

NCA Board of Directors
Teleconference Meeting
Minutes of December 17, 2009
(Approved January 21, 2010)

Roger Frey, President, called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. Eastern time. The following directors were present: Jacqueline Brellochs (JB), Mary Lou Cuddy (MLC), Roger Frey (RF), Sue Marino (SM), Kathy Mclver (KM), Mary L. Price (MLP), Pat Randall (PKR), Meredith Reggie (MR), Mary Lou Roberts (MLR), Pam Rubio (PSR) and Pam Saunders (PS). Lynne Anderson-Powell (LA) was absent. Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was absent. Aura Dean, Robin Seaman, Barbara Finch and Jennifer Zablotty were present as member guests.

Approval of Minutes

The Board considered the November 6-8, 2009 and December 4, 2009 minutes.

Pam Rubio moved and Pam Saunders seconded that the Board approve the November 6-8, 2009 minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (LA)

At 8:32 p.m., Lynne Anderson-Powell joined the meeting.

Kathy Mclver moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board approve the December 4, 2009 minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Report of the President

Roger Frey, President, informed the Board that his report will be included under the 1st Vice President's report.

Report of the 1st Vice President

Mary Lou Roberts, 1st Vice President, reported on the following. Members of the Charitable Trust Management Board (CTMB) have been invited to serve as bartenders at the 2010 Top Twenty. The AKC Canine Health Foundation (AKC CHF) has requested from the parent clubs a list of the top five health problems in each breed to which the CTMB has responded.

Diane Lynch is proposing a "Swim for Newfs" fundraiser with the proceeds split equally between the NCA Health Challenge and NCA Rescue. The "Swim for Newfs" proposal is a two mile swim or 144 laps with money pledged per lap. Diane is asking the Regional Club Liaison for help in contacting all the regional clubs. There was a brief discussion whether a similar event could be held at the National Specialty. It was agreed that the Regional Club Liaison would assist Diane.

The Board returned to a discussion regarding the CTMB and where the information they provided the AKC CHF originated. It was said that the CTMB has responded to the AKC CHF for the last two years. It was reported that Clyde Dunphy, DVM, CTMB Chair, and Jennifer Zablony, DVM, Health & Longevity Committee Chair, conferred and developed a list as the request was time-sensitive. The Board discussed the process of determining which diseases to report in the absence of a recent health survey.

At 8:51 p.m., Aura Dean joined the teleconference.

***Newf Tide* Policy Committee**

Aura Dean, *Newf Tide* Policy Committee Chair, reported that *Newf Tide* was ready to be printed as was the *NCA Membership Directory*. The *Annual of Titlists* was not “in proof” yet. She reported that assembling the *Annual of Titlists* had been a long and time-consuming process. It covered two years of titlists and totaled 130 pages costing in excess of \$9,000.00 to print. Aura reminded the Board that this was the first application of the new NCA Database. Many hours had been spent to ensure the accuracy of the information in the *Annual of Titlists*, but there still may be some inaccuracies. There was some discussion about holding the *Annual of Titlists* longer to ensure it is as accurate as possible and then sending it as a special mailing. A separate mailing option was not feasible as the NCA’s postal license allows for 4 mailings per year and a special mailing would cost in excess of \$4,600.00 just for postage.

Aura informed the Board, that because of the weight of the *Annual of Titlists* in addition to the *Newf Tide* and the *NCA Membership Directory*, all three publications will be shrink-wrapped for mailing.

It was asked if the committee anticipated more problems than in years past. It was felt that there would be a higher number of problems only because of the higher number of dogs included in this issue. It was stated that every issue of the *Annual of Titlists* contains a disclaimer that only correct and verified information is published but that complete accuracy cannot be guaranteed. In some cases, missing titles in previous issues will now have been corrected in this issue.

There was a brief discussion of the costs. It was reported that \$8,500.00 had been budgeted for the *Annual of Titlists*. The current cost of publication is at \$9,100.00. Approximately one-half of the postage costs or \$1,500.00 will be attributable to the *Annual of Titlists* for a total of about \$10,600.00. Another \$2,000.00 will be paid to the editors of the *Annual of Titlists* for a total of \$12,600.00. Mary L. Price, Treasurer, reported that she will return to the Board for the approval of the amount over budget once it has been billed.

Aura and all members involved with the *Annual of Titlists* were thanked for all their hard work.

At 9:20 p.m., Aura Dean left the teleconference.

At 9:20 p.m., Robin Seaman and Barbara Finch joined the teleconference.

2010 National Specialty

Robin Seaman, Specialty Show Coordinating Committee Chair, reported that the specialty packet had been posted on the *NCA Website*. In answer to a question, she reported that confirmations of room reservations made at last year's show would be mailed by the end of December.

Robin reported that Kevin Gallagher, Specialty Show Coordinating Committee member, traveled to Frankenmuth, Michigan and negotiated the details to use the grooming building. The Top Twenty will be held in the grooming building with prejudging done ahead of time. Bleachers will be set up for better viewing of the event. There will be an obedience crating area available with no grooming or electricity. A barrier will be used to separate the obedience rings from the traffic pattern. The show photographer will not be set up in the grooming building. The show committee will be asking exhibitors to share grooming space. Barbara Finch, Specialty Show Coordinating Committee member and Sandee Lovett, 2010 National Specialty Chair, are working with the hotel and the restaurants in regards to more variety on the menus.

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

Technical Resources Committee

Barbara Finch, Technical Resources Chair, and the Board considered the last invoice from Ascent Systems, Inc. Lynne Anderson-Powell, Technical Resources Committee member, has received a copy of the signed contract with Ascent Systems with the appropriate intellectual property wording included. It was the recommendation of the Technical Resources Committee that this last invoice in the amount of \$5,102.50 be paid.

Pat Randall moved and Pam Saunders seconded that the NCA pay the October 1-15, 2009 invoice from Ascent Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$5,102.50. The motion passed unanimously.

Barbara reported on another invoice she had received from Ascent Systems that day for work that had not been authorized by Barbara or the committee. Barbara stated that she immediately called the president of Ascent System and it was agreed that the work had been done without the NCA's authorization and that NCA will not be held responsible for the costs.

Barbara informed the Board that the work on the *NCA Database* is going well. The committee is waiting for the December AKC Awards and then all of the 2009 awards will be ready to be entered in the database. Debbie Bridge, Technical Resources Committee member, is working on the AKC data which will help in clearing any errors in the database. Once that is done, the information from Flip Young's database will be re-entered.

Barbara reported that the work started by Marylou Zimmerman, Technical Resources Committee member, and Dan Zimmerman's company, Dogfish, have made a good start in making the *NCA Database* more user-friendly. They will have a report for the Board by the end of the year. Barbara Finch requested that, along with herself, Debbie Bridge and Marylou Zimmerman attend the Board's January 21, 2010 teleconference.

At 9:44 p.m., Barbara Finch left the teleconference.

At 9:47 p.m., Jennifer Zablony joined the teleconference.

Health & Longevity Committee

Jennifer Zablony, Health & Longevity Committee Chair, requested that the reduced fees for DNA submissions be repeated in conjunction with the 2010 National Specialty.

Kathy McIver moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board approve the Health & Longevity Committee's request for the reduced OFA CHIC DNA repository fee of \$10.00 at the 2010 National Specialty. The motion passed unanimously.

Jennifer reported that the Health & Longevity Committee (H&L) would like to recommend a requirement that all H&L committee members must have all their dogs' DNA banked in the CHIC DNA Repository.

The Board discussed the recommendation. Some Board members felt that this was asking volunteers to pay to be able to participate. Others felt that committee members should lead the way by example. The problems of verification of ownership and the number of dogs along with the timing of testing for puppies or newly-acquired dogs were discussed. It was stated that the only requirements for other committees was knowledge or experience. Some felt that setting requirements for committee membership could lead to unintended problems. It was stated that all the Board members believe whole-heartedly that all DNA should be banked, but some members have great concern over making it a requirement for committee membership.

Pam Rubio moved and Mary Lou Roberts seconded that the Board accept the Health & Longevity Committee's recommendation for the following requirement for committee membership. In addition to limiting the membership of the committee to 12 members, committee members will have submitted blood for DNA on all of their dogs to the CHIC DNA repository. This does not apply to co-owned dogs, although their submission is

strongly encouraged. This will be in effect for the 2010 committee appointments. The motion failed. 3 Yes (MLP, MLR, PSR); 9 No (LA, JB, MLC, RF, SM, KM, PKR, MR, PS)

The Board returned to the discussion concerning the listing of the top five diseases submitted to AKC CHF. Jennifer stated that due to the short notice given by AKC CHF there was not enough time to poll H&L and that she and Clyde Dunphy informally put a list together. She reported that H&L is working on the development of a new health survey.

The Board agreed that H&L could develop a questionnaire for prospective committee members.

At 10:38 p.m., Jennifer Zablotsky left the teleconference.

Report of the 2nd Vice President

Kathy McIver, 2nd Vice President, referred the Board to an article on committee restructuring that was included in the agenda packet for their information.

Report of the Recording Secretary

Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary, reported that she had prepared the agenda packet for the December 17, 2009 meeting and the minutes for the December 4, 2009 meeting. She reported that the election packet had been mailed to the membership.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary

Pat Randall, Corresponding Secretary, reported the following. Letters had been received asking for information about a water rescue school for Newfoundlands and for information for contacting the Newfoundland Club of Florida. The AKC reported that there had been no conditional registrations granted in this quarter.

The Mastiff Club of Canada requested permission to use the NCA's "Pretty Picture" pamphlet. The NCA had just recently approved the same request from the Mastiff Club of America.

Lynne Anderson-Powell moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board approve the request of the Canadian Mastiff Club to use the NCA's "Pretty Picture" pamphlet. The motion passed unanimously.

Pat reported on a letter from the AKC to nominate members or clubs for their work in the rescue field. Pedigree™ is the sponsoring company. Several of the categories listed were quite applicable to the NCA. There was some concern expressed with Pedigree's™ withdrawal from sponsoring purebred dog events and whether the

information gathered for this proposed program might be used against purebred dogs. It was decided that NCA would not participate as a club in this program.

Report of the Treasurer

Mary L. Price, Treasurer, reported the following balances: checking account: \$2,510.21; checking account for 2010 National Specialty: \$1,217.85; savings account: \$3,234.02; invested in CDs: \$210,788.66; and the NCA operations balance total of \$217,750.74 with \$4,350.08 in reserve for "Distinguished Member" expenses. The Uniform Trophy Fund account balance is \$7,572.43 for a total of \$225,323.17.

Report of the AKC Delegate

Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, was absent. Mary Lou Cuddy reported in her absence. At the December 2009 AKC Delegates in Long Beach, California, Mary voted against the Grand Championship title. An amendment to the motion allowing spayed bitches and neutered dogs to be eligible for this title was passed. There was a discussion about changing the name of the title but it remained the same. The proposal for a Grand Championship title was passed and will become effective May 1, 2010 along with the new point schedule so that the two point schedules will coincide.

The AKC Delegates meeting was very brief. The Meet the Breeds booth representing the Newfoundland was very well-done and it was a disappointment that it took second place after the Rottweiler booth.

Committee Reports

***Breeders List* Committee**

The Board considered a request from the *Breeders List* Committee to discuss the statement contained on page six of the *Breeders List* under "Qualifications" that reads, "...does not supervise or guarantee the ethical practices of these breeders..." There was discussion that the phrase protects the NCA from legal disputes between buyer and breeder. The Board had no objection to the committee developing new wording to be submitted to the Board for approval, but the committee needs to understand that some similar wording is needed for legal protection.

Electronic Publications Policy Committee

The Board considered the recommendation from the Electronic Publications Policy Committee (EPPC) to establish a Public Relations Spokesperson to act as a point person when issues arise. The Board discussed the best way to answer issues raised on the Internet lists. It was said that criteria should be developed to address the types of responses. It was agreed that a proactive response may serve the NCA better. It was suggested that a response to the Internet lists be merely to acknowledge the

issue and to refer interested parties to the *NCA Website* or to *NCA e-notes* for more information.

Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board approve the recommendation from the Electronic Publications Policy Committee that the Board appoint a Public Relations Spokesperson. The motion passed. 7 Yes (LA, JB, MLC, KM, PKR, PSR, PS); 5 No (RF, SM, MLP, MR, MLR)

The Board discussed proposed policy from EPPC concerning the public and private areas of the *NCA Website*. The Board stated it was happy with this section of the policy document with the exception of the last paragraph. There was discussion of the amount of technical breeding information that should be made available to non-affiliated breeders.

Kathy McIver moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board approve all but the last paragraph of the "Policies addressing section IV. A. Responsibility for defining public versus private areas/information for all NCA websites, and establishing levels of security required to access" as proposed by the Electronic Publications Policy Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

International Liaison

Diane Price, International Liaison Chair, submitted a report on articles that are planned for *Newf Tide* and on activities planned for the 2010 National Specialty.

Working Dog Committee

Sue Marino, Working Dog Committee Chair, presented three items that had been previously approved by the Board but that needed changes in wording. Sue reported that the committee preferred that test applications fees for tests which did not make the minimum entry be returned immediately to the regional club after the cancellation is announced.

Pam Saunders moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board approve the recommendations of the Working Dog Club Committee for the wording of additions to the draft and water test rules that were already approved by the Board. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board considered the recommended changes to the draft and water test rules concerning the listing and signatures of the test committee and a club Board member.

Pam Saunders moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board approve the revision of the information required of regional clubs when applying for a working test as recommended by the Working Dog Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Bear Mountain Newfoundland Club

The Bear Mountain Newfoundland Club submitted the receipts in the amount of \$1,278.31 for expenses incurred in hosting the Newfoundland booth at the AKC Meet the Breeds exhibition held in New York City.

Pam Rubio moved and Sue Marino seconded that the Board approve the payment of \$1,278.31 to the Bear Mountain Newfoundland Club for expenses incurred from the AKC Meet the Breeds exhibition. The motion passed unanimously.

NCA Committee Survey

Pam Saunders reported that the committee survey will be re-designed to facilitate responses from NCA committee members. Committee chairs will be notified so as to encourage committee members to participate in the survey.

***Newf Tide* Article on NCA Database Financial History**

The Board was informed that the deadline for the submission of the article explaining the financial history of the *NCA Database* will be December 31, 2009. Mary L. Price, Treasurer, said she can provide all the financial figures and would be happy to collaborate with the Technical Resources Committee.

New Business

Review of *NCA e-notes* Drafts

The Board discussed the amount of time needed for the Board to review the draft of *NCA e-notes*. Usually, there has been a two-day period for review. Some Board members wanted five days. The Board was reminded that the *NCA e-notes* is published at the end of each month to accommodate the Board meetings.

Mareidith Reggie moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board should have four days to review the draft of the *NCA e-notes* and that any changes should be copied to the entire Board and the editor of the *NCA e-notes*. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session

At 12:05 a.m., Pam Rubio moved and Pam Saunders seconded that the Board go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

At 1:09 a.m., Sue Marino moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board come out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

While in executive session, the Board considered the Applicants List dated December 17, 2009.

While in executive session, the Recording Secretary announced that the Applicants List dated November 6-8, 2009 had been approved.

While in executive session, the Board appointed Betty McDonnell as an alternate on the Nominating Committee.

While in executive session, the Board received a report from the Regional Club Liaison that she could find no substantiation for a valid complaint against a regional club. The Board supported the Regional Club Liaison's determination and directed her to respond to the complainants and the North Central Newfoundland Club.

At 1:11 a.m., Sue Marino moved and Pam Saunders seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by,

Mary Lou Cuddy
NCA Recording Secretary