

REVISIONS
SHGSPC Constitution /By Laws & Membership Application
AKC Approved: April 2016

Club History:

The Sleepy Hollow German Shorthaired Pointer Club is an AKC Sanctioned Specialty Club. We are also a NYS Not for Profit Corporation. We are governed by our Constitution /By Laws/ AKC regulations and Annual Federal Filing to verify that we are currently within the limits of our Not for Profit Status. That results in our exemption from filing NYS Taxes. However, as a Club in NYS we are liable for annual Sales Tax on the receipt of All Membership Dues.

Since our Certificate of Incorporation in 1993 ...there have been many new revisions on AKC protocol.

- AKC requires all AKC Sanctioned Clubs register with their respective states in order to retain their State Not for Profit Status.
- AKC initiated a Compliance Program. All clubs are required to actively participate in this program. This program entails the completion of an annual form confirming our various activities promoting our AKC Breed to the fancy. Without completion of the Compliance form, the AKC will not approve our applications for AKC Events.

The SHGSPC Voting Membership resides in NY, NJ, CT, PA and VT. During the past three years our Membership Lists have averaged: 47 ~ 52. In 2015, out of 50 + members, 8 were regularly attending meetings and another 8 or so worked behind the scenes to put on events. The same numbers continue to gather for Meetings only to realize there are barely (and often not) enough members in attendance for a quorum. Per our By Laws: General Membership meeting voting Quorum requirements are 20%.

Reality is, many of our voting members do not attend Meetings. As a result it has become increasingly difficult to conduct business, vote, resolve issues and move forward to meet AKC Event deadlines.

- *Without a General Membership quorum "vote" we cannot finalize Board Business.*
- *Without a finalization/resolution in voting process we do not have a Club.*

Finding a solution to this escalating problem has been a work in progress. In 2015 a By-Laws Committee was formed. The following options were addressed to the AKC:

- Permission to lower the Club's 20% Quorum (Not allowed AKC).
- Conducting General Membership business via phone/vote (Not an AKC option).
- Holding a Meeting at AKC Events: HT Test/ Specialty Shows (Not Permitted).

"It would appear by AKC guidelines, voting members must be present in order to utilize their vote".

The AKC suggested and approved a solution to our Quorum issue...

SHGSPC modify Membership status by utilizing Membership Tiers and introduce Active & Associate Membership options:

- Active Voting members drive the 20% Quorum amount.
- Associate Non-Voting Members are **not** within the 20% Quorum.

Questions:

Q. *What is the cost of SHGSPC Annual Dues for Active and Associate Members?*

A. For Active and Associate Members...Dues are the same:

- Family Membership - 2 Adults (aged 18+) living in the same household \$25
- Single Membership - \$20

Q. *What are the Benefits to being an Active (voting) or Associate (non-voting) Member.*

A. Club Benefits that are the same for both Active or/ Associate Members are:

1. Health & Welfare Presentations with Guest Speakers
2. AKC Education Seminars (ie: Judges Seminars)
3. Introductory Programs to AKC Events ie: (Obedience/ Agility/ Field Work/ Dock Diving/ Breed Handling/ Conformation & Structure, etc.)
4. Advertising on the Club's Web Site
5. Pot Luck Annual Meeting with Education Program
6. Quarterly - Club Newsletter (Members have bragging rights/ Member can also post via Website Coordinator- Upcoming Litter Ads)
7. Annual SHGSPC Certificates of Achievement are presented to those members who have earned AKC Titles during the year...presented during the November Harvest Award Dinner/Meeting.
8. Family Membership discount on Dues.
9. Annual AKC Events: 2 Hunt Tests/ 2 Dog Specialty Shows

Q. *What are the definitions of an Active Member and Associate Member?*

A. Active Member carries a vote.

- This is a Member that wishes to be involved within the inner workings of the club by attending Meetings and/or Meeting Events so they can utilize their vote and/or Serve on a committee and/or learn as they go by helping to work at an Event.

An Associate Member does not carry a vote.

- An Associate Member is welcome and encouraged to participate at all Meetings, Programs and Events.
- An Associate Member is welcome and eligible for all the above listed Club Benefits (see: 1-9)
- An Associate Member may change their status to Active Member if they have met Active Member Criteria during the annual year.

Q. *What are the differences between an Active & Associate Member?*

A. An Active Member is required to attend and/or volunteer a minimum of two (2) meetings or club events annually to be considered Active. (Note: Active Members may never need to attend a Regular Meeting on a Wednesday evening. They can fulfill a 2 Meeting requirement by attending our Annual Saturday Harvest Awards Dinner Meeting and our Annual Saturday Potluck Luck Luncheon Meeting/Education Program).

Members who are unable to fill the Active Member requirements to maintain active membership status are invited to join us as an ASSOCIATE member.

Q. *When and where are SHGSPC meetings held?*

A. Our Meetings are held a minimum of 6 times annually:

- 4 - Feb, April, June, October @ The Gander Mtn. Community Room, Middletown NY
- 1 - The Harvest Awards Dinner/ Meeting 1st Saturday in November (Site TBA).
- 1 - The Potluck Luncheon Education Program/ Meeting - 3rd Saturday in August (Site: TBA).

Q. *When and where are SHGSPC events held?*

A. Our Events are held 4 times annually:

- February Premier Specialty Show, Westchester, NY
- June - Same Day: (2) Specialty Shows, New Paltz, NY
- September - Same Day: (2) Hunt Tests, Dover Plains, NY

The SHGSPC Awards Program

Awards are Presented at the November Harvest Awards Dinner/ Meeting

In 2015 Member Sponsored Awards and the SHGSPC Sponsored Outstanding Achievement Award were introduced. These awards were in addition to the Club's original Certificate of Achievement program. Award Presentation was built upon the notion of acknowledging and celebrating the accomplishments and efforts of the club's Active Members... those that sacrifice their time and labor on behalf of the Club.

Q. *Is an Active Member eligible for Awards at the Harvest Awards Dinner?*

A. YES an Active Member is eligible if that member has met the specific criteria for the Award.

Q. *Is an Associate Member eligible for an Award at the Harvest Awards Dinner?*

A. Yes & No...

YES - All Members (Active and Associate) that earn Annual AKC titles are eligible for a SHGSPC Certificate of Title Achievement.

NO - An Associate Member would not be eligible "if" an Individual Member Sponsored Award description specified "Active Member" **OR** if the Award Criteria description is focused on a Member's Club Participation.

The SHGSPC has been trying to address a very disturbing dilemma facing so many clubs. We are fortunate to have a very healthy membership list, however, a club cannot survive on dues alone. Membership participation is essential.

With hope that this message clarifies any misconception and in turn makes sense as to why the club has chosen our current path. As a group, we are trying very hard to continue in a positive direction as opposed to the many dog clubs that have ceased to exist or sadly are heading in that direction due to the voting quorum dilemma.