

NCA Board of Directors
Face-to-Face Board Meeting
Minutes of November 6-8, 2009
(Approved December 17, 2009)
Honor's Haven Resort
Ellenville, NY

Roger Frey, President, called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m., Eastern Time. The following directors were present: Lynne Anderson-Powell (LA), Jacqueline Brellochs (JB) (via teleconference), Mary Lou Cuddy (MLC), Roger Frey (RF), Sue Marino (SM), Kathy McIver (KM), Mary L. Price (MLP), Pat Randall (PKR), Meredith Reggie (MR), Mary Lou Roberts (MLR) (via teleconference), Pam Rubio (PSR) and Pam Saunders (PS). Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was present.

Due to the trouble with the phone lines, the meeting could not be recorded. By unanimous consent, the Board agreed to waive the regular order of business until the phone lines were working in order to record the meeting in compliance with current NCA policy.

Executive Session

At 10:50 p.m., Lynne Anderson-Powell moved and Pam Saunders seconded that the Board go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

At 12:55 p.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 considered the November 6, 2009 Applicants List.

While in executive session, the Recording Secretary reported the Board had approved the Applicants List dated October 15, 2009.

While in executive session, the Board forwarded a proposal for a Technical Preparation Committee to the Regional Club Committee for review and discussion.

While in executive session, the Board awarded the Heroic Newfoundland Award.

While in executive session, the Board awarded Honorary Membership to Claire Carr.

While in executive session, the Board appointed the following members to the Nominating Committee: Cheryl Dondino, Chair, Ivan Rakyta, Cissy Sullivan, Ken Wildman, Geraldine Willis, with alternates Mary Lou Roberts and Bob Rogers.

At 1:00 p.m., the Board recessed the meeting for lunch.

At 2:00 p.m., the Board reconvened the meeting.

At 2:03 p.m., Marylou Zimmerman and Barbara Finch joined the meeting via teleconference.

Technical Resources Committee

Barbara Finch, Technical Resources Committee (TRC) Chair, reported that she had received an email that morning from Flip Young which stated that the information in Flip's database was intact and accurate up to January 1998. Barbara thanked Flip for the information and Flip will be sending files to Marylou Zimmerman and Deb Bridges, TRC members. The information is in a program known as Dbase 3. Marylou and Deb will be able to pull the information from it and format it so as to be able to input it into the NCA Database. Barbara also reported that AKC can give us electronic information back to 1980. In answer to a question regarding working titles, Flip assured Barbara that her database contained all NCA and AKC titles to 1998. It was agreed by all that this was encouraging news.

Marylou Zimmerman reported to the Board that her husband and his associates work in this field and have offered to work *pro bono* to tweak the NCA Database, massage the interface and generally help to make the database more user-friendly. In return, they would like to use the NCA Database as an example of their work when meeting with potential clients.

In answer to a question, Barbara reported that all questionable pedigrees in the *Annual of Titlists* were pulled and she is working on each one individually.

There was a brief discussion about the "German database". It was stated that this particular database serves a different function than the NCA Database and it is beneficial to the NCA to support the German one. Phase 1 of the NCA Database was developed to generate reports for *Newf Tide*, the *Annual of Titlists*, *Register of Merit* and *Versatile Newfoundlands*. In this phase, it was not intended to list every Newfoundland in the country.

There was some discussion that the cystinuria and heart information sent to the NCA had been forwarded to the previous Database Committee Chair and she has acknowledged that fact. It was asked if the Board should write a letter to request that that information be returned to the NCA.

The discussion turned to requesting information from the AKC. The AKC can generate an electronic report going back to 1980. The AKC would charge \$500.00 for this report which would include AKC awards, dog, sire, dam, registration number, owner and breeder, color and date of birth.

Pam Rubio moved and Pat Randall seconded that the Board approve paying \$500 to the American Kennel Club for data from the years 1980-2006 for the NCA Database. The motion passed unanimously.

It was asked if the importing of the AKC data would override the issues with the colors. The problem should be solved with the AKC data. The color problems are being caused by the color codes between the old data and the new database not matching. When one color is fixed, it can cause another color to change.

The Board reviewed the latest invoice from Ascent Systems. Barbara has reviewed it also and feels that it is correct. There is now just one more additional invoice to be paid. Ascent Systems has been told that any further work on the database will have to be authorized by Barbara. The TRC and Marylou Zimmerman's husband and associates should be able to do all further repairs to the code and programming as needed.

Marylou Zimmerman reminded the Board that with the database being hosted on an Internet Service Provider which the NCA pays for, the database does not belong to any one specific person. It uses open source code which will allow continued updates and improvements and accessibility. The back-ups are done automatically and there is adequate security.

There was a brief discussion that the last invoice from Ascent Systems should not be paid until we have a copy of the signed contract and a release of intellectual property rights, etc.

At 2:40 p.m., Barbara Finch left the meeting.

Electronic Publications Policy Manual

Marylou Zimmerman, Electronic Publications Policy Committee (EPPC) Chair, reviewed the proposed EPPC Policy Manual that the committee had developed. A Board member asked if past policies could be added to the end of the document so that a history would always be available.

There was a question about the mission statement. Marylou explained that when content, including pictures, is constantly changed and updated, this increases the search engine rankings in a positive manner, giving the website higher visibility. She also explained that the EPPC will moderate when a committee disagrees with another committee's posting and if a consensus cannot be reached, the NCA Board will have the final say.

Concern was expressed about a statement that the EPPC would have responsibility for all electronic files and records. Some Board members felt the statement was too all-inclusive and should the NCA Database fall under EPPC's umbrella. The consensus of the Board was to ask that the wording be changed from "files and records" to "publications". The TRC will be asked to develop policies relating to the NCA Database. The EPPC Policy Manual will be available on the *NCA Website* when it is approved and it was agreed that the EPPC will follow the style guidelines as developed by the *Newf Tide* Policy Committee (NTPC).

Proposal for an NCA Public Relations Spokesperson

Marylou Zimmerman and the EPPC have proposed that the Board appoint a Public Relations Spokesperson. The spokesperson would act much like the President's Press Secretary. It was stated that in this age of instant communication, the NCA Board needs to have procedures in place to address issues quickly as they arise. It was suggested that in dealing with the Internet lists, that an announcement be placed on the lists that a response from the Board will be posted on the *NCA Website*.

Pam Saunders moved and Pat Randall seconded that the Board consider the recommendation from the Electronic Publications Policy Committee in regards to the proposed Public Relations Spokesperson no later than the December 17, 2009 teleconference. The motion passed unanimously.

Marylou also cautioned that committee chairs need to be careful with their signature lines. Chairs cannot post personal opinions and use their signature as a committee chair. It was recommended that Kathy McIver, Committee Liaison, remind the committee chairs of this.

At 3:21 p.m., Marylou Zimmerman left the meeting.

The Board continued discussion of the EPPC Policy Manual. The Board considered that the EPPC should act as the NTPC does for the editor of *Newf Tide*. It was said that an NCA Webmaster should have the same back-up as does the editor of *Newf Tide*. It was suggested that the Board appoint additional members to the EPPC.

Lynne Anderson-Powell moved and Pam Saunders seconded that the Board approve the *Electronic Publications Policy Manual* as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

The Board considered the October 15, 2009 minutes.

Pam Rubio moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board approve the October 15, 2009 minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (MR)

Report of the President

Roger Frey, President, congratulated Mary W. Price for her 25 years of service as the NCA's AKC Delegate. Mary's service was recognized at the AKC Delegates meeting in September. The Board added their congratulations and gave Mary a standing ovation.

Report of the 1st Vice President

Mary Lou Roberts, 1st Vice President, reported on the Charitable Trust Management Board meeting held on November 4, 2009. Marylou Zimmerman had called into that meeting to discuss fundraising possibilities using Facebook and other social networking sites.

Mary Lou informed the Board that Clyde Dunphy and Andy Zinsmeyer attended that AKC Parent Health Conference and that each is writing a report for the Board and *Newf Tide* on the different seminars they each attended while at the conference.

Report of the 2nd Vice President

Kathy McIver, 2nd Vice President, told the Board her report would be under the committee reports.

Report of the Recording Secretary

Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary, reported that she had prepared the November 6-8, 2009 agenda and the October 15, minutes. She presented the estimates for the printing and counting of the election ballots from DB Designs and Connections to Quality, respectively. There was a brief discussion of ways to encourage members to vote. The Board may consider posting the candidates' biographies on the *NCA Website* in the future. The Board thanked Mary Lou for her efforts on behalf of the NCA.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary

Pat Randall, Corresponding Secretary, reported that he continues to monitor the Internet lists. He received a letter from a former member who wishes to re-join but is asking why former members still have to pay the application fee. This will be addressed under the Membership Committee report. Pat reported that an NCA member is unhappy with the audio recordings that are posted on the *NCA Website* and the fact that they are not available immediately but are held until the approved minutes are posted. Pat informed the Board that preparing the audio recordings is a time-consuming process and not one accomplished quickly. There was a brief discussion about the very small number of hits on the recordings.

Pat reported that he had received a second letter from the Western Dog Judge Association which he forwarded to Denise Castonguay, Judges Education Committee Chair.

Pat informed the Board of an email sent to his Board address that had ended up in the junk mail folder. A brief discussion occurred regarding the best way to handle this problem. Pat called the woman who sent the email about her bad experience with an NCA breeder. Pat referred her to the Arbitration Committee and called Nancy Aliff, Arbitration Committee Chair, to inform that this issue was coming to the committee. A

brief discussion ensued about the Arbitration committee reporting to the Board about committee activities.

Report of the Treasurer

Mary L. Price, Treasurer, reported the following balances: checking account: \$4,642.46; checking account – 2010 National Specialty: \$1,217.85; savings account: \$26,241.47; invested in CDs: \$210,788.66; and the NCA operations balance total of \$242,890.44 with \$4,350.08 in reserve for "Distinguished Member" expenses. The Uniform Trophy Fund account balance is \$7,572.43 for a total of \$250,462.87.

Mary reported that she will come back to the Board for bank approval when she can find better interest rates for the CDs. She informed the Board the CD terms will be as short as possible and she hopes the rates start to rise.

A question was raised about the 2010 National Specialty checking account. Mary replied that she had deposited \$2,000.00 to the account as requested by the Board. The 2010 National Specialty Committee has ordered the t-shirts for the Top Twenty. The activity in the account will increase as the National Specialty gets closer.

Mary reported that the 2010 National Specialty trophies have not yet been ordered. At that same time, the Uniform Trophy Committee will purchase the trophies for 2011 as previously approved by the Board.

Mary shared with the Board the membership renewal information in a chart form. It showed that the membership is staying quite stable as far as the number of members. The size of donations made by members were down but more members contributed than last year.

In response to a question, Mary said that she has been the NCA Treasurer since 1987. She was thanked for her years of service to the membership and the club.

Report of the AKC Delegate

Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, reported that she had attended AKC's Meet the Breed event in New York City and that it was very successful with over 36,000 people attending over the two days. She complimented the Bear Mountain Newfoundland Club for their booth and success in educating people about the breed. The AKC may consider making this a yearly event.

Mary distributed to the Board several articles on the AKC archives, Victorian art and the restoration of Landseer's "Distinguished Member of the Humane Society" and the AKC proposal for a Grand Champion title. She reported that the vote on the proposal for group realignment has been postponed until March 2010.

Committee Reports

AKC Breeder Referral Committee

The Board considered a request from Naomi Young Meyer to distribute the *Breeders List* at the Westminster Kennel Club show and attach a label to it encouraging participation in regional clubs. There was discussion about using *Breeders Lists* versus other NCA publications and directing interested people to the *NCA Website*.

Kathy McIver moved and Sue Marino seconded that the Board give Naomi Young Meyer permission to download and print the *Introducing the Newfoundland* pamphlet for use at the Westminster Kennel Club show. The motion passed unanimously.

Health & Longevity Committee

The Board reviewed the DNA Clinic Guidelines as proposed by the Health & Longevity Committee.

Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board approve the *DNA Clinic Guidelines* developed by the Health & Longevity Committee as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

TOD/TODD

The Board reviewed the request from Joan Locker-Thuring, TOD/TODD Chair, to purchase certificates and pins to award to members whose dogs qualify for these titles. The Board discussed the price of the proposed pins. The Board was reminded that the pins were not included in the committee's budget. The Board considered the usefulness of awarding a pin and the fact that pins could be purchased for less than was stated in the committee's request.

Mary Lou Cuddy moved and Sue Marino seconded that the Board approve the purchase by the TOD/TODD Committee of two boxes of certificates and that the committee come back to the Board with three price quotes on the suggested pins. The motion passed unanimously.

Regional Club Liaison

Pam Rubio, Regional Club Liaison, asked for clarification as to whether a regional club may use the NCA logo when contacting vendors for donations for the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship Show.

By unanimous consent, the Board agreed that regional clubs may use the NCA Logo with NCA's approval. This will be on a case-by-case basis.

Breeders Education Committee

Kathy McIver, Breeders Education Committee Chair, informed the Board the committee will repeat the Breeders Forum at the 2010 National Specialty. Panelists are expected to be Peggy Helming, Betty McDonnell, Anne Parsons, Deb Wigal and Margaret Willmott. The topic will be Best Breeding Practices. Karen Bock will be chairing the Forum and Fred Bock will be the moderator.

At 5:30 p.m., the Board recessed for dinner.

At 8:15 p.m., the Board reconvened.

The Board reviewed the Kennel Management Heart Survey proposed by the Breeders Education Committee. It was stated that the survey was developed to gather information in two areas: 1) to assess what protocols breeders are using with hearts and 2) how breeders are handling puppies diagnosed with heart defects. The Board was reminded that the survey was limited to breeders listed on the *Breeders List* as this is a stable population of highly motivated members and they can be communicated with very easily via the breeders-I list.

The need for confidentiality was discussed. Information will be gathered in the same way as other studies being performed at the Medical University of South Carolina. The data collected will be received by a disinterested party and assigned a randomly generated breeder code which is stored on a secure server. The name of the respondent will never be released to anyone working on the data. At this time, the Medical University of South Carolina will host the study and the coded data at no cost to the NCA. If at some point in time, another disinterested party would need to take over, any payment would be included in the committee's budget.

The survey will only deal with explicitly recorded results on a litter. At this time, the study will only consider puppies diagnosed with sub-aortic stenosis. Expanding the survey to include patent ductus arteriosus will be a discussion to be held later.

The Board reviewed the forms that breeders will be asked to fill out. The survey is ready for beta testing which will be done by members of the committee. Once the survey is launched, there will be phone/email support for questions and problems. There will be an educational booth for the survey at the 2010 National Specialty.

At 8:32 p.m., Robin Seaman joined the meeting.

Specialty Show Coordinating Committee

Robin Seaman, Specialty Show Coordinating Committee Chair, requested that the Board approve changes to *Specialty Show Guide* in the areas of Treasurer & Finance and Top Twenty Judges selection. By unanimous consent, the Board approved the suggested changes to the *Specialty Show Guide* in the following areas: Treasurer and Finance and Top Twenty Judges Qualifications.

Robin reported that the National Specialty packet is almost completed and will be posted on the *NCA Website* soon.

There was some discussion about the feasibility of the Honor's Haven resort as a National Specialty site. Board members stated they had mixed reviews at the time but had not toured the entire site yet.

Robin informed the Board that the New-Pen-Del Newfoundland Club had just received notice that they had gotten their dates for the 2012 National Specialty at Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Robin reported that the dates would be May 1-5, 2012. The rooms will be \$105/night plus tax with a \$40 cleaning fee if dogs are in the rooms. Patti McDowell will be the show chair with Tom Broderick and Mary Jane Spackman as co-chairs. Due to the dates becoming available so recently, the club has not had time to prepare a formal bid for the Board. Robin asked if the Board would approve the New-Pen-Del Club's bid without a formal bid presented in person.

Jacqueline Brellochs moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board accept the bid for the 2012 National Specialty from the New-Pen-Del Newfoundland Club.

The motion was ruled out of order. Robin stated that the New-Pen-Del club needed the approval so as to be able to sign the contracts with the hotel this weekend.

Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded that since there are extenuating circumstances, the Board suspend the policy for the approval of a National Specialty one time. The motion passed unanimously.

Jacqueline Brellochs moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board accept the bid from the New-Pen-Del Newfoundland Club to host the May 1-5, 2012 National Specialty in Carlisle, PA. The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:49 p.m., Robin Seaman left the meeting.

Breeders Education Committee

The Board returned to the review of the Kennel Management Heart Survey. It was stated that there were two caveats to this survey: 1) the survey will, at first be difficult, but as breeders get used to it, it will become easier and 2) all litters need to be reported, not just litters with heart puppies. Breeders will be encouraged to submit all litters or a random selection of litters. This study will be a practical pragmatic study which will give members more information in what happens to these puppies and how they develop. It was mentioned that studies of this kind using breeders on the *Breeder List* could be a very good source of information for other health issues and a good source of information for new breeders.

The study will not be an open-ended study and will have a finite end date, probably three months. All data will be helpful whether it is one litter or 10 years' worth.

The committee had requested that they be allowed to start to put out preliminary information about the study to the breeders. Once the beta testing of the survey has been completed, the committee will ask the Board for final approval.

Pam Saunders moved and Sue Marino seconded that the Board direct the Breeders Education Committee to proceed with the beta testing of the Kennel Management Heart Survey and to start providing information on the survey to the members of the *Breeders List* with the caveat that the survey may change slightly after the beta testing is completed. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership Committee

Mary Lou Cuddy, Membership Chair, reported on a request she had received from a former member that she and some other former members wish to re-join the NCA and asked if the application fee could be waived for former members. The Board discussed the request and expressed their sympathy for the situation but declined to make any changes in policy.

***Newf Tide* Policy Committee**

The Board considered a request from the *Newf Tide* Policy Committee (NTPC) to use 70 pound paper for the interior pages when *Newf Tide* exceeds 120 pages. It was reported that the publisher's stitching machine cannot handle over 120 pages of the 80 pound paper. The purpose is to stay with the saddle stitched binding as opposed to the more expensive perfect binding. The Board looked at the samples provided.

Kathy McIver moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board accept the recommendation of the *Newf Tide* Policy Committee for the use of 70 pound paper (interior pages only) in issues that exceed 120 pages. The motion passed. 10 Yes (LA, JB, MLC, SM, KM, MLP, PKR, MLR, PSR, PS); 1 No (RF); 1 Abstain (MR)

The Board considered the recommendation of the NTPC that the editor of *Newf Tide* determine the number of Newfoundlands, if any, to be listed as honorable mention on the Oldest Living Newfoundland page. The Board reviewed the new policy regarding the recognition of the Oldest Living Newfoundland found in the October 30 - November 2, 2008 minutes. The Board considered various ages as a cut-off number or just listing the five oldest dogs.

Kathy McIver moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board accept the recommendation of the *Newf Tide* Policy Committee that the *Newf Tide* editor will determine the number of Newfoundlands, if any, to be listed in the honorable mention category on the Oldest Living Newfoundland page. The determination will be based upon design and space considerations, as well as the ages of the dogs and what the editor feels is appropriate for that particular year. The motion passed. 10 Yes (LA, JB, MLC, SM, KM, MLP, PKR, MLR, PSR, PS); 1 No (RF); 1 Abstain (MR)

The Board discussed a request for clarification from the NTPC regarding the insertion of the Judges Education DVD when back issues of the *Newf Tide* are purchased. By unanimous consent, the Board agreed that the Judges Education Committee's DVD will not be included in back issues of *Newf Tide*.

There was a brief discussion about the copyright labels that needed to be put on the existing DVDs. It was reported that the Judges Education Committee is considering replacing several of the pictures used on the DVD. The Board asked that 75 extra DVDs be printed and sent to the Membership Chair for inclusion in the new members' welcome packets.

Working Dog Committee

Sue Marino, Working Dog Committee (WDC) Chair, informed the Board that the incorporation of updates and clarifications of the water and draft test rules into the rules and regulations that appear on the *NCA Website* has been requested by the membership. It was pointed out that when the rules and regulation are printed off the *NCA Website* then the updates and clarifications would appear in the body of the text and not as separate items. This does not require any Board action as all the changes and clarifications have already been approved, this is for the Board's information.

Sue requested that the agenda item regarding the updating of water and draft test rules so that the application process is the same for both tests be withdrawn. The WDC has initiated additional discussion on this issue.

The Board considered the WDC's request to roll over test application fees when a test is cancelled due to lack of entries.

Kathy McIver moved and Meredith Reggie seconded that the Board accept the recommendation of the Working Dog Committee for the following change: If a water or draft test is canceled due to insufficient entries the Working Dog Committee will roll over that club's application fee for use for the club's next test, whether it be a water or draft test. The fee will be held for one year and if not used on the subsequent test, the fee will be forfeited. The motion passed unanimously.

Sue informed the Board that water and draft test evaluations can now be completed online and automatically submitted.

Lynne Anderson-Powell moved and Kathy McIver seconded that Board approve the recommendation of the Working Dog Committee for the following change: Working test evaluations may also be filled out electronically on the *NCA Website*. The motion passed unanimously.

Sue brought to the Board's attention that some test premium lists are including other events such as all-breed water test and Greatest American Draft Dog test. This may

imply an NCA-sanctioned event. It was agreed that a disclaimer needs to be developed and implemented. It was agreed that the WDC will develop wording for a disclaimer and present it to the Board.

Committee Survey

Pam Saunders, *ad hoc* Committee Survey Committee Chair, distributed the results from the beta test of the online committee survey. She explained the results and showed how Constant Comment, the survey host, would generate reports. The number of respondents from each committee would go to Kathy McIver, Committee Liaison, and Kathy would be able to report to each committee what number of committee members had or had not responded. It was emphasized that the responses would be kept anonymous. There was a brief discussion of developing ways to ensure that committee members understand that it is important for them to fill out this survey. It was agreed that this should be discussed at the next teleconference along with the development of pertinent questions for the survey.

At 10:49 p.m., by unanimous consent, the Board recessed the meeting until 9:00 a.m., November 7, 2009.

NCA Meeting Reconvenes on Saturday, November 7, 2009

At 9:02 a.m., the Board reconvened. The following directors were present: Lynne Anderson-Powell (LA), Jacqueline Brellochs (JB), Mary Lou Cuddy (MLC), Roger Frey (RF), Sue Marino (SM), Kathy McIver (KM) (via teleconference), Mary L. Price (MLP), Pat Randall (PKR), Meredith Reggie (MR), Mary Lou Roberts (MLR) (via teleconference), Pam Rubio (PSR) and Pam Saunders (PS). Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was present.

Club Reimbursement

Lynne Anderson-Powell reported that the Bear Mountain Newfoundland Club to date has no final accounting of expenses related the AKC' Meet the Breed exhibition which the club participated in at the request of the NCA. The matter was tabled until the next teleconference.

Appointment of Committees

The Board was reminded that the current policy of appointing committee members goes against the *NCA Constitution and Bylaws*. The current policy would allow a committee to potentially have 40-50 members with no control by the Board or the committee chair. Volunteers wishing to serve on a specific committee can always contact a Board member or the committee chair to indicate their interest in serving. The Board discussed the posting of committee vacancies. It was mentioned that every issue of *NCA e-notes* has a link to the committee vacancy page. Some Board members felt that vacancies should also be published in *Newf Tide* as not every member receives *e-notes* or has

email. The Board also has a right to appoint additional committee members even if there is no vacancy.

Pat Randal moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board amend the committee guidelines and policies to reflect the following:

To remove from the NCA Policy Manual, Volume II, Committee Guidelines and Policies, Membership, Sections 1-4.

Membership

- 1) Chairs are appointed annually by the NCA Board
- 2) Most, but not all, NCA Committees are non-exclusive, i.e., any NCA member may serve on such a committee providing they are contributing to the goals of the committee
- 3) For exclusive (limited membership) committees, it is the responsibility of the Board to appoint committee members. An example of that is the Nominating Committee
- 4) For non-exclusive committees, the Board may suggest or appoint committee members or the Chair may appoint as many members as they feel are necessary to conduct business effectively. Others may volunteer to serve by contacting the Committee Chair

and to replace the above text with the following: All committees will be appointed annually by the Board as per the NCA *Constitution and Bylaws*, Article V, Section 1. The motion passed unanimously.

It was stated that the Board would like to remind members to volunteer or apply for committee positions. Reminders will be sent by *e-notes* and the *NCA Website*.

Research Funding Priorities

The Board returned to a discussion that had originated in a previous teleconference concerning the possible development of a statement of research funding priorities. Pat Randall had developed a prototype statement for the Board's consideration. Some Board members believed that the Charitable Trust Management Board (CTMB) should develop this statement.

Mary Lou Roberts moved and Sue Marino seconded that the Board refer the statement developed by Pat Randall to the Charitable Trust Management Board for review and discussion with comments coming back to the Board.

It was stated that the CTMB is a very highly-qualified group and may automatically be prioritizing studies. It was said that a statement might be useful to help the membership understand when and why a study is funded. There was discussion that this topic belonged in the NCA Charitable Trust meeting. It was agreed to make a friendly amendment to the motion.

Mary Lou Roberts moved and Sue Marino seconded that the Board refer the recommendations for ranking research priorities for grant funding developed by Pat

Randall to the NCA Charitable Trust. The motion passed. 11 Yes (LA, JB, MLC, RF, SM, KM, MLP, PKR, MR, PSR, PS); 1 No (MLR)

Discussion Items Tabled

The discussion items relating to the development of “talking points” for common inquiries to the NCA, e.g. complaints about breeders, health questions, etc. and the development of possible procedures to respond to Internet list threads were tabled until the next Board teleconference.

***Ad hoc* Technical Preparation Committee**

The Board reviewed the purpose of the *ad hoc* Technical Preparation Committee approved at the October 30-November 2, 2008 face-to-face meeting. The committee was formed to consider the possibility of assisting the regional clubs by having the NCA provide services for regional clubs, including but not limited to the technical preparation of newsletters and the technical maintenance of web sites (content to be provided by the regional club). The committee had not yet been staffed. The committee would assess the regional clubs’ needs to see if such a committee is needed.

By unanimous consent, the Board asked Pam Rubio, Regional Club Liaison, to bring this proposal to a Regional Club Committee meeting for discussion and input and comments are to be brought back to the Board.

Regional Club Communications

In response to a question, the Board reviewed the procedure that should be followed when a committee needs to request information from another committee. Requests are to go through the Board first. It was stated that there is established policy and the committees will be reminded to check the policy before contacting another committee.

Report of the AKC Delegate

Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, reported on the slate of candidates for the AKC Board of Directors Class of 2014. The AKC Nominating Committee named Charles Garvin, William Newman and Patricia Scully to the slate. Mary reported that Carmen Battaglia, Steven Gladstone and others are running by petition. She reminded the Board that the AKC term limits required only that a Board member go off the Board for one year and then they may run again. She reported that increasing the number of years a candidate must wait to run again may be extended.

Mary informed the Board that a vote on the group realignment may come at the March 2010 Delegates meeting. There may be a vote on the proposed Grand Champion title at the December 2009 Delegates meeting. Further discussion on this vote was postponed until the next morning.

Executive Session

At 11:04 a.m., Kathy McIver moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

At 12:07 p.m., Kathy McIver moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board come out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

While in executive session, the Board awarded the NCA Good Sportsmanship Award.

While in executive session, the Board awarded the Isabel Kurth Award.

Electronic Publications Policy Committee

The Board considered a recommendation from the Electronic Publications Policy Committee that the Board explore the idea of appointing a “public relations” person. This position would enable a quick response to the membership and the general public for emerging issues or concerns. After further discussion, the Board agreed to discuss this recommendation at the next teleconference.

Junior Showmanship Awards

The Board was informed that the Juniors Committee is working on an article for *Newf Tide* to explain of the Juniors Awards. The Board discussed consistent names for the awards.

Maredith Reggie moved and Sue Marino seconded that the awards given to Juniors be titled: Top Junior in Junior Showmanship, Top Junior in Conformation, Top Junior in Obedience. The motion passed unanimously.

At 12:27 p.m., the Board recessed for lunch.

At 1:30 p.m., the Board reconvened.

NCA Database

The Board reviewed the NCA Database launch and resulting difficulties. It was said the introduction to the members did not set the expectations of the database properly. The Board agreed that a course of action was needed to address the situation, including a history and rationale for the database and the information that would or would not be included in the database.

At 1:37 p.m., Pam Rubio moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

At 2:54 p.m., Pam Saunders moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board come out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

Pam Saunders moved and Pam Rubio seconded that as the result of a discussion held in executive session, the Board will place an article in the 4th Quarter 2009 issue of *Newf Tide* outlining the history, time line and expectations of the *NCA Database*. The motion passed unanimously.

Sue Marino moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board appoint Mary Lou Roberts to write the article for the 4th Quarter 2009 issue of *Newf Tide*. The article will be submitted to the Board for review. The motion passed unanimously.

At 3:00 p.m., the Board recessed to tour the facility, the grounds and to have dinner.

At 9:56 p.m., the Board reconvened.

Newf and You

The Board discussed the latest revision of the *Newf and You*. Pat Randall reported that he had tried to re-work most of the sections with the agreement of the General Education Committee, but he was not pleased with the results. He then re-read the original and felt that with some modernizing and updating of facts that the original would be a very serviceable document. Meredith Reggie volunteered to assist Pat with the updating and modernization.

At 10:11 p.m., Pat Randall moved and Pam Saunders seconded that the Board go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

At 10:23 p.m., Pam Rubio moved and Pam Saunders seconded that the Board come out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

While in executive session, the Board discussed the *Newf and You* and the sources of some of the information contained in one of the revisions.

At 10:28 p.m., by unanimous consent, the Board recessed the meeting until 8:30 a.m., November 8, 2009.

NCA Meeting Reconvenes on Sunday, November 8, 2009

At 9:25 a.m., the Board reconvened after a meeting of the NCA Charitable Trust. The following directors were present: Lynne Anderson-Powell (LA), Jacqueline Brellochs (JB), Mary Lou Cuddy (MLC), Roger Frey (RF), Sue Marino (SM), Kathy McIver (KM) (via teleconference), Mary L. Price (MLP), Pat Randall (PKR), Meredith Reggie (MR), Mary Lou Roberts (MLR) (via teleconference), Pam Rubio (PSR) and Pam Saunders (PS). Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was present.

Roger Frey reported that he had spoken to Claire Carr informing her of her Honorary Membership for which she sent her thanks to the Board.

Proposed AKC Grand Champion Title

The Board resumed discussing the proposed AKC Grand Champion title. Several Board members stated that the title should require titles at both ends of the dog's name, as in an obedience or performance title. There were comments that the AKC had not asked for any comments from the Delegates or the clubs in the development of this proposal and that it seemed as if AKC was pushing this to completion in a hurry.

By unanimous consent, the Board instructed Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, to cast a negative vote for the proposed AKC Grand Champion title.

Newf and You

Pat Randall and Meredith Reggie informed the Board that they had done some preliminary work on the *Newf and You* already and they felt they had a good start on it. They will present their revision at the January 21, 2010 teleconference.

NCA Database

The Board returned to a discussion of the two outstanding invoices from Ascent Systems, one from September 16-30, 2009 in the amount of \$4,225.00 and one from October 1-15, 2009 in the amount of \$5,102.50. There was a brief discussion whether to hold payment until a final release and contract was received from the company. Both invoices were approved for payment by the Technical Resources Chair. It was suggested that the older of the two invoices be paid and hold the newer one.

At 9:50 a.m., Barbara Finch joined the meeting.

Barbara Finch, Technical Resources Chair, agreed with the payment of the older invoice. Lynne Anderson-Powell volunteered to develop the release contract of the database from Ascent Systems. It was stated that Ascent Systems will need to deliver the source code, documentation and other executable forms to the NCA. It was reported the source code should then be copied and placed with several NCA members. Ascent Systems was told to stop work as of October 15, 2009.

There was discussion concerning Marylou Zimmerman's husband, Dan, and his company and their plans and suggested changes to make Phase 1 of the database more useable for the membership and accommodating for future phases.

At 10:20 a.m., Meredith Reggie moved and Pam Saunders seconded that the Board go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

At 10:43 a.m., Pam Rubio moved and Pam Saunders seconded that the Board come out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

While in executive session, the Board appointed Lynne Anderson-Powell to the Technical Resources Committee.

While in executive session, the Board discussed developing a contract with Dan Zimmerman and his company.

Sue Marino moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that the NCA pay the September 16-30, 2009 invoice from Ascent Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$4225.00. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board summarized discussion points for Lynne Anderson-Powell to take back to the Technical Resources Committee.

Adjournment

At 10:53 a.m., Pam Rubio moved and Sue Marino seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by,

Mary Lou Cuddy
NCA Recording Secretary