

NCA Board of Directors Teleconference Meeting
Minutes of September 18, 2008
(Approved October 16, 2008)

Roger Frey, President, called the meeting to order at 8:07 p.m. Eastern time. The following directors were present: Jacqueline Brellochs (JB), Mary Lou Cuddy (MLC), Roger Frey (RF), Kevin Gallagher (KG), Sue Marino (SM), Kathy McIver (KM), Mary L. Price (MLP), Pat Randall (PKR), Meredith Reggie (MR), Mary Lou Roberts (MLR) and Pam Rubio (PSR). Barbara Finch (BF) was absent. Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was absent. Nicki Dobson was a member guest.

Approval of Minutes

Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary, reported that the minutes were not ready for approval.

Report of the President

Roger Frey, President, reported that he had received a letter from the Great Lakes Newfoundland Club requesting that the NCA help to cover the costs of the electricity, estimated cost \$3,000.00, which is needed in the grooming building at the 2009 National Specialty. There was discussion about the expense. It was said that the Board needed more detailed information.

Kevin Gallagher moved and Pam Rubio seconded to refer a letter from the Great Lakes Newfoundland Club regarding financial help for the grooming area and electrical costs to the Specialty Show Committee. The Specialty Show Committee is to develop a recommendation for the Board by the next agenda deadline. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (BF)

Report of the 1st Vice-President

Mary Lou Roberts, 1st Vice-President, reported on the September 10, 2008 Charitable Trust Management Board (CTMB) meeting. She reported that the CTMB needed the Board to approve the proposed mission statement for the CTMB. She also reported that the first payment has been made to Morris Animal Foundation for the cruciate study which is now underway. The CTMB is asking the AKC Canine Health Foundation and the Donor Advised Fund for an accounting of the NCA funds.

Consie Powell will be working on the revision of the fund-raising logo, "Your Gift, Their Future". Mary Lou reported that Susan Aspeotes will respond personally to all Health Challenge donations, except for those that accompany member's dues renewals. Donations will soon be able to be made through eBay's Mission Fish program. Marylou Zimmerman is setting up that program. The CTMB is hopeful that the new Dannyquest statue will be available for viewing by the Board at the October 31- November 2, 2008 face-to-face meeting.

Report of the 2nd Vice-President

In response to a question raised by Kathy McIver, 2nd Vice-President, the Board discussed clarifying the process and timing by which committees are informed of members who have volunteered to serve. It was suggested that a deadline be set on all committee vacancy postings. Committee volunteer requests should go through the 2nd Vice-President and not directly to the committee.

Kathy McIver requested the Board's input on the distinction between a committee vote and the committee voting by consensus. It was said that by using consensus, it would not be known if everyone agreed. It was recommended that the committees should have a quorum and votes should be taken.

The Health & Longevity Committee had requested clarification about the directive from the Board concerning the 2001 Health Study. The committee was asked to summarize the letter from Beckie Stanevich and develop an article for publication in *Newf Tide*.

Report of the Recording Secretary

Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary, reported that she had prepared the September 18, 2008 agenda and was currently working on the August 21 & September 11, 2008 minutes.

Mary Lou updated the Board on a new printing company for the election ballot packet. The printer had been affiliated with Printworks which had prepared the election packet for many years and is familiar with the NCA's requirements. The costs were also much less than the printer used the last two years.

Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Recording Secretary accept the quote from DB Designs to print the election packet. The motion passed. 10 Yes (JB, MLC, RF, PKR, SM, KM, MLP, MR, MLR, PSR); 1 Abstention (KG); 1 Absent (BF)

Report of the Corresponding Secretary

Pat Randall, Corresponding Secretary, reported on a letter received from Steve Britton concerning the additional levy that is charged to international members for the postage required to send *Newf Tide* out of this country. It was the consensus of the Board to refer this letter to the *Constitution and Bylaws* Review Committee. Pat reported on a letter from Ron Sell questioning the status of his previous inquiry. Ron was informed that it had been referred to the *Constitution and Bylaws* Review Committee. In answer to a query from Ron, Pat explained that the Board's email address had been changed to allow Pat to filter out the spam that was being received and that all other email was being sent to the Board.

Pat reported that he had cast the ballot as directed for the AKC Lifetime Achievement Award (Connie Barton for Conformation and Ken Buxton for Obedience) and he notified the AKC that the NCA will host a "Meet the Breeds" booth at the AKC/Eukanuba National

Championship Show. He reported on a letter received from an English Springer Spaniel Club looking for information about the generator that was used at the 2008 National Specialty in Rhode Island. Pat reported that he had referred the English Springer Spaniel Club to Cindi Goodwin who was Show Chair for that show. Pat also briefed that Board on topics that were being discussed on the Internet lists.

Report of the Treasurer

Mary L. Price, Treasurer, reported the following balances: checking account: \$76,465.31; savings account: \$6,242.63; invested in CDs: \$268,767.36; and the NCA operations balance total of \$351,475.30 with \$4,063.01 in reserve for "Distinguished Member" expenses. The Uniform Trophy Fund money market account balance is \$10,866.91 for a total of \$362,342.21.

There was a brief discussion about the rate of dues renewals. Mary anticipated a renewal rate of close to 97% was possible. She and Mary Lou Cuddy, Membership Chair, believe that the electronic newsletter has been very helpful in reminding members to send in their renewals. She also anticipated that Health Challenge donations will be higher than last year.

Report of the AKC Delegate

In the absence of Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, Mary Lou Cuddy reported that the AKC will not move forward with the mixed breed registration program. She reported that Mary would like the Board to consider who to appoint to an *ad hoc* AKC Draft Title Committee that may be formed by AKC.

Committee Reports

At 8:15, Nicki Dobson joined the meeting.

General Education Committee

Nicki Dobson, General Education Committee Chair, and the Board considered the outline of the old version of the *Newf and You* that Nicki presented. There was discussion about what areas needed to be added or updated for a revised version. The Board considered whether this document should be written for print or for the Internet. An Internet version would allow for hot links to be inserted into the text to give additional information. It was suggested that the print version mention the Internet version and how to access it for additional information. The committee will have a revised outline of a suggested new version for further review at the next teleconference. The Board thanked Nicki and the committee for their efforts.

At 9:06 p.m., Nicki Dobson left the meeting.

AKC Legislative Committee

Debbie Dennison, AKC Legislative Committee Chair, submitted a report detailing the legislation that the committee was following. She reminded NCA members that newly reported legislation is posted on the NCA website.

Membership Committee

Mary Lou Cuddy, Membership Chair, reported on efforts to find an NCA member with expertise with the InDesign program to prepare the *NCA Directory*. By consensus, the Board approved including a request for volunteers in the next issue of *E-Notes*, if needed.

She also reported on a reply to a letter she had written declining to release the membership list to a non-member to advertise his new book. A suggestion was given to this person to advertise in *Newf Tide*. She asked for clarification of the advertising policies for non-members.

At 9:00 p.m., Barbara Finch joined the meeting.

Breeders Education Committee

The Board discussed the heart study that the Breeders Education Committee (BEC) had developed. This study was developed to gather information to help breeders with decisions about heart puppies. There were questions as to confidentiality, whether the study should be peer-reviewed and if other NCA committees, such as the Research Advisory Committee and Health & Longevity should be included. Kathy McIver, Breeders Education Committee Chair, stated that the BEC was getting requests for advice on placing heart puppies and there is very little information available to help make such decisions. This study is more to do with placing puppies than with the health of the puppies.

Mary Lou Roberts moved and Sue Marino seconded to refer the Breeders Education Committee's proposed heart study to the Health & Longevity Committee and the Research Advisory Committee. The motion failed. 3 Yes (SM, MR, MLR); 8 No (JB, BF, RF, KG, PKR, KM, MLP, PSR); 1 Abstain (MLC)

Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded to inform the Breeders Education Committee that the Board is favorably disposed to the committee's recommendations of a heart study and the committee is encouraged to complete the development of the proposal. The motion passed. 10 Yes (JB, BF, RF, KG, PKR, SM, KM, MLP, MR, PSR); 1 No (MLR: I would have favored this motion if development of the study was going to include input from the NCA's Health committees.); 1 Abstain (MLC)

Kathy McIver informed the Board of the BEC's concerns with the proposed Breed Steward program. The committee had liability concerns in regards to public events and NCA members inviting strangers into their homes. The committee did state that they would support the proposal developed several years ago by Rescue Prevention Committee.

***Newf Tide* Policy Committee**

The *Newf Tide* Policy Committee (NTPC) requested that the Board approve their recommendation of a \$10.00 charge when a *Newf Tide* is returned because of an insufficient address. This charge would have to be paid before the *Newf Tide* would be re-sent. The magazine is not automatically forwarded and the NCA is charged \$4.60 to receive the issue from the post office and then another \$4.60 to re-send it to the member. Members have a responsibility to keep the NCA apprised of any change of address.

Pam Rubio moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that the Board accept the recommendation of the *Newf Tide* Policy Committee to charge NCA members when their issue of *Newf Tide* is returned and re-sent because of a change of address. The motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion about the editor position for the *Annual of Titlists*. Editing *Newf Tide* is a very time-consuming task and Meredith Reggie would like for someone else to take over editing the *Annual of Titlists*. It was stated that the vacancy should be posted on the website and that a formal contract would be needed. Persons applying for the position need to be made aware of the time commitment. There was some discussion about the editor being a volunteer or a paid position. Meredith had been paid for her work as editor of the *Annual of Titlists*.

Kathy McIver moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board request that the *Newf Tide* Policy Committee develop a proposal for the position of editor of the *Annual of Titlists* for the Board's review by the October 16, 2008 Board teleconference. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Abstention (MR)

There was some discussion about the current *Annual of Titlists* and the difficulty in getting the needed data from the Database Committee. Several Board members expressed concern about the lack of communication from the committee chair. Roger Frey will contact the committee chair about this issue.

As requested by the Board, the NTPC has considered the idea of a Communications Policy Committee to oversee all NCA communications. The NTPC reported that it is in favor of some kind of an oversight committee but feels that with their current workload with *Newf Tide*, they do not have the time to develop such a committee.

The Board will consider a Communications Policy Committee at the October 31-November 2, 2008 face-to-face meeting.

Rescue Education and Awareness Committee

The Rescue Education and Awareness Committee (REACT) reported that they are considering the Breed Steward Program and Online Classifieds issue as requested by the Board. They are also working on the final stages of the "Life Stages" newsletter so that program may be launched in the near future. They will have a full report for the Board's October 16, 2008 meeting.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee reported that they had discussed, per the Board's request, the topic of whether breeders should advertise on puppies-for-sale websites. The committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Board that advising breeders whether or not to advertise on these websites or in any print or electronic media is overstepping the mandate of the NCA.

The Board discussed the recommendation of the committee that the size of the committee be set at no fewer than five members and no more than nine members.

Mary Lou Roberts moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board accept the recommendation of the Steering Committee that the Steering Committee be comprised of no fewer than five members and no more than nine members. The motion passed unanimously.

Working Dog Committee

The Board discussed the Addendum to NCA Working Test Rules: Handling of Entries, Alternates and Refunds. Several Board members expressed concern about the procedure for the handling of refunds and the clarity of the explanation. They felt that there would be complaints from the entrants on the alternate lists. There was discussion concerning what was fair to the clubs and to the entrants.

Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board accept the Working Dog Committee's Addendum to the NCA Working Test Rules: Handling of Entries, Alternates and Refunds as amended. The motion passed. 10 Yes (JB, MLC, BF, RF, PKR, SM, KM, MLP, MLR, PSR) 1 No (MR: I voted no simply because I object to the refund policy); 1 Abstention (KG)

Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee

The Board reviewed the proposed *Code of Ethics*. Many Board members felt the proposed version was vague, difficult to follow and repetitious. It was reported that some on the committee felt that the current *Code of Ethics* was unenforceable and that the proposed version is aggressive and proactive. Committee members justified the repetition as they felt some points could not be stressed enough. Some Board members felt that the *Code of Ethics* should be short, sweet and concise. Some Board members would like to see more "teeth" in the document but first it has to be more factual and not so subjective.

The Board decided that each Board member should share their concerns by email and Pat Randall will collate the responses for discussion at the October 16, 2008 meeting.

Executive Session

At 11:04 p.m., Pat Randall moved and Barbara Finch seconded that the Board go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

At 11:21 p.m., Kathy McIver moved and Pat Randall seconded that the Board come out of executive session.

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

While in executive session, the Board discussed a challenged application. Two Board members will make some inquiries of their local AKC Field Representative regarding the applicant.

While in executive session, the Board discussed the CTMB's discussions with Debbie Jordan to advise the CTMB on the establishment of the Charitable Giving Program. The Board had no objections.

While in executive session, the Board approved the recommendation of the *Newf Tide* Policy Committee for the contract for the editor of *Newf Tide*.

While in executive session, the Board approved asking the Steering Committee for recommendations on two proposed committee members.

Niagara Frontier Newfoundland Club

The Board discussed the refusal of the Niagara Frontier Newfoundland Club (NFNC) to comply with the Board's requests. It was stated that the NCA cannot force the dissolution of NFNC but the Board can no longer recognize them a regional club. The *Policy Manual* outlines the procedure to be followed for a hearing. It was the consensus of the Board that proceeding with a hearing at the 2009 National Specialty would be best as more NFNC members would likely be able to attend.

It was noted that the six-month period of time for the suspension of NFNC's ability to hold NCA functions has expired and, therefore, NFNC is no longer suspended from hosting functions. Several Board members also expressed questions about what ability the NCA has, given our Constitution, to sanction regional clubs.

Pam Rubio moved and Pat Randall seconded that the Board will consider proceeding with a hearing at the 2009 National Specialty involving the Niagara Frontier Newfoundland Club as per guidelines in the NCA Policy Manual if there is no resolution reached. The motion passed. 8 Yes (BF, MLC, KG, PKR, SM, KM, MLP, PSR); 1 No (MR); 3 Abstain (JB, RF, MLR)

TOD & TODD Awards

The Board resumed discussion of the administration of these awards and whether a separate committee is needed or appoint someone to the Awards Committee to handle just these awards. The Board then discussed the awards themselves. It was stated that there was a

great deal of support for donations to the Health Challenge in place of pins or patches. Discussion then turned to the listing of recipients in *Newf Tide*, the *Annual of Titlists* and at the Annual Membership Meeting.

Maredith Reggie moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board rescind the motion regarding administration of the TOD and TODD awards made at the January 17 – January 24, 2008 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Maredith Reggie moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the TOD and TODD awards be listed in the Annual of Titlists and, upon request, that they will be recognized with a pin. The motion passed unanimously.

By consensus, the Board agreed that a posting asking for volunteers for this committee be put on the *NCA Website*.

Adjournment

At 12:05 p.m., Maredith Reggie moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by,
Mary Lou Cuddy
NCA Recording Secretary