



**Newfoundland Club of America, Inc.**  
**Board of Directors Teleconference Call**  
**Tuesday, November 30, 2004**  
**9:00 p.m. Eastern Time/ 8:00 p.m. Central Time**

**Agenda**

**Reading of the minutes of last meeting**

- October 29-31, 2004 face-to-face 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)**

- Membership Committee

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

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

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

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

- Distribution of airline coupons from AKC

**Committee Reports**

- **Breeders List** (Aura Dean) (attachment page 1-2)
  - A. Approval of application form
  - B. Fee to be charged
  - C. Publication date
- **Newf Tide** Policy Committee (Aura Dean)
  - A. Reconsideration of regional clubs' working events

**Executive Session**

- Applicants for NCA Membership (attachment pages 3-19)

**Unfinished Business**

1. To review the efficiency of the motion passed at the October 29, 2004 face-to-face meeting (Roger Frey) - "1) That a Board member would be allowed to speak to each motion twice, unless the Board decided a particular motion warrants more discussion. 2) In an effort to provide the membership with more informative

minutes and to assist the Recording Secretary in organizing discussion points, that whenever possible when speaking to a motion Board members will state if they are speaking in favor of or against a motion. 3) That the minutes from this meeting will not include the individual Board member's voting rationale. 4) That if these suggestions are adopted, that the Board would, after this meeting, review their efficiency and make recommendations for future meetings.

2. Motion: For the board to approve the letter to the AKC Board members whose terms expire the following letter which the board directed to be written. (Jack Dean) (attachment pages 21-28)

### **New Business**

3. Discussion: That supporting rationales for agenda items shall be distributed to the Board only. (Roger Frey)
4. Election Reform: To establish guidelines for the ballot counters (Jack Dean)  
Not all ballots have a check mark in the box, some use Xs, some scratch out a vote with a notation saying mistake, some circle the name instead of checking the box, etc.
  - A. It is inherently unfair in deciding whether a ballot should be counted to have each ballot counting committee make up their own rules, unannounced before hand, which then determine if a ballot is good or bad. Whether a person wins or loses an election should not depend upon who counts the ballots and the rules should not change each year.
  - B. Rules announced in advance set forth an objective standard and supply a standard for the NCA Board to use if there is an appeal from how the ballots were counted.
  - C. I think it would be horribly unfair and the highest example of political posturing to wait until you see the results, examine a particular ballot and then announce a standard which could affect the outcome in favor of candidates that you support.
  - D. To ameliorate the problem last year, I, as Recording Secretary, polled the board and required a decision on what principles to use and then announced them in advance of the ballot counting.
  - E. It was the consensus of the board last year that we would use the following principles:
    - i. A mismatch is defined as any mark on the ballot other than a check or x in the box next to the candidate's name;
    - ii. If a ballot has a mismatch it will not be totally discarded but the individual votes will be analyzed;
    - iii. Individual votes for candidates will be counted if, taking into account any patterns on the entire ballot, it is clear what the voter intended the vote will be counted. If it is not clear or questionable, then the individual vote will not be counted.
5. Election Reform: To establish guidelines for opening, logging and retaining the ballots (Jack Dean)

- A. Ballots shall be removed from the sealed containers in the presence of all of the ballot counters and the ballot counters will verify that the containers have been sealed, signed and dated before they were opened in their presence.
- B. The names of all people who voted in the election shall be logged in alphabetical order on a sheet of paper indicating that the ballot was received.
- C. The ballot counters will open the ballots and the inner envelopes shall be separated from the outer envelopes.
- D. The outer envelopes shall be brought to the annual meeting and may be destroyed after the annual meeting upon board approval.

6. Election Reform: To reestablish a method of dealing with unclear ballots (Jack Dean)

- A. Any ballots that are questionable as to their validity, for what ever reason, will be segregated in a separate pile and counted separately.
- B. The majority of the ballot counters will make a decision on the acceptability of the ballot and how the individual votes are to be recorded. A record shall be placed on the back of the ballot as to the decision of the majority of the ballot counters on whether the ballot should be counted. Each ballot counter shall sign the ballot signifying agreement or disagreement with that decision.
- C. The ballots will be available to all members at the annual meeting and for several days before may be examined by anyone.
- D. The list may be destroyed after the annual meeting upon board approval.

7. Election Reform: To make available to all members a list of all people who voted in the election. (Jack Dean)

- A. All state governments maintain lists of eligible voters who voted in an election with such a list being available to any citizen who requests such information.
- B. The list of all people who voted in the NCA election shall be available for inspection and copying by any member upon reasonable notice.
- C. The list shall be brought to the annual meeting and will be available to all members at the annual meeting and for several days before.
- D. Members will be able to check to see if their vote was received or if ballot is marked received.

8. Motion: For the Board to approve and have inserted in the Policy Manual the following statement: "The Board encourages and approves the free communication of members to one another and for members of the board to communicate with the membership. The board will encourage such communications and not discourage such communications" (Jack Dean)

- A. We live in the United States where freedom of speech and freedom of thought are the hallmarks of our democracy.
- B. The NCA is given tax exemptions by our government and should conform to basic democratic principles.

9. Clarification on the Trust Management Board (TMB) (Aura Dean)

After reviewing the Management duties as outlined on page 6 of the October, 2004 face-to-face agenda, I think there needs to be some clarification.

According to the duties outlined, the TMB will, "report to the NCA Board any meetings and copy of the minutes of the trust activities and will provide an annual report for **Newf Tide** and will provide a report at the NCA Annual Meeting. In addition the TMB Treasurer will provide a written Treasurer's Report to the NCA Board (Trustee) monthly. The TMB will provide an Annual written report to the Trustee each February and a copy will be provided to the membership."

The TMB would then be making a report for **Newf Tide** due on or about December 15<sup>th</sup> as consistent with other committees of the club. This report will reach the membership in late February. Another report will be presented at the Annual Meeting—anywhere from late March to late April. The TMB will provide an Annual Report to the Trustee each February and a copy will be provided to the membership.

Query, are we going to have two reports in that short period of time and how will the second be delivered to the members? Would it make more sense to have this Annual Report Due on July 1<sup>st</sup>? Should the TMB be making its Annual Report through the publication used to list donations to the Trust?

10. Clarification on the publication to be used to list donations to the Trust (Aura Dean)  
From the minutes of the November, 2003 Face to Face meeting: "Jan Boggio moved and Mary L. Price seconded that the Charitable Trust use its interest income to pay for an annual report and move the list of donors out of **Newf Tide**...."

Is this a publication that the TMB should use to present its annual report to the membership? Should this publication be limited to the report of the TMB and the listing of donors? Is this publication cost effective?

11. "Distinguished Member" Committee (Mary Lou Roberts) (Information under separate cover.)  
Review the proposal (up-front costs and anticipated revenues and profits) for producing a limited-edition print and/or poster of "The Distinguished Member of the Humane Society."
12. Clarify the Intention of the Policy Passed Regarding the Offering of Non-NCA Awards. (Mary Lou Roberts)  
A motion was made and passed at the October face-to-face meeting that "awards presented at NCA events should be either NCA awards, AKC awards, or awards donated for NCA or AKC accomplishments." All of our discussion on this matter focused on awards presented at National Specialties, but the actual motion states "NCA events." We need to clarify that this policy does not apply to NCA working tests.

13. To re-examine the question of allowing regional clubs to list non-AKC/NCA titles on regional club awards, i.e. Delta Dog, Therapy Dog International, agility titles (Mary Lou Cuddy)

## **Adjournment**

### **FYI**

- Minutes from the September 20 and October 4, 2004 teleconference (approved version)
- Letter from Bob Rogers
- Board Directory
- To Do List (under separate cover)