

**Portuguese Water Dog Club of Greater Chicagoland**

BOARD MEETING August 13, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President David Parker at 7:09 PM August 13, 2023.

**Members in attendance were as follows:** David Parker, Wendy Anderson, Gary Novak, Susan Becker, and Theresa Hosking, Michele Wolford, Jim Cowhey, Carol Holzer, Cindra Delgado (joined at 7:40 PM).

**Minutes –** Gary Novak moved to accept the minutes from the July 9, 2023 Board Meeting. Susan Becker seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Last year the PWDCA wanted Regional Clubs to be consistent with their insurance timing which is February 1 – January 31. Gary worked to change the dates for our Liability Insurance, but learned our Accidental Insurance policy also had to be redone to align to these dates. Gary corrected dates and the new policy will be prorated. Going forward, both our Liability and Accidental insurance policies will be in line with the PWDCA Sanctioning request of Feb 1 to Jan 31.

**July 2023 Treasurer’s Report**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| June 1, 2023 Balance |  |  | $7,348.60 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Account | Income | Expense |  |  |
| Club Expense |  | $10.00 |  |  |
| MEMBERSHIP | $830.00 |  |  |  |
| Picnic |  | $228.70 |  |  |
| REGIONAL SPECIALTY |  | $425.87 | Ribbons |  |
| SHORELINES | $20.00 |  |  |  |
| STORAGE |  | $560.00 | Trailer storage |
| TROPHY | $425.00 | $236.50 |  |  |
|  | $1,275.00 | $1,461.07 |  |  |
| August 10,2023 Balance |  |  | $7,162.53 |  |

Wendy made a motion to approve the July Treasurer’s Report. Susan seconded, and the motion passed.

**Water Trial Committee**

Michele asked how we account for the income from the Water Trial. Susan explained that it comes into the General Fund. Dave Parker said he has not seen a full reconciliation for income brought in from the Trials against all the expenses incurred. **Susan Becker said she will share that information with the Board next month, after the 2023 Trial next weekend**. Dave said while we can see the income from the trial, he wants to better understand all the costs throughout the year. Only members can participate in the pond puppy training events. Susan said those who practice must be members or they cannot attend because we have no additional training slots available. So inviting non-members to pay for a training session for additional income is not possible.

Wendy asked if volunteers were needed for the Water Trial next weekend. Susan said yes, and said to call Cindy Petry. **Michele will send a note out to the Club to request Volunteers.** Ribbons and trophies are secured, set up will occur on Friday, and Bob Zak will bring the boats. There will not be a Friday practice as it would require the Club to pay for an additional day of rent at the Rec Plex. Theresa asked when the Rec Plex updates their schedule of events because the grounds were closed for other events twice during Pond Puppy training and some members had traveled to water practice only to find out it was cancelled. Susan said there has not been a consistent or accurate calendar or communication from the Rec Plex but they are working to find a solution to avoid this issue in the future.

**By Laws**

Jim Cowhey has not had any communication with Mary Goodman on the By Laws. **Dave asked that Jim reach out to Mary Goodman to see if he could help make some progress on the Constitution Section** so we can move forward one section at a time.

**Union Grove – Cudahy Specialty Wrap-Up**

Dave said he was disappointed in the number of entries we received and the support from other Clubs. This event generated only $393 which was a net loss for the Club as expenses exceeded income generated from the event. It helped that our expenses were low as we had some left over items we could recycle for this event, reducing costs. For comparison, proceeds for the Concurrent Specialty last February in Madison was about $1,800 for the two day event.

At the Cudahy Specialty, we worked hard to include Scent Work, but the event only drew 8 entries vs. 3 last year when we weren’t even hosting a Specialty. Dave said their Show Chair would love to have us back and even offered us an inside location if we preferred it to the pavilion space. Dave said there were a lot of bees on the grounds and 2 dogs were stung. He was also frustrated by the fact the grounds had not been washed down after their fair. On a positive note, Wendy said several people said that the trial secretary for Scent Work for Cudahy, Melanie White, was very easy to work with.

Dave recently received paperwork for a 2024 Concurrent Specialty in West Bend, WI. Although our participation there was also less than what we expected, Dave believes they are potentially going to make positive changes next year such as moving the date off the 4th holiday weekend which could help our Club.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Dave shared that there is AKC “Meet The Breeds” at the IKC show at McCormick Place, Chicago, the same week as our PWD National Specialty in Oregon and the Minnesota Show where there are 30+ entries. Therefore, he decided not to pursue the opportunity. Recently, Mary Goodman brought this idea back to life and has found some members to man a PWD booth. Unfortunately, very few PWD exhibitors have entered the IKC McCormick Show and many remarked that it’s a very expensive show for exhibitors with high parking costs, hotel, etc. Since there seems to be passion for doing the “Meet The Breeds” events, Michele suggested we create a formal committee to lead this when opportunities to participate present themselves. The Board Agreed to do this going forward. **Next step is to identify a Committee Chair and team to lead the work. Dave asked Cindra to send Michele a flyer she made some time ago to forward to Mary Goodman as a handout for the event.**

Dave asked if we need to provide a list of PWDCGC reputable breeders to share at “Meet the Breeds” events to help families find good breeders and avoid puppy mills. Cindra said that part of being on the list is that breeders who currently don’t have a litter direct families to other breeders in the area. **Gary will send our breeder list to Michele and Michele will forward to Mary Goodman.**

Dave suggested we have an area on our PWDCGC website that informs people of events like “Meet the Breeds”. Cindra said we should have a flyer for them in the future. Dave mentioned an interest in showcasing our breed through demonstrations, where possible, to show all the things our dogs can do, like Agility, and Dock Diving, and other performance based sports vs. just having families pet a dog at a booth. Gary mentioned there is good literature that describes what our breed can do and it might be worthwhile to include that information in our booth. **Dave would like to get a tablecloth with our logo that we can use for any of these events. Susan thinks we may have one in the storage area and will check. If other Board members have literature on what our dogs can do (Gary), please forward to Michele or directly to Mary Goodman.**

**Calendar and Club Events**

Dave wants Board members to think about other events we might want to do to meet the needs of our members. Our membership has dropped in half over the last year and we are not retaining pet families especially those who were Breeder Referrals. Our Club income is therefore down significantly. Dave encouraged all of us to seek out input about what events members would have interest in. **Michele suggested that we revive our Outreach Committee that she, Masha Rosenson and Lisa Cowhey had started last fall and do some direct communication with members.** Jim Cowhey said one thing that might help members is to have a list of locations that offer various performance training so members could get involved working with their dogs. Cindra would like to get members involved in the AKC “Fit Dog” program which could draw both Pet and Performance families as they get out and work with their dogs. Michele asked how we should go about gathering the data on training locations. Dave remarked that this is somewhat complicated because some places require a membership. **NEXT STEP: Cindra agreed to lead a “Fit Dog” committee. Cindra said we need a CGC evaluator and would look for one. Michele suggested asking breeders in our Club to provide the names and locations of training facilities they recommend and post them on our site. We could also suggest a list of groomers for our pet families.**

For more information on AKC Fit Dog program check this website. <https://www.akc.org/sports/akc-family-dog-program/akc-fit-dog/>

**Action Plan for 2023-2024**

Michele suggested we do a 2023-2024 Action Plan and volunteered to create a rough draft for the Board to review. The Action Plan would help the Board focus time and energy against 4-5 key things we want to work on in the coming year. It might also help us assess income we could generate and costs we might incur. Once we agree on our top focus areas, we can solicit volunteers to lead various committee and secure committee membership to do the work. **Michele will create a draft of a Club Action Plan to share at an upcoming meeting.**

**Madison Concurrent Specialty Revisited**

Michele was unable to attend the last Board meeting, but mentioned that when the Board voted to do only one Specialty at the Renaissance Cluster in Madison, WI next February vs. two which we did this year, she would have opposed that vote because this show provides our Club with the largest check. Since our membership is way down, she said having two Specialties could help us financially, especially if we could draw even more exhibitors. Recently Dave asked professional handler, Laura King, for her thoughts on how we could draw more people to our Specialties. Laura’s response was we should repeat Madison next year with two Concurrent Specialties and focus on doing Concurrent Specialties at bigger shows, not the ones that only draw 500 - 700 entries.

Cindra Delgado made a motion to revisit the vote to have 2 shows at the Renaissance Cluster. Michele seconded the motion. After additional discussion the motion passed. **Dave will revisit this with Ed Fojtik and try to add back a second Concurrent Specialty next February in Madison.**

**ANNUAL MEETING – October 14, 2023**

The Annual meeting is scheduled for 10/14 at Fosters from 11:00 – 2:00. **Susan Becker will check on Fosters availability and report back to Dave.**

Adjournment – Theresa made the Motion made by to adjourn meeting. Gary seconded. Motion passed and meeting adjourned at 9:10.