



## **Newfoundland Club of America, Inc.**

### **Board of Directors Face-to-Face Meeting**

**Cleveland Airport Marriot**

**Cleveland, Ohio**

**October 29-31, 2004**

(Meeting times: Friday 7:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Sunday 7:30 a.m. until the quorum is lost)

## **Agenda**

### **Reading of the minutes of last meeting**

- September 20 and October 4, 2005 teleconference minutes (under separate cover)

### **President's Report (Roger Frey)**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President's Report (Aura Dean)**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President's Report (Sandee Lovett)**

### **Recording Secretary's Report (Mary Lou Cuddy)**

- Setting completion dates on To Do List items

### **Corresponding Secretary's Report (Robin Seaman)**

### **Treasurer's Report (Mary L. Price)**

- Update regarding NFNC and the 2003 National

### **AKC Delegate's Report (Mary W. Price)**

### **Committee Reports**

- Constitution and By-Laws Revision Committee (Maureen Cavanaugh) (attachment pages 10-83)
- Judges Education Committee (Robin Seaman)
  1. *AKC Complete Dog Book* proposed text and photo update
- Regional Club Liaison (Mary Lou Cuddy)
  1. Report on Regional Clubs (attachment pages 84-87)
  2. Northland's Constitution and By-Laws changes (attachment pages 88-94)
- Specialty Show Committee (Robin Seaman)
  1. Specialty Show Guide
  2. Review of VN class at the National

- Steering Committee (Roger Powell)
  1. Items that may be related to the revision of the Constitution and By-Laws and needing general Board discussion. (attachment pages 95-96)
- Uniform Trophies Committee (Lee Ann Hughes)
  1. Plate pattern
  2. Possibility of different choice selections for host clubs to use for their trophies
- Versatile Newf Committee (Jacqueline Brellochs)
  1. Is there continued need to require recipients to supply copies of the relevant certificates with their "application"? Current policy has been to obtain a copy of the certificates of titles needed for the VN. Dawn Fretts notifies me when title(s) she's entered in Database trigger "new VN" and she sends name and address of owner, titles and the dates they were earned. I really feel asking for the certificates is not necessary and I am running out of file space.
- Working Dog Committee - committee vacancy

### **Executive Session**

- Applicants for NCA Membership (attachment pages 97-111)
- Consideration of jurisdiction regarding filed charges (documents mailed previously)
- Appointment of Nominating Committee
- Appointment of General Education Committee
- Appointment of the Charitable Trust Management Board
- Isabel Kurth award
- Honorary Members
- Good Sportsmanship Award (attachments under separate cover)

### **Unfinished Business**

1. That a member donated fund be created, to raise money, that would be used to promote the goals of the Rescue Prevention Committee and that this fund would be listed on the NCA membership renewal form. (Roger Frey) (4/19-22, 2004 agenda)
2. Propose the consideration of a set schedule of teleconferences (i.e. 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday or the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month) (Roger Frey) (5/27/04 agenda)
4. To have the NCA consider taking a position on non-refundable deposits for puppies (Patti McDowell) (6/30/04 agenda)
 

Rationale: Aside from the question of legality, there is a question of whether it is a good practice to take "orders" for puppies not yet conceived. There is the potential that breeders will be breeding to "fill orders" rather than because it is the right time to breed a bitch or because it might be a good breeding to improve on a health issue or fault.
5. To consider stopping the practice of "rationales" after every vote (Patti McDowell) (6/30/04 agenda)
 

Rationale: Being used as political statements (one can almost tell who is running for election by reading the comments). The intent was probably to provide more "insight" to the membership but after bring on the Board it is quite

apparent to me that this is not working at all and may, in fact, be giving totally opposite impressions on occasion.

6. That the Board review the renewal form which was sent out in a format different than the one developed and approved by the Board (Patti McDowell) (6/30/04 agenda)

Rationale: The President was supposed to have seen and approved the final copy. Did this happen and, if not, why not?

7. To determine a method so puppy buyers can verify NCA membership and health clearances (Patti McDowell) (6/30/04 agenda)

Rationale: There are "sellers" telling people they are NCA members when they are possibly not. We need to make it easier for buyers to verify this information either with the Membership Chair, or by some other mechanism.

We also need to teach/inform buyers about verification of health information. It's not sufficient to tell them about recommended tests, we need to inform them about how to verify that info. The buyer must bear the responsibility of making sure that what they are being told is the truth.

8. Senior memberships on dues renewal form (Patti McDowell) (6/30/04 agenda)

Rationale: We have already addressed this. The question was raised by a member, the President directed the Corresponding Secretary to communicate with Club Relations at the AKC, the AKC responded that we are in violation of our Constitution and By-Laws. Did we not communicate to our Membership Chair? If not, why not? This happened 6 months ago.

9. To develop policy for screening membership applicants via the AKC Stud Book's electronic records to ascertain if they are breeders (within 5 years of application) (Patti McDowell) (attachment pages 11-50 & attachment page 20 of the 6/30/04 agenda)

10. Establish an Ad Hoc Breeders Committee (Patti McDowell) (6/30/04 agenda)

Rationale: Purpose: 1) Ongoing education through Breeder Education Forums, 2) Outreach programs for existing non-NCA breeders, 3) Development program for novice breeders.

Ad Hoc committee would develop proposals and make recommendations on whether this type of program should be made a regular standing committee. Input from JEC, H&L, RPC and GE.

Possibly establish one day prior to National Specialty devoted to breeder education/breed education. Those interested could participate without interference with the normal activities of the National Specialty. On this day health testing, multiple educational speakers (AKC rep, veterinarian specialists, etc.), panel discussions with NCA breeders, workshops, etc. could take place.

Once program is better developed, similar events could be held in various regions so outreach and education of this type is not limited to one per year. We

cannot complain about either NCA or non-NCA breeders way of doing “business” (for lack of a better term) unless we are actively providing a program for breeders.

Seminars could be put on disc for sale to members or interested persons.

Since the vast majority of dogs entering the Stud Book are not part of the NCA, critical to establish this type of program.

Potential seminar/workshop topics - AKC record-keeping and regulations, contracts, limited registration vs. spay/neuter contracts, reproduction (testing and timing, c-section, when it is time?), prenatal/postnatal care, AI vs. natural breedings and why, the Standard (can include hands on examination of dogs; what is “lay-back” of shoulder, what is “good angulation”, etc.), screening the puppy buyer, websites, health clearances - which, why and when, what separated the “puppy seller” from the “reputable breeder”, what is the NCA and why is it important.

11. To ask NCA Regional Clubs to develop a flier with club information (Patti McDowell) (6/30/04 agenda)

Rationale: Ask each Regional Club to develop a “flier” with information about club, contact people, rescue, event types and membership. These fliers could be available on NCA website so breeders could/should include info on the Regional Clubs with every puppy sold so people can find events, support and education in the area where they live.

Strong, active enthusiastic Regional Clubs only make the NCA a healthier organization.

12. To produce a flier for *Newf Tide* subscription for puppy buyer packets (Patti McDowell) (6/30/04 agenda)

Rationale: “Roll out” flier with inclusion in a *Newf Tide* issue and have it also available for download on the website.

13. Non-NCA awards (Patti McDowell) (6/30/04 agenda)

Rationale: Awards at the Specialty should be either NCA awards, AKC awards or awards donated for NCA or AKC Accomplishments (BIS, BBE, etc.). I do appreciate the thought behind giving something like the Ron Pemberton Award but having something done outside the NCA but awarded at our National opens the door for anyone to invent an award, decide who will get it and present it at the dinner or other NCA event.

14. Review the policy on making the membership list mailing labels available to members for non-commercial purposes. (Mary Lou Roberts) (7/28/04 agenda)

15. Concerns regarding membership list use (Bob Rogers) (attachment page 17 of the 6/30/04 agenda)

16. Discussion of the comments received from the Board and the membership on the proposed AKC Online Breeders Classified (Mary Lou Roberts) (attachment pages 112-121) (7/28/04 agenda)
17. AKC Drafting Proposal (attachment page 18 of the 7/28/04 agenda)
18. To require the Second Vice President, as Committee Liaison, within five days of a Board meeting to communicate with committee chairs the results of Board decisions and reflect this in the policy manual. (Jack Dean) (7/28/04 agenda)  
 Rationale: Committee Chairs need to be promptly informed of what action the board has taken long before they can read the published minutes in Newf Tide.
19. Should the candidates' statements be circulated for review by the candidates or any others prior to publication? (Tabled from the 10/4/04 teleconference) (9/20/04 agenda & 9/16/04 email from Mary Lou Roberts)
20. Consider the formation of an ad-hoc committee to investigate the formation and, if appropriate, write a job description for a new NCA position, NCA Chief Information Officer, to coordinate information gathering, storage, dissemination and protection of the NCA's electronic and information assets. (Mary Lou Roberts) (9/20/04 agenda)
21. Discuss and coordinate the NCA's approach to puppy buyer education and breeder referral, considering all of the different committees that touch these issues with the goal of unifying their goals and, if appropriate, coordinating their efforts in a single area of responsibility. (Mary Lou Roberts) (9/20/04 agenda)
22. Task the Steering Committee with working with the Board to produce and update on an annual basis a document that defines NCA Goals, Strategies for Meeting Those Goals, and Measurements. (Mary Lou Roberts) (9/20/04 agenda)

The Document might be prepared and updated according to the following schedule:

No later than one month before the fall F2F: Steering Committee submits to the Board key goals and strategies for recommendation

Fall F2F: Board discusses and finalizes goals and strategies

No later than one month before the spring F2F: Steering Committee submits to the Board final document with goals and strategies and introduces measurements for meeting those goals.

Spring F2F: Board finalizes the Strategy document for the coming year.

23. To have meetings conducted by email or regular mail and reduce the costs of telephone conferences and the time involved. (Jack Dean) (9/20/04 agenda)  
 Rationale:

I. Our by laws permit regular mail meetings and I believe that we can also have email meetings. Some have raised the problem that they do not believe that email meetings are possible under Connecticut statutes but we can always waive the provisions of that statute, if we chose, just as we can waive the meeting notice time limits if we chose.

II. If no board member objects to an email meeting, then why should we not do it?

24. To require the Internet Committee and the General Education Committee to prepare and have ready within 30 days new NCA website entry pages that are specifically designed to handle visitors from the AKC website (Jack Dean) (9/20/04 agenda)

Rationale:

I. The AKC is soon going to launch a program that it calls Online Breeder Classifieds which will permit most sellers of AKC registered litters to advertise on the AKC website.

II. There is nothing that we can do to prevent this program from going forward, but we have to mitigate possible harm by being ready for referrals to the NCA website from the AKC website for novice puppy buyers.

III. The web pages have to be carefully designed to handle the impetuous buyer because if we fail, they will leave and buy a dog from the internet or an irresponsible breeder

IV. Maybe we should not be so concerned with novice buyers getting healthy puppies. Maybe we should not care if "they get the dog they deserve," but we must care about young children who have a 2 year old dog drop dead or watch it slowly deteriorate from health problems the breeder did not even care about. We must care about the dog winding up in rescue (or worse) because the breeder never told the buyer that Newfs slobber, get hair in the butter and do not want to be tied up outside.

25. To restore the NCA website to show the breeders list in an easy format on line with website and email addresses for the breeders (Patti McDowell) (9/20/04 agenda)

Rationale: to make it as easy as possible for the puppy buyers to find and make contact with NCA breeders List breeders; restore the list to the way it was when the breeders signed up for it; make the website breeders list ready to handle the referrals from the AKC Online Breeder Classified Program

## **New Business**

26. Appoint a Member at Large to report to the membership regarding Board actions. (Jan Boggio)

Rationale: In today's world, news is old within 24 hours. Given how slow, delayed and time consuming the production of minutes and even the bullet points as posted on our website can be, the NCA Board needs to find a quicker way to communicate with interested members. A member at large can serve as the NCA's reporter, giving brief summaries of activities at Board meetings and posting them to the NCA website within 24 hours of all meetings. Such reports would not be subject to NCA Board review, but would be as accurate as

possible. The member at large could confer with the NCA Recording Secretary to double check any necessary details. Exact motions and votes would not be necessary, but rather a short overview of discussion and any action taken. The member at large would not report nor listen to any Executive Session discussion.

The Board may want to consider having more than one member at large, so that someone local could attend any face-to-face meetings.

The member at large concept will open the door to better communication between the Board and the membership, and minimize the sense of "secretness" that seems to surround Board activities. While not all members have web access, this information would be available to all interested parties.

27. Ask the Second Vice President to notify all committee chairs of upcoming meeting schedules and agendas and ask for any reports or input that may need to be brought to the Board's attention. (Jan Boggio)

Rationale: While committee chairs currently receive notice regarding Board meeting schedules for both the fall face-to-face and National Specialty face-to-face meetings, they are not kept up to date as to other Board meetings or agenda due dates. Such notices can open the doors for even more communication between the Board and committees and keep committees up to date as to upcoming agenda items.

28. A motion and a rationale must not use language that reflects on a member's conduct or character, or is discourteous or unnecessarily harsh. Exception would be as necessary in a case of a motion related to disciplinary procedures. (From Roberts Rules of Order, p. 333) (Jacqueline Brellochs)

29. Restore the *Newf Tide* page allocation for working tests to one full page. (Mary Lou Roberts)

30. To replace the dog magazine print ad and the Dog Fancy website ad with one more in keeping with modern advertising to make it more effective. (Jack Dean)

Rationale:

I. The current ad says Newfoundland Club of America. Newfoundland Information Booklet, *The Newfoundland and You*. Send \$5 check or MO to Newfoundland Club of America. P.O. Box 2614, Dept. DF, Cheyenne, WY 82003. See our website at [www.newfdogclub.org](http://www.newfdogclub.org)

II. We sell very few packets a year and this ad costs us about \$3,000 a year.

III. 30 years ago they may have sent \$5.00 for a packet. Today the ad should emphasize the website.

IV. The Berners have a nice ad that says: BMDs are not for everyone. Their good looks and devoted companionship are tempered by short life spans (average 7-8 years), often-high vet bills and heavy year round shedding. Let us help you learn about the breed and how to locate a responsible breeder.

V. We should have an ad that says something like “A Newf is a very gentle dog that will be deeply attached to its family. The puppy can grow to 165 pounds. It does shed a lot. When it shakes its head, there may be spit on the walls. Good breeding and good health go hand in hand and a sickly Newf can cost several thousands of dollars each year. Let us help you learn more, talk to people who live near you, and find a good breeder. We are a national Newf organization with over 2,200 people. Visit us as [www.newfdogclub.org](http://www.newfdogclub.org)”

31. Immediate implementation of an 800 number so people can call and receive information on Newfs. (Jack Dean) (attachment pages 122-123)

Rationale:

I. Back in November 3, 1999 I wrote to the General Education Committee suggesting an 800 call in number service. Today the costs would be considerably less. See attachment 1.

II. Finally it was sent to the RPC for implementation about a year ago

III. As of today we do not have any group ready to activate and take on this project.

IV. The AKC's On line Breeder Classified Program is going to create a greater demand for Newfs and we need this program.

V. Five years is too long to wait for implementation of this program.

32. Have the Board review the performance of all NCA committees to see if they are fulfilling their directives or if there are any problems with the committee (Jack Dean)

Rationale:

I. The “to do” list published by the Recording Secretary, Mary Lou Cuddy, has that the Board has agreed to review the performance of committees at this falls face to face meeting.

II. There are several committees that have been assigned tasks that appear to be unfulfilled and unattended to.

III. The NCA cannot function well if the Committees do not promptly attend to Board directives

IV. It is inherently unfair to remove someone without some advance notice that such action is being proposed.

33. To require the Second Vice President, as Committee Liaison, to maintain a schedule of matters referred to committees, publicly distribute it to Board members and others interested, and report back at each meeting on any items that are overdue and what she has done to correct the problem and to reflect these changes in the policy manual. (Jack Dean)

Rationale:

I. In May, Mary Lou Cuddy, the Recording Secretary had a page of to do items open as of May 4, 2004

II. In the September Agenda packet, the Recording Secretary's list had grown to 2 ¼ pages

III. Some items on the list are over a year old, some items have been taken care of but the list is not properly updated.



IV. The Board cannot fulfill its duty of corporate governance if it does not promptly attend to matters.

34. The Board consider the question of how and where to direct miscellaneous questions received by the Internet Chair, i.e. a "Dear Abby" page. (John Rodley)

## **Adjournment**

### **FYI**

- AKC Stud Book Certification and Acknowledgment - Parent Club Member
- July 28, August 11, August 19, August 23, 2004 minutes, final approved draft
- Board Directory
- To Do List