

NCA Board of Directors Teleconference Meeting
Minutes of August 21 and September 11, 2008
(Approved October 16, 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), Kathy McIver (KM), Mary L. Price (MLP), Pat Randall (PKR), Meredith Reggie (MR), Mary Lou Roberts (MLR) and Pam Rubio (PSR). Sue Marino (SM) was absent. Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was present. Nicki Dobson was present as a member guest.

Approval of Minutes

Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the June 19 and June 26, 2008 minutes be approved as amended. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (SM)

Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the July 17 and July 24, 2008 minutes be approved as amended. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (SM)

Report of the President

Roger Frey, President, informed the Board of a report he had received from Robin Seaman, Specialty Show Chair, regarding the 2010 National Specialty. The Specialty Show Committee is reviewing contracts from the Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth, Michigan. Mary L. Price, NCA Treasurer, has sent a check for a deposit. The committee is soliciting ideas on judges and logo items from committee members. The committee is soliciting volunteers to work on committees.

There was discussion about the selection of judges and the work of the committee in various areas relating to the National Specialty.

Report of the 1st Vice-President

Mary Lou Roberts, 1st Vice-President, reported on the Charitable Trust Management Board (CTMB) meeting held on August 6, 2008. The CTMB is attempting to get clarification of matching funds and the Donor Advised Fund of the AKC Canine Health Foundation. She reported that the Research Advisory Committee will have a report on proposed studies from the Morris Animal Foundation and the AKC Canine Health Foundation at the next meeting.

Mary Lou Roberts reported that the CTMB logo has been modified from Your Gift/His Future to Your Gift/Their Future and incorporates a child and a Newfoundland puppy. The CTMB has asked Consie Powell to use one of her alphabet logos for this art. The new logo will appear in *Newf Tide* as soon as it is ready.

The CTMB has talked with Consie Powell about developing a book based on her alphabet designs. It was reported that she had agreed in principle.

At 9:08 p.m., Nicki Dobson joined the teleconference.

By consensus, the Board agreed to Kathy McIver's request to add a new agenda item concerning the Niagara Frontier Newfoundland Club later in the meeting.

General Education Committee

Nicki Dobson, General Education Committee (GenEd) Chair, reported that two new members had joined the committee. She stated that GenEd had reviewed the website advertising report and supported it with a unanimous vote.

GenEd will be placing ads in the catalog of benched shows (International Kennel Club, Westminster Kennel Club, Golden Gate Kennel Club and Progressive Kennel Club). GenEd is working on the website advertising issues so it has postponed working on all other advertising.

The committee has put together a survey concerning advertising which is to be distributed to regional clubs. The committee may move funds from periodicals to help support newspaper ads and related advertising by the regional clubs. There was some concern expressed that this may overlap with REACT and may also overlap with the Board's charge to develop a Breed Stewardship program. It was felt that committees should not be duplicating efforts of other committees.

At 9:26 p.m., Sue Marino joined the teleconference.

Nicki reported on the progress of the *Newf and You* and that the committee was waiting for direction and input from the Board. There was discussion of the updates needed in the *Newf and You*. Some Board members felt that the committee should start with a fresh outline and then move forward to flesh it out. Another suggestion was made to leave it in outline form and use the Breed University program for additional information.

Meredith Reggie moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the General Education Committee be asked to re-write the *Newf and You*, beginning with an outline of material to be included. This outline is due by the September 18, 2008 teleconference. The motion passed unanimously.

At 9:32 p.m., Nicki Dobson left the teleconference.

Report of the Recording Secretary

Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary, reported she had prepared the June 19 and June 26, 2008 and July 17 and July 24, 2008 minutes, along with the August 21, 2008 agenda. She reported that she was researching printers to print the election packet and asked the Board for any recommendations.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary

Pat Randall, Corresponding Secretary, reported that he had received the AKC Lifetime Achievement Awards information. The Board will consider this in executive session.

There was discussion on a letter received from a person with a Newfoundland which needed extensive medical help. This person was asking for any financial help. There was a discussion of this letter and a subsequent discussion of situations like this that appear on Newf-l.

The Board considered a letter received from the Lewis and Clark Fort Mandan Foundation asking for donations. Two Board members and other NCA members have seen the statue of Seaman which is at Fort Mandan and all agree it is a project worth supporting.

Pam Rubio moved and Sue Marino seconded that the NCA donate \$1,000.00 this year to the Lewis and Clark Fort Mandan Foundation. The motion passed unanimously.

Jacqueline Brellochs reported that she had received information from the National Animal Interest Alliance conference on how to influence legislators. She had attempted to send it to the Board but the email was bounced back. There was a brief discussion about the NCA Board address and Internet spam.

Report of the Treasurer

Mary L. Price, Treasurer, reported the following balances: checking account: \$78,641.97; savings account: \$6,238.35; invested in CDs: \$264,844.85; and the NCA operations balance total of \$ 349,725.17 with \$4,063.01 in reserve for "Distinguished Member" expenses. The Uniform Trophy Fund money market account balance is \$10,869.03 for a total of \$360,594.20.

There was a brief discussion of the rate of renewals. It was felt that the number of renewals coming in is ahead of the rate of return for last year.

Report of the AKC Delegate

Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, reported that she will be attending the AKC Delegates Meeting on September 9, 2008 in Newark, New Jersey and that she will attend the committee meetings. She said that the AKC Delegate Standing Committees election will be held at this meeting. She reported that the recent edition of *Perspectives*, which contains the article written by Sandee Lovett and herself, has been sent to the Delegates. *Perspectives* is the AKC Delegate newsletter sent only to AKC Delegates. She will make copies to share with the Board.

At the meeting in Newark, the Delegates will be considering rule changes for field trials, a proposed amendment to clarify the limit of the number of dogs a judge can judge in a day and a proposed amendment on showing dogs on their litter registration number.

Committee Reports

General Education Committee

The General Education Committee reported that they, along with REACT, had questions about AKC's new program of granting AKC registration to dogs lacking litter registration papers but who are directly descended from AKC dogs. It was stated that the AKC Delegates did not view this favorably but they were not given the opportunity to vote on it as the AKC Board passed it.

At 10:05 p.m., Mary W. Price left the teleconference.

Awards

There was discussion that the Awards Committee will not become responsible for the compilation of the ROM awards and how the new NCA database will be used in the compilation of the ROM awards. It was stated that the ROMs are tallied right before the National Specialty and are not compiled monthly.

Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee

Beverly Eichel, *Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee* Chair, had reported that new copies of the proposed *Constitution and Bylaws* and the *Code of Ethics* with highlights and strike-outs will be included in the agenda packet for the fall face-to-face meeting.

There was discussion about the *Code of Ethics*. The Board had agreed with the concept of the document but has suggested changes. The timeline was changed to coordinate both the *Code of Ethics* and the *Constitution and Bylaws* for the Board's consideration. The *Code of Ethics* will be placed on the next agenda for discussion.

Health & Longevity Committee

There was a brief discussion about the posting for the Health & Longevity Committee vacancy. It was felt that the posting should include a request for information about the scientific/medical background, etc of a volunteer. By consensus, the Board agreed that this will be discussed in executive session.

Newf Tide Policy Committee

The Board discussed the policy of having a Board member sit on the *Newf Tide Policy Committee*. It was suggested to leave the policy as it is. It was suggested that the editor call into each teleconference to update the Board on the progress of each issue. A concern was expressed that a Board member on the committee could become the "voice" of the committee instead of the committee chair.

Pat Randall moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board rescind the policy for requiring a Board member to sit on the *Newf Tide* Policy Committee. The motion passed. 11 Yes (JB, MLC, BF, RF, KG, SM, KM, MLP, PKR, MLR, PSR); 1 Abstention (MR)

Obedience Committee

Joyce Arivella, Obedience Committee Chair, asked for direction from the Board about the need for additional members on a committee where one person can easily handle the work load. There was some discussion about the committee writing articles for *Newf Tide* about training and obedience issues, using the members' expertise. It was suggested that Joyce contact the *Newf Tide* editor for ideas for articles.

Rescue Education and Awareness Committee

The committee asked for an extension on the "life steps" newsletters that they are developing for new puppy owners. The extension was granted.

Steering Committee

Mary Lou Roberts moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that the Board approve the Steering Committee's proposed job description which will read as follows: The Steering Committee will work with the NCA Board to produce and update on an annual basis a document that defines NCA goals, strategies for meeting those goals, and measurements for success. The document might be prepared and updated according to the following schedule:

- No later than one month before the fall Face-to-Face meeting: Steering Committee submits to the Board key goals and strategies for recommendation.
- Fall Face-to-Face meeting: Board discusses and finalizes goals and strategies.
- No later than one month before the spring Face-to-Face meeting: Steering Committee submits to the Board a final document with goals and strategies and introduces measurements for meeting those goals.
- Spring Face-to-Face meeting: Board finalizes the strategy document for the coming year.

A Board member stated her discomfort with some of the wording saying that it taking away some of the Board's responsibilities. It was pointed out that that the Board does not have to approve the goals or recommendations. It was suggested to try this for a year and then reassess it. It was stated that the NCA is not a little club anymore and the Board is so busy that it does not have the time to consider the "big picture". It was stated that the committee will not be setting the goals in concrete; they are just doing the legwork.

The motion passed. 9 Yes (JB, BF, RF, KG, SM, MLP, MY, MLR, MLC); 2 No (PKR, KM); 1 Abstention (PSR)

Kathy McIver moved and Mary Lou Roberts seconded that the Board approve the inclusion of the committee job description when a posting for volunteers is made. The motion passed unanimously.

Technical Resources

There was a discussion regarding online credit card processing, the proposed Communications Policy Committee and the input needed from the Technical Resources Committee.

Specialty Show Committee

There was a discussion about the Obedience Top Twenty. It was reported that this had been added to the *Specialty Show Guide*. It was stated that the NCA member who raised the initial question about the Obedience Top Twenty needs to be answered as to what had been decided. Barbara Finch, a member of the committee, will forward the enclosure to Pat Randall so he may write the letter.

Working Dog Committee

There was a discussion about the Working Dog Committee's (WDC) request to make the WRDX a separate test. It is currently considered a part of the Water Dog/Water Rescue Dog test. The reason for this proposal is that many clubs are having difficulty finding enough judges to judge all three levels without having to pay to fly in three or four judges or they must use local judges who then can't enter their local test. By making it a separate test local judges could enter Water Dog or Water Dog Excellent tests and judge WRDX or vice versa and decrease the costs to the club. There was a brief discussion of the appearance presented when a judge judges a water test one day and competes in the test held on the next day.

Jacqueline Brellochs moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board approve the Working Dog Committee's recommendation that the WRDX test be a separate test with a separate application and fee. The motion passed. 9 Yes (JB, MLC, BF, RF, KG, SM, KM, MLP, PSR); 3 No (PKR, MR, MLR)

Mareidith Reggie moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board approve the Working Dog Committee's recommendation that starting next year, partner judges who have earned a WRDX title may judge the WRDX test.

There was discussion that those judges may have a much better understanding of the rules than a mentor judge who may have never seen or trained for the WRDX.

The motion passed unanimously.

The Board considered the WDC's discussions on adding the number of requalifications after a dog's title and developing an advanced draft title. The Board first discussed the addition of the numbers of requalifications to a title. The WDC was concerned about promoting something that required very little training after that title was earned. The Board discussed that the requalifications would tie into the Working Achievement award and also the fact that it is being used in *Newf Tide*. It was stated that the NCA should be encouraging its members

to continue to work their dogs, but it was agreed that the number of requalifications should not lead to a new title.

Jacqueline Brellochs moved and Meredith Reggie seconded that the number of requalifications be indicated after a dog's title and will not result in a new title. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a brief discussion of developing an advanced draft work title. Such a title could include backpacking and/or driving as is being done in the Canadian draft tests.

Sue Marino moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that the Board approve the Working Dog Committee's request for the committee to look into developing a new advanced draft title. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed some concerns over an inconsistency in the Addendum to NCA Working Test Rules: Handling of Entries, Alternates and Refunds.

Pat Randall moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board postpone until the September 18, 2008 teleconference the review of the Addendum to NCA Working Test Rules: Handling of Entries, Alternates and Refunds. The motion passed unanimously.

At 11:26 p.m., Roger Frey recused himself from the meeting. Mary Lou Roberts, 1st Vice-President, took over the meeting.

Regional Club Liaison

Pam Rubio, Regional Club Liaison, updated the Board on the discussions with the Niagara Frontier Newfoundland Club (NFNC). She expressed her concerns that some members may have been disenfranchised. The Board reviewed the history of previous NCA requests to NFNC for information.

Mary Lou Roberts moved and Pat Randall seconded to ask the Niagara Frontier Newfoundland Club to send a letter to all persons who appeared on the club's 2003-2004 membership roster but who do not appear on the club's current membership roster, with an acknowledgement that there are some inconsistencies in the lists they wish to resolve, inviting these people to reapply for membership, waiving any application fees. A current membership application form will be included with this letter of invitation.

At 11:53 p.m., Sue Marino moved and Barbara Finch seconded to go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

At 12:02 a.m., Sue Marino moved and Kevin Gallagher seconded to come out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

The motion that Niagara Frontier Newfoundland Club be asked to send a letter to all members listed on the 2003-2004 membership list that do not appear on the current

membership list inviting those members to re-apply for membership failed. 3 Yes (JB, MR, MLR); 8 No (MLC, BF, KG, PKR, SM, KM, MLP, PSR); 1 Absent (RF)

Mary L. Price moved and Kevin Gallagher seconded that the Board direct the Regional Club Liaison to inform the Niagara Frontier Newfoundland Club of the September 7, 2008 deadline to comply with the previous directive from the December 17, 2007 NCA Board meeting. 8 Yes (MLC, BF, KG, PKR, SM, KM, MLP, PSR); 3 No (JB, MR, MLR); 1 Absent (RF)

At 12:30 p.m., Roger Frey re-joined the meeting and Barbara Finch left the meeting.

At 12:34 p.m., Kathy Mclver moved and Pam Rubio seconded to go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

At 1:15 p.m., Kathy Mclver moved and Pam Rubio seconded to come out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

While in executive session, the Board approved the Applicants List dated August 21, 2008.

While in executive session, the Board was updated on the status of a challenged application.

While in executive session, the Board appointed Suzi Bidwell and Carla Gengler to the Arbitration Committee.

While in executive session, the Board discussed several committee chairs that may not be performing to expectations.

While in executive session, the Board approved voting for the following nominees for the AKC Achievement Awards: Constance Barton (Conformation) and Kenneth Buxton (Obedience).

At 1:19 a.m., the Board, by consensus, agreed to recess the teleconference to Thursday, September 11, 2008 at 8:00 p.m., Eastern time.

NCA Teleconference Meeting Reconvenes on Thursday, September 11, 2008

Roger Frey, President, called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. Eastern time. The following directors were present: Jacqueline K. Brellochs (JB), Mary Lou Cuddy (MLC), Barbara Finch (BF), Roger Frey (RF), Sue Marino (SM), Kathy Mclver (KM), Mary Lou Roberts (MLR) and Pam Rubio (PSR). Kevin Gallagher (KG), Pat Randall (PKR), Mary L. Price (MLP) and Meredith Reggie (MR), were absent. Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was absent.

There was a moment of silence to remember the victims of the 9/11 attack, those who have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan and for NCA member Marsha Aldrich and others.

Steering Committee

It was reported that there were no additional volunteers for this committee other than the two members who volunteered earlier. The Steering Committee had requested the chance to make recommendations. The appointment of additional committee members to this committee was postponed to the September 18, 2008 meeting.

Working Dog Committee

The WDC requested clarification and direction from the Board concerning the Board's directive that the WDC develop non-title activities such as back-packing, hauling firewood, driving and the utilization of skills developed for working events for activities in real life were mentioned. The WDC's job description states that the committee is charged with the responsibility of providing information and opportunities for Newfoundlands to continue their historical role as working dogs. The committee should develop instructions for safety and the proper fit and use of the various harnesses and apparatus. It was stated that the committee should be more than just administering working tests.

Membership Committee

Mary Lou Cuddy, Membership Chair, reported on a letter she received that requested the use of the NCA membership list in order to publicize a book about living with Newfoundlands which was written by a non-NCA member. The Board declined to release the membership list and recommended that the author take out an advertisement in *Newf Tide*.

Unfinished Business

Election Ballot Outsourcing

Barbara Finch reported that she had considered two companies offering this service. There was a significant difference in price. The less expensive company had been recommended by the Bloodhound Club of America. Barbara is continuing discussions with that club and she has a proposed contract in hand. Discussions should be complete by the next week and the information will be forwarded to the Recording Secretary.

Specialty Show Committee

The Specialty Show Committee reported that the committee is voting and has chosen two of the three judges for the 2010 National Specialty. The judges for the Intersex class and the bitch classes have been selected, contracts pending. They are Charles Olvis for Intersex and Theresa Hundt for the bitch classes. The judge for the dog classes will be decided in the next few days. The 2010 National Specialty Chair, Sandee Lovett, requested Board approval to contact these two judges and to offer them a contract.

Kathy McIver moved and Sue Marino seconded that the NCA Specialty Show Committee contact the two judges recommended by that committee to judge at the 2010 National Specialty to confirm their availability and to send them a contract.

Several Board members stated that they would have preferred if the Board had had more input in the choice of judges. Due to the time constraints of the 2010 National Specialty, the committee felt this was the most efficient way. If the NCA continues to be the host for following National Specialties, then the Board will be more involved in the judges' selection. There was a brief discussion of letting the whole membership choose as is done in some clubs.

The motion passed unanimously. 3 Absent (KG, MLP, MR)

It was reported that the 2010 contract for the Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth, Michigan has been signed.

Health Abbreviations

There was a short discussion whether this item should be postponed until Meredith Reggie could be present so she could give her opinion as *Newf Tide* editor. It was stated that her opinion was included in the report.

Kathy McIver moved and Barbara Finch seconded that the Board approve the recommended health abbreviations for use in NCA publications. The motion passed unanimously. 3 Absent (KG, MLP, MR)

TOD/TODD Awards

It was the consensus of the Board to postpone the TOD/TODD awards to the September 18, 2008 meeting so that more Board members could participate in the discussion.

Working Achievement Award and Versatile Newfoundland Committees

There was a discussion concerning the separation of the Working Achievement Committee from the Versatile Newfoundland Committee. It was the consensus of the Board that the committees should be separated and that the committee list be updated to reflect that action.

New Business

Regional Club Insurance

Mary Lou Cuddy reported that the Northland Newfoundland Club was having trouble finding affordable insurance that would cover the club's activities. There was a discussion of the problems that clubs face in finding, getting, affording and keeping adequate insurance. The clubs were reminded that they may apply for grants from the NCA to help with costs. It was suggested that the NCA look into a blanket coverage that would cover all the clubs. It was the consensus of the Board to table this discussion until a later meeting.

Lewis and Clark College Logo

The Board considered the logo recently adopted by the Lewis and Clark College which featured an unflattering view of a Newfoundland dog. By consensus, the Board referred this to the General Education and Technical Resources Committees and requested that they contact the college and educate them about the Newfoundland dog.

2001 Health Survey

The Board considered the letter received from Beckie Stanevich regarding the final disposition of the 2001 Health Survey. The Board considered and then declined the offer of reimbursement for the survey made in the letter. By consensus, the Board requested that the Health & Longevity Committee write a final report, using the facts as presented in the letter, for publication in *Newf Tide*.

At 8:48 p.m., Pat Randall joined the meeting.

Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee

The Board considered a letter written by Steve Britton regarding the “additional levy” charged to international members for postage. The letter was referred to the *Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee*.

Black Paws Search and Rescue

The Board considered a letter received from the family of Susie Foley, the founder of Black Paws Search and Rescue, inquiring about the possibility of establishing ties with the NCA. By consensus, the Board directed the Corresponding Secretary to acknowledge the letter and ask for more detail as to what they had in mind. It was stated during discussion that they should become members and contribute articles to *Newf Tide*. The Board was reminded that this was a commercial venture for them so articles could be considered as advertising.

Recording of Teleconferences

A Board member stated that the technology had greatly improved and there is no good reason not to do record the meetings and make them available to the membership. Board meetings are to be open to the membership. It was felt by some Board members that very few members would utilize the recordings. There was the opinion expressed that some members could use parts of the recordings out of context. Concern was also expressed about the ease of being able to find specific conversations within the meeting without having to listen to the entire recording.

Pat Randall moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board request the Technical Resources committee to investigate taping the Board’s teleconferences and making them available to the membership. The committee will come back to the Board with a recommended plan and budget. The motion passed. 8 Yes (MLC, BF, RF, PKR, SM, KM, MLR, PSR); 1 Abstention (JB); 3 Absent (KG, MLP, MR)

At 9:03 p.m., Kathy McIver moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that the Board go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously. 3 Absent (KG, MLP, MR)

At 9:20 p.m., Mary Lou Roberts moved and Pat Randall seconded that the Board come out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously. 3 Absent (KG, MLP, MR)

While in executive session, the Board discussed a challenged membership application.

While in executive session, the Board discussed a hearing to be held at the October 31-November 2, 2008 face-to-face meeting over an Arbitration Committee decision.

Niagara Frontier Newfoundland Club

The Board discussed the failure of the NFNC to comply with the Board's last request. The Board discussed the timeline of holding a hearing on the matter. The timeline for holding a hearing at the fall face-to-face would be very tight. With that meeting scheduled to take place in St. Louis, Missouri, it would be an imposition for NFNC members to attend. The Board discussed holding the hearing at the 2009 National Specialty where it would be more likely that NFNC members would already be in attendance. With three Board members absent, it was felt that the discussion about a hearing should be postponed until all Board members are present.

At 9:36 p.m., Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. 3 Absent (KG, MLP, MR)

Submitted by
Mary Lou Cuddy
NCA Recording Secretary