

NCA Board of Directors Minutes
Teleconference Meeting, July 28, August 11, August 19 & August 23, 2004 (Approved
9/20/02)

Roger Frey, President, called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. Eastern time.

The following directors were present: Jan S. Boggio (JSB), Jacqueline K. Brellochs (JKB), Mary Lou Cuddy (MLC), Aura Dean (AD), Jack Dean (JD), Roger Frey (RF), Sandee Lovett (SL), Patti McDowell (PM), Mary L. Price (MLP), Mary Lou Roberts (MLR), Robin Seaman (RS) and Debra Wigal (DW). Tom Broderick (TB) *ex-officio* was also present. Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was absent.

Annual Meeting Start Time

The Newfoundland Club of Northern California (NCNC) requested that the Board set the start time for the Annual Membership Meeting at the 2005 National. There was discussion concerning the fact that there were two hotels, that the show site was not on hotel grounds and that the start time of the evening meal was not known. It was the consensus of the Board to try to reach either Kevin Gallagher or Ken Price and have one or both join the teleconference, if possible, so that more information could be gathered.

Time: 8:25 p.m.

Election Reform

At the July 15, 2004 teleconference, Mary Lou Roberts and Jack Dean were appointed to review the two previously submitted election reform proposals and to determine possible changes for the next election.

Mary Lou Roberts and Jack Dean submitted the following three proposals for the Board's consideration:

Proposal #1 was a recommended procedure for handling the retrieval of the ballots from the post office in order to ensure that no one has access to a list of who has/has not voted prior to the counting of the ballots. Because this procedure is not specified in our by-laws, this procedure would be implemented at the option of the Recording Secretary.

The procedure is as follows: The ballots will continue to be addressed to the Recording Secretary and received at a post office box. This box will be large enough to hold a significant portion of the anticipated number of returned ballots. The Board will appoint four people to act as monitors of the retrieval of the ballots from the post office box. The Recording Secretary will only go to the post office to retrieve ballots in the company of at least one and preferably two of the monitors. Together, they will remove the ballots from the post office box and place them in a sealed envelope or container with the monitors and the Recording Secretary writing their names and the date on the

envelope/container. All of the envelopes and/or containers will remain sealed until the day that the ballots are counted, and they will be opened only in the presence of the Recording Secretary and the official ballot counters.

Proposal #2 was to provide standardized forms that candidates can use for both collecting signatures when running by petition and for the required acceptance letter. It will not be required that candidates use these exact forms; however, use of the forms will ensure that they are acceptable and correct. The forms will be made available to members both from the Recording Secretary and on the NCA web site.

Proposal #3 was to request that candidates running this year answer the same questions that were posed to candidates last year. The following statement should be placed in the notice: "The Board of Directors at the July 28, 2004 teleconference, requested that all candidates provide a 300-word or less personal profile and answer the following question in 500 words or less: 'What do you think are the two biggest problems facing the NCA and/or facing the Newfoundland breed, and how would you solve them?'"

There was discussion about the sealed envelopes or containers and the fact that they cannot be opened easily. In years past, there have been questions about petition forms and acceptance letter wording and by standardizing these forms some concerns would be eliminated. There were questions as to whether the monitors should also be the ballot counters. A previous letter received from Mike Liosis, AKC Club Relations, indicated that election monitors should also be the ballot counters. The appointment of the monitors/counters can be done at a later meeting.

It was the consensus of the Board to have the same people as the monitors and ballot counters. It was the consensus of the Board that these procedures were for a trial period of one year.

Patti McDowell moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded to accept the ballot collection procedure as modified by the consensus of the Board for a trial period of one year.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary, indicated that she would voluntarily follow these procedures for the next election.

Patti McDowell moved and Sandee Lovett seconded to accept the standardized election forms for a trial period of one year.

The motion passed unanimously.

Patti McDowell moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded to accept the question for the candidates as stated for the 2004-2005 election.

The motion passed unanimously.

Time: 8:57 p.m.

Fall Face-to-Face Meeting

The Board reviewed the information gathered on the specifics of meeting in either Cleveland, Ohio or Newark, New Jersey. Information on the cost of the meeting room in Cleveland would be available soon. Cleveland might be slightly higher in price but Deb Wigal would be able to participate in some of the meetings. She cannot be in Newark due to work commitments. The prices seem to be in line with what was paid last year.

Patti McDowell moved and Robin Seaman seconded to reopen the discussion on the face-to-face date.

The motion passed unanimously.

Tom Broderick left the teleconference at 9:12.

Some Board members wished to change the date of the face-to-face meeting because of a perceived threat of terrorism in the weeks before the presidential election. One Board member will not attend the face-to-face meeting due to her location and her concern for her dogs. There were no other dates that would work satisfactorily and the consensus was to leave the date as October 29-31, 2004.

Jan Boggio moved and Jack Dean seconded that the NCA Board hold its fall face-to-face meeting in Cleveland, Ohio.

One Board member said that policy stated the Board is to go to the place with the lowest costs. That policy could not be located in the **Policy Manual**. It was stated the difference in price between the two cities is not that significant and Cleveland allows one more Board member to attend the meeting.

The motion passed. 9 Yes (JSB, JKB: The current figures indicated that Newark may be less expensive. I voted for Cleveland to allow an additional Board member to take part in the discussions; MLC, AD, JD: Ditto JKB and I don't believe the figures are accurate enough to establish that price differential; RF, SL, MLP, DW); 2 No (PM: The Board had a policy to research the lowest cost to membership for the fall face-to-face meeting. Cleveland is estimated to be \$700.00 more expensive than Newark; RS); 1 Abstention (MLR)

Time 9:36 p.m.

Report of the President

Roger Frey, President, had no report at that time.

Report of the 1st Vice-President

Aura Dean, 1st Vice-President, had no report at that time.

Report of the 2nd Vice-President

Sandee Lovett, 2nd Vice-President, reported that one person had expressed interest in the Newf Novelties Committee.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary

Robin Seaman, Corresponding Secretary, had no report at that time.

Report of the Recording Secretary

Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary, reported that she had prepared the July 28, 2004 agenda. The June 30, July 8 and July 15, 2004 minutes would be ready for review soon.

Report of the Treasurer

Mary L. Price, Treasurer, gave the following report.

NCA Operations

Checking Account	3,275.54	
Savings Account	76,522.83	
CDs	<u>152,433.52</u>	
	232,231.89	232,231.89
"Distinguished Member" Restoration		
CD		1,163.57
Uniform Trophy Fund		
Money Market Account		<u>9,613.01</u>
		243,008.47

Mary L. Price gave a preliminary summary on the dues renewal process. These figures are based on everything that Bob Rogers, Membership Chair, has forwarded to her as

of July 28, 2004. There are still more renewals being received and will be processed and forwarded to the Treasurer.

Renewals for 1,005 households have been processed to date. There have been 110 renewals done with credit cards for a total of \$10,840.00 and 895 renewals by check for a total of \$61,071.00. There were 125 donations to Newf Rescue for a total of \$4,663.00 and 103 donations to the Newfoundland Health Challenge for a total of \$4,229.00 in these renewals.

Mary L. Price will provide the fiscal year end statements to the Board and the membership when completed.

Report of the AKC Delegate

Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, was absent.

Uniform Trophies

Robin Seaman, Specialty Show Committee Chairperson, reported that the company that had produced the plates used as Best of Breed trophies for the regional specialties and the international specialties was sold and the plates will no longer be available. She further reported that the company that produces the medallions used for Awards of Merit (1 3/4" diameter) at regional specialties has a mold for the three-inch diameter medallion that could be used to produce a Best of Breed trophy for regional specialties. Her committee has recommended using the three-inch medallion for Best of Breed and High in Trial at a cost to the NCA of \$26.00 each per order of 100. The company will also provide a walnut presentation stand for the three-inch medallion. The plates that are in stock will be given to those clubs who have the plates listed in the premium list. A letter and a medallion will be given outside the ring or mailed to those who had already received the defective plates. LeeAnn Hughes, Uniform Trophy Chair, has agreed to be responsible for sending out the medallions as she already sends the medallions for the Awards of Merit at regional specialties.

Patti McDowell moved and Aura Dean seconded to accept the recommendation of the Specialty Show Committee to purchase three-inch medallions for use for Best of Breed and High in Trial trophies at regional specialties and Best of Breed at international specialties. These medallions will replace the china plates which were previously used.

The motion passed unanimously.

It was the consensus of the Board to send a medallion and a letter to replace the defective plates previously given out.

There was a question as to when the Board will be receiving the revised **Specialty Show Guidelines**. Sections of the **Specialty Show Guidelines** were to have been brought before the Board before now. Robin Seaman explained that the entire

Specialty Show Guidelines are almost complete and the Board should have the document in its entirety for the fall face-to-face meeting.

Patti McDowell moved and Mary Lou Roberts seconded to have the same policy as is used at the National Specialty in that co-owners and breeders of the Best of Breed and High in Trial at a regional specialty may purchase the medallions at cost.

The motion passed unanimously.

Time 9:54 p.m.

Newfoundland Health Challenge

The Newfoundland Health Challenge (NHC) asked that their proposal be considered so that it may appear in the new **Specialty Show Guidelines**. It was stated that this information needs to be placed in the **Specialty Show Guide** so that host clubs will know what their responsibilities are to the NHC. When these requirements are spelled out there can be no misunderstanding about the needs of the committee and the responsibility of the host club to help provide it.

There was discussion of adding Newfoundland Rescue to the section detailing procedures for the designated items submitted for the Fine Arts Auction. There are some mixed feelings by past and future National Specialty show chairs who were surveyed about having the NHC at ringside for three days. Some would like to see two days with an option of the third. The host clubs are concerned with selling their own soft goods as the funds they raise are crucial to the financial success of their National.

Mary Jane Spackman, Co-Chair of the NHC, joined the teleconference at 10:07 p.m.

The NHC had requested three days. There was a discussion over whether the NHC should be given the option of three days with the ability to reduce it to two days or if they should be given two days with the ability to have a third day only if the specialty given club approved.

Mary Lou Cuddy moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded to accept the recommendations of the Newfoundland Health Challenge Committee as amended by the Board.

The recommendations are as follows: The Newfoundland Health Challenge (NHC) is an active NCA committee that utilizes the National Specialty (per Board policy) as the premier event to promote the goals of the NHC and to raise funds to meet these goals.

- I. The NHC shall be assisted by the host club to set the facilities to conduct their fund raising activities. Ringside auctions (held on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday) shall be held in a location close to the breed ring for the purpose of conducting silent auctions and the sale of limited edition soft goods. The host club will help to facilitate the rental of tenting, tables and

chairs for this function; however, the host club shall not be responsible for paying for the rental of same or for providing the man-power to run the ringside auctions. The host club shall discuss these arrangements with the NHC well in advance of the National show.

- II. In coordination with the Fine Arts Auction conducted by the host club and the National, the NHC and Newfoundland Rescue shall each be allowed to place three (3) pieces in the auction, with all proceeds there from to be directed to the respective funds.

The motion passed. 9 Yes (JSB, JKB, MLC, AD, JD, RF, SL, MLP, DW) 3 No (PM: I support the entire proposal except I would have changed the ringside auction to two days, with an option for a third day, to provide for clubs which may have greater financial demands; MLR: Ditto PM; RS: Ditto PM)

Time: 10:23 p.m.

Northern California and the Proposed 75th Anniversary Book

Mary Jane Spackman, NCA Historian, stayed on the teleconference to participate in the discussion about the book. The proposed budget split of the income and repayment of the seed money was discussed.

Kevin Gallagher, representing the Newfoundland Club of California (NCNC), joined the teleconference conference at 10:32 p.m. He stated that the split was negotiable and that the split listed in the report that Board members had just received was a typographical error. The split should have read 70% NCA/30% NCNC.

The make-up of the committee was discussed. Some Board members strongly favored adding long-term NCA members from across the country to facilitate the gathering of photographs and other information. It was reported the AKC Archivist's position has been dissolved and Mary Jane Spackman has been working on trying to access the AKC Archives which is storing most of the NCA's historical material.

The Board will review the book before publishing and releasing the seed money. There were questions as to who will own the book, who will be listed as publisher and who will control the sale of the book after the seed money is paid back in full. There was no consensus reached on those issues at that time. The suggestion of pre-sale orders was brought forward.

Kevin Gallagher left the teleconference at 10:54 p.m.

There was more discussion over expanding the committee. Mary Jane Spackman reported that she knew of four excellent sources for photographs. There is a very tight deadline and decisions have to be made.

Jack Dean moved and Deb Wigal seconded to approve the concept with Newfoundland Club of Northern California producing the book and the NCA fronting the money on a 75/25 split. NCNC will show the book to the Board before seed money is granted. Once the seed money is paid back, then there will be an equal split between NCNC, Newfoundland Rescue and the Newfoundland Health Challenge. There will be a committee of 12 made up of six NCNC members and six Board appointed long-term NCA members.

The motion passed unanimously.

Jack Dean moved and Patti McDowell seconded that the NCA provide the committee with \$500.00 out of the \$5,000.00 for start-up costs.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mary Jane Spackman left the teleconference at 11:18 p.m.

Rescue Prevention Committee

The Rescue Prevention Committee had submitted a proposal to create a breeder/puppy referral program that was placed on the April 19-22, 2004 agenda.

The Board had previously approved, by consensus, the concept of this proposal on May 27, 2003 but was waiting for the new **Breeders List** to be published and to be sure there was money to fund the proposal.

This proposal is to provide an initial personal contact to individuals looking for Newfoundland breeders. Contact volunteers would be available for discussions concerning living with a Newfoundland and the common genetic problems and related issues. These volunteers would refer individuals to the NCA's **Breeders List** and encourage them to approach the local regional club. The volunteers would also offer to arrange an opportunity for the individuals to meet with and interact with Newfoundlands.

Specific criteria to be a contact volunteer was outlined in the proposal. The proposal contained suggestions for the implementation of a toll-free phone number and financial support for advertisements in major newspapers. The contact volunteers would follow a suggested outline to provide consistent information and would keep records of the number of calls and other information so as to track the success of the program. The proposal suggested that the program be administered by a Board-appointed committee and that the NCA should, with matching funds, help to support the advertising in the newspapers. The proposal gave a suggested budget of \$3,500.00 for the first year. \$2,000.00 would be for the matching advertising program at the rate of \$100.00 per club, \$1,000.00 for the toll-free telephone line and \$500.00 for reimbursement of toll calls placed by the contact volunteers when answering inquiries.

There were some questions about the advertising in local newspapers and matching funds. It was asked how this service interacts with the AKC Breeder Referral program. There were concerns that the ads help owners who had bought puppies from backyard breeders, pet stores or over the Internet and who are having problems with their dogs. The suggestion was brought up to use qualified people who are not listed on the **Breeders List** to help these owners.

Jack Dean moved and Mary Lou Roberts seconded that the Board accept the report and recommendations of the Rescue Prevention Committee (RPC) with the modification of matching advertising at \$50.00 per club and that we have the program administered by the RPC and that the RPC be directed to come back to the Board by September 15, 2004 with a recommendation for expanding the telephone line to also include guidance for people who already own Newfoundlands but are having problems.

There was a discussion concerning appointing a committee to handle the actual work instead of the RPC and asking for volunteers through ads on the NCA website and *Newf Tide*. It was the consensus of the Board that the RPC was the appropriate committee to do this and that the Board would ask them to administer the program.

The motion passed unanimously.

Time 11:44 p.m.

Safety Harness for WRDX Tests

It was stated that safety harnesses are required in the European trials. It is a harness with a handle, not a flotation device, and is used only to get the dog out of the water in an emergency.

Jack Dean moved and Robin Seaman seconded to give the owners the option of using a safety harness with handles (not a flotation device) on their Newfoundland during a WRDX test. This is only for a rescue of the dog. The Working Dog Committee will make this information available to clubs hosting WRDX tests this year.

There was some discussion concerning where these harnesses could be purchased. This would be researched and the results made known.

The motion passed unanimously.

Time: 11:52 p.m.

Annual Membership Meeting

The Board received input concerning possible starting times from Kevin Gallagher, show chair for the 2005 National Specialty.

Jan Boggio moved and Patti McDowell seconded to start the 2005 Annual Membership Meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency in Monterey, California.

The motion passed unanimously.

Versatility Class

There was some discussion over the review of the Versatility class offered at the 2004 National Specialty. It was stated that the Versatility class was approved for only the 2004 National Specialty and then the class was to be reviewed.

Jack Dean moved and Patti McDowell seconded to refer the review of the Versatility Class back to the Specialty Show Committee.

The motion passed unanimously.

AKC Online Breeders Classified Ads

After a brief discussion of this program, it was the consensus of the Board to ask Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, for her input and more information. The matter was tabled until the next teleconference.

The next teleconference conference was set for August 11, 2004 at 8:00 p.m. Eastern time.

Mary Lou Roberts moved and Aura Dean seconded to recess the teleconference at 11:59 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

Board Teleconference Reconvenes on August 11, 2004

Roger Frey, President, called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. Eastern time.

The following directors were present: Jan S. Boggio (JSB), Jacqueline K. Brellochs (JKB), Mary Lou Cuddy (MLC), Aura Dean (AD), Jack Dean (JD), Roger Frey (RF), Sandee Lovett (SL), Mary L. Price (MLP), Mary Lou Roberts (MLR), Robin Seaman (RS) and Debra Wigal (DW). Patti McDowell (PM) was absent. Tom Broderick (TB) *ex-officio* and Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was present.

Aura Dean moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that in order to expedite the business of the meeting, the usual order of business will be waived.

The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (PM)

Roger Frey, President, reported on two items that had just come to his attention. The Newfoundland Club of Northern California (NCNC) has decided to not produce the 75th NCA Anniversary book citing the late start and having to work with a larger committee than planned. The other item was the resignation of Karen Steinrock as the AKC Breeder Referral person due to her work commitments. She will stay on until a replacement is appointed.

Patti McDowell joined the teleconference at 8:12 p.m.

The Board discussed the 75th Anniversary book proposal. It was the consensus of the Board that Roger Frey should contact NCNC to discuss their reasons for setting aside the project and whether the NCA should continue with it as an NCA project.

Time: 8:15 p.m.

Fall Face-to-Face Meeting

Aura Dean reported on plans for the October 29-31, 2004 fall face-to-face meeting in Cleveland, Ohio. The meeting will be held at the Airport Marriot, the same hotel as last year. The rate is the same as last year and the hotel has waived the meeting room charge for the first evening. There is a shuttle from the airport and Board members are to make their own travel arrangements. Aura requested that Board members let her know with whom they are sharing a room. It was suggested that for the Saturday night meal, the Board stay in, order take-out and have a brainstorming session. No decision was made about the exact agenda. Roger Frey asked Aura Dean to make the final arrangements with the hotel.

Time: 8:20 p.m.

Committee Guidelines and Policies

There was discussion on the original policy as stated in the ***Policy Manual, Vol. II*** with the notation that it had been modified 04/07/98. As ***Newf Tide*** is exempted in this proposed policy modification, discussion noted that ***Newf Tide*** has its own, Board approved, policy. It was asked if all other committees would be covered by the proposed policy and some Board members felt they would.

Jacqueline Brellochs moved and Roger Frey seconded to accept the revised policy as submitted.

It was asked if this is micromanaging committees; shouldn't committees be allowed to do their jobs. It was mentioned that the Board spent 45 minutes on fonts and the cropping of photos in a recent General Education ad. It was asked how often new articles or publications actually come out. It was stated that some committees put more items out than others.

It was stated that current guidelines provides that any policy change by any committee must be Board approved prior to its implementation. It was asked if this motion would cover new policies. The answer was yes. The By-Laws state the committees are always under the control of the Board. It was stated that a Board review would prevent inaccurate information from going out to the public. There was much discussion concerning the Internet Committee. It was stated that the Internet Committee should not be creating content and their job is to post what committees give them.

The **AKC Gazette** column is very time-sensitive and it was asked if it should be exempted. There was a friendly amendment to exempt the **AKC Gazette** column from the proposed policy.

Mary Lou Roberts moved and Sandee Lovett seconded to call the question.

The motion to call the question passed unanimously.

The proposed policy, with the friendly amendment added, would read: Committees are to be knowledgeable of current NCA policies governing their committee's responsibilities. New policies and any policy change proposed by a committee, and any other actions in exception to policy, must first be referred to the Board for consideration and approval prior to implementation. New proposals and proposed changes in content including text, photos/illustrations, additions to or deletions from ANY official NCA publication used to represent the NCA and/or to educate fanciers and others interested in the breed must receive approval from the NCA Board prior to publication and/or distribution, whether written, video, via internet or other media, with the exception of **Newf Tide** and the **AKC Gazette** column.

The motion failed 6 Yes (JKB: We have a long established policy, based on Article V, Section 4 of our By-Laws, that "any policy change proposed by a committee must be referred to the Board for consideration." In practice, new policies have also been submitted for Board approval prior to implementation though the word new is not in the document. This motion seeks to correct that situation; MLC, RF: Ditto JKB; SL, MLP, MLR); 6 No (JSB, AD, JD: The Board wants to move beyond micromanaging committees and it is displaying a basic mistrust of the committees by saying that anything they put out must first be checked for doctrinal purity. Censorship is a refuge and the Board should not seek to protect itself; PM: My concern is the Board is trying to control certain committees simply because they can. For example, the JEC members must meet extensive criteria based on knowledge and experience. The members of this Board, on the other hand, are not required to have knowledge and experience as opposed to name recognition and popularity; RS, DW)

Time: 9:02 p.m.

AKC and Online Breeder Classified Ads

Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, reported on the AKC's proposed plan for an Online Breeder Classified Ad program. This program would be open to breeders who, after the payment of a fee, would be allowed to list litters online on the AKC's website. She reported that when this proposal came up at the June AKC Delegates Meeting there was not much concern. The furor over the proposal developed afterwards. She reported there would be a presentation by the AKC on this program at the September Delegates Meeting. This topic may also be presented at the October 2004 Parent Club Conference.

Additional information on this proposal had been forwarded to the Board by various Board members. It was the consensus of the Board that a letter should be written to AKC expressing our concerns about the proposal.

Jan Boggio moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded to direct Mary W. Price and Robin Seaman to write a letter to AKC and other appropriate AKC personnel expressing the NCA's concerns regarding the online breeder classified ads. Board members should send their ideas and comments to Mary W. Price and Robin Seaman. The letter will be submitted to the Board for review by September 1, 2004.

Additional discussion centered on the fact that this issue needs to be revisited by the AKC. It was stated that the AKC should have gone to the Parent Clubs for input and should not have sprung this proposal on the fancy with no notice.

The motion passed unanimously.

Time: 9:20 p.m.

Working Dog Excellent Award

Jacqueline Brellochs moved and Mary Lou Roberts seconded to establish a Working Dog Excellent Award to encourage our membership to work with their Newfoundlands in pursuit of titles in activities in keeping with the heritage of the breed.

It was reported that one Board member had sent out a private email to a group of NCA members that she knew. There were 29 responses received from the email and from other sources, 27 responses that endorsed this proposal, one response was equivocal and one response was opposed. There was discussion of what titles and what combinations of titles would be necessary for the award. It was stated that a committee would be needed to draw up ideas and criteria; this committee should include members from the Obedience Committee and the Working Dog Committee. The one negative response said that this new award would cheapen the Versatility Newfoundland Award (VN). It was said that the purpose of the new award would be to give incentive to members to work with their dogs and to give members who cannot earn a VN (because of the dog being spayed or neutered) a title they can work towards. There was a discussion over the split in many breeds between "show" and "working" lines. Some Board members felt this award would encourage such a split in Newfoundlands.

Patti McDowell moved and Robin Seaman seconded to call the question.

The motion to call the question passed unanimously.

The original motion failed. 9 No (JSB, AD, JD: The important thing about the VN is that it encourages a balanced Newf that both conforms to the **Standard** and has working attributes. This award would emphasize only the working aspects and would encourage a split between show dogs and working dogs and may encourage breeders to breed for working qualities in disregard for the **Standard**; RF, SL, PM, MLP,RS, DW); 3 Yes (JKB, MLC, MLR)

Time: 9:44 p.m.

Policy Manual

Mary Lou Roberts sought direction from the Board regarding her job of reconstructing the **Policy Manual**. She pointed out that current policy states that entries in the **Policy Manual** should be verbatim from the minutes and not paraphrased. However, there are situations when adhering to this policy will result in unclear or incomplete records, since some minutes reference only committee reports which are not included or available or are hard to access.

After discussion, the Board agreed that Mary Lou Roberts may paraphrase or add content from other sources (e.g., committee reports) as necessary for completeness, but that the source for all **Policy Manual** content will be indicated in the document and that all content that is not a direct quote from the minutes be so indicated through the use of italics or some other means. Further, any content deleted from the current **Policy Manual** will be included with strikethrough for the Board's review prior to final publication.

Time: 9:56 p.m.

Election Reform

Mary Lou Roberts and Jack Dean reported on the election forms that they were directed to review. They presented a sample of the nominating petition and the candidate acceptance letter.

Patti McDowell moved and Jack Dean seconded to accept the proposed sample election forms and to post them on the NCA website and they will also be available from the Recording Secretary upon request.

The motion passed unanimously.

Lead Time on Email Items for Teleconferences

There was some discussion on the above election items being emailed just before a teleconference. Some Board members requested that there be a specified lead time when items should be emailed to the Board before a meeting, barring emergencies.

Robin Seaman moved and Deb Wigal seconded that any email matters for consideration at a teleconference must be received at least 48 hours before the start of the teleconference, barring emergencies.

The motion passed unanimously.

Time: 10:13 p.m.

Annual Membership Meeting Minutes

The approval of the minutes of the June 30, July 8 and July 15, 2004 teleconference meeting was postponed until the next teleconference.

The Board reviewed the April 22, 2004 Annual Membership Meeting minutes.

Jack Dean moved and Aura Dean seconded to approve the Annual Membership Meeting minutes for publication.

The motion passed unanimously.

Time: 10:17 p.m.

Rationales in Agendas

Mary Lou Roberts moved and Sandee Lovett seconded that the Board cease publishing the rationales for proposed motions in the agendas that are posted on the NCA web site. Rationale may be included as attachments for Board members, however, such attachments should not be posted on the web site. Pre-meeting discussion via email is still strongly encouraged.

Some Board members felt that the issue is accuracy in the rationales. Some felt there were multiple examples of incorrect statements about specific committees and committee members and this has caused some committee members to consider resigning their positions. They feel there is no check or balance on the accuracy of a rationale. It was stated that the Board is responsible for providing NCA members and committees fair and accurate information on the NCA website.

One Board member felt that the Board was trying to conduct business in secrecy and limiting the rationale restricts the opportunity for input and review. It was said that in the past the agenda was used as an ambush when only the subject was listed. The Board was reminded that there was a policy of agenda items containing a motion and a

rationale. It was said the Board must realize that it cannot control public information and it needs to deal with issues openly. It was stated that rationales should not be pulled from the website without prior Board approval and notice to the entire Board of said action.

It was said that Robert's Rules of Order does not allow for motions in the agenda and states that motions can only be made in a meeting. It was suggested that the Board must meet a standard that prevents liability and false accusation. Some Board members feel that **Newf Tide** policy gives a member the opportunity to rebut or defend themselves; a member allegedly accused in an agenda rationale has no such opportunity.

It was stated that agenda items should be clear enough for members to understand the item but the statement should not be biased and there should be no appearance of taking any action before the meeting.

The motion failed. 6 Yes (JKB: Ditto MLR; MLC: Ditto RF and MLR; RF: I voted in favor of the motion because the Board has an obligation to protect our membership and our committee volunteers from what could appear to be personal attacks. It would also be irresponsible for the Board to allow irresponsible statements to appear on the website, placing our treasury at risk; SL, MLP, MLR: I am disappointed that this board will not protect its members and committees from the types of inaccuracies and personal attacks that have, in fact, appeared in some agenda rationales. I am also deeply concerned about possible legal liability of the NCA where inaccurate statements are published.); 6 No (JSB: I voted against the motion because I don't believe removing the rationales will better protect our members from libel or invasions of privacy. I think we need to find a standard in our printed material, including the website, that will protect our members; AD, JD: Secrecy, censorship, anonymity and control of information are the hallmarks of a government or management in trouble, trying to protect itself from members knowing what it is doing. Limiting what the public knows about an agenda item undermines well-informed judgment by restricting the opportunity for input, review, and criticism. Lengthy public rationales permit views to be challenged while they are still in the formative stage and can help reveal any institutional biases or preconceived ideas about how to approach a particular issue. If the board eliminates rationales it is saying that it will not tolerate the membership knowing what it is doing; PM: Ditto JSB; RS: Ditto JSB; DW)

Time: 11:15 p.m.

Vote to Adjourn

Jack Dean moved and Robin Seaman seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The motion failed. 10 No (JSB, JKB, MLC, AD, RF, SL, PM, MLP, MLR, DW); 2 Yes (JD, RS)

Niagara Frontier Newfoundland Club

Time: 11:20 p.m.

The Board addressed a letter dated August 2, 2004 from the Niagara Frontier Newfoundland Club (NFNC) regarding the Fine Arts Auction at the 2003 National Specialty. The Board directed Mary L. Price, Treasurer, to contact NFNC to request the funds to reimburse the NCA. The NCA had advanced the donations due from the Fine Arts Auction to the Newfoundland Health Challenge and Newfoundland Rescue in April, 2004.

Next Board Teleconference

It was the consensus of the Board to recess this teleconference and to resume it on Thursday, August 19, 2004 at 8:00 p.m. Eastern time.

Medallion for Junior Showmanship

Robin Seaman moved and Mary Lou Roberts seconded that at independent regional specialties where Junior Showmanship and Best Junior are offered that the 1 ¼ inch medallion be offered for the Best Junior.

The motion passed unanimously.

Patti McDowell moved and Jan Boggio seconded to recess the teleconference until Thursday, August 19, 2004 at 8:00 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

Board Teleconference Reconvenes on August 19, 2004

Roger Frey, President, called the meeting to order at 8:06 p.m. Eastern time.

The following directors were present: Jan S. Boggio (JSB), Jacqueline K. Brellochs (JKB), Mary Lou Cuddy (MLC), Aura Dean (AD), Jack Dean (JD), Roger Frey (RF), Sandee Lovett (SL), Patti McDowell (PM), Mary L. Price (MLP), Mary Lou Roberts (MLR), and Debra Wigal (DW). Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was present. Robin Seaman (RS) and Tom Broderick (TB) *ex-officio* were absent.

Aura Dean moved and Sandee Lovett seconded that in order to expedite the business of the meeting, the usual order of business will be waived.

The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (RS)

Roger Frey, President, read to the Board a letter he had received from Kevin Gallagher of the Northern California Newfoundland Club (NCNC) stating that they were not going forward with the 75th NCA Anniversary book proposal. The NCNC cited the following

reasons for not continuing with the project. The committee had expressed concerns over committee size and the time constraints. Roger Frey had subsequently phoned Kevin Gallagher to inquire whether NCNC would consider continuing with the project if there were changes made to the committee. Kevin Gallagher will talk with NCNC's committee again.

AKC and the Online Breeder Classified Ads Program

Mary W. Price reported on the letter she and Robin Seaman had drafted to the AKC outlining the NCA's concerns with the AKC's Online Breeder Classified Ads program. They would like the Board to approve the letter so it can be sent immediately, not waiting for the September Delegates meeting. The letter takes into account recommendations that were submitted by several people. They asked if the letter could be posted on the AKC Parent Club Conference email list.

The idea of whether to attach as an addendum to the letter additional ideas and suggestions from NCA committees and members or to submit them as a letter to follow later was discussed. The AKC has not been forthcoming with a lot of details. The implementation of the Breeder Classified Ad program has been delayed until after the September Delegates meeting so there is some time to get these ideas and suggestions to AKC. It was asked if the AKC could further delay implementation until after the Parent Club Conference in October, 2004.

It was decided that the letter should be copied to each member of the AKC's Board of Directors and Connie Percy, AKC Internal Consulting Group. The letter should ask for an acknowledgement of receipt.

Aura Dean moved and Jan Boggio seconded to approve the letter outlining the NCA's concerns over the Online Breeders Classified Ad program as amended by the Board.

The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (RS)

The Board, by consensus, appointed Mary Lou Roberts to collect ideas and suggestions. Board members were encouraged to contact her with ideas and suggestions immediately.

Time: 8:39 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The Board considered the minutes of the June 30, July 8 and July 15, 2004 meeting.

Patti McDowell moved and Mary Lou Roberts seconded to approve the June 30, July 8 and July 15, 2004 meeting minutes as amended.

The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (RS)

Membership Application Denials

Jack Dean moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded to have the NCA change its policy regarding membership applications and provide to applicants denied membership by the Board at initial stages the reasons why their applications were denied.

Possible legal and parliamentary issues were discussed. Concern was raised over how a complaint could be made known when a complaint is addressed in executive session as that would be breaking the confidentiality of executive session. There was concern that members could be liable for legal action for raising concerns about an applicant. It was said that legal problems would be a problem if the denial was based on age, sex, religion or sexual orientation. There were still concerns expressed about liability, i.e. calling someone a “puppy mill.” One board member stated that it is undemocratic not to provide reasons and the right to face your accusers.

Mary L. Price provided some statistics.

Year	No. of Applicants	Denied by Board (not published)	Denied after publication in NT	Sponsors Withdrew	Applic. withdrawn - NSF's	Approved
1998	161	1	2	0	1	157
1999	124	0	0	0	0	124
2000	112	0	1	0	0	111
2001	119	1	0	2	0	116
2002	109	4	0	1	0	104
2003	<u>105</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>101</u>
	730	10	3	3	1	713
		1.36%	.41%	.41%	.13%	97.67%

A Board member pointed out that of the 10 times people have been disapproved by the board before publication, 8 of those have been in the last 2 years.

There was discussion that this issue has been reviewed at least three times over the years and the Board keeps coming back to the current policy. It was said that the first obligation of the Board is to protect the breed, the second to protect NCA breeders and members and the third to protect non-members. It was stated that membership is a privilege and not a right. It was stated that applicants should be able to know what was said against them absent some unusual circumstance and that normally there would be no harm in telling an applicant what objections were raised.

It was stated that we permit an applicant to receive a summary of the charges against them after their name is published in *Newf Tide* and what is the difference in this situation?

Executive Session

At 10:26 p.m., Patti McDowell moved and Jan Boggio seconded to go into executive session.

The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (RS)

At 10:57 p.m., Patti McDowell moved and Aura Dean seconded to come out of executive session.

While in executive session, the Board approved for publication the membership applicant list dated July 21, 2004.

Membership Application Denials

While in executive session, the Board continued its discussion on this issue. The discussion was then continued after coming out of executive session.

There was a friendly amendment to the previous motion. The motion will read: Jack Dean moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that, absent any extraordinary circumstances, when a concern is raised about an applicant in the initial stage, the applicant shall be notified in writing by the Recording Secretary of the concern and given the opportunity to respond to the concerns.

The motion failed. 8 No (JSB, MLC, RF: Ditto DW; SL, PM, MLP, MLR, DW: Above all, it is our job to protect the Newfoundland dog and the NCA. I feel we should trust our members and not do anything that could discourage their input.); 3 Yes (JKB, AD, JD: I feel that it is a matter of fundamental fairness where you give a person an opportunity to respond to allegations against them.); 1 Absent (RS)

Time 11:07 p.m.

Mary W. Price left the teleconference.

Set Schedule for Teleconferences

There was a discussion whether it would be advantageous to have a set schedule for teleconferences, i.e. the second Tuesday of the month. It was said that some Board members have more flexibility in their schedules than others. Other members felt that by having a set schedule, Board members could plan in advance taking into consideration the teleconferences. It was pointed out that schedules can change and what might work for four months might not work after that.

Mary L. Price moved and Patti McDowell seconded that we approve the concept of a set schedule.

The motion passed. 6 Yes (JKB, RF, SL, PM, MLP, MLR); 3 No (JSB, JD, DW); 2 Abstentions (MLC, AD); 1 Absent (RS)

Board members were directed to send available days to Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary.

Time: 11:18 p.m.

Fall Face-to-Face Meeting

Aura Dean reminded Board members to let her know when their travel arrangements were set and who are going to share rooms.

Email Meetings

It was stated that even though email meetings are addressed in the *Policy Manual*, further research has shown that email meetings are not allowed according to State of Connecticut statutes. It was explained previous meetings that were held by email had those votes confirmed in a regular teleconference meeting and they were included in the minutes. There was a request for the dues insert straw vote to be recorded. An account of the dues insert straw vote will be recorded.

By the consensus of the Board, the next teleconference was set for Monday, August 23, 2004 at 8:45 p.m.

There was discussion over the start time of the meeting.

Jacqueline Brellochs moved and Mary Lou Roberts seconded to recess this meeting until Monday, August 23, 2004 at 8:45 p.m. Eastern time.

The motion passed. 10 Yes (JSB, JKB, MLC, AD, RF, SL, PM, MLP, MLR, DW); 1 No (JD: I feel it is improper with three days' notice and not be willing to move the time to 9 p.m. so I can attend.); 1 Absent (RS)

Board Teleconference Reconvenes on August 23, 2004

Roger Frey, President, called the meeting to order at 8:48 p.m. Eastern time.

The following directors were present: Jan S. Boggio (JSB), Jacqueline K. Brellochs (JKB), Mary Lou Cuddy (MLC), Aura Dean (AD), Jack Dean (JD), Roger Frey (RF), Sandee Lovett (SL), Patti McDowell (PM), Mary L. Price (MLP), Mary Lou Roberts (MLR), and Debra Wigal (DW). Tom Broderick (TB) *ex-officio* was present. Robin Seaman (RS) and Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* were absent.

Amending Approved Minutes

There was a discussion of adding the actual Health and Longevity Health Clinic proposal into the approved June 30, July 8 and July 15, 2004 minutes to make the minutes easier to understand.

Patti McDowell moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded to add the Health and Longevity Health Clinic proposal to the approved June 30, July 8 and July 15, 2004 minutes.

The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (RS)

Executive Session

At 8:58 p.m., Patti McDowell moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded to go into executive session.

The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (RS)

Robin Seaman joined the teleconference at 9:15 p.m.

At 9:17 p.m., Mary Lou Roberts moved and Patti McDowell seconded to come out of executive session.

While in executive session, the Board appointed Jacqueline Brellochs to be a liaison between the Board and the Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee.

Agenda Rationale Complaint

The Board discussed a letter received from an NCA member in which that member addressed perceived inaccuracies contained in the rationale of an agenda items.

Executive Session

At 9:40 p.m., Patti McDowell moved and Robin Seaman seconded to go into executive session.

The motion passed unanimously.

At 10:21 p.m., Robin Seaman moved and Aura Dean seconded to come out of executive session.

The motion passed unanimously.

While in executive session, the Board voted to direct Roger Frey to write a letter to the member acknowledging the member's concerns and stating that the Board is sorry that he is upset over the matter and that there was no inflammatory intent.

While in executive session, the Board also voted that a statement be placed in the minutes stating that the NCA Board regrets any misunderstanding attributed to the rationale that was posted on the NCA website.

Next Board Teleconference

The Board decided to meet on Monday, September 20, 2004 at 8:30 p.m. Agenda items are to be to the Recording Secretary no later than September 6, 2004.

Posting of Agenda Rationales

Mary Lou Roberts moved and Robin Seaman seconded that NCA Board meeting agendas, including rationales, not be posted on the NCA website until 48 hours after receipt of said agenda by all the Board members.

In the discussion that followed, it was stated this policy would give the Board a chance to ensure the clarity of all items before posting to them to the NCA website. One person stated that he could only support the motion provided no changes would be made to the agenda and the agenda would be posted as submitted unless a board member consented to a change.

The motion passed. 11 Yes (JKB, MLC, AD, JD, RF, SL, PM, MLP, MLR, RS, DW); 1 Abstention (JSB)

AKC and Online Breeder Classified Ads

A Board member reported that he had been in contact with Dennis Sprung, Chief Executive Officer of the AKC. The AKC will be going ahead with the Online Breeder Classified Ad program though it may be open to accommodating some concerns. Mr. Sprung stated that this program was not being designated as a revenue enhancer but as a service to the puppy buyer. He stated that there will be a presentation at the September Delegates meeting. Mr. Sprung described the procedure that the program will take. This procedure may be subject to change. The puppy buyer will first come to a page with general information on how to buy a puppy, then the buyer will click to the chosen Parent Club's Breeders List (if the Parent Club has one). The buyer will be then taken to an "issues" page where the different health and temperament problems of that particular breed will be discussed. Then they will be able to access the Online Breeder Ads. The ads will be broken into two groups. The first group will be advertisers that belong to their parent club and the second group will be those advertisers who do not belong to their parent club.

There was discussion about the pages that these buyers would be sent to on the NCA website. It was the consensus of the Board that the General Education Committee and the Internet Committee be directed to start preliminary work on the information that would appear on those pages.

There was some discussion as to whether litters bred by NCA members should be listed on the NCA website. There was some question as to whether NCA breeders would utilize this. Sandee Lovett was directed to contact Candace McMahon for input from the Breeders' List committee on this matter.

AKC's Complete Dog Book

At the June 30, 2004 teleconference, the Judges Education Committee (JEC) was directed by the Board to review text and photos for the new 20th edition of the AKC's ***The Complete Dog Book***. The JEC reported that they will have the modified text and photo ready by the September 20, 2004 Board teleconference.

The Board was reminded that reports were due from the Internet Committee regarding publishing guidelines by September 15, 2004 and the Steering Committee report on its progress is due to the Board by September 1, 2004. Roger Powell, Steering Committee Chairperson, requested input and suggestions by individual Board members for his committee to consider. The Health and Longevity Committee report on health clinics is also due by September 1, 2004.

Aura Dean moved and Patti McDowell seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:54 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by,

Mary Lou Cuddy
NCA Recording Secretary