bomer will provide Missy Neal with information about historical NFT placement, and then Missy Neal will upload the documents to the website. **Done**

Becky Feigh will have Missy Neal put together a list of the website's traffic analytics, both overall and by page. **In progress**

Tiffany Cessna is to ask Deb Broad about going digital with the yearbook. **Done**

Sharon Fitzpatrick investigates the impact of printing for the journal. **Done**

The committee liaison will ask the NFT, NAGDC, Agility, Obedience, etc., committees to develop judging qualifications for national events and outline a path forward for judges to participate in judging national events. On Going

June 2024

Dean Browning will put together a schedule on when budgets for any committee that spends or makes money must be submitted to the BOD. **Done**

Dan Schoenfelder to go back to the NFT committee on reducing the number of trophies given. No need to do 1-4th place and no need for all four placements for futurity since they are getting money. **In progress**

Dan Schoenfelder is to call out for Marshall's help to control the gallery for safety reasons. **In Progress**

Dan Schoenfelder will inform Mike Aldrich that he needs to get pictures and write about HOF Dog for the Journal. **Done**

Vanessa Carmean/Fred Lowry to develop a Junior event for the 2025 NAGDC. **Not Done**

The committee liaisons will share the guidelines prepared by Lynn Pettinato with all national event committees. **In Progress**

Tiffany Cessna will communicate to Deb Broad that only GSPCA members should receive cards for the yearbook and that you must be a member when the book is published. **Done**

Tiffany Cessna will share the cost of publishing the yearbook with Deb Broad, and the committee needs to prepare a budget moving forward. Done

New Business:

Submitted by Karen Niffenegger: Who knows what the contract amounts that we have signed with Bechtel to use the ranch. I think the ranch is pricing us out of the market.” And do we need to renegotiate that contract? - **This issue is being addressed through the NFT, and future updates will be shared. Dominic Pettinato to follow up with Karen.**

Should a committee be formed to explore a new site for our NFT? The numbers are not going up? Concern that the event will never be profitable. – **Dominic Pettinato will follow up with Karen that this issue is also being worked with the NFTEC.**

Submitted by Karen Niffenegger: This is probably better for the delegates meeting but it would be nice if the NSS moved back to ending on Saturday before Memorial Day. Since most folks drive it would give them an extra day to get back home. Something to think of and discuss. – **Becky Feigh will have someone from the NSSEC reach out to Karen to address her concerns.**

Submitted by Karen Nauer - We also need to decide what wins will be required for the three events, e.g., BOB, BOW, BOS, and SD and SB at the NSS, as well as all stakes at the NFT, etc.

Submitted by Fred Lowry - Here is a recent update on my DNA questions for AKC.

1. For a particular event, we could provide you with a list of the entries. Yes
2. At the event we would collect the samples and ship them to you for comparison. Ok
3. The current samples you have can be run with the 201 panel and then compared to the new samples. Possibly. Sometimes we do not have sample left over.
4. This will confirm that the DNA submitted for registration is the same as the winning dog. Yes I understand that just the process would prevent cheating. The process could be enhanced by:
5. Utilizing microchip verification if available Yes very good idea
6. Having owners sign an authorization to release their DNA information to AKC DNA a requirement for entry. Owners always sign away their dogs' DNA to AKC DNA. They would have to sign away to release this information to whoever wants to verify the samples, likely to club.

The Board of Directors discussed this matter and decided not to pursue it at this time, as it is not a prevalent issue at our events.

Sharon Fitzpatrick discussed the contract currently in place for merchandise for national events.

Action Item: Set up a meeting with Jennifer Avery to review the current contract and look at assigning a liaison to communicate information to the BOD concerning merchandise.

Our next meeting will be held on February 12, 2025, via Zoom

The next bi-annual meeting will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, in June 2025.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Melissa Campbell. The meeting adjourned at 4:37 PM EST.

SECRETARY's CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the approved minutes of the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America Board of Directors meeting held January 28-29, 2022.

Melissa Campbell
Recording Secretary
German Shorthaired Club of America

June 2025

DRAFT