

Board of Directors Teleconference Meeting  
July 17 & July 24, 2008  
(Approved August 21, 2008)

Roger Frey, President, called the meeting to order at 8:11 p.m. Eastern time. The following directors were present: Jacqueline K. Brellochs (JB), Mary Lou Cuddy (MLC), Barbara Finch (BF), Roger Frey (RF), Kevin Gallagher (KG), Sue Marino (SM), Kathy Mclver (KM), Mary L. Price (MLP), Pat Randall (PKR), Meredith Reggie (MR), Mary Lou Roberts (MLR) and Pam Rubio (PSR). Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was present. Robin Seaman was present as a member guest

### **Approval of Minutes**

Barbara Finch moved and Pam Rubio seconded to approve the May 15, 2008 minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Report of the President**

Roger Frey, President, gave no report.

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

Kathy Mclver, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, reported that the May 1, 2008 minutes contained errors in the listing of committee members for the Judges Education Committee (JEC) and the Obedience Committee.

Kathy Mclver moved and Pat Randall seconded to approve the corrections to the May 1, 2008 minutes pertaining to the Judges Education and Obedience Committees. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Working Achievement Award**

Meredith Reggie reported that she had received an email from a member pointing out a discrepancy concerning the number of optional titles needed for the Working Achievement Award (WA). The *NCA Website* lists three optional titles needed and the November 2-4, 2008 minutes in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2008 issue of *Newf Tide* states two optional titles are needed.

Some Board members thought that a change had been made to require three titles and questioned whether that had been reported out of the Board meeting. Meredith Reggie will research the issue and will report back to the Board.

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

Mary Lou Roberts, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, reported that she had attended the Charitable Trust Management Board (CTMB) meeting held July 9, 2008.

She reported that the CTMB will review the first payment of \$72,500.00 to the recently approved cruciate study after the CDs mature. Another payment will be required in 2009 but it could be reduced if other participants come into that study.

She informed the Board that the CTMB addressed a rescue issue within a regional club and will continue discussion on it at its August meeting. A regional club is having difficulty finding enough foster homes to fill the need. They have been referring Newfoundlands to shelters as a matter of policy instead of taking them into the rescue network. The CTMB is discussing the relationship between NCA and the regional clubs and what the CTMB could do to discourage such activity. The Board discussed the lack of funds and foster homes which impacts on clubs and their rescue programs.

Mary W. Price, CTMB member, added that the CTMB had been informed of an acknowledgement that was listed in the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) newsletter (Summer 2008 issue). It read, "Many thanks to the Newfoundland Club of America Charitable Trust for their gift of over \$63,000.00 for future research projects benefiting their breed!"

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

Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary, reported that she had prepared the July 17, 2008 agenda and an addendum and she will have the minutes of the June 19-June 26 minutes ready shortly.

Mary Lou Cuddy informed the Board that the minutes of the April 29, 2008 Annual Meeting of the Membership meeting are usually published in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter issue of *Newf Tide*. She asked the Board's input on posting the minutes of this year's Annual Membership Meeting held in April on the *NCA Website*.

Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded to place the April 29, 2008 Annual Membership Meeting minutes on the *NCA Website*. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Pat Randall, Corresponding Secretary, reported on correspondence that he had received.

The International Kennel Club sent a letter requesting that the NCA consider a specialty or supported entry at its show to benefit the AKC Canine Health Foundation. The letter mentioned that the Sunday show would have no entry fee (only the AKC recording fee would be charged) for the new Amateur Owner Handler class. By consensus, this letter was referred to the North Central Newfoundland Club.

The National Animal Interest Alliance (NAIA) invited the NCA to send a representative to the NAIA convention in Windsor, Connecticut in August, 2008. By consensus, this letter was referred to the Legislation Committee.

The AKC sent the ballot for the AKC Lifetime Achievement Awards. Pat Randall stated that the Board could consider this at the August, 2008 teleconference.

There was some discussion about the emails that the Board receives which ask for general Newfoundland information. It was suggested that Pat Randall be copied on any responses that Board members may make in order to be certain that each email has received a response.

There was discussion concerning the Board's email address and the fact that one Board member's email keeps bouncing. It was reported that it is a server issue. Pat Randall suggested that the Board email address be changed so that all the mail will come to him. He will determine if it is a legitimate email and then forward all legitimate emails to the Board. This will also have the added benefit of reducing spam in each Board member's mailbox.

Pat Randall moved and Kathy McIver seconded to delete the Board email address and have all email directed to the Corresponding Secretary who would then forward all legitimate email to the Board. The motion passed unanimously.

Pat Randall offered to share quick synopses of topics of conversation on Newf-I, Newf-tech and the NCA Discussion List with the Board at each meeting. After discussion, it was agreed that this could be informative for the Board.

Jacqueline Brellochs reported that she had received a letter from the AKC Canine Health Foundation regarding a cardiac research symposium being held on October 6, 2008 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The CHF is hoping to raise one million dollars to help fund 30 cardiac research projects. A club that helps to sponsor this research will receive a scholarship for a club member to attend the symposium. By consensus, the Board directed that this letter be forwarded to CTMB and the Research Advisory Committee.

### **Report of the Treasurer**

Mary L. Price, Treasurer, reported the following balances: checking account: \$ 2,436.30; savings account: \$ 6,238.35; invested in CDs: \$263,747.31; and the NCA operations balance total of \$272,421.96 with \$4,063.01 in reserve for "Distinguished Member" expenses. The Uniform Trophy Fund money market account balance is \$10,620.31 for a total of \$283,042.27.

Mary L. Price reported that the renewal dues are not included in this report.

The Board discussed the proposed 2008-2009 budget. Mary L. Price stated that if no unexpected expenses come up, then this year's budget will be very close to actual expenses. She reported to the Board that the cash reserve has sufficient cash that the club could run for one year on the reserve, which is recommended financial strategy. This reserve would also be available to an outstanding research project. It was suggested that an article for *Newf Tide* be prepared to explain and promote understanding of the cash reserve and its function.

There was discussion about the increase in airfares, hotel rooms and other travel expenses. In light of that discussion, the Board raised the budgeted amount to \$5,000.00 for the AKC Delegate.

Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board approve the 2008-2009 budget as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board thanked Mary L. Price and Mary W. Price for their efforts and hard work.

At 9:13 p.m., Robin Seaman joined the teleconference.

### **2010 National Specialty**

Robin Seaman, Specialty Show Committee Chair, and the Board discussed the 2010 National Specialty and the letter from North Central Newfoundland Club which informed the Board that North Central members had voted to decline hosting the 2010 National Specialty. Joan Gunn had offered to be show chair, either for North Central or for the NCA if the NCA is the host organization. There was discussion of two sites in the Midwest that could be considered.

The Board discussed the pros and cons of each site and some of the logistics since this would be the first time in many years that the NCA itself would be the host organization. It was decided that Joan Gunn would visit each site within the next two weeks to determine its suitability for a National Specialty.

Robin Seaman also reported that Chris LaMuraglia has requested to be relieved of her Uniform Trophies duties.

The Board briefly discussed volunteers that could be appointed to fill that responsibility as well as volunteers that could be appointed to help with the limited edition plates.

At 9:38 p.m., Robin Seaman left the teleconference.

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

Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, directed the Board's attention to several articles on the AKC's mixed breed proposal that were included in the agenda packet.

She reported that with the assistance of Sandee Lovett and Sue Marino, she wrote an article that will appear in the August 2008 issue of *Perspectives*, the newsletter for AKC Delegates. This article will detail the NCA's involvement in the development of a draft title program which AKC has recently dropped from further consideration. However, the AKC Delegates' Parent Club Committee had agreed to support renewed interest in a new draft title among AKC Program Directors and staff. The article will outline the concerns the NCA has regarding the dogs' safety while being tested and also to rebut claims in a prior *Perspectives* article that the NCA had not been an active participant in the development of the draft title program.

The safety issue will also be addressed in the Newfoundland breed column in the *AKC Gazette*. The Working Dog Committee, who had been directed by the Board to write a column addressing this issue, could not make the *AKC Gazette* deadline for the next issue. It was agreed that the article could still be used in the January 2009 column which has a deadline of October 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Reports of the Committees**

### **General Education Committee**

The discussion about the *Newf and You* revision was postponed to the next meeting. There was a clarification that the Board as a whole will send comments to the General Education (GenEd) committee, individual Board members should bring their comments to the next Board meeting.

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

It was reported that the *Newf Tide* Policy Committee must have one Board member sitting on the committee. Meredith Reggie is an *ex-officio* member of the committee as *Newf Tide* editor. It was the consensus of the Board to address this issue at the next teleconference and Board members are to consider whether to keep the current policy or determine if changes should be made.

### **Working Dog Committee**

The committee reported that the Addendum for Working Test Guidelines for Entries, Alternates and Refunds was not ready for Board Review. It will be ready for the August teleconference.

### **General Education Committee**

The Board requested that Kathy McIver, Committee Liaison, check with GenEd to be certain that the NCA will have an ad in the International Kennel Club's show catalog.

## **Unfinished Business**

### ***Constitution and Bylaws* Review Committee**

The Board considered the changes to the *Constitution and Bylaws* that have been proposed by the *Constitution and Bylaws* Review Committee (CBL). The committee had asked for a Board review and it was believed that the Board should submit preliminary comments, which are advisory in nature, on the changes now rather than at the fall face-to-face meeting where it is hoped the final review will take place. Kathy McIver, Committee Liaison, will convey the comments to the committee.

There was a brief discussion whether the document should be a minimal document or if it should try to address everything.

The Board addressed the changes section by section.

At 11:15 p.m., Kathy Mclver moved and Pam Rubio seconded to recess the teleconference until July 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m. Eastern time.

### **NCA Teleconference Meeting Reconvenes on Thursday, July 24, 2008**

Roger Frey, President, reconvened the meeting at 8:06 p.m. Eastern time. The following directors were present: Jacqueline K. Brellochs (JB), Mary Lou Cuddy (MLC), Roger Frey (RF), Kevin Gallagher (KG), Sue Marino (SM), Kathy Mclver (KM), Mary L. Price (MLP), Pat Randall (PKR), Meredith Reggie (MR), Mary Lou Roberts (MLR) and Pam Rubio (PSR). Barbara Finch (BF) was delayed. Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was absent. Robin Seaman was present as a member guest.

### ***Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee***

The Board resumed its review of the proposed changes suggested by the CBL.

At 8:30 p.m., Barbara Finch joined the teleconference.

At 9:45 p.m., Robin Seaman joined the teleconference.

### **2010 National Specialty**

Robin Seaman, Specialty Show Committee Chair, reported on a new alternative for the 2010 National Specialty. The two show sites that were previously being considered have not hosted an NCA event previously. Due to the short timeline, the Specialty Show Committee felt more comfortable using a familiar site. The committee is proposing that the 2010 National Specialty be held in Frankenmuth, Michigan which would make it back-to-back with the 2009 National Specialty hosted by the Great Lakes Newfoundland Club. Sandee Lovett has agreed to chair the show for the NCA. Great Lakes would not be the host club since they are hosting the 2009 show. Sandee has a great deal of experience as a show chair and by coming back the following year, it was felt that it gave the NCA and Great Lakes some bargaining power with the hotel for both shows. The hotel has already agreed to hold the 2009 room rates for the 2010 show. It was the consensus of the Board and the Specialty Show Committee that there were many plusses for this idea and only a few drawbacks.

Kathy Mclver moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board accept the Specialty Show Committee's proposal for the 2010 National Specialty to be held in Frankenmuth, Michigan. The motion passed unanimously.

At 9:55 p.m., Robin Seaman left the teleconference.

## ***Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee***

The Board resumed its review of the proposed changes suggested by the CBL Committee. At the conclusion of the review of the changes, there was some discussion about the AKC's stand on international members. The AKC is not in favor of international members or allowing them to vote. It is the understanding of the Board that current international members would be grandfathered and that they would be able to keep their voting rights. The Board discussed how far it should go in pushing the AKC to try to allow new international members to vote. It was stated that AKC probably will not agree at all. This will be discussed with the CBL Committee.

There was discussion about the *Constitution and Bylaws* adopting Robert's Rules of Order (RRO). Some Board members said that adopting RRO would not dramatically change the way the Board operates currently. It was said that adopting and following RRO would be easier than having common parliamentary law or the Connecticut statutes as our governing document. RRO must be in the Bylaws to supersede Connecticut statutes.

Some members stated that adopting RRO would make meetings more cumbersome and that RRO is thousands of pages and is complicated. It was stated that there is a parliamentarian in attendance at parliamentary meetings. Some members stated that RRO has been used in the past to hinder the Board's work instead of helping.

At 10:15, Kathy McIver left the teleconference.

A Board member pointed out that the Policy Manual states that in 2002 the Board did adopt RRO for Board and committee meetings. It was stated that over 90 percent of parent clubs have adopted RRO.

All of the comments and discussion points will be forwarded to the CBL Committee for its consideration. The committee will present the proposed *Constitution and Bylaws* at the fall face-to-face Board meeting for final review. It will then be presented to the AKC staff for their review and following that, the membership will vote on it.

## **REGIONAL CLUBS**

Pam Rubio, Regional Club Liaison, reported that the Niagara Frontier Newfoundland Club (NFNC) has requested a teleconference to discuss the issues between the club and the NCA. It was requested that the teleconference be held during the day as two key members of the NFNC work second shift. Some Board members asked if the whole NFNC Board was in agreement with having this teleconference. It was stated that this should be ascertained first.

As an aside, it was stated that the relationship between the NCA and the regional clubs needs to be defined in the new *Constitution and Bylaws*.

Pam Rubio will send an email to the Board requesting free dates so as to try to schedule the teleconference.

## **Executive Session**

At 11:23 p.m., Pam Rubio moved and Mary Lou Cuddy seconded that the Board go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

At 11:37 p.m., Pam Rubio moved and Barbara Finch seconded that the Board come out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

While in executive session, the Board approved the Applicants List dated July 17, 2008.

While in executive session, the Board was informed that three challenges to an applicant published in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2008 issue of *Newf Tide* had been received.

While in executive session, the performance of a committee chair was reviewed.

In response to a question, Barbara Finch reported that her committee will have a report on election/balloting firms for the next teleconference.

At 11:39 p.m., Pam Rubio moved and Sue Marino seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Cuddy  
Recording Secretary