

NCA Board of Directors
Teleconference Meeting
Minutes of December 16, 2010
(Approved January 20, 2011)

Due to the absence of President Roger Frey, Jacqueline Brellochs, 1st Vice President, called the meeting to order at 8:06 p.m. Eastern time. The following directors were present: Lynne Anderson-Powell (LA), Jacqueline Brellochs (JB), John Cornell (JC), Mary Lou Cuddy (MLC), Sue Marino (SM), Kathy Mclver (KM), Mary L. Price (MLP), Meredith Reggie (MR), Pam Rubio (PR), Pam Saunders (PS) and Donna Thibault (DT). Roger Frey (RF) was absent. Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was absent.

Approval of Minutes

John Cornell moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board approve the November 30, 2010 minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (RF)

Report of the President

No report was given.

Report of the 1st Vice President

Jacqueline Brellochs, 1st Vice President, reported on the Charitable Trust Management Board (CTMB) meeting held December 1, 2010. After considering six studies from the Morris Animal Foundation, the CTMB voted unanimously to fund two cancer projects at \$5,000.00 each. This amount will qualify the CTMB as a co-sponsor, which means the CTMB will receive project updates. Both projects will study treatments to improve remission times, one for lymphoma and one for osteosarcoma. Some Board members commented that most studies seem to be palliative and not basic research as to the cause of a disease. Jacqueline reported that the CTMB will meet on January 5, 2011.

Report of the 2nd Vice President

Kathy Mclver, 2nd Vice President, reported on the 2011 Nominating Committee. The committee members are: Joyce Echon Butler, Chair; Carla Gengler, Betty McDonnell, Mary Lou Roberts, Stacy Roderick and alternates Sue Marino and Jo Nussle.

Kathy recognized the Newfoundland Club of Southern California for the outstanding booth they presented at the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship's Meet the Breeds. They were awarded Group I in the Working Group. Joe Reinisch, Denise Hatakeyama and many other members were involved with the development and staffing of the booth.

Report of the Recording Secretary

Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary, thanked Donna Thibault for taking the minutes at the November 19-21, 2010 meeting. Mary Lou reported that she had prepared the December 16, 2010 agenda, and the Board election packets were in the mail. She informed the Board that information about a grievance that was filed would be given in executive session.

Mary Lou reported that she had received a magazine from the Scottish Newfoundland Club. It was suggested that it be forwarded to Kelli LePore, International Liaison. Mary Lou forwarded information from Marylou Zimmerman that within a short period of time, there had been 15 Facebook "likes" from non-members on the Squidoo website. The NCA had recently placed educational materials on this website.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary

Lynne Anderson-Powell, Corresponding Secretary, reported on correspondence that she had received and acknowledged or had forwarded to appropriate committees. These included responses to a party who has filed a grievance, letters concerning the death of Rosie, the Newfoundland in Washington state; an individual requesting an update on a Newfoundland they re-homed through a regional club; a request for information from the Westminster Kennel Club and the distribution of the latest AKC Awards files.

Lynne informed the Board of her findings concerning the AKC Administrative Research Registration Service. Mari-Beth O'Neil, AKC Vice President for Customer Service/Special Services confirmed that if a dog owner provides a certificate from any registry that shows the dog's parents are AKC registered and the research indicates that there is an unbroken AKC lineage, the dog will be registered with AKC with a full registration and AKC registration fees will be waived. There was also no guarantee that any restrictions in the registration, such as limited registrations, from another registry would be honored.

Lynne reported that breeders would need to register each puppy individually as the owner and then transfer the registration to the new puppy owner to try to protect their puppies. There was a discussion about the Breeders Education Committee writing an article for *Newf Tide* explaining this dilemma and measures that breeders can take.

Pam Saunders moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board refer the information recently received concerning the AKC Administrative Research Registration Service which allows AKC to register dogs from other registries and its implications to the Breeders Education Committee for the development of recommendations. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (RF)

Lynne reviewed the information presented on the Purina Dog Breed Library and Selector tool. It was agreed that the information needed to be clarified and updated.

There was discussion that the General Education Committee should give some input on this and to make the revised *Newf and You* available when ready.

Kathy McIver moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board refer the Purina Dog Breed Library and Selector Tool to the General Education Committee to provide updated information, including the revised *Newf and You* when it becomes available. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (RF)

Report of the Treasurer

Mary L. Price, Treasurer, reported the following balances: checking account: \$40,868.10; checking account for 2010 National Specialty: \$1,048.51; savings account: \$65,273.80; invested in CDs: \$102,338.01; and the NCA operations balance total of \$209,528.42 with \$4,287.63 in reserve for "Distinguished Member" expenses. The Uniform Trophy Fund account balance is \$4,275.00 for a total of \$213,803.42.

Mary and Mary Lou Cuddy, Membership Chair, thanked Pam Saunders for all her help in formatting the *NCA Directory*. Mary reported that some renewals are still being submitted.

Committee Reports

Specialty Show Coordinating Committee

Mary L. Price reported that she and Robin Seaman, Specialty Show Coordinating Committee Chair, had done an analysis on the limited edition plate program which funds the uniform trophies awarded at national specialties. She reported that over the last three years, the net proceeds from the limited edition plate sales have not produced a margin sufficient to defray the trophies' cost. Mary and Robin concluded that the committee should attempt to find other vendors to bid on the production of the decals used to make the limited edition plates. Also being considered is the raising of the prices, increasing the number of available plates, along with other ideas. It was stated that trophy sponsors are critical to help the program from showing a loss.

It was suggested that the committee consider taking pre-orders for plates to help determine how many should be produced. It was reported that one of the companies used for the plates is going out of business and it was felt that this was a good time to look at the whole program.

It was reported that Diane Lavin is working with Wilton Armetale for medallions to be used for Awards of Merit at regional specialties.

It was the consensus of the Board that Naomi Young Meyer, AKC Breeder Referral, should print a supply of the pamphlets shown on the *NCA Website* for use at the Westminster dog show.

It was reported that the panel at the Breeders Forum at the 2011 National Specialty will be Peggy Helming, Sue Jones, Manlio Massa, Betty McDonnell and Robin Seaman.

Breeders List

The Board reviewed the proposed Breeders List application and late fee. There was some discussion about a late fee, how much to charge and whether a final date should be set for late applications.

At 9:08 p.m., Ingrid Lyden joined the meeting.

Awards Committee

Ingrid Lyden, Awards Committee Chair, requested that the procedures for awarding the NCA Good Sportsmanship Award be reviewed. Current policy is that the Awards Chair seeks nominations from the membership via announcements in *Newf Tide* and *NCA e-notes*. These nominations are then submitted to the Recording Secretary to present to the Board. The nominations that are not chosen for the award are then re-submitted for the next two years. Ingrid stated that, in the last several years, the Board has chosen to give the award to a member who was not nominated in this way.

There was some discussion about nominees not meeting the criteria for this award and the Board then awarding a member that had not been nominated. It was stated that the nomination process should be promoted to the membership to encourage more submissions. The regional clubs should be included in the promotion. There was also discussion about nominations from the general membership taking precedence, but that did not rule out nominations being made by the Board. It was agreed that further discussion on this matter would be added to the January 20, 2011 agenda.

Ingrid also reminded the Board that the awards counters cannot give out interim rankings for the top awards to members who request preliminary information. She stated that members making such requests have become a problem in the last few years. There will be a statement to this effect in her annual report, *NCA e-notes* and *Newf Tide*.

The Board thanked Ingrid and her committee for all their hard work.

At 9:28 p.m., Ingrid Lyden left the meeting.

At 9:30 p.m., Marylou Zimmerman joined the meeting.

Technical Resources Committee

Marylou Zimmerman, Technical Resources Committee member, reported on the NCA Database. The committee has been flagging health clearances that have no actual OFA

certificates, particularly the historical dogs that are listed in the database. The committee will attempt to verify as many as possible.

Marylou reported that there were several issues in getting information for the *Annual of Titlists*. One was the issue previously discussed of the historical clearances which has been solved with flagging those clearances. The committee is writing specifications to improve the ease of downloading the OFA and AKC files into the database. The other issue is the change of owners from those listed on the AKC registration certificates. The committee needs the AKC registration certificate in order to update a dog's owner/s. The committee would request that the AKC certificates submitted with the working test entries be forwarded to the committee to help establish the current owner/s.

It was reported that a previous Database Chair has possession of all the working test catalogs. There was a brief discussion about the reimbursement of shipping charges, which had been approved several years ago, to send those catalogs to the Technical Resources Committee.

Marylou Zimmerman reported that she was recusing herself from the committee's work on collecting bids for the database. She reported that there will be three bids, including Dogfish Software, submitted to the Board in January.

Electronic Publications Policy Committee

The Board reviewed the concept of accepting small paid ads on *NCA e-notes*. The impetus for allowing such ads is to increase subscriptions and make the *NCA e-notes* attractive for members. The ads will be geared towards dog-related businesses, such as Newf Emporium and DogWorks. It was stated that two ads at \$25.00 per ad would pay for the charges from Constant Contact to publish the electronic newsletter.

At 9:44 p.m., Marylou Zimmerman left the meeting.

Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board approve the recommendation of the Electronic Publication Policy Committee for advertising on the *NCA e-notes*. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (RF)

Breeders List

The Board returned to the discussion of the *Breeders List* and the amount of a late fee.

Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board approve the *Breeders List* application as amended and the addition of a \$25 late fee. The *Breeders List* Committee will develop a due date for renewals and a second date after which breeders would have to re-apply for inclusion. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (RF)

Ad hoc NCA Governing Documents Review Committee

The Board reviewed the suggested policy for committee communications that was submitted by the *ad hoc* NCA Governing Documents Review Committee. Some Board members wanted a slightly more stringent statement than had been proposed while other voiced support for less restrictions. Some Board members felt the statement read more like a mission statement. There were questions as to whether this would cut off minority statements and other communications. It was agreed that this issue would be added to the January 20, 2011 agenda and that Board members were to review the statement and propose alternative wording.

International Liaison

It was reported that Kelli LePore, International Liaison, was developing new ideas for the committee. She hopes to have more international news and pictures in each issue of *Newf Tide*.

Working Achievement Award Committee

The Board considered a request from the committee to amend the list of "elective" working titles to include the new AKC Versatility obedience and AKC Tracking Dog Urban titles as counting toward the Working Achievement title. The committee does not plan to recognize the "transitional" Beginners Novice, Graduate Novice, or Graduate Open titles as counting toward earning the Working Achievement title.

Kathy McIver moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board approve the recommendation of the Working Achievement Award Committee to add the AKC Versatility obedience title and the AKC Tracking Dog Urban title to the list of titles for earning the Working Achievement award. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (RF)

Obedience Committee

The Board discussed pins awarded for the various obedience titles. Kathy McIver will forward to the Board a spreadsheet of which titles are awarded and how many pins were sent.

Pam Saunders moved and Pam Rubio seconded that obedience pins will be awarded to NCA members only. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (RF)

It was agreed to postpone further discussion to the January 20, 2011 meeting so that more information could be obtained.

Technical Resources Committee

It was reported by the Technical Resources Committee that AKC titles have been updated through October and the 2010 working titles will be added soon to the NCA Database. The OFA records have been updated through June.

Working Dog Committee

Sue Marino, Working Dog Committee Chair, reported that the committee had finalized their Water Rescue Dog Excellent (WRDX) review. The committee is still working on the wording and as soon as that is completed, the changes will be presented to the Board for approval. Sue outlined the main changes as follows: Change back to the three levels in one test to avoid the problems of holding two tests (WD/WRD and WRDX); Keep the WRDX test at 6 exercises; Allow entrants to enter more than one level per day; Disallow post entry to WRDX (time restraints), but allow bump ups ; Give clubs the option to have WD/WRD bitches in season judged at end of level, even if before WRDX portion of the test.

Sue also gave the following information regarding the proposed exercises: (some with new or shortened names):

1. Unconscious Victim: the only change is the way the start is handled.
2. Multiple Rescue: no change.
3. Boat to Raft Rescue: Add a raft to the same exercise at 75 feet. Line is changed to 8 feet. Dog jumps off the boat with the line, goes to the raft, tows the raft to shore, and the steward on shore does NOT call.
4. Hidden Victims: Same, except for the start will use cones and the finish will flow into next exercise.
5. Abandoned Boat: Same, except for the dog being sent from the previous exercise and using a knotted line instead of a bumper.
6. Capsized Raft: Same, except for the start will be changed, the raft will be moved to 50 feet and already will be overturned, and the placement of the judge on the beach when the exercise begins.

Sue presented the following proposal concerning judges qualifications for WRDX: A mentor judge who has judged, exhibited, or officially observed a WRDX test will be automatically approved. Without one of these three qualifications, a mentor judge will be approved only if he is judging with a mentor judge who had one of the three qualifications. A mentor judge could become automatically approved to judge WRDX tests by doing an official observation, without evaluation, and having a signed form to verify this experience. This observation must be at a test with three or more dogs participating; if less than three dogs, two observations are required.

Partner judges can observe as experience but it will not make them eligible to judge at the WRDX level. Partner judges with a WRDX title can judge a WRDX test with a mentor judge that has one of the three aforementioned qualifications.

A club may have a separate judging panel for each level of a test—WD/WRD, or WRDX.

Pam Saunders reported that she has started work on the *NCA Policy Manual*. She informed the Board that she is planning to divide the manual into a historical volume, which would contain all the history and changes and a second volume which would be the current policies in effect. She will send sections of the manual to Board as they are completed. The Board thanked Pam for working on this project.

Executive Session

At 11:00 p.m., Pam Saunders moved and John Cornell seconded that the Board go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (RF)

At 11:34 p.m., Pam Rubio moved and Sue Marino seconded that the Board come out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (RF)

While in executive session, the Board considered the Applicants List dated December 16, 2010 and approved the Applicants List dated November 19-21, 2010.

Unfinished Business

CTMB Communication with NCA Committees and Regional Clubs

The Board considered the question of the Charitable Trust Management Board (CTMB) communicating with the NCA regional clubs. The Board clarified a motion that was made at the November 19-21, 2010 meeting that items submitted from NCA committees to the CTMB must be approved by the NCA Board. It was stated that the CTMB and the NCA regional clubs are separate and independent entities and may communicate with each other without going through the NCA Board.

At 11:32 p.m., John Cornell left the meeting.

New Business

Future National Specialties

The Board briefly discussed two agenda items relating to the hosting and the financial backing of National Specialties. Some Board members felt that these items could help relieve the burden that regional clubs take on when hosting a National Specialty. The Board agreed that the Specialty Show Coordinating Committee should review these items and make their recommendations.

Pam Saunders moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board refer the motions regarding the hosting and financial backing of National Specialties by the NCA and rotating geographical locations be referred to the Specialty Show Coordinating Committee for input back to the Board by the February 18, 2011 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. 2 Absent (JC, RF)

Adjournment

At 11:54 p.m., Pam Saunders moved and Sue Marino seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously. 2 Absent (JC, RF)

Submitted by,

Mary Lou Cuddy
NCA Recording Secretary