

NCA Board of Directors Teleconference Meeting
Minutes of December 18, 2008 (Approved January 15, 2009)

Roger Frey, President, called the meeting to order at 8:11 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 8:15 p.m.). Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was absent. Robin Seaman was present as a member guest.

There was a moment of silence to honor the memories of David Barber, Michael Schneider, Catherine Thost and other NCA members who may have passed recently.

Approval of Minutes

Pam Rubio moved and Barbara Finch seconded that the Board approve the October 30-November 2, 2008 face-to-face meeting minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (KG)

At 8:15 p.m., Kevin Gallagher joined the teleconference.

Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board approve the November 20, 2008 minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Report of the President

Roger Frey, President, had no report at this time.

Report of the 1st Vice President

Mary Lou Roberts, 1st Vice President, reported on the December 4, 2008 Charitable Trust Management Board (CTMB) meeting. The CTMB considered a request from a Newfoundland rescue group in the High Country Newfoundland Club region that is now covering that area. They immediately had six Newfoundlands surrendered to them. The group asked for a small start-up grant of \$500.00 from the CTMB. The grant was approved.

There was some discussion about this group. It was reported that this is an external group and is not a part of the High Country Newfoundland Club although there are NCA and High Country members involved. The group is working towards its 501(c)3. It was stated that the NCA is in uncharted territory in dealing with outside rescue organizations and that this issue should be discussed and considered by the Trust as these groups are likely to become more numerous as more regional clubs end rescue work.

Mary Lou Roberts also reported that the Research Advisory Committee had sent a proposal for a study on osteosarcoma to the CTMB. The CTMB is awaiting further information from the committee before deciding to fund this study.

Report of the 2nd Vice President

Kathy McIver, 2nd Vice President, stated that her report will be the Committee Reports.

Report of the Recording Secretary

Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary, reported that she had prepared the December 18, 2008 agenda, the October 30-November 2, 2008 and the November 20, 2008 minutes. She reported that the NCA Board election packet had been mailed to the members.

She reported on a phone call she had received from Joanne Peterson who had several concerns about the Newfoundland information packet that Joanne sends out by request. It was the consensus of the Board to refer these concerns to the General Education Committee for their input.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary

Pat Randall, Corresponding Secretary, reported that he had written a thank-you letter to the AKC Museum of the Dog as directed by the Board. The Board reviewed a letter that Pat had written to an NCA member in response to the member's concerns. The Board approved the letter by consensus. Pat reported on several items of correspondence. A letter from Dannyquest asking for information about the vendor chair for the 2009 National Specialty to which he had already responded. A request for the exchange of website links with other international Newfoundland clubs was received. This request was referred to the NCA Webmaster. The Board agreed that solicitations received from potential show sites, photographers, etc. would automatically be referred to the Special Show Coordinating Committee and local regional clubs.

Report of the Treasurer

Mary L. Price, Treasurer, reported the following balances: checking account: \$4,523.63; savings account: \$31,259.53; invested in CDs: \$283,767.36; and the NCA operations balance total of \$ 319,550.52 with \$3,908.23 in reserve for "Distinguished Member" expenses. The Uniform Trophy Fund account balance is \$11,070.54 for a total of \$330,621.06.

She reminded the Board that she had forwarded, by email, the end-of-the-year fiscal reports and first quarter Charitable Trust statements for their consideration.

Report of the AKC Delegate

Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, was absent. Kathy McIver reported that at the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship Show in Long Beach, California, the Newfoundland booth in the "Meet the Breeds" exhibition won the Working Group for the third year in a row and then went Best in Show. The Board congratulated all of those responsible for an excellent presentation of the breed. It was also reported that the Newfoundland took third place in the Working Group.

A Board member questioned the current Group re-alignment that the AKC is developing. She expressed concern that currently the Newfoundland is in the Working Group with guard and protection breeds and would the Newfoundland be better served by being in the new Northern group. It was stated that the NCA had not been informed nor had considered being able to change Groups. Input would have to be to the AKC by January 1, 2009.

At 9:10 p.m., Robin Seaman joined the teleconference.

Committee Reports

Specialty Show Coordinating Committee

Robin Seaman, Specialty Show Coordinating Committee Chair, reported that the committee had held a teleconference to discuss items that the Board had referred to the committee.

The committee discussed the posting of National Specialty information packets on the *NCA Website*. Hard copies would be available only by request. The committee unanimously agreed with posting the information packet on the *NCA Website* but that a prominent notice be used in the *NCA e-notes* and a page insert in *Newf Tide* to tell members how and where to get the packets. This would become effective with the 2010 National Specialty.

The committee discussed requiring each National Specialty to offer Graduate Novice, Veteran, Brace, and Team obedience classes. The committee had no concerns with the proposal other than providing trophies for classes where there may be only a few entrants or none. It was stated that current policy allows a club to have one full set of trophies by ringside for presentation and pictures. The actual trophies would then be mailed to the winners as soon as possible after the National Specialty.

The committee considered a proposal developed by Barbara Finch concerning the structuring of future National Specialties. Additional information is being developed and the committee had suggested to table discussion until a later date. There was some discussion about the regional clubs being assigned to divisions. In response to some concerns, it was stated that the clubs would be working under NCA direction and not directly with each other. The Board requested that the committee develop more ideas on this subject and update the Board at the face-to-face meeting at the 2009 National Specialty.

Robin reported that everything was moving along smoothly with the 2010 National Specialty.

Robin thanked Meredith Reggie and Sandee Lovett for their efforts in formatting the *Specialty Show Guide* and Kathy Paxton for her help in the development of that document. The committee plans one last review in hopes of getting the final document to the Board by January 7, 2009.

It was reported that Sandee Lovett, 2010 National Specialty Chair, received a good response from members to volunteer on committees. Sandee is working on those committee assignments and the committees will be announced soon.

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

The Board reviewed the information presented by Robin Seaman.

Meredith Reggie moved and Mary Lou Cuddy seconded that effective with the 2010 NCA National Specialty, the information packet for the National Specialty will be posted on the *NCA Website* and will not be sent with *Newf Tide*. Any NCA member may request a hard copy to be sent via mail. A page insert in *Newf Tide* will announce where the information packet can be found on the *NCA Website* and how to obtain a hard copy. The motion passed. 11 Yes (JB, MLC, BF, KG, SM, KM, MLP, PKR, MR, MLR, PSR); 1 No (RF)

Meredith Reggie moved and Mary Lou Cuddy seconded that the following non-regular obedience classes must be offered at the National Specialty Obedience Trial: Graduate Novice, Veteran, Brace, and Team. These classes will continue to be optional at regional trials held in conjunction with the National. The motion passed unanimously.

Electronic Communications and Email Addresses

The Board considered an email received from Marylou Zimmerman, NCA Webmaster, regarding a possible solution to Board and committee members receiving large amounts of spam. She suggested that all email to NCA addresses be sent to a webpage where each person could go to read their mail. This would eliminate spam in members' personal mailboxes. Some Board members felt uncomfortable with the idea. It was suggested that each member be given the choice. There was additional discussion on alternatives. By consensus, the Board took no action and referred the matter back to the NCA Webmaster for additional suggestions.

AKC Task Force

The AKC Task Force Committee reported on the AKC's proposal for the conditional registration of dogs that are eligible to be registered but are not currently registered with the AKC. A quarterly report is available from the AKC listing dogs that have been

approved for conditional registration. The AKC Task Force Committee asked that the NCA submit a request to the AKC to receive this quarterly report to monitor the possible registrations of European Continental Type Landseers (ECTL). The Board discussed the conditional registration concept and its implications.

Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the NCA submit a formal request to the AKC to receive the quarterly report on conditional registrations. The report should be sent to the Corresponding Secretary. The AKC Task Force Committee would like to be included in the distribution. The motion passed unanimously.

Breeder Education Committee

The Breeder Education Committee requested that the Board establish a “Members Only” section on the *NCA Website*. The committee reported that the NCA Webmaster had indicated that setting up such a section would be easy to accomplish. There was discussion regarding the content of such an area and what would be included. There was concern expressed about members who leave the NCA and how the “Members Only” section would be protected. It was said that it could all be done automatically with very little housekeeping.

Kathy McIver moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board approve the request from the Breeder Education Committee to establish a “NCA Members Only” section on the NCA’s website. The motion passed unanimously.

Breeders List Committee

The Board reviewed the proposed *Breeders List* application form and discussed the changes in the application form. The Board considered wording regarding the grievance clause. The Board expressed concern about a paragraph and debated its appropriateness.

Kathy McIver moved and Kevin Gallagher seconded that the Board delete the second paragraph of the proposed *Breeders List* application form. The motion passed unanimously.

It was suggested that the Board re-address the application form at its January meeting and that the application form be sent back to the Breeders List Committee for additional input. The application form must be approved by February for publication in *Newf Tide*. By consensus, the Board agreed to table discussion until the January 15, 2008 meeting.

Regional Club Liaison

The Board discussed the announcement of the “Meet the Breeds” booth and its Best in Show at the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship show in the *NCA e-notes*. It was agreed that a short announcement with one picture would appear in the *NCA e-notes*, with a larger article to follow in the next *Newf Tide*. It was reported that the booth was

developed and manned by a few Newfoundland Club of Southern California members; the Reinisch family, Denise Hatakeyama, Michelle Alpern, Kerrie Cook and Celia Gebhart.

The Board reviewed the proposed changes to the Old West Newfoundland Club's Constitution and Bylaws. There was discussion about the membership approval process, publicizing the applicants and the membership year coinciding with the fiscal year. It was stated that the Board and the AKC strongly recommend that the membership year and the fiscal year be separated. Pam Rubio, Regional Club Liaison, will take Board's comments to the Old West Newfoundland Club.

Judges Education Committee

The Judges Education Committee reported that the committee would like to move forward with the distribution of the educational DVD. The committee needs information from the *Newf Tide* Policy Committee about the feasibility of inserting the DVD into *Newf Tide*.

The Board discussed the *Pocket Guide to the Standard*. It was suggested that the current *Pocket Guide* be sent to the membership and then to review any changes to the new version. A Board member commented that the DVD and the *Pocket Guide* would target the different audiences within the NCA.

Executive Session

At 11:22 p.m., Kathy McIver moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

At 11:25 p.m., Kathy McIver moved and Kevin Gallagher seconded that the Board come out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

While in executive session, the Board approved the Applicants List dated December 18, 2008.

While in executive session, the Board appointed David Hartmann to the Health & Longevity Committee.

Unfinished Business

Code of Ethics

By consensus, the Board agreed to table discussion of the *Code of Ethics* until the next meeting.

New Business

Donation of “Distinguished Member of the Humane Society” Print

The Board discussed a comment made by staff members at the AKC Museum of the Dog after they were informed of the NCA’s role in the restoration of the “Distinguished Member of the Humane Society” painting. The staff had commented that they would like one of the prints for the Museum. There was a discussion whether the NCA should mat and frame the print.

Sue Marino moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the NCA donate a print of the “Distinguished Member of the Humane Society” to the AKC Museum of the Dog. The motion passed unanimously.

Donation to the Lewis and Clark Statue

The Board discussed the donation of a “brick” for the walkway at the Lewis and Clark statue in St. Charles, Missouri which the Board visited while in St. Louis, Missouri for their fall face-to-face meeting. Since there was no information available about the cost of a “brick”, the discussion was tabled until the January meeting.

Donation of “Distinguished Member of the Humane Society” Print

The Board returned to a discussion about the matting and framing of the print. It was suggested that a donation be given with the print so that the AKC Museum of the Dog could frame the print to its liking or the money could be used for another purpose to be determined by the Museum. The Board discussed whether the Museum would even display the print as all the other works displayed are originals. The Board was reminded that this is the only print made from the original painting.

Kathy McIver moved and Sue Marino seconded that the NCA donate a print of the “Distinguished Member of the Humane Society” to the AKC Museum of the Dog along with a \$500.00 donation to be used for framing the print or for whatever purpose the Museum wishes. The motion passed unanimously.

NCA Charitable Trust

By consensus, the Board will hold a Trustee meeting at the January meeting.

Technical Resources Committee

Barbara Finch, Technical Resources Committee Co-Chair, reported on the progress of the NCA database. There have been problems in getting Technical Resources Committee members and appropriate staff from Ascent Systems together for teleconferences. She stated that all new awards through July 2008 are in the database and that July through December will be entered soon. The committee is hopeful that all data will be entered by January 1, 2009. The Board thanked Barbara for her hard work.

Adjournment

At 11:42 p.m., Mary Lou Roberts moved and Pam Rubio seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by,
Mary Lou Cuddy
NCA Recording Secretary