

## **USSPWD Club Annual Membership Meeting**

**December 7, 2021, 7pm conference call**

Vickie Baker hosted the meeting which was called to order at 7:04 pm. The 2020 Annual Membership Meeting Minutes were not read but are available for members on the website. Members are encouraged to go to the website to review meeting minutes, policies, membership information and upcoming events. This is the second year in a row that the USSPWD Club Annual Membership Meeting is a conference call. Because of the large geographic area we serve, a teleconference call enables all members to join the meeting. This year's call was attended by 9 members.

### **Board Members**

This is the last year of Vickie's tenure on the Board and she expressed how proud she is of the Club who grew membership, bought both a new boat and utility trailer and ran very successful water trials, water camps and fun days in spite of COVID and other challenges. It has been an honor to serve the Club and she hopes more members will step up and work to keep this Club strong many years into the future.

The call began with the introduction of 2021 Board of Directors. As stated in the Club Bi-laws, the Board of Directors shall be comprised of a minimum of five (5) and a maximum of nine (9) Directors. The 2021 Board was comprised of 7 Board members. The four Officers were Vickie Baker – President; Marilu Novy - Vice-President; (resigned in November and Karen Childers has assumed VP responsibilities until the end of 2021); Secretary - Debbie Jackson; Treasurer - Lizette Wagoner. Chairpersons included: Karen Childers – Water Activities Committee; Nancy Nelson – Membership and Communications; Leigh Stafford – event planning. Nancy Nelson resigned her Board Position effective Dec 2021 and transitioned her membership responsibilities to Lori Torriero in October. Vickie Baker has served two 2-year terms and will roll off the Board effective Dec 2021.

We have three new Board Member Candidates to elect today. They are:

- Zac Crump
- Lori Torriero
- Pam Oberst

The floor was opened to additional nominations. There were no nominations from the floor during the meeting,

In accordance with the Bi-laws, If the number of candidates for the vacant board members is equal to the number of vacancies, the candidates shall automatically be ratified as Board members. Therefore, Zac, Lori and Pam are automatically ratified as Board Members beginning the first of their two 2-year terms and bringing the total number of Board Members to seven. The four Officers and three Chairpersons will be elected by the new Board Members at the first Board Meeting in early January 2022.

## **President's Report**

2021 was the year of change for our Club. We began the year learning that Callaway would no longer be available for water trials and we set out on a mission to locate new water trial sites. Stafford's sold their property in Sarasota, FL which meant there would no longer be water camps there and we had a Water Trial Judge cancellation. In spite of these challenges, we had a very successful year meeting and exceeding our goals.

### **USSPWD Club's 2021 Goals**

1. Identify new site locations for Water Trials for 2021.
2. Host 12 successful water camps and two successful Water Trials at the new locations.
3. Add additional non-water events at Fun Days (tracking, scent work, trick dog etc.)
4. Continue to grow membership
5. Refresh the website

### **USSPWD Club's 2021 Accomplishments**

- Provided 41 Members with crate tags to commemorate their 74 Dogs' achievements for 2020 and placed an ad in Courier magazine highlighting our members activities. Now is the time for you to submit your dog's 2021 achievements, no later than January 31, 2022.
- The Club held 17 water camps in 2021. All Camps were well attended generating roughly \$5,000 which paid for a new utility storage trailer (\$3.5K) to securely house all of the Club's water trial equipment. Thank you to Karen Childers for all of her work as Water Activities Chairperson and to Meg Defore and Nancy Nelson for hosting water camps.
- In April 2021 we launched the new refreshed USSPWDC.org Website. We continue to explore new ways to use Jotform to make event signups and communications easier for our membership.
- Club members conducted a new water trial site selection on over 30 different venues in FL, GA, NC, SC, settling on two, LaGrange, GA and Kanuga, NC.
- USSPWD Club Hosted two successful water Trials in 2021 at the new site locations. Pyne Road Park water trial in LaGrange GA was held June 26-27, 2021 and Camp Kanuga, NC water trial was held August 14-15, 2021. Due to demand the Camp Kanuga water trial was expanded to a two-site trial.
- Following the water trials, a survey was sent out to participants to obtain feedback on the sites water trial sites to incorporate into the 2022 planning process. We got great input from the attendees and appreciate the feedback. The Club was positive financially on both of our water trials and thru monies collected via raffles and auctions we donated \$2K to the PWDCA Foundation to support the health research for the betterment of our breed.
- Board members reviewed and revised, as necessary, all Club Policies, several of which have been updated. The most current versions are now posted on the website for member review and information.

- The Club offered Club Merchandise on-line for the first time – which was successful generating roughly \$1600 for the Club. This eliminates upfront costs and people having to transport bins of merchandise to events.
- The USSPWD Club supported the National Specialty in Chesapeake, VA with a sponsored raffle basket.
- USSPWD Club Hosted a PWD Fun Halloween Party in Colbert GA with CGC/CGCA and Trick Dog testing on October 30. Attended by roughly 10 members several new puppy owners. Thank you to Tom and Judy Leather for providing their home as the venue for this wonderful event, and Marilu Novy for conducting the CGC/CGCA and Trick Dog testing.
- The Club hosted a successful Annual Holiday Fun Day, in New Smyrna Beach, FL on December 4<sup>th</sup> which was attended by 30 people and 25 dogs. Fabulous food and friendship and many thanks to Meg and Bud DeFore for opening your homes for 19 years of hosting PWD parties.
- USSPWD Club officers, directors and committees have worked hard to offer something for all members, including conformation events, performance events, play days, water camps, water trials and get togethers. Should any member have a suggestion please click the “Contact” button on the website and submit.

### **Financial Report**

The Club is ending 2021 with a total equity of approximately \$28K and are projecting a net income of roughly \$3K. Key discriminators were driven from:

- increasing the Water Trial Fees to \$45/entry,
- running a 2-trial site at Camp Kanuga in August,
- increasing the number of water camps and the increased attendance at camps,
- offering merchandise on-line, which generated over \$1600 on merchandise this year.

The club also bought a new utility trailer (\$3.5K) which was absorbed by the water camp income.

Lastly, USSPWD Club has made a \$2000 donation to the Portuguese Water Dog Foundation, Inc for 2021, to support the health research for the betterment of our breed.

The Club equity will be used to maintain and purchase additional club equipment, and to support club events.

### **Membership 2021**

We currently have 163 members, of those 11 are Qualified New Puppy owners (QNP) 84 Family memberships and 79 Individual memberships.

Geographic distribution is: FL – 56% (92), GA – 16% (26), NC – 11% (18), SC – 6% (10) We have 10% (17) members in all other states.

We are currently in the membership renewal period which extends thru March 2022. If you haven't renewed your membership, please do so. To date we have 62 Renewals (including 3 of the QNPs) and 3 new members.

The Board is currently evaluating a New Member Mentoring Program as a way to engage new members and get them more active in the club. More information will be coming out on how that will work in early 2022.

### **On-ward to 2022**

- Water Camps are in the planning phase for 2022 and will be held at St. Mary's, GA, New Smyrna Beach, FL and Villa Rica, GA. They will be posted to the website after the first of the year. Look for early dry-land training events – end of February which include obedience to prepare you for the 2022 water season.
- Performance and Fun Day Events for 2022 are currently being planned and will be posted on the website as soon as we have the information. Stay tuned as we hope to offer obedience classes for members early in the year.
- The first USSPWD Club water trial of 2022 is planned for Pyne Road Park in LaGrange, GA, June 24 – 26, 2022. Judge for this trial is Alan Reisdorf.
- The PWDCA National Specialty is planned for August 19-26, 2022, therefore the second USSPWD Club sponsored water trial is planned for High Falls County Park in Seneca, SC, September 30 - October 2, 2022. We need to wait until Clemson University finalizes their home football schedule before finalizing the date for October. We are planning a two-trial site with Frank Cardillino and Cindy McCullough as our judges.
- We are also working on a Junior / Apprentice Water Trial Location TBD for Sept 16-18, 2022.

Check back with the website and FB for events and watch your email for updates.

The next annual USSPWD Club meeting will be held in Q4 of 2022 – date TBD.

### **Meeting adjourned at 7:27**