

**MINUTES OF THE PWDCA, INC. ANNUAL MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2001**  
**WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND**

The PWDCA, Inc. Annual Meeting was held on Wednesday, October 3, 2001 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick, Rhode Island. President Karen Arends called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. EST. President Arends welcomed those attending and announced the roll call sign-in showed 112 active members present, comprising a quorum of the membership for purposes of the meeting.

A motion to approve the standing rules as posted was made by Joan Bendure and seconded by Steve Dostie.  
MOTION AFFIRMED.

Minutes of the 2000 PWDCA, INC. Annual Meeting were published in the November/December 2000 Courier. The Board and PWDCA Committees' 2001 annual reports are published in the PWDCA, INC. ANNUAL REPORT 2001 which was distributed at the meeting and is available through Treasurer Stuart Freeman.

President Karen Arends made the following announcements:

1. A virus causing vomiting and diarrhea is running through the show site and dogs needing medical attention are referred to the listed show veterinarian. A request to keep puppies present away from the main show area was also made.
2. Congratulations to recipients of the Register of Merit Awards. The show photographer is available to take pictures of the recipient dogs and already has medallions available for use in the pictures.

President Arends introduced the Board for 2001: Director Caren Murray, Treasurer Stuart Freeman, Director Christi Overton, Director Steven Bean, Director Karen Miller-Stebbins, Vice President Carol Mattingley, President Karen Arends, Corresponding Secretary Claire DeChristina, and Director Andrew Kalmanash.

President Arends introduced the 2002 Board Nominees that were present: Leslie Arner, Kris Cofiell, Stu Freeman, Rita Hasel, Cathy Kalb and Barb Niemann.

**REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES:**

**National Specialty Judges Selection Committee:** A report was included in the agenda packet. Jody Van Loan offered the opportunity to ask questions. MOTION by Jane Harding was made to approve the proposed revisions. SECOND by Joan Bendure. MOTION AFFIRMED. Jody Van Loan will pass the revisions back to her committee to "tweak" the process.

**DNA Parentage Testing Committee:** Claire DeChristina reported that although DNA parentage testing cannot be reliably substituted for individual genetic parentage testing in PWDs at this time, the PWDCA will develop an interim proposal allowing the progeny of Optigen A x Optigen A breedings to be exempt from individual testing. Any progeny produced by these dogs would be required to undergo individual genetic testing before being used for breeding. Any proposal developed will be done with the guidance of the PWDCA Eye Committee and Drs. Acland and Aguirre. Administrative guidelines will be formed for this process.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

President Karen Arends announced that the PWDCA has entered into a relationship with the PWD Foundation to support cardiomyopathy research. A major project is on-going. Marianne Murray made an appeal to the membership to support this research proposal by donating money to the PWD Foundation for cardiomyopathy research. The Foundation has already provided \$30,000 towards the research project and an additional \$20,000 is needed. Any donation is appreciated and is tax deductible when made through the Foundation.

The following individuals were awarded PWDCA President's Awards:

- Carol Mattingley for her service as a PWDCA committee chair, officer and board member, and two-time national specialty committee chair.
- Scott Marshall for his pioneering work building and managing the PWD list and PWDCA Website.
- Connie Millard and Dutch as representatives of our breed, its strength and versatility, in the search and rescue efforts that took place following the World Trade Center disaster. In honor of Connie and Dutch the PWDCA has donated \$1000 to support the AKC's Companion Animal Recovery Fund.

Ballots for next years Board have been mailed. Please vote. The five board members remaining will be Stuart Freeman, Caren Murray, Christi Overton, Steven Bean, Karen Miller-Stebbing, and Andrew Kalmanash. On the ballots will be Stuart Freeman, Leslie Arner, Chris Cofiell, Rita Hasel, Cathy Kalb, Barb Niemann, and Pat Qvigstad.

OLD BUSINESS: Stuart Freeman formally thanked Karen Arends for her supreme effort over the past few years as President of the PWDCA and presented a gift.

MOTION to adjourn was made by Steve Dostie. SECOND by Jane Harding. MOTION AFFIRMED.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire DeChristina

For Geri Zuckerman  
Recording Secretary  
Portuguese Water Dog Club of America, Inc.