

NCA Board of Directors Teleconference Meeting
Minutes of January 15, 2009 (Approved February 19, 2009)

Roger Frey, President, called the meeting to order at 8:06 p.m. Eastern time. The following directors were present: Jacqueline Brellochs (JB), Mary Lou Cuddy (MLC), Barbara Finch (BF), 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). Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was present. Betty McDonnell was present as a member guest.

Report of the Treasurer

By consensus, the Board agreed to hear the Treasurer's report at this time due to Mary L. Price's need to leave the meeting for a period of time.

Mary L. Price, Treasurer, reported the following balances: checking account: \$1,567.80; savings account: \$31,259.53; invested in CDs: \$284,169.00; and the NCA operations balance total of \$316,996.33 with \$3,908.23 in reserve for "Distinguished Member" expenses. The Uniform Trophy Fund account balance is \$9,248.42 for a total of \$ 326,244.75.

Mary reported that she was processing the invoices for the Uniform Trophies and the limited edition plates and that those balances would be reduced quickly.

In response to some concerns from members, the Board discussed including an article in *Newf Tide* to be written by the Treasurer to explain NCA financial operations. The Treasurer requested that Board members send her additional subjects for inclusion.

Pat Randall moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the NCA Treasurer compose an article to be published in *Newf Tide* outlining NCA financial operations, such as, but not limited to, the various pools of money and how and under what circumstances these monies are moved from one pool to another. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board briefly discussed the setting of dues and NCA finances. There was discussion about the cost of a *Newf Tide* subscription versus the amount of membership dues. It was stated that the approved *Newf Tide* article will explain the need for the reserves and that the reserves will not affect the NCA's non-profit status. The Board was demonstrating financial responsibility by having Edmund Sledzik, the NCA tax preparer, advise the Board. The Board agreed to continue this discussion at the February 19, 2008 teleconference.

Pat Randall moved and Kevin Gallagher seconded to add a discussion about dues to the February 19, 2009 teleconference agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:35 p.m., Mary L. Price left the teleconference.

Approval of Minutes

Kathy McIver moved and Sue Marino seconded that the December 18, 2008 minutes be approved as amended. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (MLP)

Report of the President

Roger Frey, President, requested that the Board set the meeting schedule for the face-to-face meeting to be held at the 2009 National Specialty.

After discussion, it was agreed that the Board would meet as follows: Sunday, April 26, 2009 from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.; Monday, April 27, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 28, 2009 will be the Annual Membership Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Board will follow.

There was some discussion about appointing committees. Some Board members asked that there be a discussion about committee personnel during the face-to-face meeting so that out-going members of the Board could comment. Committees could then be appointed later at the next teleconference meeting. It was agreed that there would be some discussion about committee personnel at the February and March teleconferences.

Report of the 1st Vice President

Mary Lou Roberts, 1st Vice President, reported the following from the Charitable Trust Management Board (CTMB) held on January 7, 2009. The CTMB discussed possible rescue grants to non-affiliated rescue groups but reached no decision at that meeting. The CTMB is concerned that the chatter on the Internet lists about NCA finances may hurt donations to the Charitable Trust. The giving program is in progress. The new Dannyquest statue will be ready for preview soon. There are ten remaining of the previous statues. The new one will be the last in the series of three statues.

Report of the 2nd Vice President

Kathy McIver, 2nd Vice President, reported that all the annual committee reports have been submitted. She reported that the *Specialty Show Guide* will be ready for the Board's review in a few weeks.

Report of the Recording Secretary

Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary, reported that she had prepared the January 15, 2009 agenda and the December 18, 2008 minutes. She reported that the election process had started and members have started to return their ballots to the ballot counters. She reported on some correspondence that she had received: a request for information about Karen Killilea, comments on National Specialty expenses for members and a letter from a Canadian publishing company requesting information.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary

Pat Randall, Corresponding Secretary, reported on the conversations he had with OFA's Eddie Dziuk. Pat stated that he will now be copied on all OFA correspondence regarding the NCA and that the quarterly OFA reports will be sent to him. Pat reported that the Health & Longevity Committee would like a copy of the quarterly reports sent to that committee. An NCA member had also requested a copy of the report. It was questioned if there was any restriction in where the reports were forwarded. Pat will confirm an answer with OFA.

Pat updated the Board on the subjects under discussion on the Internet lists. He also reported on information about the changes to breed standards in the United Kingdom due to animal rights activists. It was reported that People for the Ethical Treatment for Animals was attempting to force television networks not to broadcast the Westminster dog show. There was a report on some mandatory spay/neuter laws that had been passed. Several letters from the AKC were summarized for the Board.

There was some discussion concerning a letter from a non-member asking if NCA had a policy about umbilical hernias. The Board felt that this was a medical matter between the non-member, the breeder of the puppy and her own veterinarian. The letter was also referred to the Breeders Education Committee.

At 9:38 p.m., Betty McDonnell joined the teleconference.

Judges Education Committee

There was discussion about the distribution to NCA members of the *Pocket Guide to the Standard* and the DVD that the Judges Education Committee (JEC) had recently developed. The JEC was almost unanimous that the *Pocket Guide* was inappropriate to send to NCA members but the committee recommended that the DVD be sent instead. The DVD still needs Board approval but some Board members had not received a copy of it. Betty reported that an ad had been placed in the AKC Judges' newsletter that judges may request a complimentary copy of the DVD.

Betty stated that the JEC prefers the *Pocket Guide* be left as it currently appears. It was reported that the proposed changes to the *Pocket Guide* requested by some Board members were developed from an old version of the *Pocket Guide* which had been revised several years ago. The JEC will send the current version to each Board member.

It was reported that the JEC is awaiting cost figures from the *Newf Tide* Policy Committee for inserting the DVD into *Newf Tide*. These costs would be weighed against the costs for a stand-alone mailing.

It was reported that the JEC felt that most members would not utilize either the Pocket Guide or the DVD. Some Board members felt that it was important to get as much information as possible into the hands of members.

At 9:52 p.m., Betty McDonnell left the teleconference.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary

Pat Randall continued with his report. There was discussion about the proposed policy statement on breeding cystinuria carriers. A discussion about using carriers as breeding stock and the philosophy of "it is not as important to eliminate the gene, it is more important not to produce the disease" ensued. Geneticists' recommendations of choosing non-carriers in successive generations were discussed.

Mary Lou Roberts moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board accept the cystinuria policy statement as presented.

There was some discussion of sending the proposed statement to the Health & Longevity Committee.

At 10:10 p.m., Mary L. Price returned to the teleconference.

Meredith Reggie moved and Sue Marino seconded to refer the proposed cystinuria policy statement to the Health & Longevity Committee for review with comments to be received by the Board by the February 19, 2009 teleconference. The motion passed. 8 Yes (JB, MLC, BF, RF, KG, SM, MR, PSR); 3 No (KM, PKR, MLR); 1 Abstention (MLP)

Report of the AKC Delegate

Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, reported the following. She had attended all the AKC functions at the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship show in Long Beach, California. She stated that the proceeds from a Canine Health Foundation auction there exceeded expectations. She reported in detail about the Newfoundland "Meet the Breeds" booth that went Best in Show. She attended the AKC Standing Committee and the Parent Club Committee meetings. The Parent Club Committee meeting had a discussion about the proposed group re-alignment and Code of Ethics development for parent clubs. The candidates for the Class of 2013 election held a round table discussion prior to the Delegates meeting. They will be voted on at the March 2009 meeting in Newark, New Jersey. She reported that the Delegates meeting was brief and anti-climatic. She mentioned that a recent issue of *Dog News* had a full page ad listing donors to the AKC Humane Fund and she was pleased that the NCA was listed.

At 10:30 p.m., Mary W. Price left the teleconference.

Committee Reports

Breeder Education Committee

Kathy McIver, Breeder Education Committee (BEC) Chair, presented the Board with data showing what other parent clubs are doing in the way of education.

The BEC reported on the committee's proposal for education grants. The committee asked whether the Board would consider opening the guidelines to include any educational seminar. There was a brief discussion regarding asking for financial information from a club requesting a grant. The committee stated that they were not comfortable asking for that information and questioned whether a regional club really would deliberately try to cheat the program.

The BEC reported on the kennel management study concerning the placement of heart puppies. The committee is still working on the details of the study. The study will be statistically viable. All data collection will be done with dynamic pdf files (drop-down windows) which will be easy to use and will guarantee confidentiality. The committee is hoping to debut the study at the 2009 National Specialty.

General Education Committee

The General Education Committee requested input from the Board about the address to be used on the full-page ads that are being developed. There was a brief discussion about the \$5.00 education packet that is sent out by Joanne Peterson. It was the consensus of the Board that the General Education Committee Chair's address should appear on these ads and that the small ads in Dog World and Dog Fancy should continue to refer people to the education packet.

There was a discussion about the photographs used in the new ads. It was stated that the one picture is copyrighted and cannot be used. It was suggested that the committee consult Meredith Reggie to see if any photos from the photo contest would be suitable.

Mary Lou Roberts moved and Kathy McIver seconded to refer the Board's comments concerning the photographs in the full page ad to the General Education Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the proposed trading cards as presented. There was concern expressed about the use of an NCA patch on the cards. It was felt that the patch was not suitable for these cards. There was also a brief discussion of the puppy photograph that was used.

Barbara Finch moved and Pam Rubio seconded to refer comments concerning the patch and photographs appearing on the proposed "trading card" to the General Education Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Regional Club Liaison

Pam Rubio, Regional Club Liaison, presented proposed changes to the Newfoundland Club of Seattle's Constitution and Bylaws.

Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board approve the revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Newfoundland Club of Seattle. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed the proposed changes to the Heart of America's Constitution and Bylaws. The Board expressed some concerns about some of the changes.

By consensus, the Board directed Pam Rubio to take these concerns back to the Heart of America club for their review.

The Board discussed the hearing for the Niagara Frontier Newfoundland Club to be held at the 2009 National Specialty. The timelines and procedures for such a hearing will be reported back to the Board at the February 19, 2009 teleconference.

Pam Rubio requested that the Board approve that BEC's educational grant program proposal so that she may present it at the regional club meeting at the 2009 National Specialty. The Board discussed the application and approval process.

Kathy McIver moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board approve the Breeders Education Committee's educational grant program proposal for regional clubs as presented by the Breeders Education Committee with a limit of \$500.00 per club per year. Regional clubs must apply to the Breeders Education Committee no later than 60 days before the event. The Breeders Education Committee will give the application preliminary approval with final approval from the NCA Board. The motion passed unanimously.

Technical Resources Committee

The Board discussed the recording of the teleconference meetings. It was stated that AccuConference, which is the current provider for the NCA's teleconference meetings, has the capability to record the teleconferences. There was concern expressed that it is difficult to find specific topics or discussions without listening to the whole teleconference. It was said that the recording can be stopped by the moderator at any time. This could be used to break up the teleconference into sections. It would also alleviate concerns about executive session confidentiality. A Board member stated that recording the teleconferences would make the Board's business transparent to the membership. Even if very few members would ever take advantage of the recordings, the principal of transparency is resolved. Barbara Finch will call AccuConference and report back at the February 19, 2009 teleconference.

Barbara Finch, Technical Resources Co-Chair, reported on the NCA database. The committee and Ascent Systems, the company developing the software are tweaking screen designs. Data is being entered. The Board discussed that the first thing to be done when the database is operational is to generate the pedigrees for the *Annual of Titlists*, to be followed in order by new Versatile Newfoundlands titlists and new Register of Merit titlists. There was additional discussion that the *Annual of Titlists* is now 2 issues late and that combining the 2007 and 2008 issues into one should be considered. It was suggested that the Versatile Newfoundland and Register of Merit titlists be pulled first as the awards need to be made up for the 2009 National Specialty and then work can start on a combined *Annual of Titlists*.

Executive Session

At 11:49 p.m., Pam Rubio moved and Barbara Finch seconded that the Board go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

At 12:06 a.m., Kathy McIver moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board come out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

While in executive session, the Board approved the replacement of the Technical Resources Committee Chair.

While in executive session, the Board approved Barbara Finch as Chair of the Technical Resources Committee until the 2009 National Specialty.

While in executive session, the Board approved the Applicants List dated January 15, 2009.

Health & Longevity Committee

Meredith Reggie brought up that she would like to publish an article in *Newf Tide* that she is writing about the new cardiology registry that the cardiologists are promoting. She noted that she is writing the article as *Newf Tide* editor and not as a Board member. She has obtained input and guidance from the cardiologists at Purdue University. She would like to send it to the Health & Longevity Committee for their input. There was some discussion that the article should have been referred to the committee and the committee would write it. The Board agreed by consensus that since Meredith has already done the research and the interviews, she will send the article to the Health & Longevity Committee for their review and then proceed to publish it in *Newf Tide*.

Technical Resources Committee

In response to a Board member's question, Mary L. Price stated that she had not received any additional invoices from Ascent Systems for the NCA database

development. She will send copies of all paid invoices to Barbara Finch so that she may check with the company as to any additional fees that may need to be paid.

The Board held a moment of silence for the passing of Gerlinde Hockla.

At 12:21 a.m., Kathy McIver moved and Pam Rubio seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by,

Mary Lou Cuddy
NCA Recording Secretary