

# NCA Board of Directors Minutes

## Teleconference Meeting, September 20 and October 4, 2004

(Approved 10/29/04)

Roger Frey, President, called the meeting to order at 8:34 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). Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was present. Tom Broderick (TB) *ex-officio* was absent.

### **Approval of the Minutes**

The Board considered the minutes of the July 28, August 11, August 19 and August 23, 2004 teleconference.

Mary Lou Roberts moved and Deb Wigal seconded to approve the minutes as amended.

The motion passed unanimously.

Time: 10:08 p.m.

### **Report of the President**

Roger Frey, President, thanked the Board for the cards and letters expressing sympathy on his mother's death. He apologized for not being available by email but stated the problem will be rectified very soon.

Roger Frey reported that the Annual Meeting Quorum Committee has been given a \$6,000 diamond to be used as a raffle prize at the 2005 Annual Membership meeting at the National Specialty in Monterey, California. He reported that cake and coffee will also be offered at the meeting.

Time: 10:10 p.m.

### **Report of the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President**

Aura Dean, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, asked Board members to give her their travel plans to Cleveland, Ohio for the October 29-31, 2004 face-to-face meeting. She will circulate the arrival and departure schedules. She also reported that, per the contract with the hotel, the Board cannot order in food from outside the hotel. The tentative meeting schedule for the face-to-face meeting will be Friday from 7-10 p.m. Continental breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday with the meeting from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Sunday

will have the 7:30 a.m. continental breakfast with the meeting from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There was some discussion of Friday arrival times and the possibility of starting the meeting earlier. This will be considered when all the Board members have made their travel plans.

### **Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President**

Sandee Lovett, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, reported that Patrick Randall had resigned as chair of the Rescue Prevention Committee (RPC) because of a conflict with one member of the committee.

There was discussion of RPC committee members and problems within the committee. The RPC is an open committee. There was discussion that the committee is at a standstill and its duties, such as preparing articles for *Newf Tide* and monitoring Newfoundlands sold at auctions, are not being accomplished. One person believed that the committee needs new blood and needs to be revitalized. There was some feeling among Board members that the RPC should revert to being a Board-appointed committee.

Patti McDowell moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that the Rescue Prevention Committee revert back to a Board-appointed committee.

There was discussion about what criteria a committee needs to be Board-appointed, such as special expertise of its members or to limit the size of the committee. It was pointed out in discussion that the Board should advertise the openings on the RPC. It was stated the RPC needs people who can think outside the box and it would be a good committee for new NCA members to volunteer their efforts. It was stated there was too much Board control and micro-managing of committees.

The motion passed. 8 Yes (JKB, MLC, RF, SL, PM, MLP, MLR, DW); 4 No (JSB, AD: I just don't feel that this is the most positive and productive way of handling this situation; JD: I feel that the Board is not only micromanaging committees and further controls committees by appointing only the people the Board chooses. An open committee has a lot of benefits; RS)

### **Report of the Recording Secretary**

Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary, reported that she had prepared the September 20, 2004 agenda and had submitted the July 28, August 11, August 19 and August 23, 2004 teleconference minutes for review.

### **Report of the Corresponding Secretary**

Robin Seaman, Corresponding Secretary, reported the receipt of a letter from Dennis Sprung, AKC President and Chief Executive Officer in which he acknowledged receipt of the NCA's letter expressing concerns about the AKC's Online Breeder Classifieds

(OBC). Robin Seaman and Mary W. Price wrote the letter at the Board's direction. Mr. Sprung said he would contact them directly to discuss the NCA's concerns.

### **Report of the Treasurer**

Mary L. Price, Treasurer, reported the following.

#### NCA Operations

Checking Account	29,923.58	
Savings Account	78,066.45	
CDs	<u>153,870.61</u>	
	261,860.64	261,860.64
"Distinguished Member" Restoration		
CD		1,163.57
Uniform Trophy Fund		
Money Market Account		<u>9,631.16</u>
		272,655.37

Mary L. Price gave a summary on the dues renewal process to date. These figures are based on everything Bob Rogers, Membership Chair, has forwarded to her as of September 20, 2004. There are 1,397 households which have renewed their memberships. This is 94.39% of the number of household as of this time last year. 1,195 households paid by checks and 202 households by credit cards.

### **Report of the AKC Delegate**

Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, attended the September 2004 AKC Delegates meeting. She reported on the Delegate Committee elections. NCA member Helen Munday was re-elected to the Obedience Committee as was Fred Bock to the All-Breed Committee. Beckie Stanevich and Connie Vanacore will continue to serve their present terms on the Health Committee.

Mary W. Price then reported on the Parent Club Committee meeting at which the chairperson, Patricia Laurans, acknowledged the letter concerning the OBC written by Mary W. Price and Robin Seaman referred to above. Patricia Laurans stated the OBC would not be on the October 2004 Parent Club Conference agenda.

Connie Percy, AKC Internal Consulting Group, called Mary W. Price before the September Delegates meeting to confirm receipt of NCA's letter. Mary W. Price said

that she was receptive to the NCA's concerns and that some of the items or concerns in the letter would be added to the OBC. Connie Percy stated the start date for the OBC was yet to be determined, but the program was a "done deal." The OBC will be refined with continued input from Parent Clubs and the fancy.

Mary W. Price reported that the prototype pages given the Delegates looked good. The link to the Parent Club's website was prominent and easy to find but was not mandatory. There was no method of making sure that buyers would read the Parent Club's materials. She noted that on every page there was, in small print, a disclaimer that AKC is not responsible for health, type, soundness, and pedigree.

There was some discussion of the breeder's page and the questions that were being asked of each breeder being listed. Verification of the answers to those questions was discussed. Breeders being listed must be in good standing with the AKC and cannot sell to brokers, dealers, pet stores or auctions. The listing of wholesale litters will not be allowed. It was mentioned that the NCA should be monitoring the auctions to ensure that the same names appearing at auctions do not show up on the OBC.

A Board member stated that many people feel that the AKC Board and management are not responsive to the concerns of the Delegates or of the concerns of responsible breeders. He stated that the AKC has no idea if every Parent Club has a website and that no Parent Club was consulted before the development of this program.

Time: 11:12 p.m.

### **Committee Reports**

It was reported that the vacancy on the Working Dog Committee had not appeared on the NCA website. This led to a discussion about the NCA website and the fact that it was not being updated in a timely manner. The Board directed Sandee Lovett, Committee Liaison, to look into this. Sandee Lovett stated that she had earlier contacted all committee chairs to ask them to check on their committee's information on the NCA website. It was reported that two persons appearing on the **Breeders List** had asked that the NCA website return to the original **Breeders List** format and that the links to breeders' websites be re-established.

Time: 11:18 p.m.

### **Judges Education Committee**

The Board reviewed the proposed changes to the text which will appear in the 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the AKC's **The Complete Dog Book**. The proposed photo was not available at the time. Robin Seaman reported that she had asked the AKC for an extension.

Patti McDowell moved and Jack Dean seconded to approve the text as presented for inclusion in the AKC's **The Complete Dog Book**.

There was discussion of proposed wording changes submitted by Jacqueline Brellochs. Any changes to the text will have to go back to the committee. In response to a question, it was stated that the proposed photo was of a deceased dog.

The motion was withdrawn so as to send the proposed changes back to the Judges Education Committee (JEC).

Mary Lou Cuddy moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded to send the suggestions to the JEC for consideration and possible implementation. The JEC will consider these suggestions and make a final decision and send the text to the AKC.

The motion passed unanimously.

Time: 11:54 p.m.

### **Tape Recording Meetings**

Jack Dean moved and Aura Dean seconded to tape record teleconference meetings and face-to-face meetings.

There was discussion concerning the benefits and the drawbacks of tape recording meetings. It was stated that recording the meetings would make the review of the minutes easier. It was asked if the current teleconference provider offered recording services. That information would have to be researched.

The motion failed. 8 No (JSB, JKB, MLC, RF, SL, MLP, MLR, DW); 2 Yes (AD, JD: We spent over an hour and a half approving the minutes and a majority of the time was spent disagreeing over who said what. Taping the meetings would eliminate this problem.); 2 Abstain (PM, RS)

### **Executive Session**

At 12:03 a.m., Robin Seaman moved and Patti McDowell seconded to go into executive session.

The motion passed unanimously.

At 12:04 a.m., Jack Dean moved and Robin Seaman seconded to come out of executive session.

The motion passed unanimously.

While in executive session, the Board approved the applicant list dated September 9, 2004.

The Board decided, by consensus, to meet October 4, 2004 at 9:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

### **Board Recesses**

Patti McDowell moved and Robin Seaman seconded to recess the teleconference at 12:10 a.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

### **Board Teleconference Reconvenes on October 4, 2004**

Roger Frey, President, called the meeting to order at 9:35 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* and Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* were present.

There was a brief discussion about the NCA website and the rate at which items submitted were being posted. It was decided that this topic would be tabled for discussion later in the meeting.

### **Newf Novelties Committee**

Jacqueline Brellochs submitted a proposed committee description and a request for volunteers to be published in ***Newf Tide*** and on the NCA Website.

There was discussion of the logistics of ordering, storing and mailing items that were some of the reasons the previous Newf Novelties Committee was disbanded. There was also some discussion that sales tax issues must be thoroughly researched.

Aura Dean moved and Patti McDowell seconded that the Board approve the committee description as amended for publication on the NCA website and in ***Newf Tide***.

The motion passed unanimously.

### **Constitution and By-Laws Revision Ad Hoc Committee**

Jacqueline Brellochs reported that Maureen Cavanaugh, Constitution and By-Laws Revision Committee (CBLC) Chair, was preparing items for the Board to consider at their face-to-face meeting in October 2004.

A Board member requested that the CBLC provide the Board with a list of conflicts between the NCA Constitution and By-Laws and Connecticut statutes before the face-to-face meeting. It was stated that the Board must follow the current By-Laws and that

the procedures described by the By-Laws cannot be changed until the By-Laws are changed. A Board member expressed concern that the election process could be contested.

Aura Dean quoted a passage from an article submitted to ***Newf Tide*** by Maureen Cavanaugh which indicated that the CBLC would recommend that all proposed Constitution and By-Laws changes be reviewed by a Connecticut attorney experienced in these matters.

Jack Dean moved and Aura Dean seconded that the lawyers on the CBLC examine the Connecticut statutes and determine what conflicts, if any exist, between the Connecticut statutes and our current charter, Constitution and By-Laws and report back to the Board, in writing, by October, 22, 2004.

There was more discussion regarding the review of proposed changes by Connecticut lawyers. Some Board members felt that the deadline was unrealistic. A Board member stated that he had requested the information on possible conflicts between the Connecticut statutes and the Constitution and By-Laws four weeks ago.

The motion failed. 6 No (JSB, MLC, RF, SL, MLP, MLR); 2 Yes (AD, JD: One of the reasons we started this committee is to find out what conflicts existed between Connecticut statutes and our By-Laws and I have been asking for this information for a long time. We should have it before the ballots are sent out.); 4 Abstentions (JKB, PM, RS, DW)

Time: 10:11 p.m.

### **Election Reform**

At the July 15, 2004 teleconference, Mary Lou Roberts and Jack Dean were appointed to review two previously submitted election reform proposals and to determine possible changes for the next election. Some proposed items were approved at the July 28, 2004 teleconference. The Board considered additional proposed items.

1. Original copies of petitions and acceptance letters must be received by the Recording Secretary no later than November 1<sup>st</sup>. Petitions and acceptance letters faxed to the Recording Secretary are not acceptable.
2. It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that he/she submits an appropriate number of names on the petition to allow for exclusion of duplicate signatures and/or signatures of non-NCA members. The Recording Secretary will not open any petition envelopes until after November 1<sup>st</sup> and will, therefore, not notify any prospective candidates running by petition of invalid or duplicate names or failure to file an acceptance letter until after the deadline is passed.

3. Candidates may use any professional or academic titles in their biographies, if they wish. However, the name that appears on the ballot itself will be the candidate's name as the candidate has presented it in the biography, minus titles.

4. If the biography and/or statement submitted by a candidate are over the allowed word count, the Recording Secretary will immediately notify that candidate by phone or email, make sure the communication was received by the candidate, and allow the candidate 72 hours to modify the statement to remove the appropriate number of words. If the candidate does not remedy the situation in that period of time, the Recording Secretary will truncate the appropriate number of words at the end of the statement.

5. A ballot received from any NCA member who has died after the vote was cast and prior to the deadline for submitting ballots (February 1) will be counted.

6. Any ballots received that do not use the official documents (ballot, inside envelope, outside envelope) in the manner specified in the By-Laws and the election package mailing (official ballot in the official inside envelope in the official outside envelope with label) will not be counted.

The above statement will be placed prominently in the election materials along with the following notice: "Please examine your election materials carefully upon receipt. If you are missing any of the correct materials (one ballot for each voting member, an inside envelope, and an outside envelope pre-addressed to the NCA Recording Secretary with your name label affixed), please contact the Recording Secretary immediately at [address] or by phone [phone number] or email [email address] to get the appropriate materials. DO NOT use these envelopes for any purpose other than to submit your final vote."

Jack Dean moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded to approve the proposed items as amended.

The motion passed 11 Yes (JSB, JKB, MLC, AD, JD, RF, SL, PM, MLP, MLR, DW); 1 No (RS)

There was a question if a candidate's statements should be circulated for review by the candidate or any others prior to publication?

After a brief discussion, this item was tabled to the October 2004 face-to-face meeting.

### **Working Dog Committee**

Sandee Lovett, Working Dog Committee (WDC), reported that the WDC had conducted an investigation concerning the complaints received about an issue with a water test calling steward bring overly familiar with the dog and being a co-owner of that dog.

There was discussion about the definition of “familiarity.” It was stated that this definition needs to be made more explicit. There was a clarification of what actually transpired at the tests in question.

Mary Lou Roberts moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that the WDC provide some additional clarification on the definition of “familiarity” and make that clarification available to the Board and all working test judges, chairs and committees.

The motion passed unanimously.

Jack Dean moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that because the Board received three letters of complaint about a water test and the WDC has done an investigation and internal report, the WDC should provide a copy of that report to the Board.

Motion passed unanimously.

Time: 11:05 p.m.

### **Judges Education Committee**

Robin Seaman, a member of the Judges Education Committee (JEC), reported the JEC considered the suggestions made by the Board to the text which will appear in the 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the AKC’s ***The Complete Dog Book*** at the September 20, 2004 teleconference. She also reported that the JEC has not yet voted on the proposed photos.

Time 11:10 p.m.

### **Board Meetings at National Specialties**

Patti McDowell moved and Robin Seaman seconded to schedule Board meetings at National Specialties for Sunday and Monday.

It was stated that this would give Board members time to groom, take care of their dogs and be able to participate more fully in the National. Some Board members felt that this might encourage more people to consider running for the Board if showing their dogs was made easier. It was stated that most people have dogs at home that need care and leaving them an extra two days may be inconvenient. People also have limited vacation time or can’t afford to be away from work for additional days and this could cause difficulty for them. This proposed move would also affect committees who needed to address the Board.

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

Time: 11:17 p.m.

## **WRDX Review**

Sandee Lovett, Working Dog Committee (WDC), reported that the WDC has received comments from WRDX entrants and test committees on the WRDX test. She stated that there were five WRDX tests this year with 15 entrants. She reported that no major problems have surfaced so far and that the WDC was working on a report.

There was a question in one test where the victim raised the overturned boat. Sandee Lovett reported that it was legal.

Sandee Lovett will take to the WDC the Board's request for a copy of the report on the first year of the WRDX exercises.

Time: 11:30 p.m.

## **NCA Website**

Sandee Lovett, Committee Liaison, spoke to John Rodley, Internet Committee Chair, about the delays in information being posted on the NCA website and in implementing the new website. She reported that there have been some difficulties but that the Internet Committee understands the need for timely posting of items and for the implementation of the new website.

Robin Seaman left the meeting at 11:31 p.m.

## **Executive Session**

At 11:31 p.m., Mary Lou Roberts moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded to go into executive session.

The motion passed unanimously.

Patti McDowell left the meeting at 11:38 p.m. and returned at 11:44 p.m.

At 12:17 a.m., Deb Wigal moved and Aura Dean seconded to come out of executive session.

The motion passed unanimously.

While in executive session, the whole Rescue Prevention Committee was reappointed with the exception of one member.

The Board also voted to advertise for additional committee members and to ascertain if current committee members wished to remain on the committee.

At 12:18 a.m., Jacqueline Brellochs moved and Deb Wigal seconded to go into executive session.

The motion passed unanimously.

At 12:22 a.m., Aura Dean moved and Deb Wigal seconded to come out of executive session.

The motion passed unanimously.

While in executive session, the Board decided to wait until the October 29-31, 2004 face-to-face meeting to consider whether to entertain jurisdiction on charges brought against an NCA member.

### **Adjournment**

Aura Dean moved and Deb Wigal seconded to adjourn the meeting at 12:29 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Cuddy  
NCA Recording Secretary