

NCA Board of Directors
Teleconference Meeting
Minutes of August 20, 2009
(Approved September 17, 2009)

Roger Frey, President, called the meeting to order at 8:07 p.m. Eastern time. 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), Pat Randall (PKR), Meredith Reggie (MR), Mary Lou Roberts (MLR), Pam Rubio (PSR) and Pam Saunders. Mary L. Price (MLP) was absent. Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was absent. Marylou Zimmerman was present as a member guest.

Approval of Minutes

The Board considered the July 16 – July 30, 2009 minutes.

Pam Rubio moved and Pam Saunders seconded that the Board approve the July 16 - July 30, 2009 minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (MLP)

The Board considered the July 23, 2009 minutes.

Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board approve the July 23, 2009 minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (MLP)

Report of the President

Roger Frey, President, informed the Board that he had no report at this time.

Report of the 1st Vice President

Mary Lou Roberts, 1st Vice President, reported that the Charitable Trust Management Board meeting had been cancelled and she had nothing further to report.

Report of the 2nd Vice President

Kathy McIver, 2nd Vice President, reported that Naomi Young Meyer is recovering from successful surgery and that she will resume her duties as the AKC Breeder Referral contact as soon as she is able.

Kathy stated that the rest of her report would be under Committee Reports.

Report of the Recording Secretary

Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary, reported that she had prepared the July 16 – July 30, 2009 minutes, the July 23, 2009 minutes and the August 20, 2009 agenda packet.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary

Pat Randall, Corresponding Secretary, reported on correspondence that he had received. In regards to a letter from the Golden Retriever Foundation requesting information regarding the NCA's Top Twenty competition, the Board, by consensus, asked the Specialty Show Coordinating Committee to respond to the letter.

In response to a request from Susan McCollough (sp?), a writer for the *AKC Gazette*, for information on Newfoundland breeders in cold-weather climates, the Board, by consensus, asked Pat to send her a copy of the *Breeders List*.

Pat reported that he had received a response from OFA regarding NCA's questions on the continuation of the OFA discount program. The program will remain in effect until June 30, 2010. Further discussion of the OFA discount program was tabled until later in the meeting.

Pat reported that there had been no further discussion on the Internet lists regarding the *Ethics Guide*, the *Constitution and Bylaws* and the *Best Breeding Practices* statement.

Pat informed the Board that he, Marylou Zimmerman and Mary L. Price are coordinating the editing of the NCA Board meetings on mp3 files for posting on the NCA website. Marylou Zimmerman will be adding links from the minutes of a meeting to the corresponding mp3 file.

At 8:45 p.m., Mary L. Price joined the meeting.

Report of the Treasurer

Mary L. Price, Treasurer, reported the following balances: checking account: \$75,867.38; savings account: \$1,259.47; invested in CDs: \$205,842.89; and the NCA operations balance total of \$282,969.74 with \$4,208.23 in reserve for "Distinguished Member" expenses. The Uniform Trophy Fund account balance is \$7,252.43 for a total of \$290,222.17.

A Board member questioned the high amount in the checking account. Mary answered that dues are being deposited and not all the expenses have been submitted.

Mary L. Price and Mary Lou Cuddy, Membership Chair, reported on the dues renewal process. The second notice of dues renewal to the membership will be going to the printers within a day. It was reported that approximately 160 members have not yet responded which is up slightly from approximately 140 last year.

Report of the AKC Delegate

Mary Lou Cuddy reported for Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, who was absent. Mary had requested that the Board discuss the AKC's proposal for group re-alignment and to inform her if the Board wished her to cast a vote against the proposal as had been discussed in earlier teleconferences. The next AKC Delegates' meeting will be held in September in Newark, New Jersey.

Discussion centered on points such as increased expenses for small clubs and the AKC. At smaller shows there could be four or less dogs in some of the groups. Some of the groups are now becoming quite large and unwieldy with many breeds soon to be approved for AKC competition. AKC judges were not consulted about this proposal and many are against it.

Mary Lou Roberts moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that the Board support the AKC Delegate's recommendation that she vote against the proposed AKC group re-alignment proposal. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a brief discussion about a possibility that just adding a Northern group might be put forward for consideration. It was the Board's consensus that the Board will trust Mary's judgment if that suggestion comes to a vote.

Committee Reports

Breeder Education Committee

Kathy McIver, Breeder Education Committee (BEC) Chair, presented a proposed *Best Breeding Practices* which had been developed by the committee.

The Board discussed various points within the document such as, but not limited to, health testing, breeding for sound temperaments, age at time of first breeding, verification of health test results, permanent identification of breeding dogs and assistance by stud dog owners in the re-homing of puppies produced by their stud dogs. It was agreed that Board members will also forward additional comments to Kathy and the BEC within the week. The committee will consider all the comments and come back to the Board with their revised document.

Health & Longevity Committee

Kathy McIver presented the report from the Health & Longevity Committee (H&L). The committee reported that they would not be using Survey Monkey for the health survey as Marylou Zimmerman, NCA webmaster, had recommended another option that would not incur a cost.

The Board then considered the comments received from H&L on the *Best Breeding Practices* statement proposed by the *Constitution and Bylaws* Review Committee. There was a discussion concerning the publication of these comments from H&L along with the proposed *Best Breeding Practice* statement from the *Constitution and Bylaws* Review Committee in the 4th Quarter issue of *Newf Tide*. The Board discussed a particular sentence and whether it should be edited. It was agreed that any editing should be done by H&L. It was noted that negative committee reports on the proposed *Constitution and Bylaws* Review Committee's statement had been received from both H&L and BEC.

Membership Committee

Mary Lou Cuddy, Membership Chair, reported on information she had received about a source which lists people who have been or are suspended from the AKC. The site requires a subscription of \$19.00 per year to access the information. The Board discussed possible benefits from accessing this information. Some Board members wanted to know how the information would be used. Every applicant would have to be checked against the listing. It was the consensus of the Board that the NCA not subscribe to this listing at this time.

Juniors Committee

Kathy McIver presented a report from the Juniors Committee. The committee has some projects that they are working on, such as articles for *Newf Tide*, junior showmanship clinics at National Specialties, a juniors Facebook page and others. In response to a question from the committee regarding rosette and dinner stipends for the BestJunior.com annual dinner, the committee was directed to contact the NCA Treasurer.

***Newf Tide* Policy Committee**

Kathy McIver presented a request from the *Newf Tide* Policy Committee that the committee be allowed to repeat the eight-page color spread for the photo contest winners. It had received many favorable comments last year. The committee reported that they had included the costs in their budget which was approved by the Board.

Mary L. Price moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board approve the *Newf Tide* Policy Committee's request to repeat the eight-page color spread for the photo contest winners in the 4th Quarter issue of *Newf Tide* as budgeted. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Abstention (MR)

OFA Submissions Discount Program

The Board returned to a discussion of the OFA discount program. Meredith Reggie, *Newf Tide* editor, asked for clarification of the program for a report which will be included in the next issue of *Newf Tide*. The Board discussed the differences between

the report written by the Health & Longevity Committee and the letter received from OFA. It was the consensus of the Board that the Corresponding Secretary will contact OFA for its approval of the details of the program and the NCA's recommendations. That information will be relayed to the H&L for inclusion in their report.

Regional Club Liaison

Pam Rubio, Regional Club Liaison, presented a request for Board approval of the North Central Newfoundland Club's proposed changes to its Constitution and Bylaws. The Board discussed the proposed changes in the membership categories and whether there were enough active members in the club to enact term limits. It was the consensus of the Board that the Regional Club Liaison takes these concerns back to the North Central club for their consideration.

At 10:30 p.m., Marylou Zimmerman joined the teleconference.

Regional Club Committee

Marylou Zimmerman, Regional Club Committee (RCC) member, informed the Board of the RCC's recommendation that the NCA establish an electronic forum open to regional club newsletter editors and regional club Board members. She explained that the exchange of club newsletters among regional clubs is cumbersome due to constantly changing regional club newsletter editors and/or their emails. This recommendation would allow editors to send their newsletters to one address and it would then be available for other editors and regional club Board members to access. There was a question about posting the newsletters on the NCA website with access for all. It was stated that some clubs would not want their minutes and financial information out for public access, plus it would be a time-consuming for the NCA webmaster.

Pat Randall moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board approve the recommendation of the Regional Club Committee for the establishment of an electronic forum open to regional club newsletter editors and regional club Board members. The motion passed unanimously.

At 10:40 p.m., Marylou Zimmerman left the teleconference.

Kathy McIver presented a request from the RCC that the Breed Steward Program be referred to the RCC for the regional clubs' input prior to the NCA Board adopting the proposal. It was stated that the motion was premature and should be tabled until the *ad hoc* Breed Steward Program Committee presents its report

Steering Committee

Mary Lou Roberts, Steering Committee Chair, reminded the Board that they had approved the Steering Committee's earlier request to contact the NCA Treasurer,

Membership Chair and Working Dog Committee for information needed for projects the committee was developing. The Steering Committee is requesting that the Specialty Show Coordinating Committee be added to the list. It was the consensus of the Board that this request be granted.

Mary Lou informed the Board that several committee members would be presenting a report at the Board's fall face-to-face meeting November 5-8, 2009 in Ellenville, New York.

Technical Resources Committee

The committee submitted a preliminary report on the development of a policy of including and verifying titles being entered into the NCA database.

Working Dog Committee

Sue Marino, Working Dog Chair, reported to the Board that the committee had voted to recognize any judge who had been added to the NCA Working Test Judges' Emeritus List with a certificate to be presented at the Annual Membership Meeting. In answer to a question about the criteria to be included on the Emeritus List, Sue replied that any judge who has judged a water or draft test and has retired from judging is eligible.

Meredith Reggie moved and Sue Marino seconded that the Board approve the Working Dog Committee's proposal to award any NCA Working Test judge added to the NCA Judges Emeritus List in the previous year a certificate at the Annual Membership Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Sue presented the committee's recommendation for an amendment to the Working Dog Grievance policy to clarify the steps needed to take the decision from the Working Dog Committee to the NCA Grievance procedure. There was some discussion about procedures and any possible conflicts of interest.

Sue Marino moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that the Board approve the amendment to the NCA Working Test Grievance policy as proposed by the Working Dog Committee and amended by the Board. This amendment reads: "If the alleged infraction has been substantiated by the finding of the Working Test Hearing Committee, the complainant may then submit the decision of the Working Dog Committee, along with \$100 filing fee to the NCA Board, to be handled in accordance with the NCA Bylaws." The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session

At 11:00 p.m., Kathy McIver moved and Mary Lou Cuddy seconded that the Board go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

At 11:18 p.m., Pam Rubio moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board come out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

While in executive session, the Recording Secretary reported the Board had approved the Applicants List dated July 16, 2009.

While in executive session, the Board appointed Peggy Lange as Chair of the *ad hoc* Breed Steward Program.

While in executive session, the Board appointed Charma Hill to the Juniors Committee.

While in executive session, the Board selected Jean Fournier as its choice for the AKC Lifetime Achievement Award in Conformation.

While in executive session, the Board selected Jill Jones as its choice for the AKC Lifetime Achievement Award in Companion Events.

Unfinished Business

The Board considered the request to reconsider the previously adopted *Constitution and Bylaws* and the decision to approve that any person could file a grievance against an NCA member. The vote was originally thought to have approved that statement but with subsequent information from the Connecticut attorney concerning votes and the majority of those present, the vote actually failed.

The Board discussed the advantages and the problems of non-members being able to file a grievance against an NCA member. Some Board members felt that arbitration was appropriate for non-members to have their grievances addressed. Some Board members were concerned about non-members filing frivolous grievances against NCA members while the NCA member would have no recourse against the non-member. The Board was reminded that it entertains jurisdiction and could dismiss any frivolous charges. Some Board members felt that non-members should be able to report egregious actions by NCA members. One Board member expressed a concern that non-members affiliated with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) or the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) might utilize the grievance procedure to harass breeders.

Pat Randall moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board amend the previously adopted *Constitution and Bylaws* document by changing “any person” to “any member” can file a grievance. The motion failed. 5 Yes (LA, JB, KM, PKR, PS); 7 No (MLC, RF, SM, MLP, MR, MLR, PSR)

Appointment of Committees

The discussion of the appointment of committees by the Board was tabled until the next meeting.

New Business

AKC Meet the Breeds

Lynne Anderson-Powell moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that the following announcement be placed in the next issue of the *NCA e-notes*: “The completed AKC Meet the Breeds website is live at www.akc.org/meet_the_breeds. Please share it with your friends, family and fellow dog/cat lovers. It has features everyone can enjoy such as our poll, breed ID game, virtual stickers and links to all our social media pages.” The motion passed unanimously.

Board members were reminded that submissions to the *NCA e-notes* should be made to Marylou Zimmerman. Board approval is not necessary to place an item in the *NCA e-notes*.

Working Achievement Award

In response to a question from an NCA member about the use of the Working Achievement title, the Board discussed whether the title could be used after notification from the Working Achievement Committee or after the formal recognition at the National Specialty.

Maredith Reggie moved and Pam Rubio seconded that upon completion of the requirements for the Working Achievement Award and verification by the Working Achievement Award Committee Chair, members/owners may use the WA designation as a part of their dog’s name. It is not necessary to wait until formal recognition is given at a National Specialty. The motion passed unanimously.

Inclusion of Proposed Documents in *Newf Tide*

The Board briefly considered the question of including the proposed *Ethics Guide* and *Best Breeding Practices*, along with the *Constitution and Bylaws*, in the 4th Quarter issue of *Newf Tide*. It was the consensus of the Board that the matter will be tabled until a later meeting.

Newfoundland Rescue

A Board member requested information about the collection of sales tax on placement fees for rescued Newfoundlands as she is concerned that animal right extremists may use that information.

Fall Face-to-Face Board Meeting

The Board briefly discussed travel plans to Ellenville, New York for the November 5-8, 2009 face-to-face meeting. It was suggested that Board members fly into the Albany International airport and local Board members could shuttle everyone to the hotel, thus saving the NCA some travel expenses.

Adjournment

At 11:53 p.m., Kathy McIver moved and Sue Marino seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by,

Mary Lou Cuddy
NCA Recording Secretary