

NCA Board of Directors
Teleconference Meeting
Minutes of April 15, 2010
(Approved May 2, 2010)

Roger Frey, President, called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m. Eastern time. The following directors were present: 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 (PS). Lynne Anderson-Powell (LA) was absent. Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was present. Board-elect member John Cornell was present and Board-elect member Donna Thibault was absent. Marylou Zimmerman was present as a member guest.

Approval of Minutes

The Board considered the minutes of the March 18 & 25, 2010 meeting.

Kathy McIver moved and Pam Saunders seconded that the Board approve the minutes of the March 18 & 25, 2010 meeting as amended. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (LA)

Report of the President

Roger Frey, President, reported that he had nothing to report at this time.

Report of the 1st Vice President

Mary Lou Roberts, 1st Vice President, reported that the Charitable Trust Management Board (CTMB) met on April 7, 2010. She stated that the CTMB had been contacted by an attorney representing Elizabeth Irene Lewis, a recently deceased NCA member. He informed the CTMB that Ms. Lewis had named Newfoundland Rescue as a beneficiary of her estate. Newfoundland Rescue will be receiving one-tenth of the estate.

Mary Lou also reported that Consie Powell's book is ready and that Consie will be doing a book-signing at the Uniform Trophy plate sale at the 2010 National Specialty.

She informed the Board of the following: the CTMB had discussed some committee appointments and will bring their recommendations to the Board's meeting at the 2010 National Specialty and the CTMB is in the process of developing a statement for the Board concerning the CTMB's priorities when funding research projects.

Report of the 2nd Vice President

Kathy McIver, 2nd Vice President, reported that her report will be in the committee reports.

Report of the Recording Secretary

Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary, reported that she had prepared the March 18 & 25, 2010 minutes and the April 15, 2010 agenda. She informed the Board that the Applicants List dated March 18, 2010 had been approved. She reminded members that agenda items for the meeting at the 2010 National Specialty were due by April 17, 2010.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary

Pat Randall, Corresponding Secretary, reported that he had received several letters concerning non-affiliated breeders and had referred them to the Arbitration Committee and the *NCA Website*.

Pat informed the Board that he had been contacted about inaccurate information for Newfoundland health problems on a pet insurance website. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed that Pat would write a letter to the pet insurance website giving them accurate information for posting.

Pat brought to the Board's attention a letter from AKC requesting input on allowing deaf dogs to compete in AKC performance events and whether deafness is a problem in Newfoundlands.

Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board inform the American Kennel Club that the NCA has no objections to deaf dogs competing in AKC performance events and that deafness is not a concern in the Newfoundland breed. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (LA)

Pat reported on a letter from AKC informing clubs that the Grand Championship program will commence on May 10, 2010.

Report of the Treasurer

Mary L. Price, Treasurer, reported the following balances: checking account: \$44,039.96; checking account for 2010 National Specialty: \$14,663.48; savings account: \$35,241.57; invested in CDs: \$101,773.23; and the NCA operations balance total of \$195,718.24 with \$4,310.08 in reserve for "Distinguished Member" expenses. The Uniform Trophy Fund account balance is \$1,509.57 for a total of \$197,227.81.

Report of the AKC Delegate

Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, reported that the only AKC communication she had received was the request for input regarding allowing deaf dogs to compete at AKC performance events.

She informed the Board that the next AKC Delegates meeting will be held in Atlanta, Georgia June 6-7, 2010.

Committee Reports

Breeders Education Committee

The Board considered the Kennel Management Heart Survey CD that they had received in the mail. The Breeders Education Committee (BEC) requested approval of the survey at this meeting so the committee may prepare the CDs and hand them out to *Breeders List* members at the National Specialty. Several Board members reported either problems in opening the files contained on the CD or that they had not had time to study the survey. It was stated that there will be assistance from the BEC by email, phone or in person in case of any difficulties in using the CD or the survey.

The Board was reminded that the survey would be confined to only *Breeders List* members. There was a brief summary of the difficulties and the decisions that led to the survey being placed on a CD and not on the *NCA Website*.

Board members who had used the survey stated they were pleased with it and found it relatively easy to use.

Kathy McIver moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board approve the Breeders Education Committee's Kennel Management Heart Survey as presented. The motion passed. 9 Yes (JB, MLC, RF, KM, MLP, PKR, MR, PSR, PS); 2 Abstentions (SM, MLR); 1 Absent (LA)

Committee Survey Report

The Board reviewed the Committee Survey reports which are to be used to assist with committee assignments and evaluating committee performance. Due to the Board receiving the reports the day before this meeting, some Board members stated that they had not had enough time to study the reports. It was agreed that the Board would consider these reports at the May 2-3, 2010 meeting.

A Board member stated that she believed that, in the future, Board members who develop the survey should not take the survey themselves as it is a conflict of interest.

Rescue Awareness and Education Committee

The Board reviewed information from the Rescue Education and Awareness Committee (REACT) of the plans for the committee's meeting at the 2010 National Specialty.

The Board postponed discussion of the *Newf Tide* coupon program until the May 2-3, 2010 Board meeting.

Regional Club Liaison

Pam Rubio, Regional Club Liaison, reported that she had been informed by the Rescue Chair of the Newfoundland Club of Northern California that the regional club had been charged \$450.00 (\$200.00 for the space and \$250.00 for the tenting) for their rescue booth at the 2010 National Specialty. It was reported that all rescue booths were being charged full vendor fees.

It was stated that these clubs were saving the NCA money by taking care of the rescues in that club's area, freeing resources for NCA Rescue to concentrate on areas where there are no active regional club rescue programs. There was a review of previous discussions regarding rescue fundraising booths at National Specialties. The Board was reminded that the Specialty Show Coordinating Committee was to develop guidelines and have a report on this subject for the Board. It was reported that the Specialty Show Coordinating Committee did not discuss this topic at their last teleconference.

Kathy McIver moved and Meredith Reggie seconded that the Board postpone the discussion concerning regional club booths used for silent auctions/fundraising at the 2010 National Specialty until the Board's face-to-face meeting on May 2-3, 2010. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (LA)

At 9:05 p.m., Marylou Zimmerman joined the meeting.

Electronic Publications Policy Committee

Marylou Zimmerman, Electronic Publications Policy Committee Chair, presented a policy proposal for the creation and maintenance of electronic mail discussion lists. A few Board members stated their stance against closed discussion lists, such as the *Breeders List* discussion group. They were in favor of discussion lists that were open lists dealing with specific topics, such as water work or draft work. Other Board members felt the lists were a valuable source of information to the participants.

Kathy McIver moved and Pat Randall seconded that the Board approve the Electronic Publications Policy Committee's proposed policy on electronic mail discussion lists as presented. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (LA)

Marylou Zimmerman, Technical Resources Committee Member, then informed the Board that the Technical Resources Committee would be having a meeting at the

2010 National Specialty to discuss Phase II of the NCA Database and that Dogfish Software would also be participating in the discussion.

At 9:16 p.m., Marylou Zimmerman left the meeting.

Working Dog Committee

Sue Marino, Working Dog Committee (WDC) Chair, reported that the WDC had voted against the NCA participating in the AKC Parent Club Title Program.

Sue informed the Board that the WDC would like to change Section 13 of the Draft Test Regulations which deals with an entry moving up to compete as a team. The Board requested that the committee submit the proposed wording for consideration at the May 2-3, 2010 meeting.

Sue then reported that the WDC would like to clarify the start of the Underwater Retrieve exercise. There are currently two conflicting statements in the Water Test Regulations affecting the starting of the timing of the exercise. The Board requested that the committee submit the proposed wording for consideration at the May 2-3, 2010 meeting.

Mary Lou Roberts moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that the Board accept the recommendation of the Working Dog Committee that the NCA not participate in the AKC Parent Club Title Program at the present time. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (LA)

Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board request the Working Dog Committee Chair and the NCA's AKC Delegate to develop a letter to inform AKC that the NCA will not participate in the AKC Parent Club Title Program at the present time. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (LA)

Executive Session

At 9:28 p.m., Kathy McIver moved and Sue Marino seconded that the Board go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (LA)

At 9:30 p.m., Kathy McIver moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that the Board come out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (LA)

While in executive session, the Board considered the Applicants List dated April 15, 2010.

Committee Communications

The Board considered an agenda discussion item regarding communications between committees. There was discussion that this topic should be postponed until the May 2-3, 2010 meeting.

Pat Randall moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board postpone the discussion regarding committee communications until the Board's face-to-face meeting at the May 2-3, 2010 National Specialty. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (LA)

Constitution and Bylaws Review

The Board briefly considered some areas of the Board-approved *Constitution and Bylaws* that may need to be re-examined, such as the membership application procedure, written notices to members, election of officers and the question of abstentions during Board votes. There was a question as to what is the next step after the Board approving the *Constitution and Bylaws*. Some Board members felt that the Board should ask for the opinion of the NCA attorney on some issues before moving forward. It was suggested that the Board should compile a list of problematic areas and submit all the questions at once to the NCA Attorney. In response to a Board member's statement that the Board will still be considering this document six years from now, other Board members felt that the Board should take all the time necessary to produce a document that will work well for the Board and the NCA membership and be in accordance with the Connecticut statutes and the AKC.

Kathy McIver moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board revisit the Board approved proposed *Constitution and Bylaws*. The motion passed. 9 Yes (JB, MLC, RF, SM, KM, MLP, PKR, PSR, PS); 2 No (MR, MLR); 1 Absent (LA)

It was agreed that there would be a discussion on the problematic areas of the *Constitution and Bylaws* at the May 2-3, 2010 meeting and those areas would be placed on a list for input from the NCA Attorney. It is hoped that a final discussion on these areas could be held at the Board's fall face-to-face meeting.

New Business

Board Reimbursement

The Board considered the reimbursement of Board members' hotel rooms when they are asked to come early to the National Specialty for Board business. The reimbursement would only be for the nights prior to the Tuesday meeting. The Board considered the expenses that Board members incur when they must arrive early, such as additional lost wages, boarding fees, etc. Some Board members felt that the expense a Board member incurs might be a consideration when an NCA member is considering running for a Board position. Other Board members felt that reimbursing one or two nights of hotel expenses was not enough to make a difference in a

member's decision to run for the Board. It was stated that members run for the Board as a service to the club and not for the perks.

There was a question of how to reimburse when the room is shared with one or more non-Board members. It was estimated that the reimbursement could run as much as \$6,000.00 per specialty. There was some discussion concerning the changes in the meeting schedules at National Specialties over the years. It was agreed that this may not be the best time to implement this but that it does warrant continued discussion periodically.

Mary Lou Roberts moved and Sue Marino seconded that beginning with the 2011 National Specialty, the NCA will reimburse each NCA Board member for room charges for each night the Board members are required to be at the National site prior to Tuesday afternoon. This will include the night before the first meeting of the Board. The motion failed. 4 Yes (JB, RF, SM, MLR); 7 No (MLC, KM, MLP, PKR, MR, PSR, PS); 1 Absent (LA)

Webmaster Contract

The Board considered a suggestion that the position of the NCA Webmaster become a paid position as are the *Newf Tide* and *Annual of Titlists* editors. It was stated that the NCA is very fortunate to have a volunteer who has performed an extremely professional job that entails the hours nearly required for full-time employment. It was said that this job as it is now being performed would cost in the range of \$30,000 to \$50,000 if contracted outside the club. It is also questionable whether or not another NCA volunteer would be able to make the same level of commitment. A contract would also protect the NCA. There was a question whether the position would be put up for bid as are the *Newf Tide* and the *Annual of Titlists* positions. Some Board members stated that they felt it would be an insult to ask for a bid after the current Webmaster has done so much for the NCA. It was suggested that the position could be put out for bid once the current Webmaster has expressed interest in stepping down. It was suggested that the NCA Webmaster be invited to submit a contract for the Board's consideration.

Mary L. Price moved and Mary Lou Roberts seconded that the Board invite the NCA Webmaster to submit a contract for the Board's consideration. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (LA)

NCA Database

In the absence of Lynne Anderson-Powell, the agenda item pertaining to the next stages of the NCA Database was postponed until the next meeting of the Board.

Regional Club Information

Meredith Reggie stated that she was not prepared to consider her discussion item concerning the sharing of regional club information and asked that the discussion be postponed until the next Board meeting.

Adjournment

At 10:36 p.m., Pam Saunders moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (LA)

Submitted by,

Mary Lou Cuddy
NCA Recording Secretary