

NCA Board of Directors
Teleconference Meeting
Minutes of May 21, 2009
(Approved June 18, 2009)

Roger Frey, President, called the meeting to order at 8:05 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), Mary L. Price (MLP), Pat Randall (PKR), Meredith Reggie (MR), Mary Lou Roberts (MLR), Pam Rubio (PSR) and Pam Saunders. Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was present. Denise Castonguay, Kevin Gallagher and Robin Seaman were present as members guests.

Approval of Minutes

Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary, reported that the minutes are in the process of being prepared and will be ready for approval at the next teleconference.

Report of the President

Roger Frey, President, reported that he had received notice of an upcoming AKC Parent Club Canine Health Conference as had Clyde Dunphy, Charitable Trust Management Board Chair. There was a brief discussion if that meant the NCA could send two members to the conference. It was the consensus of the Board that it should be determined if two members could attend and, if so, that Clyde Dunphy and Jennifer Zablotny should be asked if they could attend the conference.

Roger stated that in a discussion with Connie DeFord, the parliamentarian hired for the Annual Membership Meeting, regarding some of the motions on the agenda, she felt that a member's point was correct in that the Board should approve applicants by a secret ballot. Her recommendation was to use the same voting procedure that is used for the Board elections. There was a brief discussion about the logistics of voting in this manner.

Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board will, when voting on NCA applicants, use the same double envelope procedure used in Board elections to ensure a secret ballot. Board members will insert their marked ballot listing all the applicants for that meeting into an unmarked envelope which will be inserted into an envelope addressed to the NCA Recording Secretary. These ballots must be mailed no later than one week after that meeting. Ballots and envelopes will be included in the agenda packet. The new procedure will start with the June 18, 2009 teleconference. The motion passed unanimously.

Roger reported that Ms. DeFord, when asked, stated that she felt that the sign-in sheets would suffice for a roll call at the Annual Membership Meeting.

Report of the 1st Vice President

Mary Lou Roberts, 1st Vice President, reported that the May meeting of the Charitable Trust Management Board had been cancelled, thus she has nothing to report at this time.

Report of the 2nd Vice President

Kathy McIver, 2nd Vice President, asked for a discussion about the decision to have the Rescue Education and Awareness Committee (REACt) develop the *LifeStages* program but then *LifeStages* would be handed over to the General Education Committee (GenEd) for managing and maintenance. One committee does the work but feels that their work is not being acknowledged. Following a brief discussion, the consensus of the Board was to leave the motion as it is.

Report of the Recording Secretary

Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary, reported that she had prepared the May 21, 2009 agenda. The minutes from the previous meetings at the National Specialty are in the process of being prepared.

Mary Lou requested the Board's permission to destroy the 2009 election ballots.

Kathy McIver moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board approve the request of the Recording Secretary to destroy the election ballots from the 2009 election. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a brief discussion concerning the ballots, making them available to the membership and the need to ask permission to destroy the ballots.

Pat Randall moved and Pam Saunders seconded that the Board table the discussion of the disposal of future election ballots to the June teleconference. The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:28 p.m., Mary L. Price noted that AccuConference was indicating that the meeting was not being recorded. The process to start the recording of the meeting was repeated with success.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary

Pat Randall, Corresponding Secretary, reported on an email from a member informing the Board of the free breed surveys being offered by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA). There was a brief discussion about the Health & Longevity Committee, the breed surveys and whether these surveys would be sufficient for the NCA's needs.

Pat Randall moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board request a recommendation from the Health & Longevity Committee whether the breed surveys developed by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals would meet the NCA's needs. The motion passed unanimously.

Pat reported on a request from a member to be placed on a Specialty Show Committee. There was some question as to whether the request referred to the 2010 National Specialty Committee or the Specialty Show Coordinating Committee. It was the consensus of the Board that this matter be tabled until executive session.

Pat reported that he had received an email from Ellis Adler questioning the OFA reports he was sent which did not include owners' names and address and the disclosure field. Pat stated that he had written to Ellis explaining the Board's policy on releasing that information.

Pat requested the Board's opinion on sending AKC title information to the owner of a Great Pyrenees website who had been receiving and posting this information previously. There was no objection from the Board as this had been past practice.

Pat reported that he had received a letter from the International Kennel Club offering 10 feet of free booth space if a club would host a specialty in conjunction with their show on February 27, 2010. It was the consensus of the Board to have the Regional Club Liaison forward the information to the North Central Newfoundland Club for their consideration.

Pat brought to the Board's attention that there may have been a dog who had earned a Versatile Newfoundland (VN) title who was not recognized at the National Specialty. It was reported that the owner was at the National Specialty but did not make a comment to anyone that her dog was not acknowledged. There was a discussion about the date on which the last title was earned and the date it was published in the *AKC Awards* and which date counted for the VN and if the appropriate paperwork was submitted as requested. Pam Saunders volunteered to call the member to ask for details.

Pat reported on a Dr. Hutchison seminar notice that he had received and said that he would post the information in the *NCA e-notes* and the Breeder-I list.

Pat reported on an email received by both him and Mary Lou Cuddy, who had referred the person to the Arbitration Committee.

He reported on two letters received from the AKC. One letter announced the AKC Legislative Tracking Service which he forwarded to the AKC Legislation Committee. The other was an announcement about AKC's mixed breed program. There was a short discussion whether the NCA should make a statement about this new program. Some Board members thought that the Board had already decided that no statement was needed at this time.

Pat informed the Board that Steve Britton, Regional Club Committee Chair, had requested a minor change of a heading in the March 19, 2009 minutes. Mary Lou Cuddy informed the Board that she had received the same request and had already made that change.

Report of the Treasurer

Mary L. Price, Treasurer, reported the following balances: checking account: \$19,113.61; savings account: \$11,268.23; invested in CDs: \$230,328.03; and the NCA operations balance total of \$260,709.87 with \$4,208.23 in reserve for "Distinguished Member" expenses. The Uniform Trophy Fund account balance is \$5,881.39 for a total of \$266,591.26.

Mary informed the Board that there were two declined credit cards used for the limited edition plates. With the proceeds from the sales at the Fine Arts auction of the number one limited edition plate and the original artwork, all the loans for the uniform trophies have been repaid.

Mary presented to the Board two invoices from Ascent Systems, one from late February and the other from April. Barbara Finch, Technical Resources Chair, has reviewed the invoices and recommended that they be paid.

Pam Rubio moved and Sue Marino seconded that the Board approve the payment of two invoices from Ascent Systems for work done on the NCA database. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed renewing the NCA's Patron Membership in the AKC Museum of the Dog.

Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board approve the payment of \$1,000.00 for the renewal of the NCA's Patron Membership in the AKC Museum of the Dog. The motion passed unanimously.

Report of the AKC Delegate

Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, reported that she had little additional information to pass to the Board. She is planning on attending the June AKC Delegates Meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina. She expects that the group re-alignment proposal will be read at the June meeting and the Delegates will vote on it in September. She reminded that Board that the Delegates can only approve the group re-alignment; the AKC Board will determine which breeds are placed in the new groups. There was a short discussion concerning the chances of this proposal passing. It was the general consensus of the NCA Board that the groups should stay at the current seven groups.

Committee Reports

At 9:01 p.m., Robin Seaman, Specialty Show Coordinating Committee Chair, joined the teleconference.

Specialty Show Coordinating Committee

Robin reported that the committee had met shortly after the National Specialty. Sandee Lovett, 2010 National Specialty Chair, had met with the Frankenmuth Park Commissioner regarding the area where there was handler parking at the 2009 National Specialty. Some issues were resolved and the area will be able to be used for handler parking in 2010. Other issues, such as a bigger dumpster and the scooping stations being set-up on Saturday, were also resolved. The Top Twenty will not be held in the same room as in 2009 and alternatives are being considered. Sandee has also met with the Bavarian Inn Lodge and discussed concerns and suggestions about the food and service. There was some discussion about a consignment shop. It was felt the logistics out-weighed the benefits.

Robin informed the Board that Marylou Zimmerman had devised a short survey asking for input on the 2009 National Specialty. The committee would like to include a link to the survey in the next issue of *NCA e-notes*. Robin told the Board that the results would be sent directly to Sandee. There was a brief discussion concerning the fact that previous surveys were never forwarded to the committee.

Sue Marino moved and Pam Saunders seconded that the Board approve the inclusion of the Specialty Show Coordinating Committee's proposed survey in the next issue of the *NCA e-notes*. The motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion concerning the 2011 National Specialty and a site. Robin reported that the Frankenmuth site was available for the same dates in May or a week later. Amy Lane had volunteered to chair the show. There was a discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of returning to the same site three years in a row and what options were available to the NCA. Robin stated that the Specialty Show Coordinating Committee had voted unanimously to return to Frankenmuth in 2011.

Kathy McIver moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board approve the recommendation of the Specialty Show Coordinating Committee to book the Bavarian Inn Lodge in Frankenmuth, Michigan for the 2011 National Specialty. The motion passed. 9 Yes (LA, JB, MLC, KM, MLP, PKR, MR, PSR, PS); 3 No (RF, SM, MLR)

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

At 9:30 p.m., Denise Castonguay, Judges Education Committee (JEC) Chair, joined the teleconference.

Judges Education Committee

Denise reported that the JEC had met and voted to recommend to the Board that the committee remain at its current fourteen members. The committee felt that adding more members would make communication more difficult and unwieldy.

Pam Rubio moved and Pat Randall seconded that the Board honor the recommendation of the Judges Education Committee to leave the committee at its current size and to not appoint anyone new at this time. The motion passed. 10 Yes (LA, MLC, SM, KM, MLP, PKR, MR, MLR, PSR, PS); 2 No (JB, RF)

At 9:40 p.m., Denise Castonguay left the teleconference.

At 9:41 p.m., Kevin Gallagher, Nominating Committee Chair, joined the teleconference.

Nominating Committee

Kevin Gallagher reported that a Nominating Committee member had brought up an issue with the procedure the committee uses to vote and the Connecticut state statutes. Some Board members felt that the committee should not change procedures in the middle of the committee's deliberations. The point made by the committee member was well-taken, but will be considered at a later date. There was unanimous consent by the Board that the committee should proceed as usual.

Rescue Education and Awareness Committee

The Board considered a proposed article on fostering rescue Newfoundlands that had been proposed by REACT. There was a discussion on whether the job of developing articles like this was within REACT's job description.

At 9:52 p.m., Pat Randall moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

At 9:55 p.m., Pat Randall moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board come out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board continued its discussion of the foster article. The Board appreciates that the committee is trying to help regional clubs but the article does not reflect actual practice. It was suggested that perhaps REACT should consult with other committees who would be involved or touched by a project.

Kathy McIver moved and Pam Saunders seconded that the Board not approve the foster care document as presented by the Rescue Education and Awareness Committee and that each regional club be encouraged to develop their own materials regarding their rescue programs. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board considered the suggestions made by REACT for the coupon for a free issue of *Newf Tide* that will appear on the letter from the NCA that accompanies the AKC

registration slips. It was pointed out that the coupon should have Sue Mendelson's information as *Newf Tide* subscription contact and not Meredith Reggie's as *Newf Tide* editor. It was recommended that the *LifeStages* information not be included on the coupon until that program was finished and functional. Some Board members felt it was important to get the coupon for the free issue of *Newf Tide* out to the new registrants as soon as possible. There was discussion about the size and placement of the coupon on the letter. It was agreed that the coupon should be enlarged and rotated and that room could be made for that by eliminating some of the older, out-of-print books that are listed in the letter. One Board member had a problem with the entire letter and the information that it contained. The Board was informed that the information came directly from the *Newf and You* and once the new version of the *Newf and You* was approved this letter could then be revised.

Pam Saunders moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that the Board instruct the Rescue Education and Awareness Committee to revise the NCA insert that goes out with AKC registrations slips. This revision is to include enlarging and rotating the coupon for a free issue of *Newf Tide*.

Meredith Reggie moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board amend the motion to revise the NCA insert that goes out with AKC registrations slips by eliminating the reference to the *Lifestages* newsletters until the newsletters are ready for publication. The motion passed unanimously.

The motion that the Board instruct the Rescue Education and Awareness Committee to revise the insert that goes out with AKC registrations passed unanimously.

Arbitration Committee

Kathy McIver reported that the Arbitration Committee had recently considered two complaints that required teleconferences and that both complaints had been resolved.

Health & Longevity Committee

The Board considered the proposed *DNA Clinic Guidelines* developed by the Health & Longevity Committee (H&L). It was suggested that a short introduction be added explaining the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) program with a link to CHIC. In response to a question, it was agreed that these guidelines be posted on the *NCA Website* and a hard copy mailed to each regional club with a letter encouraging each regional club to put on a clinic with links to the NCA grant program and the CHIC Repository.

Pam Rubio moved and Sue Marino seconded that the Board approve the *DNA Clinic Guidelines*, presented by the Health & Longevity Committee, as amended with an introductory paragraph and contract provisions for veterinary technicians. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board considered the statement received from H&L in response to the Board's request for H&L's opinion on including participating in the DNA Repository as a requirement for a CHIC number. The committee has recommended against including this as a requirement. By unanimous consent, the Board accepted the recommendation of the committee.

Steering Committee

Mary Lou Roberts, Steering Committee Chair, reported that the Steering Committee had met after the Board's March teleconference. The committee was unanimous in their disappointment over the negative vote by the Board on their proposal for the consideration of increasing the membership and that their hard work was not appreciated. There was also no direction from the Board as to what direction the committee should be taking. The committee had directed Mary Lou to ask the Board for input, feedback and direction. Based on the request of the committee, the Board agreed to think about direction for the Steering Committee and to discuss this at the next teleconference.

Hearing no objection, the Board asked the committee to come back with a stated goal and a rationale. Specifics would then be addressed after approval.

TOD/TODD Awards Committee

Kathy McIver requested the Board's input to help this committee get up and running. Roger Frey volunteered to assist. It was suggested that a member is very interested in serving on the committee and would get this committee off the ground.

Executive Session

At 10:49 p.m., Kathy McIver moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

At 11:28 p.m., Kathy McIver moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board come out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

At 11:28 p.m., Mary W. Price left the teleconference.

While in executive session, the Board approved the Applicants List dated May 21, 2009 with the exception of one application held in abeyance.

While in executive session, the Board considered complaints received about the treatment of two dogs at the National Specialty.

While in executive session, the Board approved adding Karen Steinrock to the Electronic Publications Policy Committee.

At 11:29 p.m., Meredith Reggie moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by,

Mary Lou Cuddy
NCA Recording Secretary