

Newfoundland Club of America  
Board of Directors Teleconference  
September 20, 2007, Approved October 18, 2007

President Roger Frey convened the meeting at 8:45 p.m. EDT. Members present included Jacqueline Brellochs, Barbara Finch, Roger Frey, Kevin Gallagher, Sandee Lovett, Sue Marino, Kathy McIver, Mary L. Price, Meredith Reggie, Mary Lou Roberts, Pam Rubio, and AKC Delegate Mary W. Price, ex officio. Absent: Cathy Sands (due to family emergency)

The minutes from the August 16, 2007, teleconference were discussed and approved as corrected.

**Report of the President** (Roger Frey)

Roger reported that he had received a letter from the Canine Health Foundation dated 9/13 about the “drifting apart” of AKC and CHF. The letter will be included in the next agenda packet, along with other letters on the topic received by AKC Delegate Mary W. Price.

**Report of the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President** (Sandee Lovett)

Since the CTMB report was given in the Trustee meeting, Sandee said she had no additional information to report at this time.

**Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President** (Mary Lou Roberts)

Mary Lou reported that when she was working on the Policy Manual, she noted that the dissolution of the Finance Committee, which took place at the meeting at the National, had been left out of the minutes. The matter was postponed for discussion until “Unfinished Business”.

**Report of the Corresponding Secretary** (Jacqueline Brellochs)

Jacqueline reported that she had received two letters of correspondence, one from Wayne Ferguson concerning the Canine Health Foundation Show and a second one regarding breed booths and awards at the AKC Eukanuka Show.

**Report of the Recording Secretary** (Cathy Sands) – No report

**Report of the Treasurer** (Mary L. Price)

Mary reported the following balances in the accounts: checking account \$27,202.77; savings account - \$63,000.19; invested in CD's - \$255,127.93; NCA operations - balance total of \$345,330.89 with \$4,487.20 in reserve for “Distinguished Member” expenses. The Uniform Trophy Fund money market account balance is \$13,208.53. The grand total is \$358,539.42. The financial report was accepted unanimously. Mary also reported that she had processed all the dues renewals received so far, and the second notices had gone out.

**Report of the AKC Delegate (Mary W. Price)**

Mary was not able to attend the September Delegates' Meeting due to other obligations. She questioned Barbara Finch, who did attend, about the amendments that were on the agenda, and Barbara reported that there were no votes taken on them. A meeting on the proposed AKC draft dog program was held on Sunday, and Mary had asked Sandee Lovett to send written input on the program for that meeting.

**Committee Reports (Mary Lou Roberts)**

Mary Lou presented a written update on the committee reports that she had received and highlighted several requiring board attention.

***Working Dog Committee*** – Cheryl Dondino, Working Dog Committee Chair, joined the meeting to answer questions about the proposed changes to the Working Test Judges Qualifications. She emphasized that the recommendations were based on the feedback that the WDC had received from the survey that was distributed to judges and exhibitors at working tests during 2006 and which was also published in *Newf Tide*. The results strongly indicated that the respondents felt that actual judging experience was more important to becoming a competent judge than accumulating additional titles, so the new guidelines reflected this. They also supported a new requirement that observer judges should pass an open book test related to their field of judging. Cheryl had provided the Board with a sheet comparing the current requirements with the new proposed ones, which provided the basis for discussion. After the questions of the board members were answered, Pam Rubio moved that the proposed Judges Qualification Document be approved with an effective date of December 30<sup>th</sup>. The motion was seconded by Mary Lou Roberts. It was noted that all previously approved panels and those submitted by November 1<sup>st</sup> will fall under the old guidelines, and the WDC will work out the details for implementation of the new requirements. The motion carried. (10 Yes 1 No – RF)

Roger Frey acknowledged receipt of a letter from an NCA member requesting the Board to address some issues, which he had observed at working tests. Cheryl reported how the WDC had handled the letter when it came to the committee. Roger asked that a copy of the letter be sent to Cathy Sands to put on the agenda for the next meeting. Cheryl left the meeting at the conclusion of the WDC business.

***Constitution & By-Laws Committee (ad hoc)***

Beverly Eichel, chair of the C&BL Committee, joined the meeting to update the Board on the Committee's work on Phase I, which involves decisions on the issues. At this time the Committee sought input from the Board on three of them.

One of these concerned incorporating the contents of the Constitution into the Certificate of Incorporation. The Board agreed that the Certificate of Incorporation should be amended to make it agree with the Constitution, and the purpose of the organization should be included in both documents.

A second issue was whether the By-Laws should provide a means for the membership to require the board to initiate a binding mail ballot. The Committee was not in favor of this; yet it wanted to ensure that a revision of the Standard would require a total membership vote. A board member pointed out that Article 7, Section 2 of the current By-Laws states that the Standard may be changed only by a two-thirds favorable vote via mail ballot. The committee will re-clarify this in the revised document.

The third question involved the establishment of a "Senior Member" or "Life Member" category. The committee was in favor of this and felt that since the Board is given the authority to set dues, it could do so for a "Senior" or "Life" category, if established. Discussion focused on what the criteria for such a category should be, including age and/or years of membership. The length of continuous membership in NCA should be included in the criteria.

An additional recommendation from the committee was that some of the issues that had been referred to it, which are not deemed appropriate for inclusion in the By-Laws governing document, should be included in a separate "Standing Rules and/or Board Policy" document. Such a document would serve as a reference for answering procedural questions, which could arise in the future. The consensus of the board supported this idea. Beverly left the meeting at the conclusion of her report.

### ***Newf Tide Policy Committee***

Aura Dean, *Newf Tide* Policy Chair, joined the meeting to present two policies for board approval. The first proposal was a revision to the advertising policy to read as follows: "Any NCA member may advertise a Newfoundland owned (or co-owned) or bred by them in both *Newf Tide* and *The Annual of Titlists*." The question arose about how this would apply to "In Memoriam" ads, which are sometimes initiated by owners. With that in mind, Aura suggested that the proposal go back to the Committee for further clarification.

The second proposal read as follows: "*Newf Tide* will publish obituaries of NCA members and members of their immediate families. In addition to the name, information may include hometown, age, date of death, kennel name, regional club affiliation, pertinent NCA contributions, and survivors with names of immediate family only, and suggestions for memorials. All obituaries will be presented in identical format, to be determined by the editor. The editor may edit information for publication. Obituaries will begin with the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2007 issue."

The purpose of this proposal is to add a personal orientation to the publication and to inform members who may want to communicate their condolences. A motion was made by Pam Rubio and seconded by Barbara Finch to approve this proposal. The motion passed ( 10 – Yes 1 Abstention – MR)

### **Technical Resources Committee**

The Board discussed the written report submitted by Technical Resources Chair, Dan Carr. Although he said he assumed that the objective of an NCA Database was to provide a *public* source of information regarding Newfoundland dogs, he posed 3 options for the board's consideration in light of the committee's recent attempts to access information from various sources:

- A. Should we provide only a non-public database based on the AKC stud book and titles, which only NCA members could access?
- B. Should we provide two separate database systems, a public database to provide pedigree and health information and a private one for *Newf Tide* and other committees?
- C. Should we provide only the public database system in accordance with the specification document that was provided by the board?

By consensus, the board reaffirmed its original charge to the committee (option C) that the database should be an "open" one.

Roger Frey will contact AKC and appeal the decision that Dan Carr received, that information supplied by it can not be published in an open database.

It was noted that, based on a previous board decision, all data released by the AKC to the NCA should be coming to the corresponding secretary. However, other members are still receiving the reports, on behalf of the NCA, while the corresponding secretary is not. Jacqueline Brellochs will write to the AKC to resolve this matter.

### **Internet Committee**

Mary Lou Roberts had asked the Internet Chair, Marylou Zimmerman, why the NCA website frequently turns up so slow in Google searches, and she shared her written reply. The report from the Internet Committee will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

### **Breeder Education Committee**

In her written report, Breeder Education Chair, Kathy McIver, proposed 3 motions for board approval. The first motion, made by Kathy and seconded by Pam Rubio, read as follows: "The NCA educational committees (General Education, Judges' Education. and Breeder Education) will begin development of all phases of Claudia Orlandi's template breed education program, with the cost of the program (\$250) to be divided among the three committees." The motion passed unanimously (Yes – 11). The board requests that the educational committees

review Claudia Orlandi's program and report back by December 1<sup>st</sup>. No action was taken on either of the other two proposals from BEC.

### **Unfinished Business**

An official record of the dissolution of the Finance Committee, which was omitted from the minutes of the May face-to-face meeting, should be added to the appropriate minutes where action was taken on committee appointments.

Kevin Gallagher requested that treasurer Mary L. Price send him a copy of the outstanding bill from the printer in Fort Collins, so that he could pursue the matter further.

### **New Business**

Jacqueline Brellochs and Kathy Mclver reported on the AKC Parent Club Conference, which they had attended. They were very enthusiastic about all they had learned to share with us and proud of the NCA for all it does, especially in comparison to many other breed clubs. Both ladies have supplied the board with written information from their notes and plan to send some additional information in the future.

### **Executive Session**

At 11:45 p.m., a motion was made by Kathy Mclver and seconded by Pam Rubio to go into executive session to discuss the applicants' list. Motion carried.

At 12:10 a.m., a motion was made by Pam and seconded by Kathy to come out of executive session. Motion carried. While in executive session, the board approved two membership applications for publication.

### **New Business** (continued)

Meredith Reggie reported that Mary Lou Roberts discovered that the May 17, 2006, teleconference minutes had not been published in *Newf Tide* and that a meeting of the Trust had also not been published. Meredith Reggie will contact Cathy Sands for the minutes and publish them in a future issue to maintain the NCA's permanent record of meeting minutes in *Newf Tide*.

Discussions of the other items on the agenda under New Business were postponed until the next meeting, October 18, 2007.

A motion was made by Pam Rubio and seconded by Sue Marino to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Santee Lovett, Secretary Pro.tem.