

NCA Board of Directors
Teleconference Meeting
Minutes of March 19, 2009
(Approved April 26, 2009)

Roger Frey, President, called the meeting to order at 8:10 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), Pat Randall (PKR), Meredith Reggie (MR), Mary Lou Roberts (MLR) and Pam Rubio (PSR). Mary L. Price (MLP) was absent. Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was present. Board-elect members Lynne Anderson-Powell and Pam Saunders were present. Patti McDowell and Susan Wagner were present as member guests.

Approval of Minutes

Kathy McIver moved and Barbara Finch seconded that the Board approve the minutes of February 19, 2009 meeting as amended. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (MLP)

Kathy McIver moved and Barbara Finch seconded that the Board approve the minutes of February 26, 2009 meeting as amended. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (MLP)

Barbara Finch moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that the Board approve the minutes of March 12, 2009 meeting as amended. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (MLP)

Report of the President

Roger Frey, President, stated that his report would be in executive session.

Report of the 1st Vice President

Mary Lou Roberts, 1st Vice President, reported on the March 4, 2009 meeting of the Charitable Trust Management Board (CTMB). The CTMB discussed such items as the Steering Committee's proposal regarding the concept of increasing membership and items that the CTMB would be submitting to the *NCA e-notes* and the *NCA Website*. Clyde Dunphy reported on the AKC Canine Cancer Conference that he attended. Mary Lou Roberts reported that the CTMB will have recommendations for CTMB committee appointments to give to the NCA Board after the CTMB's next meeting.

Report of the 2nd Vice President

Kathy McIver, 2nd Vice President, reported on a request for information she had received from the AKC Parent Club Committee. It was the consensus of the Board to consider this request later in the meeting.

Kathy McIver presented the idea of giving a certificate of appreciation to all outgoing committee chairs and committee members. The Board discussed the number of certificates that would be presented and the logistics of compiling the list of names and having the certificates printed.

Kathy McIver moved and Pam Rubio seconded that certificates of appreciation be presented at the Annual Membership Meeting to all outgoing committee chairs and committee members. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (MLP)

At 8:40 p.m., Mary L. Price joined the teleconference.

Report of the Recording Secretary

Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary, reported that she had prepared the March 19, 2009 agenda and the February 19, February 26 and the March 12, 2009 minutes. She reported that she had received the “smart pen” that had been ordered for use by the Recording Secretary and was using it at this meeting. She asked that all agenda items for the April 26-27, 2009 face-to-face meeting be sent to her by April 9, 2009.

Mary Lou Cuddy reported on a request from Marylou Zimmerman, NCA Webmaster, to post the notice of the Annual Membership Meeting and the agenda item request form on *NCA e-notes* or to have a link from *NCA e-notes* to the *NCA Website* and to *Newf Tide*. By consensus, the Board agreed to post the notice of the Annual Membership Meeting and the agenda item request form on the *NCA Website* and that a link be added from the *NCA e-notes* to the notice.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary

Pat Randall, Corresponding Secretary, reported that he had been in contact with OFA about the reports sent to the NCA. This issue will be discussed during the report of the Health & Longevity Committee. He said that he had ordered the “smart pen” for the Recording Secretary as per the Board’s instructions. He reported on several letters received from NCA members and that one NCA member had accepted an invitation to speak with the Board at the face-to-face meeting. Pat said that he had made the changes to the letter regarding a non-member’s complaint about an NCA breeder breeding a dog that had produced elbow dysplasia and the letter had been sent. He reported on a letter from the AKC regarding the AKC Lifetime Achievement Awards and that the Board could address this at the face-to-face meeting. In response to a request from the Newfoundland Club of France to exchange information and newsletters, the Board referred this request to the International Liaison.

As a result of previous Board discussions, Pat Randall brought up the recording of teleconferences. By using AccuConference, the NCA's teleconference provider, there is no cost and it is easy to implement. There will be no transcription due to the high cost. Pat volunteered to help place bookmarks to make it easier to find specific topics in the teleconference.

Pat Randall moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board start to record their meetings using the technology available through AccuConference and that these recordings be made available to the membership. The recording would begin with the next teleconference meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Report of the AKC Delegate

Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, reported the results of the AKC Board of Directors election. Those elected were Lee Arnold, Carl Ashby, Alan Kalter and Dr. Robert Smith. Mary reported on the re-alignment of the groups which, pending the AKC Delegates' vote, is scheduled to take effect January 1, 2012.

She also reported that parent clubs are being encouraged to host national or regional specialties or supported entries at the 2009 AKC/Eukanuba National Championship show which will celebrate the 125th anniversary of the AKC. She also reported that this show will return to Florida in 2010.

Mary informed the Board that there will be a Parent Club Conference in October, 2009. One participant per parent club will be invited and there will be a \$150.00 registration fee. Additional participants will be allowed if there is sufficient room.

At 9:06 p.m., Patti McDowell and Susan Wagner joined the teleconference.

At 9:10 p.m., Mary W. Price left the teleconference.

Steering Committee

Mary Lou Roberts, Steering Committee Chair, reported that the committee would like the Board to approve the concept of a membership drive to increase membership. The additional suggestions included in the Steering Committee report were a summary of ideas developed by the Steering Committee but the committee did not expect the Board to approve the whole document. She reported that the committee had approved the concept of increasing membership unanimously but there was not total agreement on all the ideas listed.

There was a discussion regarding the impact an increased membership would have on the NCA. Some Board members believed that increasing the number of members who did not understand the *Standard* or the important functions of the NCA would have a detrimental effect on the club and the breed. There was discussion of a two-tiered membership. It was stated that this would have to come from the *Constitution and*

Bylaws Review Committee, not from the Steering Committee, and the revised *Constitution and Bylaws* had already received preliminary approval from the Board. Some Board members stated that puppy buyers are not hearing about the NCA because they are not buying from NCA breeders, so they do not know the NCA exists. Steering Committee members reiterated that the committee was only looking for approval of the concept of increasing membership and not for approval of each item presented in the report. The Steering Committee is trying to address such issues as declining memberships both in regional clubs and the NCA, the lack of new volunteers, the declining number of working titles and related issues.

There was additional discussion of the effect of greater membership numbers on quorums at meetings, votes on the Standard, Board elections, etc.

Mary Lou Roberts moved and Sue Marino seconded that the Board approve the concept of the NCA working to increase membership as recommended by the Steering Committee.

There was further discussion that puppy buyers should be encouraged to join regional clubs and then join NCA later after they have gained some experience. The committee members felt that the responses received from various committees regarding the concept and the proposed items were very helpful and contained many good comments.

The motion that the Board approve the concept of the NCA working to increase membership as recommended by the Steering Committee failed. 5 Yes (MLC, RF, SM, MR, MLR); 7 No (JB, BF, KG, KM, MLP, PKR, PSR)

At 10:09 p.m., Patti McDowell, Susan Wagner and Mary Lou Roberts left the teleconference.

Breed Steward Program

The Board discussed the complaint about the wording of the motion regarding the Breed Steward Program. Further discussion was postponed until Mary Lou Roberts returns to the meeting.

Committee Reports

Health & Longevity Committee

There was a brief review of the proposed cystinuria policy and the comments received from the Health & Longevity Committee.

Pat Randall moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board approve the cystinuria policy as written. The motion passed. 10 Yes (MLC, BF, RF, KG, SM, KM, MLP, PKR, MR, PSR); 1 No (JB); 1 Absent (MLR)

The Board discussed the problems that have surfaced in preparing to post OFA reports on the *NCA Website*. The reports contain the owners' names and addresses and also whether the results were to be disclosed to public. Board members were uncomfortable posting such information even with the approval of OFA.

Pat Randall moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board approve the posting of OFA information on the *NCA Website* by the Health & Longevity Committee with the exception of the closed or open reporting field and the owners' names and addresses. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (MLR)

***Newf Tide* Policy Committee**

The Board reviewed the information regarding the insertion of the Judges Education Committee's DVD into *Newf Tide*.

Kathy McIver moved and Barbara Finch seconded that the Board instruct the Judges Education Committee and the *Newf Tide* Policy Committee to move forward with the insertion of the Judges Education Committee's DVD into the 2nd Quarter 2009 issue of *Newf Tide*. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (MLR)

Regional Club Liaison

Pam Rubio, Regional Club Committee Liaison, reported that the letter informing the Niagara Frontier Newfoundland Club of the hearing that will be held at the Board's face-to-face meeting on April 27, 2009 had been sent by certified mail to the club and to the Recording Secretary as outlined in the *NCA Policy Manual*. There was a brief discussion of the NCA being able to recognize and un-recognize regional clubs.

Pam Rubio presented a request from the North Central Newfoundland Club for the Board's approval of changes to its Constitution and Bylaws. The Board expressed some concerns about some of the changes and requested that these changes be communicated to the club.

Pam Rubio presented a request from the Northstar Newfoundland Club for the Board's approval of changes to its Constitution and Bylaws. The Board discussed several minor changes.

Mareidith Reggie moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board approve the proposed Constitution and Bylaws of the Northstar Newfoundland Club as amended. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (MLR)

Technical Resources Committee

Barbara Finch, Technical Resources Committee Chair, reported on the progress of the NCA Database, which is moving ahead. She reported the ROM report will be fully

functional within days and ROM recipients will be notified by her. The Versatile Newfoundland letters have already been sent by Bethany Karger, Versatile Newfoundland Chair.

General Education Committee

Kathy McIver, Committee Liaison, reported that the *Newf and You* revisions will be ready for approval at the Board's April 26-27, 2009 meeting.

Health & Longevity Committee

Kathy McIver reported that the DNA Clinic handbook as presented was not a finished document. The Board agreed by consensus to refer the document back to the committee and the Board would be pleased to re-consider it at the April 26-27, 2009 meeting.

Electronic Publications Policy Committee

The Board sought to clarify some of the confusion about this committee. The job description needs to be edited. It was stated that two members of the *Newf Tide* Policy Committee had agreed to help on the Electronic Publications Policy Committee as it started up. The Electronic Publications Policy Committee should be modeled on the *Newf Tide* Policy Committee. Pat Randall volunteered to edit the job description for clarity.

Executive Session

At 11:06 p.m., Kathy McIver moved and Barbara Finch seconded that the Board go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (MLR)

At 11:19 p.m., Pam Rubio and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board come out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (MLR)

While in executive session, the Board approved the Applicants List dated March 19, 2009.

While in executive session, the Board appointed Adrienne Hill as co-chair of the Juniors Committee.

While in executive session, the Board added Cheryl Dondino and Hope Taylor to the General Education Committee.

Report of the Treasurer

Mary L. Price, Treasurer, reported the following balances: checking account: \$15,413.00; savings account: \$16,277.85; invested in CDs: \$238,406.24; and the NCA

operations balance total of \$270,097.09 with \$4,208.23 in reserve for "Distinguished Member" expenses. The Uniform Trophy Fund account balance is \$958.24 for a total of \$271,055.33.

In response to a Board member's questions, Mary L. Price informed the Board that purchase of the extra two years' of Lenox china for Uniform Trophies had not yet been completed.

Unfinished Business

Review of Board Motions

Pam Saunders, Board-elect member, commented that after the Board's last meeting, she had reviewed Board motions from the last two years. She found several motions that would need to be reviewed in light of the information brought forward by Lisa Davis, NCA attorney on the "present and voting" issue.

Pam Rubio moved and Sue Marino seconded to appoint Pam Saunders to continue to review Board motions from 2006 forward in light of the information received from the NCA attorney. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (MLR)

New Business

Committee Correspondence

Jacqueline Brellochs moved and Pam Rubio seconded that discussion and input to committee meetings will be shared by all committee members with each other.

The Board discussed correspondence within committees. There were concerns expressed that in some committees, responses from committee members are sometimes sent to the committee chair and not the rest of the committee thus depriving other committee members the benefit of the entire discussion of a matter. A Board member commented that when emails are copied and repeated on each email, discussion can become quite confusing. There was a friendly amendment to change the original motion.

Jacqueline Brellochs moved and Pam Rubio seconded that all NCA committee discussions have to be conducted in such a way that all committee correspondence is available to all committee members. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (MLR)

Fall Face-to-Face Meeting

The Board discussed possible dates for the fall face-to-face meeting. It was the consensus of the Board that the fall face-to-face meeting be held on November 7-8, 2009. The Board will determine the meeting place at a later date.

AKC Parent Club Database

The AKC Parent Club Committee had requested basic club information from each parent club for a parent club database. A Board member had concerns who would have access to this database. It was reported that only parent club delegates would have access to the database.

Maredith Reggie moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board respond to the AKC Parent Club Committee's request for information. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (MLR)

Adjournment

At 11:43 p.m., Pam Rubio moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (MLR)

Submitted by,

Mary Lou Cuddy
NCA Recording Secretary