

USMRA Board of Directors Meeting 17 February 2013

Meeting called to order by President Lisa Geller 6:03pm PST/8:03pm CT

Present:

Lisa Geller, OJ Knighten, Kyle Sprague, Rich Damico, Aida Flick, Marki Barta, & Sharon Novak

Reports: [Presidents Report \(Link\)](#), [Treasury report \(Link\)](#)

Motion to Approve [January 2013 BOD MEETING MINUTES \(Link\)](#)

Motion – Sharon 2 nd Aida

Motion PASSED - unanimous

Motion to approve modified budget

Discussion of budget & adjustments. LISA will post adjusted budget ([Budget Link](#))

Motion - OJ 2 nd Aida

Motion PASSED - unanimous

Motion to approve Melissa Mims to represent USMRA as MR3 Team at FMBB 2013

FMBB (Belgian Shepherd World Championships) 2013

Marki reported that paperwork for Melissa Mims has been sent to AWMA and Aida has sent the required \$250 entry deposit, though we have not received confirmation as yet.

Motion - Sharon 2 nd Marki

Motion PASSED -unanimous

Lisa stated that Don Lee has agreed to serve as Chair of Judges' Committee

Motion to appoint Don Lee as Chair of Judge's Committee

Motion - Aida 2 nd Marki

Motion PASSED -unanimous

Motion to approve Nevada Protection Sports as USMRA Club

Sharon stated that new club Nevada Protections Sports has filled the requirements - bylaws, 3 USMRA members, and paid club dues for 2013.

Motion - Sharon 2 nd Rich

Motion PASSED -unanimous

Motion to send Certificate of Appreciation to past term BOD

Sharon stated that she is willing to make and send a certificate of appreciation to the past term BOD.

Motion - OJ 2 nd Marki

Motion PASSED -unanimous

Motion to institute new check policy. "Scorebooks and Memberships paid for by check will require an additional week of process time to insure that funds have cleared. A fine of \$25 will be added to the collection of original amount."

Discussion of Bounced Check. Aida explained we have a bounced check for \$75 from last year – payment for a membership and scorebook. This check has additionally cost the organization an additional \$15 in fees. Neither Sharon nor Aida have been able to contact with the person, but Aida agreed to keep trying. Additionally, if this issues is not resolved by start of trial season, Judges will be warned that "X's" scorebook and membership are not valid.

Motion - Sharon 2 nd Aida

Motion PASSED -unanimous

Discussion of Implementation of Sociability Test.

As of January 2013, all dogs not currently titled in Mondioring are now required to produce proof of Sociability. **Judges** will need to verify **before** trialing non titled dogs. If asked by trial organizers, they will be able to evaluate dogs under the USMRA criteria.

details <http://usmondioring.org/Rules%20and%20Policies/TempTest.htm>

Clubs/organizers are expected to remind players of this requirement. IF the organizing club chooses to offer a Sociability Test, it is their responsibility to make arrangements with the USMRA judge for an evaluation time, or another evaluator in one of the other accepted tests

Discussion of Decoy Committee recommended changes to "pre-national" policy of Nationals decoys not being able work dogs before Nationals, and changing the 1 per year trial requirement to 1 per 2 years. OJ will have changes in writing sent to BOD at least 5 days before next meeting for vote.

Discussion of yahoo discussion list. Sharon reported that there were several complaints about behavior on the yahoo list from members. Some members have been placed on moderated status, and others warned. She will post a statement explaining "The USMRA yahoo list is for the benefit of the membership to share information about Mondioring Events, People and Training. In order for ALL the membership to feel welcome on this list, cursing and personal attacks of any sort will NOT be tolerated. First offense gets a written warning and second offense will get a "moderated status." Additionally, Rich has agreed to be a moderator on that list.

International Team Selection Discussion – Tabled

Voice Recording of BOD meetings - Lisa stated she felt the voice recordings of BOD meetings did not seem necessary and asked if any of the other BOD felt they were since it was a monthly expense she was paying for out of pocket.

Motion to eliminate Voice Recording of BOD meetings

Motion - Sharon 2 nd Aida

Motion PASSED -unanimous

Review USMRA Policy on ALL members rights to attend all trials.

A complaint from member/decoy stated that he was told he would be arrested for trespassing if he attended a sanctioned USMRA trial. He felt this threat was because he had shared information with other decoys about possible safety issues with one of the trial dogs. Sharon explained that the incident was past the 3 month filing date for the Board of Inquiry, but indeed require review by BOD.

Lisa agreed to write a "policy of inclusion" and contact the offending club.

Additionally, Aida pointed out the secondary issue about decoys "sharing" information about the safeness of certain dogs. General consensus was that decoys can and should share inform judge/trial decoys if they have experience with with any dogs that they feel are potentially unsafe.

OJ agreed to task the decoy committee with ways to further educate on safety.

Additionally, OJ expressed that he felt as BOD, we need to deal with various gossip by asking compantants to put things in writing so the BOD can better deal.

Open Forum

Lisa stated again that reports/agenda items need to be submitted at least 5 days prior to meeting so that BOD have time to review pre- meeting.

Motion to approve DC Swringers as USMRA Club

Sharon stated that new club DC Swringers has filled the requirements - bylaws, 3 USMRA members, and paid club dues for 2013

Motion - Marki 2 nd Sharon

Motion PASSED -unanimous

Judges ratings in Decoys Books

OJ reported that some of the books have a 1-3 rating and some 1-5 and would prefer ALL to be 1-5. He has asked that the Judges committee is tasked with clear definition of what each of these ratings mean so there is more consistency.

Meeting adjourned 8:40pm PST/ 10:40pm CT