

NCA Board of Directors Teleconference Meeting
Minutes of November 20, 2008
(Approved December 18, 2008)

Roger Frey, President, called the meeting to order at 8:08 p.m. Eastern time. The following directors were present: Jacqueline Brellochs (JB), Mary Lou Cuddy (MLC), Barbara Finch (BF), Roger Frey (RF), Sue Marino (SM), Kathy McIver (KM), Mary L. Price (MLP), Pat Randall (PKR), Meredith Reggie (MR), Mary Lou Roberts (MLR) and Pam Rubio (PSR). Kevin Gallagher (KG) was absent (arrived at 9:30 p.m.). Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was present. Sandee Lovett and Jennifer Zablotny were present as member guests.

Approval of Minutes

Mary Lou Cuddy reported that the October 30 – November 2, 2008 minutes were in the process of being prepared and would be available for approval at the Board's December teleconference.

Report of the President

Roger Frey, President, reported that he had retained the services of a parliamentarian for the 2009 Annual Membership Meeting. She lives near the show site and will be paid her fee plus mileage.

He also reported that he had received the renewal forms for the NCA's incorporation filing from the Connecticut Secretary of State. Roger reported that he will complete the form and forward it to Mary L. Price, Treasurer, who will pay the necessary fees.

Roger reported that he had not received a response from Lisa Davis, the NCA's attorney, regarding the legal opinion of the effect of an abstention when voting.

Report of the 1st Vice President

Mary Lou Roberts, 1st Vice President, reported on the Charitable Trust Management Board's (CTMB) meeting held on November 5, 2008. She reported that the CTMB discussed the timeliness of responses from the Research Advisory Committee. She also reported that the CTMB would like to send an email to all regional clubs to encourage non-NCA members to subscribe to the *NCA e-notes*. Mary Lou stated that the CTMB feels that the *NCA e-notes* is one of the best fund-raising aids the CTMB has right now. The next meeting of the CTMB will be December 3, 2008.

Report of the 2nd Vice President

Kathy McIver, 2nd Vice President, requested the Board's consideration of inserting into the job description of the Health & Longevity Committee (H&L) a requirement that the

committee report quarterly to the Board. There was discussion concerning adding this requirement to only this committee's job description and not the others.

Kathy McIver moved that the Board include in the revised Health & Longevity Committee job description a request for quarterly reports to the Board. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Kathy reminded the Board that job descriptions and member qualifications for the Technical Preparation and Electronic Publications Policy Committees need to be discussed.

Report of the Recording Secretary

Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary, reported that she had prepared and mailed the November 20, 2008 agenda and that the October 30 – November 2, 2008 face-to-face meeting minutes are in the process of being prepared. She also reported that the NCA election packet would be sent to the printer the next day.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary

Pat Randall, Corresponding Secretary, reported that he has received several items of correspondence. He received the bill for the NCA's AKC renewal and he had forwarded that bill to Mary L. Price for payment. There was a mailing received from the Metropolitan Dog Club inviting NCA members to a \$100.00 per plate breakfast which is a traditional Westminster event. A letter was received from the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) asking for donations. This letter was forwarded to the CTMB.

Pat reported that he had received a letter from the National Animal Interest Alliance asking the NCA to donate \$750.00 which was the amount of the donation made by the NCA in 2007 or to double the amount.

Mary Lou Cuddy moved and Pam Rubio seconded that a donation in the amount of \$750.00 be made to the National Animal Interest Alliance (NAIA). The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (KG)

Pat reported on a letter from AKC explaining that the PEDIGREE© Awards program had been expanded to include two new categories to recognize and honor AKC Parent Clubs' roles in breed-specific rescue. These categories are AKC Parent Club Breed Rescue of the Year and AKC Parent Club Breed Rescue Hero.

Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, requested that Pat write a letter to the AKC Museum of the Dog thanking them for the guided tour during the NCA Board's recent visit.

Pat reported on an email from an NCA member concerning the NCA's authority over regional clubs. Pat said that he would write a letter addressing this member's concerns and would share the letter with the Board.

Report of the Treasurer

Mary L. Price, Treasurer, reported the following balances: checking account: \$5,042.73; savings account: \$31,259.53; invested in CDs: \$283,767.36; and the NCA operations balance total of \$320,069.62 with \$3,908.23 in reserve for "Distinguished Member" expenses. The Uniform Trophy Fund account balance is \$10,915.95 for a total of \$330,985.57.

Report of the AKC Delegate

Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, reported that she had not received any recent communications from the AKC. She reported that Carl Gomez was a recent additional candidate in the AKC Board elections. Mary reported that she would be attending the December 2008 AKC Delegate's Meeting on Long Beach, California. Mary also reported that she has heard nothing from the *ad hoc* AKC Draft Test Committee but that committee does know that Sue Marino will sit on that committee.

Committee Reports

Breeders Education Committee

Kathy McIver, Breeders List Committee Chair, reported to the Board that the committee is continuing its work on several different projects.

Judges Education Committee

The Judges Education Committee reported that it had considered, as requested by the Board, the proposal to revise and send to NCA members the *Pocket Guide to the Standard*. The committee stated that there was a large inventory of the guides and perhaps that supply should be exhausted before revisions are considered. They also said that the committee felt the *Pocket Guide* was not sufficient to educate members and that more detailed material should be sent.

There was discussion about the sources for the wording of the *Pocket Guide* and the possibility of sending to NCA members the new DVD that the committee had developed for the judges. Some members of the Board were in favor of sending the DVD in place of the *Pocket Guide*. There was discussion about distribution costs and whether the DVD could be included in *Newf Tide* or if it would require a separate mailing.

Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the NCA provide the DVD developed as educational material by the Judges Education Committee to NCA members and *Newf Tide* subscribers at no charge. The method of distribution is to be investigated and reported back to the Board.

Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded to postpone the motion regarding the distribution of the educational DVD to the NCA membership and *Newf Tide* subscribers. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (KG)

There was continued discussion about logistics and mailing costs. A Board member asked if the DVD could be put on the *NCA Website* for downloading. Kathy McIver will contact the *Newf Tide* Policy Committee, the Judges Education Committee and the NCA Webmaster for input.

Kathy McIver moved and Sue Marino seconded to table the discussion of providing the *Pocket Guide to the Standard* to the NCA membership and *Newf Tide* subscribers until all the information about the educational DVD is gathered. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (KG)

2010 National Specialty

At 9:08 p.m., Sandee Lovett, 2010 National Specialty Show Chair, joined the meeting.

Sandee reported the following regarding the 2010 National Specialty plans. Cindi Goodwin and Kathy Paxton, former National Specialty Show Chairs, were very helpful with the planning and logistics. A contract has been signed with Roy Jones Dog Shows. The Specialty Show Coordinating Committee will be meeting in December and that more specifics will be available after that meeting.

There was a question about the notification of judges after one judge had learned about her invitation to judge the 2010 National Specialty from the *NCA Bulletin Board*. Sandee reported that there had been a slip in communication between her and Robin Seaman, Specialty Show Coordinating Committee Chair. Sandee stated that apologies have been made to the judge in question.

Sandee reported that an NCA member had volunteered to help with the logos and was designing several different logos for consideration.

At 9:14 p.m., Sandee Lovett left the meeting.

Nominating Committee

Kathy McIver, Committee Liaison, reported that all members of the 2009 Nominating Committee had agreed to serve.

Steering Committee

Mary Lou Roberts, Steering Committee Chair, requested the Board's input as to whether the Steering Committee needed the Board's permission to contact other NCA committees for information. The Board discussed the question. There was an inquiry if the CTMB would also be able to contact other committees also. Most Board members

felt that the Board should at least be kept “in the loop”. It was the consensus of the Board that committees should come through the Board with these requests.

At 9:27 p.m., Jennifer Zabloutny, Health & Longevity Committee Chair, joined the meeting.

She reported on the following items. The H&L has confirmation from OFA for the 2009 National Specialty DNA clinic, but that the committee has not heard back from Nancy Duggan, 2009 National Specialty Chair, on the status of the clinic from Great Lakes Newfoundland Club’s perspective.

At 9:30 p.m., Kevin Gallagher joined the meeting.

Jennifer requested that all information from the OFA come to H&L with a copy to the Board. In light of the earlier Board discussion about committee items coming through the Board, the Board discussed this further. It was suggested that all communications should go through the Corresponding Secretary who would then distribute the communications to the appropriate members or committees. There was discussion about the efficiency of distribution. By consensus, the Board agreed to have Pat Randall call Mr. Dziuk of OFA and to arrange to have Pat copied on all OFA correspondence where the NCA is involved.

Jennifer reported that H&L would like to work with international Newfoundland clubs and their respective health committees and the committee is in the process of preparing some health articles for *Newf Tide*. The DNA clinic handbook will be ready soon, probably in January, 2010. Jennifer stated that she would like to see all H&L members submit their dogs’ DNA to OFA. A Board member asked if the committee would start to consider developing a prevalence survey and also explore the establishing of some sort of informal or anecdotal center to report health problems using veterinarian records and not just layman reports.

The Board thanked Jennifer for accepting the position of H&L Chair.

At 9:48 p.m., Jennifer Zabloutny left the meeting.

Regional Club Liaison

Pam Rubio, Regional Club Liaison, presented the request from the Newfoundland Club of Seattle to change their Constitution and Bylaws. There was discussion regarding some sections of that document pertaining to membership definitions and the fiscal year. It was agreed that some clarifications were needed and further discussion was postponed.

The Board attempted to discuss the proposed changes to the Old West Newfoundland Club’s Constitution and Bylaws. The discussion was postponed to the next meeting due to the fact that most Board members could not open the electronic file.

Working Achievement Award

Kathy McIver reported that Brian Hodges, Working Achievement Award Chair, requested that the Board inform him of any additional directives for the committee.

Technical Resources Committee

Barbara Finch, Technical Resources Committee Co-Chair, reported that she has talked with Dan Carr, Technical Resources Committee Co-Chair, and Ascent Systems, the company developing the NCA database. She reported on the difficulty with the host company. The NCA database has been moved to another host company, In Motion Hosting, which does back-ups on a 24-hour basis and an account has been set up with them.

The committee is hoping to start entering data the week after Thanksgiving. There was some discussion of ROM notification. In the past, notifications had been sent when the requirements were met. The committee has requested that one yearly mass notification be considered.

Executive Session

At 10:31 p.m., Kathy McIver moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

At 10:50 p.m., Pam Rubio moved and Sue Marino seconded that the Board come out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

While in executive session, the Board approved the Applicants List dated November 20, 2008.

While in executive session, the Board appointed Peggy Pack as chair of the TOD/TODD committee.

While in executive session, the Board appointed Mary Jane Spackman to the Steering Committee.

Unfinished Business

Code of Ethics

The Board addressed the *Code of Ethics*. It was stated that the Board did not really finish the discussion of the *Code of Ethics* at the November face-to-face meeting as Board members and *Constitution and Bylaws* Review Committee members had to leave to travel home. It was said that the *Code of Ethics* must be finished before it and the *Constitution and Bylaws* can go to the AKC for its approval.

It was reported that Beverly Eichel, *Constitution and Bylaws* Review Committee Chair, wanted to divide the *Code of Ethics* into sections and have a group of Board members work on each section. The Board felt that this process would be unworkable. There was discussion about the most efficient way to develop the proposed *Code of Ethics* into a document that would be usable. It was stated that the Board still needs to determine the general direction of the document; whether it is to be a statement of best practices or to leave it as is. Some Board members felt the proposed *Code of Ethics* was a good starting point but it needed to be refined and the language tightened. It was the consensus of the Board that Mary Lou Roberts would review the proposed *Code of Ethics* and edit the document for brevity for the Board's review no later than the January 15, 2009 teleconference. The Board would review the changes and then send the document back to the committee for the committee's input.

At 11:13 p.m., Mary W. Price left the meeting.

New Business

Committee of the Whole

The Board discussed the concept of the committee of the whole and how it should be applied to the reporting of the minutes. It was stated that the committee of the whole is like a committee discussion. It must be reported out as a committee report with a minority viewpoint, if needed, and then the Board acts on the report, even to the point of opening up discussion again. Some Board members felt that the committee report could be posted on the *NCA Website* as a separate document from the minutes. It was stated that the way previous NCA Boards had conducted committees of the whole was more like executive sessions. Although all discussions were open to all NCA members, comments were not attributed to Board members in the minutes. Roger Frey stated that he had been given information about the committee of the whole but not that it had to be reported in the minutes. It was agreed that the Board would be more diligent in reporting discussion held in committees of the whole.

DNA Submissions as a Requirement for CHIC

Mary Lou Roberts moved and Pam Rubio seconded to include the submission of blood DNA as a requirement for OFA to award CHIC numbers for Newfoundlands.

Some Board members felt that the DNA submission was not appropriate as the CHIC registry is to show that a dog has had the appropriate health testing. Other Board members said that the DNA submission would make the CHIC number more valuable and would assist in collecting valuable genetic information.

Kathy McIver moved and Pam Rubio seconded to refer the motion regarding the submission of DNA as a requirement for OFA to award CHIC numbers for

Newfoundlands to the Health & Longevity Committee. The motion passed. 10 Yes (JB, MLC, BF, KG, SM, KM, MLP, PKR, MR, PSR); 2 No (RF, MLR)

The motion to include the submission of DNA as a requirement for OFA to award CHIC numbers for Newfoundlands was tabled until the Health & Longevity Committee reports back to the Board.

Niagara Frontier Newfoundland Club

Pam Rubio reported that there has been no reply from the Niagara Frontier Newfoundland Club to the Board's directives. The Board will prepare for a hearing at the 2009 National Specialty. Pam Rubio reported that she has received some minutes from the club.

At 11:44 p.m., Kathy McIver moved and Pam Rubio seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by,

Mary Lou Cuddy
NCA Recording Secretary