

2026 Southwest Region Annual Meeting

March 8, 2026

Location: Golden State Schutzhund Club

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 4:38 PM by Lisa Yauchzee, Secretary.

Roll Call / Attendance: Five clubs were present, meeting quorum requirements.

Present Clubs

- Danubius Club
- East Valley Working Schutzhund Club
- Golden State Schutzhund Club
- Ground Zero Schutzhund Club
- Western Horizons Working Dog Club

Absent Clubs

- Anacapa Working Dog Association
- High Desert Working Dogs Club
- Maximum Effort Working Dog Club
- Sandstorm Schutzhund Club
- Southern Arizona Schutzhund Club
- Southwest Working Dog Association
- VLK

Officer Reports

Nelli Racsko – Regional Director

- Reported on regional website maintenance and upgrades.
- Continues responding to club requests and assisting clubs with status and compliance matters.
- Discussed upcoming RH seminar and encouraged club participation.
- Discussed educational seminar development and opportunities to support sport growth within the region.
- Encouraged continued helper development seminars one to two times per year.

- Advised clubs unable to host required events to contact the Regional Director regarding possible waiver requests or affiliate (non-voting) club status.
- Welcomed VLK as a new club with a focus on tracking and RH activities.

During discussion, Western Horizons asked about future club growth and development within the region. Nelli noted that some clubs had been lost in recent years and stated that several inactive clubs had been removed by USCA administration.

Renne Foster – Treasurer

Presented the Treasurer's Report for the 2025–2026 fiscal year, including regional income, expenses, sponsorships, and seed funding provided for regional events.

The Treasurer reported total revenue of \$9,815.54, total expenses of \$2,351.00, and an ending balance of \$7,464.54 as of March 8, 2026.

The full Treasurer's Report will be attached to the meeting minutes.

Pete Medina – Regional Breed Warden

Reported that the breed survey event was successful with approximately 20 entries.

Due to circumstances involving the originally scheduled SV judge, replacement judges were secured on short notice, resulting in additional expenses related to travel arrangements.

Christian Gomez – Regional Training Director

No formal report submitted.

Christian Gomez stated that due to personal and life circumstances he would be unable to continue serving as Regional Training Director and submitted his resignation.

Motion made by Nelli to accept the resignation.

Seconded by Lisa.

Motion passed unanimously.

Lisa Yauchzee – Secretary

Reported that the board met regularly throughout the year to discuss regional business matters and coordinate regional events.

Meetings were generally concise and focused on ongoing regional operations and event planning.

Erin Easter – Assistant Regional Director

No report submitted.

Action Item #1 – Approval of 2025 Meeting Minutes

Western Horizons requested that officer and treasurer reports be attached to the minutes prior to approval.

Motion made by Robert to table approval of the 2025 meeting minutes until reports are attached.

Seconded by Nelli.

Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item #2 – Regional Championship Seed Funding

Discussion held regarding increasing regional championship seed funding from \$1,000 to \$1,500 beginning in 2027 for a two-year trial period. The increase would apply only to the Regional Championship and not to the Breed Survey.

Nelli stated that hosting costs have increased significantly in recent years and additional support may encourage more clubs to host regional events.

Motion made by Robert to increase regional championship seed funding from \$1,000 to \$1,500 beginning in 2027 for a two-year period.

Seconded by Renne.

Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item #3 – Club Support for Regional Events

Discussion held regarding increased club participation and support for regional events.

Beginning in 2027, clubs are encouraged to support regional events by sending a competitor, sponsoring a trophy, covering a competitor entry fee, or providing volunteers. Supporting clubs will be acknowledged during the annual meeting.

Motion made by Robert to approve the proposal.

Seconded by Renne.

Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Discussion Item #1 – Regional Event Scheduling Coordination

Discussion was held regarding scheduling coordination between the Southwest and Northwest Regions following a recent date conflict between regional events.

Representatives from Ground Zero Schutzhund Club expressed concerns regarding the conflicting event dates and the impact on competitors seeking to participate in both events.

Nelli clarified that the Southwest Region does not have authority over Northwest Regional scheduling decisions, but stated that communication between regions has historically been maintained in an effort to avoid major conflicts whenever possible.

It was also noted that historically the Northwest Region has generally scheduled its regional championship events in August or September, while Southwest Regional Championship events have traditionally been held in February or March.

Several meeting attendees stated that overlapping regional championship dates between the two regions have historically been uncommon.

Discussion Item #2 – Regional Fundraising Ideas

Discussion held regarding fundraising opportunities, including regional apparel and clothing sales.

Motion made by Robert to form a committee to develop fundraising and apparel ideas.

Nelli will send emails requesting volunteers and will also post a request on the regional website. At least three volunteers from regional clubs will be requested to participate in developing regional merchandise designs.

Seconded by Pete.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Item #3 – Future Regional Event Bids

Discussion held regarding bid submission timelines and ways the region can assist clubs in submitting bids in a timely manner.

Pete Medina of Golden State Schutzhund Club submitted a bid to host the 2027 Southwest Regional IGP Championship and Breed Survey.

Robert made a motion to allow an additional 30 days for other clubs to submit bids. If no additional bids were received, the Golden State Schutzhund Club bid would automatically be accepted. If additional bids were submitted, all bids would be presented for vote.

Motion failed with four no votes and one yes vote.

Motion made by Renne to vote on the Golden State Schutzhund Club bid as submitted.

Seconded by Lisa.

Motion passed with four yes votes and one no vote.

Motion made by Lisa to remove Discussion Item #4, as a bid had been accepted.

Seconded by Renne.

Motion passed unanimously.

Regional Training Director Appointment

Robert nominated Steve Romeo to serve as Regional Training Director following the resignation of Christian Gomez.

Seconded by Renne and Pete.

Motion passed unanimously.

Steve Romeo accepted the appointment.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Lisa.

Seconded by Renne.

Meeting adjourned at 6:23 PM.