

NCA Board of Directors Minutes

Teleconference Meetings: February 23 & March 9, 2006 (Approved March 27, 2006)

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Roger Frey, President, called the meeting to order at 8:07 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), Kevin Gallagher (KG), Roger Frey (RF), Sandee Lovett (SL), Kathy McIver (KM), Mary L. Price (MLP), Mary Lou Roberts (MLR), Debra Wigal (DW) were present. Board-elect members Meredith Reggie, Pam Rubio and Cathy Sands were present. Tom Broderick, *ex-officio*, and Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, *ex-officio*, were absent. Member guests Kathy Paxton and Robin Seaman were present.

The Board observed a moment of silence in memory of Helen Munday.

A Board member questioned why the agenda on the website was different from the one received by Board members. It was explained that rationales that could be considered inflammatory or detrimental to a club member are not published on the website but only included on the agenda sent to the Board.

Approval of Minutes

Kathy Mclver moved and Sandee Lovett seconded to go into a committee of the whole. The motion passed. 11 Yes (JSB, JKB, MLC, AD, RF, KG, SL, KM, MLP, MLR, DW); 1 No (JD)

Jacqueline Brellochs moved and Kathy Mclver seconded to approve the December 19, 2005/January 19, 2006 minutes as presented in the agenda with the grammar and spelling corrections noted by Aura Dean. The motion passed. 8 Yes (JKB, MLC, RF, KG, SL, KM, MLP, MLR); 4 No (JSB, AD, JD, DW)

At 8:35 p.m., member guest Kathy Paxton joined the teleconference.

Kathy Mclver moved and Kevin Gallagher seconded to approve the January 6, 2006 minutes as amended for spelling, grammar and punctuation. The motion passed unanimously.

Report of the President

Roger Frey, President, encouraged the Board to work together so as to address as much of this agenda as possible at this meeting.

Report of the 1st Vice-President

Sandee Lovett, 1st Vice-President, reported on the teleconference meeting of the Charitable Trust Management Board (CTMB), held on February 16, 2006. The CTMB considered three requests for grants for rescue Newfoundlands. Two requests were sent back for more information and the other was denied as it was a grant application from a group from outside the NCA.

Sandee also reported that Dannyquest, who is working on a fundraiser project with the Health Challenge, has requested a link from the NCA website to their website. Dannyquest and the Health Challenge will be coming before the Board soon with their proposal.

It was reported that the CTMB is working on developing a complete history of the CTMB, including a minute book and its past and current policies.

The officers of the CTMB were announced. They are: Clyde Dunphy, Chairman, David Helming, Vice-Chairman, Mary Jane Spackman, Secretary and Mary L Price, Treasurer. The CMTB wanted clarification from the Board as to the length of terms of the officers.

A Board member asked about the denial of a request for a rescue grant. It was stated that the application was not in accordance with procedure and that there is no policy at this time to give a grant to a rescue organization outside of the NCA.

A Board member reminded the Board that the length of terms for the CTMB officers were set at the November 4-6, 2005 meeting and were to set to begin at the Annual Meeting.

There was discussion about the Dannyquest project. It was stated that the sculpture being done by Dannyquest has been approved by David Helming and Mary Jane Spackman. No payment has been requested by Dannyquest and no payments have been made. Kathy Paxton will be the contact for taking the orders.

The Board again discussed the terms of the members of the CTMB. The terms/appointments were to be made after the Annual Meeting of the Board. The current terms will progress from the March 28, 2006 Annual Meeting of the Board.

Sandee Lovett reported on the sculpture of Seaman being done by the Fort Mandan Foundation at the Fort Mandan Historical Site in North Dakota. David Borlaug, President of the Fort Mandan Foundation, will be at the 2006 National Specialty with a display of the sculpture and would like to address the membership at the Annual Membership Meeting. He plans on being on the show grounds Wednesday and Thursday of that week and has been provided space in the vendor area and at the Working Dog Reception. He is also donating a limited edition print to the Fine Arts Auction.

The Board decided to discuss a donation to the Fort Mandan Foundation project later in the teleconference.

A Board member requested an update on the hiring of a parliamentarian for the Annual Membership Meeting. The President replied that a parliamentarian from Chevy Chase, Maryland has been retained. She is a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians and the rate will be a flat \$500.00 which will include review of the NCA documents and agenda with no additional expenses except for dinner. Colonial Newfoundland Club was able to offer a complimentary room for her.

At 9:30 p.m., Robin Seaman joined the teleconference.

Report of the 2nd Vice-President: Technical Resources Committee

Mary Lou Roberts moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded to approve the job description for the Technical Resources Committee as amended.

Summary of discussion: Some Board members believed that the proposed job description was far too detailed and the committee would need to be divided into sub-committees. It was suggested that the committee would operate much like the Specialty Show or the Working Dog Committees. There was discussion concerning the number of members needed for the committee. A Board member stated that she was more interested in the skills of the committee members and not the number. This committee is to help with technical issues faced by the NCA and its committees; they will not be involved with content. There was discussion over the number of years committee members would need to be involved in the breed. Some Board members felt the committee should have a range of years of breed experience.

Jack Dean moved and Aura Dean seconded to amend the motion to have seven members on the Technical Resources Committee. The motion failed. 2 Yes (AD, JD); 9 No (JKB, MLC, RF, KG, SL, KM, MLP, MLR, DW); 1 Absent (JSB)

Summary of discussion: Some Board members felt that committee members should be familiar with the structure and workings of the NCA and be an NCA member for at least five years. A concern was expressed that such requirements might rule out hiring an outside interest to help or advise the committee or the NCA.

The original motion to approve the job description for the Technical Resources Committee as amended passed unanimously. 1 Absent (JSB)

Report of the Recording Secretary

Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary, reported that she had prepared and distributed the December 19, 2005/January 17, 2006 minutes for approval. She prepared and distributed the February 23, 2006 agenda. She also distributed emails received to the Board and to appropriate committees.

The counting of the election ballots was done on February 11, 2006 and the candidates and the Board were notified of the results. There were 850 ballots cast.

Mary Lou reported that, in the event that the mailing of 2nd Quarter issue of ***Newf Tide*** may be delayed, she had contacted Printworks for an estimate for sending the Annual Membership Meeting notice by 1st class mail. She reported that there was adequate turn-around time for Printworks to meet the deadline as stated in the Constitution and By-Laws. Based on 1,325 labels, the costs would be approximately \$729.30.

At 9:24 p.m., Kathy Paxton joined the teleconference.

Health Challenge and Newf Rescue Policy

Mary L. Price moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded to amend the policy approved July 28, 2004 as follows: "The NHC **and Rescue** shall be assisted by the host club to set the facilities to conduct their fundraising 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 provide the man-power to run the ringside auctions. The host club shall discuss these arrangements with the NHC **and Rescue** well in advance of the National show."

Summary of discussion: A Board member wanted to know if this motion would affect the 2006 National Specialty or next year's. He stated that it has been policy that clubs would not be affected by policy changes once contracts have been signed.

Mary L. Price gave a short report on the background leading to this motion. NCA member Ruth March passed away in early September, 2004. Peter Bloom, her son, had contacted Mary on September 14, 2004 and said that his mother had bequeathed half of her Newfoundland memorabilia to NCA Rescue and he needed valuation assistance.

Mary contacted Janice Hight and asked her to contact Peter. On November 2, 2004, Janice and Richard Hight reported to Mary that they traveled to Ruth's home and met with Peter Bloom to evaluate the Newf items. In Janice's opinion the Newf items' total value was \$12,000.00. On Jan. 20, 2005, Peter Bloom called Mary and requested assistance to sort, pack and transfer _ of the Newf items to NCA Rescue.

On March 26, 2005, Sue and John Miller met with Peter Bloom at Ruth's home. They sorted Newf items with Peter, packed the items that he donated to NCA Rescue, and transported the boxes for storage with Sue Miller. Sue Miller prepared an inventory – 436 items – in a database, with photos. Two items were sold in the 2005 National Specialty Fine Arts auction; a crystal Newf head brought \$175.00 and a 2003 Limited Edition plate brought \$140.00.

In October 2005, Sue Miller contacted Kathy Paxton, 2006 National Specialty Chair, for Rescue booth arrangements. Based on the July 28, 2004 NCA policy, Kathy said the policy applied to Health Challenge only. On February 6, 2006, Mary L. Price contacted Mary Jane Spackman, Health Challenge Co-Chair, for a vendor booth for Rescue. The Colonial Newfoundland Club denied a vendor booth for NCA Rescue.

Many of the Board members were under the impression that Newf Rescue was already included in the policy. Newf Rescue would like to use the Health Challenge tent on the Saturday of the National Specialty week to start to liquidate Ruth March's estate items.

Jan Boggio, Health Challenge Co-Chair, agreed with the report that Mary L. Price presented and the Health Challenge Committee does not have an objection with Rescue being included in the policy. But this would affect the 2006 National Specialty in that it would cause a problem by telling a host club five weeks before the show that they must accept another fundraising activity after all their plans are made. The question would be as to what date this proposed policy would take effect. A Board member stated that the Colonial, High Country and New England clubs have accepted bids from the NCA that were based on current policy. It was stated that High Country Newfoundland Club was planning on having Newf Rescue for 2007 National Specialty.

Kathy Paxton, 2006 National Show Chairperson, reported that attendance at the 2006 National Specialty looks to be average but members are being more selective as to where their dollars will go. Income, to date, is running 67%-68% below expectations and Ways & Means is 37% below expectations. The show committee is very concerned about funds being slow to come in and the fact that expenses are up for both the club and the exhibitors.

The Board discussed various ways to showcase and disburse the collection. It was felt by some Board members that the National Specialty was the obvious choice. It was reported

that there may be tax implications if the collection was disbursed, for instance, on e-bay. Using NCA members' businesses were discussed but there has been no precedent.

Kathy Paxton stated that members have limited resources to spend at the National and the host club does not need additional pressure on their finances. A Board member stated that the financial pressures on host clubs needs to be considered.

Some Board members stated that the **Policy Manual** and the **Specialty Show Guide** need to reflect what has been assumed to be included in them. Namely, that Health Challenge and Newf Rescue were both to be addressed in the policy and Newf Rescue had been inadvertently left out when the policy was inserted.

Mary L. Price estimated that the pieces from the collection that would be at the National Specialty would bring in \$1,000.00 - \$2,000.00. Not all the pieces would be available at this National Specialty. The Board discussed the impact that these items would have on the host club's Ways and Means income. It was stated that Newf Rescue would only set up for Saturday after most members have already done the bulk of their shopping. But some Board members thought that members wait and save some money for later in the week and that even a booth on Saturday would affect the host club. Another Board member stated that the collection was not competitive with what Ways and Means was offering. Another Board member stated that Saturday was to be the highlight of the week with the Best of Breed competition and not a big shopping day.

The Board discussed whether or not a regional club hosting a National Specialty could be forced to do something that was not established policy at the time that their bid was submitted. It was generally agreed that the Board does not have the power to compel a regional club to accept policy that was not in effect when the bid/contract to hold the National was accepted.

There was a discussion about adding a related agenda item to the original motion and various amendments.

Kevin Gallagher moved and Jack Dean seconded to refer discussion of the agenda items dealing with the addition of the phrase "and Rescue" to policy concerning the sale of Health Challenge items at National Specialties which was approved July 28, 2004 to the Health Challenge, Rescue and Specialty Show Committees with reports due back to the Board by the 2006 National Specialty. The motion passed unanimously.

Mary Lou Roberts moved and Mary L. Price seconded that the Board request to the Colonial Newfoundland Club to reconsider the question of allowing NCA Rescue to have a booth on the Saturday of the 2006 National Specialty.

Summary of discussion: It was stated that it was unfair to put the Colonial Newfoundland Club in this position.

The motion failed. 2 Yes (MLP, MLR); 9 No (JSB, MLC, AD, JD, RF, KG, SL, KM, DW); 1 Abstention (JKB)

At 10:29 p.m., Kathy Paxton and Robin Seaman left the teleconference.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary

Aura Dean, Corresponding Secretary, reported that all correspondence had been referred to the appropriate committees, except for the following. A letter was received from the American Dog Owners Association inviting the NCA to renew its membership. The NCA Legislation Liaison is the NCA contact.

Aura reported on a letter received from Darwin Halvorson seeking permission to use sections of the **Newf and You** for an article he is writing for a Japanese magazine. The article is to appear in the May 2006 issue.

Kathy McIver moved and Aura Dean seconded to give permission to Darwin Halvorson to use sections of the **Newf And You**, with credit given to the Newfoundland Club of America, for an article in *Aiken no Tomo*, a magazine published in Japan. The motion passed unanimously.

Aura reported on an update from Judy Ferguson concerning the "Sable Chief" restoration. The restoration can be done in Newfoundland thus saving some expense. It was reported that approximately \$1,277.00 has been collected so far with over \$3,000.00 Canadian total needed. \$500.00 has been pledged by Canadian regional clubs. It was stated that \$1,000.00 would ensure the fund be fully funded.

Mary Lou Roberts moved and Kathy McIver seconded to donate \$1,000.00 to the "Sable Chief" restoration project.

Summary of discussion: In response to a question as to where this money would come from, the Treasurer replied that there was money available in the contingency fund.

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

Newf Tide Update

Aura Dean reported that the 2nd Quarter issue of **Newf Tide** will be delayed because of a new project manager at the printers. This will impact the Annual Membership Meeting notice which, according to the Constitution and By-Laws, must be mailed to the members no later than 21 days before the Annual Meeting. The Board discussed the options. It was the consensus of the Board that the Recording Secretary make the necessary arrangements to have the Annual Membership Meeting notice sent by 1st class mail.

Membership List to AKC

Aura Dean reported that Marget Johnson, Membership Chair, has the files in the programs requested by the AKC but she needs to know who to send the file to. The AKC had requested an electronic membership list so as to compare claims by advertisers on the AKC's Online Breeder Classified Ads of NCA membership.

It was noted that that Breeder Education Committee was monitoring the AKC's Online Breeder Classified Ads and when the committee found a listing claiming NCA Membership but the lister was not a member, the committee wrote a letter to AKC and the name was removed promptly.

Kathy McIver moved and Aura Dean seconded to send the NCA membership list (names and zip codes only) to the AKC to facilitate the verification of club membership by people advertising on the AKC Online Breeder Classified. The motion passed unanimously.

Charitable Trust

Kathy McIver moved and Mary L. Price seconded to approve the NCA Charitable Trust documents as amended and to make the effective date of approval retroactive to January 15, 2006.

Summary of discussion: There was a friendly amendment to make the effective date of approval retroactive to January 15, 2006. A Board member stated that he wanted a statement to appear in the documents that purchasing Newfs is against NCA Policy. There was no objection to including the following statement in the Charitable Trust documents: Every effort will be pursued and taken to alleviate any suffering and hardship for Newfoundlands, excluding the purchase of dogs. It is NCA policy that NCA and/or the NCA Charitable Trust funds will not be utilized to purchase Newfoundlands from entities such as but not limited to auctions, wholesalers, brokers, retailers and individuals.

The motion passed unanimously.

Membership Dues Reduction

Jack Dean moved and Aura Dean seconded that the membership dues for single and double regular memberships only be rolled back by \$10.00.

Summary of discussion: A \$30.00 reduction in dues was discussed. The Finance Committee recommended the dues stay at current levels. A Board member believed that dues should be reduced as there is no reason not to do it and the NCA is losing members. He stated that membership levels were staying consistent but since the dues were raised membership has dropped

There was a discussion of the Finance Committee's review of dues cycles. A Board member stated that the Finance Committee's budget has never been close to actual expenses as they predict deficits and end with a profit. A Board member felt there was no need for such a high cash reserve and to have so much invested in CDs. There was a question if the subscription

rate for **Newf Tide** would be reduced. Since the dues question must be resolved by March 1, 2006, the subscription rate should be considered later.

There was further discussion on the Finance Committee's management of funds. Some Board members stated that there are some large expenses looming in the future, such as new printer bids and postage for **Newf Tide**. In response to a question, it was stated that the Finance Committee is communicating a great deal amongst its members.

It was stated that some of the drop in membership was due to the new membership application which some people found too off-putting to potential members. The application process is a lot more involved than the one used previously.

Some Board members felt that the reduction in dues was too involved to be decided so quickly and the issue needed to be looked at in depth. It was suggested that instead of a \$30.00 dues reduction, as originally proposed, that perhaps there would be support for a friendly amendment of a \$10.00 reduction on just single and double memberships. The friendly amendment was accepted.

There was more discussion of upcoming expenses such as a Judges Education Committee CD-ROM, the new NCA database and expenses and programs from the Technical Resources Committee. It was stated that it is also bad marketing to have dues fluctuate up and down each year.

Mary Lou Roberts moved and Kathy McIver seconded to call the question. The motion to call the question passed unanimously.

The original motion that the membership dues for single and double regular memberships only be rolled back by \$10.00 was passed. 6 Yes (JSB, AD, JD, RF, KG, DW); 5 No (MLC, SL, KM, MLP, MLR); 1 Abstention (JKB)

The Board discussed dates for the next teleconference.

At 11:45 p.m., the teleconference meeting was recessed until Thursday, March 9, 2006 at 8 p.m. Eastern time.

NCA Teleconference Reconvenes on March 9, 2006

Roger Frey, President, reconvened the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

The following Directors were present: Jan S. Boggio (JSB), Jacqueline K. Brellochs (JKB), Mary Lou Cuddy (MLC), Aura Dean (AD), Jack Dean (JD), Kevin Gallagher (KG), Roger Frey (RF), Sandee Lovett (SL), Kathy McIver (KM), Mary L. Price (MLP), Mary Lou Roberts (MLR), Debra Wigal (DW) were present. Board-elect members Maredith Reggie, Pam Rubio and Cathy Sands were present. Tom Broderick, *ex-officio*, and Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, *ex-officio*, were absent. Member guest Cheryl Dondino was present.

The Board observed a moment of silence in memory of Ruth Moreton.

Dues Reduction

The Board discussed a letter from Steve Britton pointing out that a motion passed on February 23, 2006 regarding \$10.00 reduction in dues was incorrectly thought to have passed. The President had consulted with Lisa Davis, a Connecticut attorney, who had advised the Board previously on other matters. Ms. Davis was in agreement with Steve Britton's reasoning. The Constitution and By-Laws states in Article I, Section 2 Dues and Levies, that the amount of the dues of each membership category shall be determined by a majority decision of the full membership of the Board. That statement would mean that the full majority of the Board would be seven votes. That vote was 6 Yes, 5 No and 1 Abstention. The motion, in fact, failed.

A Board member questioned what the President told the attorney and why there was no information put in writing and sent to the Board as per earlier discussions and policy.

Jack Dean moved and Aura Dean seconded to issue a \$10.00 rebate to regular and double memberships who have been NCA members for more than two years.

Summary of discussion: Some Board members asked why discriminate against newer members. There was further discussion of the wording of the Constitution and By-Laws. It was asked if Ms. Davis had looked into court interpretations and she had not.

The motion failed. 4 Yes (JSB, AD, JD, DW); 7 No (JKB, MLC, RF, SL, KM, MLP, MLR); 1 Abstention (KG)

Breeder Education Committee

The Board considered the Breeder Education Committee's (BEC) proposed educational flashcards and scorecard. The scorecard was a tool to help new breeders learn how to discuss and evaluate breeding stock with the help of a mentor. In response to a question, it was stated that this tool has nothing to do with the Judges Education Committee. All BEC Breed Mentors and regional clubs will have copies of this scorecard but its use is optional.

The Board then considered the flashcards which are based on the **Standard** and the **Illustrated Guide**. The flashcards will be going to the BEC Breed Mentors and the regional clubs as part of an educational packet. Their purpose is to encourage discussion about all facets of structure and movement. The flashcards are still a work in progress but the BEC wanted input on them. Various cards, artwork and wording were discussed and suggestions were made.

Kevin Gallagher moved and Kathy McIver seconded to approve the Breeder Education Committee's "Ideal Newfoundland" flashcards and scorecard as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Report of the 2nd Vice-President: Committee Vacancies

Mary Lou Roberts, 2nd Vice-President, informed the Board of some committee vacancies. May Bernhard has indicated her desire to step down from International Liaison as has Barbara Hearn from the Obedience Committee. Committee vacancies on the Finance and the Ad Hoc **Newf Tide** Review Committees have been posted to the NCA website.

Report of the 2nd Vice-President: Effective Advertising Committee

Helen Munday, Effective Advertising Committee Chair, had recommended that the committee be disbanded and the job description be moved under the General Education Committee.

Mary Lou Roberts moved and Kevin Gallagher seconded to disband the Effective Advertising Committee and place its job description under the General Education Committee.

Summary of discussion: General Education Committee members may not have the expertise in advertising to fulfill the job description. It was not known if Helen Munday had spoken to the other committee members about her recommendation. There was discussion if the committee should be left as a standing committee. There were concerns expressed about finding members who had experience in the advertising field. One Board member stated that the new NCA website will have many tools to determine hits on the website and that may simplify the work of the committee.

The motion failed. 5 Yes (JKB, MLC, KM, MLP, MLR); 7 No (JSB, AD, JD, RF, KG, SL, DW)

Report of the 2nd Vice-President: General Education Committee

Summary of discussion: The General Education Committee submitted a Breeder Checklist that the committee had developed to help novice puppy buyers determine a responsible breeder. The Board approved of the concept but commented that the checklist was long and needed to be better organized. There was concern that there was not any information for the puppy buyer to determine if the answers were good or bad.

Kathy McIver moved and Mary Lou Roberts seconded that the Board request that the Breeder Education Committee give some additional input to the Breeder Checklist developed by the General Education Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Summary of discussion: The General Education Committee had come back to Board with questions about the 800-number program that the Board had sent to the committee. There is confusion as to what the exact purpose the 800-number would serve. There was discussion that the program should serve puppy buyers and people looking for information about the breed with specific answers and referrals to local Newf owners and regional clubs. Some members thought that the program should also include information and help for Newf owners after they bring their puppy home. The program had been juggled between several committees.

It was questioned whether the program was still needed as the AKC Breeder Referral number is available and the new NCA website will soon be up. It was said that the Naomi Young Meyer is very busy with the AKC calls. It had been discussed that the Breeders List would be utilized for this program, but there were concerns that the small number of breeders on the Breeders List would be inundated with calls and there is also a problem with some breeders on the Breeders List not answering the calls that they receive now.

A Board member brought up the issue of liability when giving advice about a behavior or health problem. Regional clubs could have lists of behaviorists and trainers in their areas.

It was suggested that the General Education Committee start with using the Breeders List and the program can be redefined as it grows. The discussion turned to using voicemail or live people. There was also a question about consistent messaging with so many people that could be involved in working on this program. Comments were to be sent back to the committee and they were encouraged to come forward with specific suggestions.

Report of the 2nd Vice-President: Historian

Mary Jane Spackman, Historian, had requested that the back issues of *Newf Tide* be moved from her basement. Karen Steinrock has agreed to take over the mailing of the back issues of *Newf Tide*, but she only has room to store four boxes. There is a policy to keep five years' worth of *Newf Tide*. A suggestion was made to keep only 25 copies of each issue. A Board member stated that she thought Mary Jane and Karen had worked out a solution.

Report of the 2nd Vice-President: Internet Committee

Marylou Zimmerman, Internet Chair, requested Board input on whether to keep the legal disclaimer that is on the current NCA website. It would need to be re-worded but the disclaimer is not needed as the whole website is copyrighted although it would not hurt to have a disclaimer in it. It was the consensus of the Board to tell the Internet Committee that the disclaimer can be removed and does not need to be replaced.

Report of the 2nd Vice-President: Awards Committee

Mary Lou Roberts, 2nd Vice-President, stated that Ingrid Lyden, Awards Chair, had wished to join the teleconference to discuss the question of adding Rally titles to the ROM criteria. It was said that both Ingrid and Barbara Hearn, Obedience Committee Chair, were both against adding Rally titles. Discussion was postponed until Ingrid could join the teleconference.

Regional Club Liaison

A Board member wanted to bring up the discussions occurring between the Regional Club Liaison and one of the regional clubs. There was a brief discussion about the issues occurring between the Regional Club Liaison and the regional club. There have been complaints from some of the regional club's members about the way they perceive their club's operations and there have been concerns expressed about the handling of the

situation. The President said that discussion was not on the agenda and would be addressed later.

The President called for Jack Dean to come to order.

Report of the Treasurer

Mary L. Price, Treasurer, reported the following.

NCA Operations

Checking Account	11,171.34	
Savings Account	8,500.74	
CDs	<u>235,866.96</u>	
	255,539.04	255,539.04
"Distinguished Member" Restoration	-6,306.89	
CD	<u>1,200.54</u>	
	-5,106.35	-5,106.35
Uniform Trophy Fund		
Money Market Account		<u>3,571.22</u>
		\$254,003.91

Mary reminded the Board that she had informed them in November 2005, that she was reviewing the dues renewals. There were some discrepancies between her review and the information provided by the Membership Chair. Some of the discrepancies have been resolved. The others will be addressed.

At 9:47 p.m., Cheryl Dondino joined the teleconference.

Report of the AKC Delegate

Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, was absent but an update was presented for her by Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary. Mary Lou reported that Mary would not be able to attend the March 2006 AKC Delegates meeting due to medical issues. Mary will try to obtain a report about the Delegates meeting from NCA members who are delegates for other clubs and will have that information for the Board at a later date.

Working Dog Committee

Cheryl Dondino, Working Dog Committee (WDC) Chair, informed the Board that the WDC was in complete agreement with the proposed raising of the minimum age limit for Newfoundlands entered in Draft Tests.

Sandee Lovett moved and Kathy McIver seconded to approve the recommendation of the WDC to raise the minimum age limit for Newfoundlands competing in Draft Tests to 18 months. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board then considered the proposed changes to the Water Rescue Dog Excellent (WRDX) regulations. Cheryl Dondino reviewed the fact that the WRDX title was a temporary title for the past two years and information and comments were solicited from exhibitors and judges during that time. The WDC have reviewed the comments and made some changes to the exercises, but most of the test exercises have remained intact.

A safety harness, but not a float vest, will be allowed to be worn by a Newfoundland, though it is not listed specifically on the equipment list and the judges have been instructed to accept it.

There was discussion about stewards wearing wetsuits being required, weather permitting. It was stated that at some tests the water temperature is high and it becomes much too warm to wear a wetsuit. It is a safety reason and the judges will have discretion.

There was discussion about the fitness certification. The previous thirty day certification procedure was not working. Test judges reported that there were no problems with dogs not being fit enough to complete the WRDX test. The regulations will now state that the fitness certification will be good for the water test season.

The Board discussed the change in the definition of wading depth and how to determine the depth. There were complaints from the stewards of uncomfortable positions and the dogs pulling dead weight under the previous definition. The judges have been instructed to determine the appropriate depth for each dog before being tested and the exercise has been changed so that the handler will meet the dog and victim just prior to the dog reaching wading depth.

There was discussion about the dogs being under verbal control only for the exercises. Handlers will still be allowed to touch and praise their dogs between exercises. It was noted that a higher level of performance was expected from these dogs and physical cues should not be needed. Some Board members felt it was unnatural not to work your dog and not touch him during the exercises.

Cheryl reported that the actual exercises have stayed much the same but the order has been rearranged to improve the flow of the exercises.

Exercise #1 - Search for Abandoned Boat: This exercise has been changed in that the steward will raise the oars and keep them raised. The steward will also release the anchor

system before the dog reaches the boat. This will prevent dogs from using an oar to tow the boat and the dog's entanglement in the anchor system.

Exercise #2 - Multiple Person Rescue: The exercise has been changed in that the stewards will be instructed to call loudly and continuously until the dog has picked up a victim and then the stewards will lower the volume of their calling until the dog reaches the boat with the victim when they will resume their previous volume. This is to save the stewards' voices and to insure that all dogs are called in the same manner. Also, dogs will be left to their instincts if they wish to pick up two victims at a time. There was some discussion about the reduction in continuous calling not being a natural behavior.

Exercise #3 - Unconscious Victim: The exercise has been changed in that the stewards will be required to wear specific hand and arm protection to protect the handler in the event that the dog might hold too hard. There was a version proposed that the handler be the victim but that version did not receive any favorable comments. There was discussion about the liability of the exercise. Stewards reported that the dogs were well-trained. There was discussion if an attorney should review this exercise. Most of the comments received by the WDC were to leave this exercise as is.

Kevin Gallagher moved and Sandee Lovett seconded to approve Exercise #3, Rescue of an Unconscious Victim, of the Water Rescue Dog Excellent test as rewritten. The motion passed. 9 Yes (MLC, AD, RF, KG, SL, KM, MLP, MLR, DW); 3 No (JSB, JKB, JD)

Exercise #4 - Rescue of Victim From Under Capsized Boat: The change is that the steward will be allowed to raise the shore side of the boat three inches to allow the steward to maintain a parallel-to-shore position for each dog. The steward will then drop the boat back to water level when the dog is within the last 10 feet of the boat. Another change is the steward will be allowed to grab the dog and the dog may exit from underneath the boat in any direction. The steward may also lift the raft when exiting to prevent the boat handles from colliding with the steward's lifejacket.

There were no appreciable changes to the rest of the exercises.

Kevin Gallagher moved and Kathy McIver seconded to approve the changes proposed by the Working Dog Committee to the Water Rescue Dog Excellent test as amended. The motion passed. 9 Yes (MLC, AD, RF, KG, SL, KM, MLP, MLR, DW); 3 No (JSB, JKB, JD)

Executive Session

At 10:30 p.m., Mary Lou Roberts moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded to go into executive session. The motion passed. 10 Yes (JSB, JKB, MLC, RF, KG, SL, KM, MLP, MLR, DW); 2 No (AD, JD)

At 11:43 p.m., Aura Dean moved and Jan Boggio seconded to come out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

While in executive session, the Board approved the membership applicants list dated February 8, 2006.

While in executive session, the Board approved that in recognition of the "AKC Breeder of the Year" award bestowed upon Dave and Peggy Helming by the American Kennel Club, the Newfoundland Club of America will make a donation of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00) to the "Take the Lead" charity. In the future, any NCA member honored with this award will also have a similar donation made to "Take the Lead".

While in executive session, the Board approved the following: In as much as an organization has the ultimate right to require that its members refrain from conduct injurious to the organization, the Board of Directors hereby reprimands a Board Member for actions prejudicial to the best interests of the Newfoundland Club of America.

It was the consensus of the Board that the President will write a letter to the Southeastern Newfoundland Club addressing their concerns and reiterating that the NCA Board wants to work with them to resolve everyone's concerns.

At 11:50 p.m., Deb Wigal moved and Jan Boggio seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. 9 Yes (JSB, MLC, AD, JD, KG, SL, KM, MLP, DW); 3 No (JKB, RF, MLR)

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Cuddy
NCA Recording Secretary