

NCA Board of Directors
Teleconference Meeting
Minutes of January 21, 2010
(Approved February 18, 2010)

Roger Frey, President, called the meeting to order at 8:08 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), Mary L. Price (MLP), Pat Randall (PKR), Meredith Reggie (MR), Mary Lou Roberts (MLR) and Pam Saunders (PS). Kathy Mclver (KM) and Pam Rubio (PSR) were absent. Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was absent. Deb Bridge, Barbara Finch and Marylou Zimmerman were present as member guests.

Approval of Minutes

The Board considered the December 17, 2009 minutes.

Pam Saunders moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board approve the December 17, 2009 minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously. 2 Absent (KM, PSR)

Report of the President

Roger Frey, President, reported that the Board should start considering the meeting schedule for the National Specialty. The Board had discussed helping at the registration table and the Show Committee would like to start scheduling Board members around the Board's meeting time. It was agreed that setting a meeting schedule would be discussed later in the meeting.

Report of the 1st Vice President

Mary Lou Roberts, 1st Vice President, reported on the January 13, 2010 meeting of the Charitable Trust Management Board (CTMB). The CTMB discussed an early spay/neuter study and agreed to share the study with the Health and Longevity Committee for possible publication.

Mary Lou informed the Board that the book featuring Consie Powell's A-Z pictures would be ready to debut at the National Specialty. Pre-orders will be taken. The book features the pictures plus an appropriate poem.

Mary Lou reported that the Dannyquest statue is not selling quite as quickly as the others in the series. There are 30 statues left at this time. It was agreed that the promotion of the statue should be stepped up.

Mary Lou said that the CTMB would like to encourage each regional club to hold one fundraiser a year to benefit the Health Challenge and Newf Rescue. She used as an example the cookbook fundraiser done by New-Pen-Del several years ago. It was stated that with the Internet and *NCA e-notes*, these types of fundraisers could raise a great deal of money for Health Challenge and Newf Rescue.

There was a brief discussion about the Board's request to the CTMB for an explanation of CTMB's funding priorities. Mary Lou stated that the CTMB did not feel that the funding priorities needed to be changed. There was discussion that the Board just wanted an explanation of the funding priorities and was not asking the CTMB to change them. Mary Lou agreed to take this back to the CTMB.

At 8:28 p.m., Mary W. Price joined the meeting.

Report of the Recording Secretary

Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary, reported that she had prepared the January 21, 2010 agenda and the December 17, 2009 minutes. She informed the Board that as of that day, there had been 467 ballot envelopes returned. There was a short discussion concerning using *NCA e-notes* to remind members to cast their votes.

Mary Lou Cuddy moved and Sue Marino seconded that the Board approve the request of the Recording Secretary for an additional early issue of *NCA e-notes* to remind members to submit their ballots by February 1st. The motion passed unanimously. 2 Absent (KM, PSR)

Report of the Corresponding Secretary

Pat Randall, Corresponding Secretary, reported on a letter he received asking about any NCA policy concerning NCA members advertising on some Internet puppy websites. The Board reviewed previous discussions on this matter. Some members feel strongly that NCA should have a presence on these websites while others feel that it lends credence to the websites. It was agreed that Pat would respond with a letter outlining the pros and cons and that currently there is no NCA policy addressing this.

Pat reported on the following correspondence: There was a request from the Newfoundland Club of Ireland to link to the NCA Website. It was agreed that the request be forwarded to Marylou Zimmerman, NCA Webmaster. A letter was received from AKC outlining the changes made to the mixed breed program. The changes will allow spayed and neutered mixed breeds to compete in the same performance classes and earn the same titles as purebreds. An invitation from the International Kennel Club (Chicago) to participate in a Meet the Breeds exhibition at their show was forwarded to the North Central Newfoundland Club. A request for information on the

NCA judges mentoring program from the Doberman Club of America was forwarded to Denise Castonguay, Judges Education Committee Chair.

The Board discussed a letter from an NCA member requesting information on the evolution of the NCA Database, including but not limited to committee reports, budgets and correspondence. The Board discussed what items could be conveniently provided. Some items would involve Board and committee members spending a considerable amount of time to assemble the materials. The Connecticut statutes were consulted to ascertain members' rights to some materials. The Board discussed the policy of releasing committee reports. It was stated that there are no transcripts available from the conversations between the Technical Resources Committee and Ascent Systems, Inc. It was agreed that the information that appeared in the 4th Quarter 2009 issue of *Newf Tide* already contained most of the information requested. There was additional discussion of the policy relating to the release of committee reports. Mary L. Price, NCA Treasurer, stated that she would be able to send approved budgets and vendor invoices. It was agreed that Pat Randall would respond and inform the member that the Board and the Technical Resources Committee would supply what materials were easily available at the Board's earliest convenience.

Pam Saunders moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that the Board go into executive session for the consideration of the release of NCA and committee information.

There was some discussion that since this discussion is about policy, executive session is not appropriate as policy discussions should be done in open session.

The motion failed. 1 Yes (PS); 9 No (LA, JB, MLC, RF, SM, MLP, PKR, MR, MLR); 2 Absent (KM, PSR)

Pat Randall moved and Pam Saunders seconded that the Board table the consideration of the release of NCA and committee information until later in the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. 2 Absent (KM, PSR)

At 9:03 p.m., Deb Bridge, Barbara Finch and Marylou Zimmerman joined the meeting.

Technical Resources Committee

Barbara Finch, Technical Resources Committee Chair, addressed several questions from a Board member. In regards to the posting of health issues, such as cardiomyopathy, cataracts, gastric torsion, Phase I of the NCA Database is not formatted to accept that information. Barbara reported that the database is set-up to handle future additional information and that additional health issues could be included in later phases of the database. It was stated that guidelines would have to be

developed and parameters set, for example, owner-reported versus veterinarian-reported.

Barbara reiterated that the database was originally meant for use by NCA publications and to generate the Register of Merit and Versatile Newfoundland awards, not to be an all-inclusive Newfoundland database. Currently, only Newfoundlands with titles or dogs that appear in the pedigrees of such dogs are included in the database.

The Board discussed a possibility of using the AKC Studbook to add dogs into the database. The Board was reminded that AKC will not release AKC information into a public database. Manually entering the Studbook would be very time-consuming, may introduce errors and would be a “gray area” legally. Barbara Finch agreed to call AKC to discuss this matter with them again.

At 9:24 p.m., Pam Rubio joined the meeting.

There was a discussion that entering dogs from the Studbook would mean that dogs from all breeders would be in the database while currently only titled Newfoundlands are being entered.

It was stated that there needs to be an agreement of what information should be in the database. AKC information would be considered the “gold standard” and the Studbook information would be an easy import if the NCA is allowed to use it. Entering OFA information is more difficult as their information is based on information provided by the owner of the dog. As an example, if an owner enters an incorrect AKC registration number or the name of the dog is slightly different than its AKC registration, then the database has been compromised. It would take more volunteers to manually search out and reconcile those discrepancies. When asked about AKC using OFA information, it was said that AKC probably has an agreement with OFA that OFA information is not to be forwarded to third parties.

It was stated that the membership must understand what the database is at this time and that all the AKC data can't be magically imported as we would like. Barbara reported that all AKC-titled Newfs are in the database with only a few needing some tweaks. The 2009 working titles are going to be loaded within the next few days and working titles back to 2007 are almost finished. The download and importation of the working titles from 2006 and earlier did not go smoothly and that data is being corrected as quickly as possible.

There was additional discussion of the new launch and updating the working titles using *Newf Tide*, the *Annual of Titlists* and working test catalogs.

Maredith Reggie moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that all titled and non-titled AKC-registered Newfoundlands listed in the OFA database be eventually included in the NCA database. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (KM)

Pat Randall moved and Pam Rubio seconded that all titled and non-titled Newfoundlands listed in the AKC Stud Book be entered into the NCA database. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (KM)

There was a discussion of listing owners in the database. The uploading of the AKC-titled dogs will help greatly with that data. It was noted that each dog will be listed under the original owner's name until a new registration certificate with a new owner's name is submitted. There will not a "paper trail" of previous owners in the database.

The Board then considered the Canadian titles. Barbara reported that she had lists of titles earned from the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) starting with 2008. The CKC issues the list of titles earned once a year. These lists should be able to be imported directly into the database with some work to be done reconciling CKC registration numbers with AKC registration numbers and entering manually those dogs that have no AKC connections.

Barbara summarized the work done by Dogfish Software. Barbara stated that the NCA will own the code and all the work done by Dogfish Software on the database. Dogfish has put in over 105 hours on the database at no charge to the NCA. The time was spent familiarizing themselves with the structure of the database and cleaning up obvious loose ends.

The Board briefly discussed what blocks of time they would have available to help at the registration table at the National Specialty. Barbara Finch is setting up the volunteer schedule. It is requested that each Board member donate at least an hour to work at the registration table. The Board will set their meeting schedule soon and will inform Barbara of the times they are available.

The Board again considered the request from a member for information relating to the development of the database and requested the TRC's input. Barbara reported that there are copies of the contract and specifications. Some of the billing is in electronic form with others being hard copies. Most Board members felt that any information given to this member cannot be distributed to anyone who is not an NCA member. This information should not be shared via any Internet lists. Barbara stated that she had copies of all correspondence between her and Ascent Systems, Inc., but she does not believe that the member is entitled to them. The Board considered what obligations the NCA has in divulging committee and Board business according to the Connecticut statutes. It was stated that there needs to be a specific reason given before the information is released. It was decided that information easily accessible would be made available and additional information would be provided as the committee and

Board members have time to assemble such information. The member requesting the information would be responsible for paying for all costs related to his request.

At 10:37 p.m., Deb Bridge, Barbara Finch and Marylou Zimmerman left the meeting.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary

Pat Randall continued his Corresponding Secretary's report. He informed the Board that he would forward to them a letter from the AKC regarding the AKC's PAC (political action committee).

Report of the Treasurer

Mary L. Price, Treasurer, reported the following balances: checking account: \$10,480.50; checking account for 2010 National Specialty: \$1,140.67; savings account: \$13,236.66; invested in CDs: \$178,492.10; and the NCA operations balance total of \$203,349.93 with \$4,310.08 in reserve for "Distinguished Member" expenses. The Uniform Trophy Fund account balance is \$5,412.43 for a total of \$208,762.36.

Mary reported that one of the NCA's CDs had matured and she had paid *the Annual of Titlists* and the 4th Quarter issue of *Newf Tide* from the proceeds.

Report of the AKC Delegate

Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, reported that she had been unable to attend the December 17, 2009 NCA Board meeting and that Mary Lou Cuddy had given her report for her. Mary reported that the new Grand Champion title program will become effective May 1, 2010. There was not much of a discussion over the new title but there was an amendment to allow spayed/neutered champions and Selects at national specialties to compete for and be awarded the title.

Mary informed the Board that at this time there were only five petitions from candidates for the AKC Board. Mary remarked that it was sad that only five out of over 500 Delegates would run for the AKC Board.

Mary reported on her trip to England and her visit to The Kennel Club. She stated that she was privileged to be able to see a wonderful canine art exhibit which included the "Distinguished Member of the Humane Society". She was pleased when Mr. Ronnie Irving, Chairman of The Kennel Club, mentioned to her that he knew how instrumental the NCA was in the restoration of the painting. He then arranged for Mary to tour The Kennel Club's library including a collection of books dating back to the 17th century.

Roger Frey brought the Board's attention to an article in the January 15, 2010 issue of Dog News where columnist Matthew Standish praised Mary's service to the NCA and her work as the NCA's AKC Delegate.

At 10:52 p.m., Mary W. Price left the meeting.

Executive Session

At 10:52 p.m., Pat Randall moved and Sue Marino seconded that the Board go into executive session for the purpose of appointing a potential committee. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (KM)

At 12:15 a.m., Pam Saunders moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board come out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (KM)

While in executive session, the Board considered the new member applications.

While in executive session, the Board appointed Pat Randall and Pam Rubio as NCA Public Spokespeople.

While in executive session, the Board approved the payment of a \$400.00 stipend each to Jessica Schell and Jessica Thibault in recognition of their meeting the requirements to compete at Westminster in Junior Showmanship.

While in executive session, the Board voted not to entertain jurisdiction regarding a grievance filed with the Board in accordance with the By-laws, Discipline section.

Regional Club Liaison

Pam Rubio, Regional Club Liaison, reported on a proposed fundraiser for Health Challenge and Newf Rescue from Diane Lynch and her request that her fundraiser be publicized to the regional clubs through the Regional Club Liaison. Her fundraiser, named "Swim for Newfs", involves Diane collecting pledges for each lap she swims. She plans to swim 2 miles or 144 laps. There was no objection to the Regional Club Liaison forwarding her fundraiser to the regional clubs. The Board recommended that the fundraiser be mentioned in the *NCA e-notes* and in regional club newsletters. The Board also discussed an article to encourage regional clubs to hold fundraisers for Newf Rescue and Health Challenge.

Pam presented proposed changes to the Heart of America Newfoundland Club's Constitution and Bylaws. The Heart of America Club had incorporated the suggestions from the Board and Pam recommended that the changes be approved.

Pam Rubio moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board approve the changes to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Heart of America Newfoundland Club as presented. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (KM)

NCA Committee Survey

Pam Saunders presented the revised NCA Committee Survey. The Board considered some additional changes.

Sue Marino moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that the Board approve the proposed online Committee Survey as amended. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (KM)

Breeders List Application Form

The Board agreed to table the *Breeders List* application until the February teleconference.

Oldest Living Newf

The Board considered how to address the incorrect Oldest Living Newf information that was inadvertently included in the 3rd Quarter issue of *Newf Tide*.

Sue Marino moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that a correction to the announcement of the Oldest Living Newfoundland award in the 3rd Quarter 2009 issue *Newf Tide* be made in the 1st Quarter 2010 issue of *Newf Tide*, along with including notification in the Bulletin Board, *NCA e-notes* and the *NCA Website*. The correction will reflect the following: a new award, in the form of a certificate, will be given at the National Specialty to any Newfoundland reaching the age of 14 years in the previous calendar year and that the criteria for the winner of the Oldest Living Newfoundland be changed to the oldest Newfoundland alive during any part of the previous calendar year. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (KM)

Canadian National Specialty

Lynne Anderson-Powell reported that she had been contacted by the Newfoundland Club of Canada for help to advertise their National Specialty which will be in British Columbia in 2010. The Board agreed to add the link to their National Specialty packet to the NCA Website and the *Newf Tide* calendar.

Adjournment

At 12:48 p.m., Pam Rubio moved and Sue Marino seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (KM)

Submitted by,
Mary Lou Cuddy
NCA Recording Secretary