

NCA Board of Directors
Teleconference Meeting
February 18, 2010
(Approved March 18, 2010)

Roger Frey, President, called the meeting to order at 8:17 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), Meredith Reggie (MR), Mary Lou Roberts (MLR) and Pam Rubio (PSR). Pat Randall (PKR) and Pam Saunders (PS) were absent. Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was present. Board-elect members John Cornell and Donna Thibault were present. Deb Bridge, Barbara Finch and Jennifer Zablony and Marylou Zimmerman were present as member guests.

The Board welcomed Board-elect members John Cornell and Donna Thibault and congratulated them on their election.

Approval of Minutes

The Board considered the minutes of the January 21, 2010 meeting.

Kathy McIver moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board approve the January 21, 2010 minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously. 2 Absent (PKR, PS)

Report of the President

Roger Frey, President, reported on the AKC Parent Club Conference invitation to send one representative to the conference. The AKC will pay all the expenses for the representative, except airfare. It was agreed to wait to discuss this matter until Pat Randall joined the meeting.

The Board discussed the meeting schedule for the 2010 National Specialty. It was agreed that the Board will meet at the following times: Sunday, May 2nd from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., Monday, May 3rd from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Tuesday, May 4th following the Annual Membership Meeting. There was a reminder that Board members have been invited to help at the registration table.

At 8:30 p.m., Pat Randall joined the meeting.

The Board discussed the appointment of committees. It was suggested that preliminary discussion on committees be held during the April teleconference and would continue at the Board's face-to-face meeting at the National Specialty. It was suggested that the Board could meet after the Top Twenty if additional time was needed. The committees could either be appointed at the face-to-face meeting or at the June 17, 2010 teleconference.

By unanimous consent, the Board approved the following face-to-face meeting schedule: Sunday, May 2, 2010 from 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.; Monday, May 3, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Tuesday, May 4, 2010 following the Annual Membership Meeting.

Report of the 1st Vice President

Mary Lou Roberts, 1st Vice President, reported that she attended the February 3, 2010 meeting of Charitable Trust Management Board (CTMB). The CTMB reviewed information from David Riggs, Morris Animal Foundation, regarding the research projects that the Foundation considers and their process for determining which projects are approved for funding.

Mary Lou informed the Board that the CTMB has not received any scholarship applications to date. A notice that scholarships are available to junior members who meet the criteria will be posted on the *NCA e-notes*.

Mary Lou reported that the response to the request for information from the Board regarding the CTMB's funding priorities will be forthcoming.

At 8:37 p.m., Jenny Zabloutny joined the meeting.

Health & Longevity Committee

Jenny Zabloutny, Health & Longevity Committee Chair (H&L), presented the health survey developed by H&L. Some Board members were concerned that some of the questions did not deal directly with health issues and it did not appear that they would help in the decisions of where to spend research dollars. The survey was developed so that the results could be sorted in many different ways and these particular questions will enable the gain of additional information. H&L will likely do the sorting of the responses as it is a matter of programming and is not a time-consuming process.

There was a discussion about the ability of the questions to elicit relevant information concerning perceived health problems and their prevalence. It was reiterated that the survey will be anonymous. Some Board members believed that a space for voluntary identification and a check box that would allow H&L to contact that person for additional information should be added to the survey. It was agreed that this survey may help to determine funding priorities but would not give information on the exact prevalence of health problems.

At 9:00 p.m., Jennifer Zabloutny left the meeting.

The Board continued to discuss the survey and possible follow-up surveys. It was stated that the CTMB would use the survey results only as a tool and not as a directive as to which studies to fund.

Sue Marino moved and Mary Lou Roberts seconded that the Board approve the survey proposed by the Health & Longevity Committee as amended.

By unanimous consent, the Board agreed to remove two phrases from the introductory paragraph of the Health & Longevity Committee's proposed survey.

Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board table the approval of the Health & Longevity Committee's proposed survey until later in the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (PS)

At 9:27 p.m., Deb Bridge, Barbara Finch and Marylou Zimmerman joined the meeting.

Technical Resources Committee

Barbara Finch, Technical Resources Chair, reported that the NCA database is now able to calculate the TOD/TODD and Working Achievement Awards. After discussion, it was agreed that the database would display the TOD/TODD automatically in the Health Tests results section and the Working Achievement titles would appear in the Awards section. Members would still be responsible for applying for the TOD/TODD pins/certificates if they wish to receive those awards

There was discussion about missing working test titles. Water titles from 1990-2004 and draft titles from 1990-1998 were incomplete. It was suggested that the NCA Historian would have marked copies of those catalogs. The Working Dog Committee will try to pull the information from the marked catalogs

Barbara informed the Board that due to the hard work of the committee and in particular, Deb Bridge, the Register of Merit and the Versatile Newfoundland titles have been compiled. There was a question about the Versatile Newfoundland report. Barbara will talk with Bethany Karger, Versatile Newfoundland Chair.

Marylou Zimmerman reported that the BlueHost server that was used for the *Breeders List* discussion group has changed and the quality of service has decreased. She would like to move the discussion group to Yahoo. It was agreed that Marylou should move the discussion group to Yahoo for the improved service.

Electronic Publications Policy Committee

Marylou Zimmerman, Electronic Publications Policy Committee Chair (EPPC), requested that the Board consider an addendum to the Electronic Publications Policy regarding the Members Only section of the NCA Website.

Pam Rubio moved and Mary Lou Cuddy seconded that the Board approve the recommendation of the Electronic Publications Policy Committee for the following addendum:

Addendum to approved Members Only Policy: Educational material should be posted on publicly accessible web pages, articles containing images of a graphic nature (veterinary procedures, rescue stories featuring abuse or neglect) should contain a disclaimer with the introductory link explaining that images of a graphic nature are displayed within the article and viewers should use discretion when viewing.

If a committee wishes to post content on password protected pages, the content should be sent to the EPPC with that notation. The EPPC will make a recommendation to the BOD for a final determination.

The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (PS)

Marylou then asked the Board to consider that all NCA-related newsletters, not just *NCA e-notes*, be included in the broader policy as recommended by the EPPC.

Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board approve the electronic newsletter policy as recommended by the Electronic Publications Policy Committee. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (PS)

Marylou Zimmerman and Lynne Anderson-Powell reported that Dogfish Software has completed Phase I as outlined in the Statement of Work. Any additional work will now need to be negotiated in a new contract. The copies of the Statement of Work have been forwarded to Roger Frey for his signature.

There was a brief discussion of developing guidelines for the Breeders List discussion group. The Board considered guidelines posted on Newf Tech and the AKC Parent Club Conference discussion groups.

At 10:16 p.m., Deb Bridge, Barbara Finch and Marylou Zimmerman left the meeting.

Report of the 2nd Vice President

Kathy McIver, 2nd Vice President, requested that the Board consider the proposed newsletter template for use for regional club and NCA committee newsletters.

Kathy McIver moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board approve the proposed committee and/or regional club newsletter as proposed by the Electronic Publications Policy Committee. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (PS)

Kathy requested that the Board consider the revised NCA Committee survey. There was a question as to how the survey might be interpreted by committee chairs. Most Board members felt that it should not be a concern. There was some discussion about the distribution of the survey. A reminder could be placed in *NCA e-notes* for committee members to submit their survey in a timely manner. It was agreed that April 1st would be the deadline for results but that late responses would be included in the summary of results.

Sue Marino moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that the Board approve the NCA Committee survey as amended. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (PS)

There was a brief discussion about committee management and the availability of committee reports to NCA members. It was agreed that this item would be placed on the next agenda for discussion.

Report of the Recording Secretary

Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary, reported that she prepared the February 18, 2010 agenda and the minutes from the January 18, 2010 meeting. She reminded the Board that they had been sent the election report. Connections to Quality, LLC. conducted a recount of the election ballots due to the close margin of votes between the sixth and seventh place candidates. The results did not change after the recount.

In recognition of the number of times that the Board is taking action by unanimous consent, Mary Lou recommended that those actions also be reflected in the Bulletin Board.

By unanimous consent, the Board agreed that actions taken by unanimous consent will be listed on the NCA Bulletin Board.

Report of the Treasurer

Mary L. Price, Treasurer, reported the following balances: checking account: \$9,803.81; checking account for 2010 National Specialty: \$20,252.94; savings account: \$13,237.24; invested in CDs: \$178,492.10; and the NCA operations balance total of \$221,786.09 with \$4,310.08 in reserve for "Distinguished Member" expenses. The Uniform Trophy Fund account balance is \$121.22 for a total of \$221,907.31.

Mary informed the Board that the Uniform Trophies for 2010 have been ordered. She stated that 238 registrations for the National Specialty have been received to date.

In response to a question, Mary said that the financial information pertaining to the NCA database has been forwarded to Lynne Anderson-Powell who is writing the article for *Newf Tide*. Lynne reported that she is waiting to hear from additional software companies as she is compiling a comparison of costs to Ascent Systems, Inc.

Report of the AKC Delegate

Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, reported on the five candidates running for the AKC Board of Directors. They are Carmen Battaglia, Charles Garvin, Steve Gladstone, Bill Newman and Pat Scully. She has received communications from Steve Gladstone, Bill Newman and Pat Scully.

Mary informed the Board that the AKC Good Sportsmanship Award medallion which the NCA awards to the NCA Member of the Year has arrived.

She also reported that the AKC is now assuming responsibility for recording the titles earned at working tests conducted by the American Belgian Malinois Club. There was some discussion about the possibilities of having the AKC record the NCA working titles.

Executive Session

At 10:42 p.m., Kathy McIver moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that the Board go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (PS)

At 11:51 p.m., Kathy McIver moved and Sue Marino seconded that the Board come out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (PS)

While in executive session, the Board directed Mary W. Price to support Charles Garvin, Bill Newman and Pat Scully for the AKC Board of Directors.

While in executive session, the Board reviewed the February 18, 2010 Applicants List.

While in executive session, the Recording Secretary announced that the Applicants Lists dated December 17, 2009 and January 21, 2010 had been approved with the exception of one application.

While in executive session, the Board accepted the resignation of Peggy Lange as Chair of the *ad hoc* Breed Steward Program and honored her desire to remain on the committee. The Board appointed Mary Lou Roberts as Chair of the committee.

While in executive session, the Board approved placing a correction in *NCA e-notes* stating that Diane Price, International Liaison, along with Brenda Santiago, was planning events for our international members and guests.

Awards Committee

Kathy McIver, Committee Liaison, reported that Lanelle Warrick has volunteered to do the new Longest Living Newfoundland certificate and the certificates for Newfoundlands 14 years and older that were submitted.

Breeders Education Committee

Kathy McIver, Breeders Education Committee Chair, reported that the kennel management heart survey will be presented at the next meeting.

There was further discussion about the *Breeders List* discussion group. It was agreed that no guidelines were needed at this time as the discussion group is functioning well and many breeders have found it to be quite helpful.

***Breeders List* Committee**

The Board considered the revised *Breeders List* application form. The application was reduced from three pages to two. No other significant changes were made.

Kathy McIver moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that the Board approve the *Breeder List* application as presented. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (PS)

“Distinguished Member” Committee

The Board considered a request from the “Distinguished Member” Committee to place an ad in the 2010 National Specialty catalog to advertise the availability of the “Distinguished Member” poster and postcards.

Kathy McIver moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board approve the request of the “Distinguished Member of the Humane Society” Committee to place an ad in the 2010 National Specialty catalog. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (PS)

Health & Longevity Committee

Sue Marino moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board remove the Health & Longevity Committee’s survey from the table. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (PS)

The Board continued the discussion regarding the option to allow survey takers to identify themselves and to use a check box to allow the Health & Longevity Committee to contact them for further information.

Mary Lou Roberts moved and Pam Rubio seconded that an option be placed on the Health & Longevity Committee’s survey for people filling out the survey who would like to identify themselves and that a check box be provided for those people to indicate that they would be willing to be contacted by the committee for additional information. The motion passed. 10 Yes (LA, JB, MLC, RF, SM, KM, MLP, MR, MLR, PSR); 1 No (PKR); 1 Absent (PS)

A Board member suggested that a list of all possible health problems be added and survey takers would indicate how many of those health problems they had experienced with their dogs.

Jacqueline Brellochs moved that the Health & Longevity Committee be requested to add a list of 23 health problems to the health survey and have members indicate how many times they have had this problem within the last ten years. The motion failed for lack of a second.

One Board member stated that the survey does not reflect the initial charge to the committee and while recognizing that the committee worked hard on the survey, he will not support it. Another Board member agreed but will support the survey and will encourage the committee to start developing a follow-up survey. Other Board members expressed their recognition of the work that had gone into the survey.

The motion to approve the survey proposed by the Health & Longevity Committee as amended passed. 10 Yes (LA, JB, MLC, RF, SM, KM, MLP, MR, MLR, PSR); 1 No (PKR); 1 Absent (PS)

The Board turned its attention to a proposal from the Health & Longevity Committee for health and research grants. These grants would be given in response to an application from members for help in affording to participate in clinical trials that may not pay for all the costs of participation. Several Board members stated that all clinical trials with which they are familiar are free to the participants. It was agreed that more information is needed before any further discussion could take place.

TOD/TODD Awards

The Board considered the proposal received from Joan Locker-Thuring, TOD/TODD Chair. It was agreed that there would be a separate pin for each award and to use the design featuring a Newfoundland. The committee's budget does not include the purchase of the pins.

Sue Marino moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that the Board approve the request of the TOD/TODD Committee to purchase two boxes of certificates and to order 200 each of the Newfoundland pin with the TOD and TODD initials in the amount of \$1133.93. The motion passed. 10 Yes (LA, JB, MLC, RF, SM, MLP, MR, MLR, PKR, PSR); 1 No (KM); 1 Absent (PS)

***Newf Tide* Policy Committee**

The Board reviewed the history of an article submitted by the Breeders Education Committee (BEC) for publication in *Newf Tide*. The length of the article was a concern and Meredith Reggie, *Newf Tide* editor, and Kathy McIver, BEC Chair, had discussed options for publication of the article. The President became involved in the discussion and requested that the article be published as presented. The *Newf Tide* Policy Committee requested clarification of the policy concerning the duties of the editor and committees who ask for more pages than are normally allotted. The President apologized for unintentionally over-stepping the policy. There was a question about the policy covering committee submissions. The Board agreed that the policy as

written should stand. The entire article as presented has been included in *Newf Tide* and the final formatting has been completed and will not be changed.

The discussion then turned to the matter of a non-NCA member being a contributing member to the article and also appearing on the panel at the Breeders Education Forum at the 2010 National Specialty. The BEC discussed the issue and had voted to include the non-NCA member on the panel. Everyone agreed that the non-NCA member was very well-qualified, but the fact that NCA breeders were passed over for participation was a cause for concern for some Board members.

AKC Parent Club Conference

The Board discussed the AKC Parent Club Conference to be held August 27-29, 2010 in Raleigh, North Carolina. The AKC will pay for all expenses, except airfare, for one participant from each Parent Club. The workshop topics were discussed and it was agreed that the President should contact AKC to determine if a second participant would be allowed to attend.

The Board appointed Sue Marino to represent the NCA at the AKC Parent Club Conference to be held August 27-29, 2010 in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Dogfish Software

The Board reviewed the Statement of Work and Consulting Agreement with Dogfish Software and amended several dates.

Sue Marino moved and Mary Lou Roberts seconded that the Board approve the Statement of Work and Consulting Agreement with Dogfish Software as amended. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (PS)

Adjournment

At 1:44 a.m., Sue Marino moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

Submitted by,
Mary Lou Cuddy
NCA Recording Secretary