

NCA Board of Directors
Teleconference Meeting
Minutes of June 17, 2010
(Approved July 15, 2010)

Roger Frey called the meeting to order at 8:04 p.m. Eastern time. The following directors were present: Lynne Anderson-Powell (LA), Jacqueline Brellochs (JB), John Cornell (JC), Mary Lou Cuddy (MLC), Roger Frey (RF), Kathy McIver (KM), Mary L. Price (MLP), Meredith Reggie (MR), Pam Rubio (PR), Pam Saunders (PS) and Donna Thibault (DT). Sue Marino (SM) was absent. Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was present. Marylou Zimmerman was present as a member guest.

Approval of Minutes

Lynne Anderson-Powell moved and Pam Saunders seconded that the Board approve the May 2-3, 2010 minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (SM)

Pam Saunders moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board approve the May 4, 2010 minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (SM)

Donna Thibault moved and Pam Saunders seconded that the Board approve the May 5, 2010 minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (SM)

At 8:36 p.m., Sue Marino joined the meeting.

Pam Saunders moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board approve the May 20, 2010 minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Pam Saunders moved and Donna Thibault seconded that the Board approve for publication the May 4, 2010 Annual Membership Meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Report of the President

Roger Frey, President, informed the Board that the only item he had to report was that the date for the fall face-to-face Board meeting needed to be decided. It was agreed to discuss this later in the meeting.

Report of the 1st Vice President

Jacqueline Brellochs, 1st Vice President, reported on the Charitable Trust Management Board's (CTMB) June 2, 2010 meeting. The CTMB held its annual election and there were no changes on the Board. The officers are: Clyde Dunphy, Chairman; David Helming, Vice Chair; Mary L. Price, Treasurer; and Mary Jane Spackman, Secretary.

At that meeting, it was announced that the 2010 National Specialty ringside auction brought in over \$5,000 and over 150 of Consie Powell's *Healthy Newfs A-Z* books were sold. It was reported that there were still a few of the current Dannyquest statues left.

The CTMB considered its budget needs for the year. The CTMB will develop a health survey as directed and the budget will be determined later. A research project from Cornell University comparing two different elbow surgeries was considered by the CTMB.

Jacqueline reported that the next meeting of the CTMB would be June 30, 2010.

Report of the 2nd Vice President

Kathy McIver, 2nd Vice President, stated that her report would be given under the committee reports.

Report of the Recording Secretary

Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary, reported that she had prepared the June 17, 2010 agenda and the minutes for the May 2-3, 2010 Board face-to-face meeting, the May 4, 2010 Annual Meeting of the Board, the May 4, 2010 Annual Membership Meeting, the May 5, 2010 committee appointment meeting and the May 20, 2010 teleconference meeting.

Report of Corresponding Secretary

Lynne Anderson-Powell, Corresponding Secretary, reported on correspondence she had received. The AKC had contacted both the NCA Board and the Bear Mountain Newfoundland Club regarding the AKC Meet the Breeds Exhibition to be held October 16-17, 2010 in New York City. It was reported that the Bear Mountain Newfoundland Club was willing to organize the Newfoundland booth again.

Donna Thibault moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board request that the Bear Mountain Newfoundland Club represent the NCA at the AKC Meet the Breeds on October 16-17, 2010 and that the Bear Mountain Newfoundland Club invite the other local regional clubs to participate. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a brief discussion concerning a request from the AKC for pictures to be included in a Meet the Breeds brochure. Since Maredith Reggie has access to many photographs as editor of *Newf Tide*, it was agreed that she would choose several different pictures and send them to Board members for consideration.

Lynne reported on a letter she received asking for cheek swabs for a study being done in the United Kingdom on cruciate ligaments. There was a discussion to determine if this was a valid study. It was agreed that there was not enough information to act on this request.

Lynne informed the Board of a request for a liaison for the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship Meet the Breed exhibition. It was agreed that since Denise Hatakeyama had served as liaison for the last several years, the request would be forwarded to her for her consideration.

The Board considered a request from the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship Show that the NCA sponsor the medallions given to the winners. The Board agreed to sponsor the medallions for all the top conformation awards and also for obedience and agility.

Pam Rubio moved and Meredith Reggie seconded that the NCA sponsor seven medallions for the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship Show. The motion passed unanimously.

At 9:09 p.m., John Cornell left the meeting.

Lynne reported on a report from AKC concerning the AKC registration pledge results. There was a question as to whether the program will continue to be held quarterly. It was stated that the NCA should continue to encourage breeders to register for the pledge and ensure that all their puppies are AKC registered.

Report of the Treasurer

Mary L. Price, Treasurer, reported the following balances: checking account: \$15,457.29; checking account for 2010 National Specialty: \$8,623.87; savings account: \$65,250.91; invested in CDs: \$101,773.23; and the NCA operations balance total of \$191,105.30 with \$4,310.08 in reserve for "Distinguished Member" expenses. The Uniform Trophy Fund account balance is \$1,457.98 for a total of \$192,563.28.

Mary informed the Board that Sandee Lovett, 2010 National Specialty Chair, had experienced email difficulties so the final 2010 National Specialty report is not yet complete. She stated that without the report, she could not finish the 2010-2011 proposed budget. Mary reported that the budget will be ready for the July meeting.

Report of the AKC Delegate

Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, reported that she had attended the June 6-7, 2010 AKC Delegates meeting in Atlanta, GA. She informed the Board that Dennis Sprung, Ron Menaker and James Stevens, all of the AKC, reported a serious decline in revenue. They reported that for the first five months of 2010, revenues were down an average of seven percent. Litter registrations were down 11 percent from last year at this time as well as a 12 percent decline in individual registrations.

She reported that the AKC has an operating endowment and a substantial stock portfolio. The decline in registrations is a serious problem: only about 50 percent of eligible puppies are currently being registered.

Mary updated the Board on the new Grand Champion title program. The first Grand Champion recognized was a four year old Weimaraner. Mary reported that all Grand Champions who finish their titles by the end of October would be invited to compete in the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship Show.

Mary announced that the AKC has approved new titles in companion and performance events. Most important to Newfoundlands is a Beginner Novice obedience title, which will be available starting July 1, 2010. Mary also informed the Board that Mr. Doug Ljungren from the AKC Parent Club Working Title Events program will be attending an NCA water test sometime this summer to observe our test exercises.

Mary reported there was much discussion at the Delegates meeting concerning the newly implemented but now rescinded judges' fees. Also, the AKC is considering a 4-6 month old puppy class but is receiving negative reviews from Delegates and vets. Also under consideration is a Premier Breeder award. The judges approval system is being discussed and may be revised again.

Mary reported that the Delegates may vote to change or rescind the AKC Board term limits at the September 2010 meeting. She also informed the Board of the Pepsi Company Challenge where online votes will enable the Health Challenge to receive certain donations. The AKC is also offering discounts on microchips for microchip clinics.

She stated that the Delegates discussed the AKC financial picture as the AKC requested suggestions to reduce costs. Among the ideas discussed were changing the Delegates meeting from four times a year to three or less meetings, AKC salaries and moving the AKC New York staff and offices to the AKC facility in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Committee Reports

AKC Task Force

In response to a member's concern, the Board reviewed the discharging of the AKC Task Force Committee. According to the *Constitution and Bylaws*, a committee serves at the pleasure of the Board, and thus the discharging of the committee was proper.

Awards Committee

The Board considered a proposal to handle unclaimed Register of Merit certificates and rosettes.

Kathy McIver moved and Pam Saunders seconded that the Awards Committee Chair contact all Register of Merit recipients to request that they appoint a designated person to pick up the rosette and certificate if an owner will not be in attendance at the Annual Membership Meeting. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (JC)

Kathy McIver moved and Meredith Reggie seconded that anyone who does not pick up or appoint someone to pick up their Register of Merit rosettes and certificates at the Annual Membership Meeting must contact the Awards Chair to arrange delivery. Appropriate postage must be paid before the rosette and certificate will be mailed. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (JC)

Kathy McIver moved and Meredith Reggie seconded that the Awards Committee Chair will retain unclaimed Register of Merit rosettes and certificates for 90 days after the Annual Membership Meeting. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (JC)

Breeders List

The Board considered recommendations from the *Breeders List* Committee regarding the *Breeders List* qualifications. The committee recommended the following changes: 1) The breeder must have bred a champion. Previously, the title was not specified. 2) The breeder must be a member of a regional club. 3) The breeder must be sponsored by a member of the Breeders List.

It was reported that the committee had a great deal of discussion on the requirement of breeding a titled Newfoundland and whether having bred a rally-titled dog fulfilled the intent of that requirement. Some Board members felt that breeding a certain number of obedience titles would satisfy the requirement. Others felt that could lead to a split in the breed as seen between show and field lines in some sporting breeds. Some Board members felt that breeding one champion is not sufficient but agreed with the committee's recommendation of a sponsor who is already on the *Breeders List*. The requirement of regional club membership failed for lack of a motion.

Pam Saunders moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board accept the recommendation of the *Breeders List* Committee that the requirements for the *Breeders List* be changed from: "Must currently or have previously bred a titled (AKC, CKC, NCA) Newfoundland" to "Must have bred an AKC or CKC Champion Newfoundland." This change will take effect for the 2011-2012 *Breeders List*. The motion passed. 8 Yes (LA, JB, MLC, KM, MLP, PR, PS, DT); 3 No (RF, SM, MR) 1 Absent (JC)

Kathy McIver moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board accept the recommendation of the *Breeders List* Committee that the following be added to the *Breeders List* requirements: "The applicant must have one (1) sponsor from the *Breeders List* (name and signature of sponsor to be on the application)." This change will take effect for the 2011-2012 *Breeders List*.

Executive session

At 10:03 p.m., Lynne Anderson-Powell moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that the Board go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (JC)

At 10:12 p.m., Kathy McIver moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board come out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (JC)

The motion that the Board accept the recommendation of the *Breeders List* Committee that the following be added to the *Breeders List* requirements: "The applicant must have one (1) sponsor from the *Breeders List* (name and signature of sponsor to be on the application) passed." 6 Yes (LA, MLC, KM, PR, PS, DT); 5 No (JB, RF, SM, MLP, MR); 1 Absent (JC)

Kathy McIver moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that the Board accept the recommendation of the *Breeders List* Committee that the requirements for the *Breeders List* be changed from: "Must have bred two (2) litters while a member of the NCA" to "Must have bred two (2) Newfoundland litters while a member of the NCA." This change will take effect for the 2011-2012 *Breeders List*. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (JC)

International Liaison

The Board reviewed the amended job description for the International Liaison that was approved at the May 20, 2010 meeting. No additional changes were made.

Judges Education Committee

The Board discussed the posting of the list of the attendees at the judges seminars on the *NCA Website*.

Donna Thibault moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Judges Education Committee prepare a list of the previous years' attendees at judges education seminars to be posted on the *NCA Website* and to prepare a report for *Newf Tide* which will list the attendees for the current year. The motion passed. 10 Yes (LA, JB, MLC, RF, SM, KM, MLP, PR, PS, DT); 1 Abstention (MR); 1 Absent (JC)

Membership Committee

Mary Lou Cuddy, Membership Chair, reported on a letter received from an NCA member asking about senior dues and when they might be reinstated.

It was agreed that a discussion concerning incorporating the NCA membership database into the NCA database would be held later in the meeting when Marylou Zimmerman, Technical Resources Committee, would be present.

At 10:31 p.m., Marylou Zimmerman joined the meeting.

Electronic Publications Policy Committee

Marylou Zimmerman, Electronic Publications Policy Committee Chair, and the Board discussed the lack of a formal NCA records retention and archives policy. It was stated that a policy would tell the Board what records need to be kept and for what duration. Electronic records would be included in the policy and this policy should be in agreement with Connecticut state statutes. There was a short discussion of non-profit, non-stock organizations versus for-profit organizations and the different requirements.

Kathy McIver moved and Jacqueline Brellochs seconded that the Board request Pat Randall, as part of the *ad hoc* NCA Governing Documents Committee, to research the Connecticut state statutes for information about records retention and archives. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (JC)

Technical Resources Committee

Marylou Zimmerman, Technical Resources Committee, and the Board discussed the next phase of the NCA Database and the projected costs that need to be incorporated in future NCA budgets. The Technical Resources Committee would need to develop the technical specifications to send to a minimum of three companies for bid, but the cost need to be approved and in the budget before the committee can move forward.

Marylou reported that two areas have to be developed first. The first area is to undertake a full security audit and to close all vulnerable areas. An administration user interface would have to be created. This would allow different levels of users, such as, the public user, the member user, the committee chair user and the administrator user. The second area would be to create procedures and import protocols which would maintain continuity despite committee turnover.

The estimated cost to develop the two areas is about \$40,000. This is for two engineers and 20 days of work to accomplish.

The next phase would be the incorporation of the NCA membership database into the NCA Database. The Board and the committee would have to consider everything the NCA Database could be asked to do. Marylou stated that it would be less expensive to build in the capabilities at the beginning instead of adding items at a later date. The NCA Database could then handle all its current functions, plus tracking data such as online dues renewals, committee members and chairs, working test judges and related data. In order to deal with financial information, the NCA Database would need to include an e-commerce site to accommodate the need for increased security.

Marylou informed the Board that adding the membership database into the NCA Database and developing a fully functional e-commerce site would take two engineers two months at an estimated cost of \$70,000-\$80,000 in addition to the \$40,000 for the

aforementioned project. This would include the writing of any third party software that would be needed.

Marylou reported that if the Board decided to move forward, the committee could have the technical specifications bid ready to go out by July and it would be possible to have online dues renewals for the 2011-2012 dues. The bid package would be sent to a minimum of three companies and two Technical Resource Committee members, Matt Sidesinger and Todd Bennett, are in the industry and could review the bids.

Puppy Websites

The Board and Marylou had a brief discussion about the NCA advertising on puppy websites. The Board had approved the concept some time ago but it was not assigned to a committee.

At 10:57 p.m., Marylou Zimmerman left the meeting.

The Board continued its discussion concerning the puppy websites. It was suggested that the project be assigned to the Rescue Awareness and Education Committee. Other Board members felt that it should go to the General Education Committee. It was pointed out that these ads cannot go out as NCA ads. The ads would have to be designed to look like puppy ads and would need the right wording to appear at the top of the list for Newfoundland puppy ads.

Kathy McIver moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the approved advertising on Internet puppy websites be referred to the General Education Committee. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (JC)

Recognition Committee

The Board considered the recommendation of the Recognition Committee regarding the lack of quality on the championship medallions. Joe Reinisch, Recognition Committee, received an estimate from the company that produced the Honor Parade medallions at the 2007 National Specialty in Colorado. The committee felt that by changing companies the medallions would be of better quality at a much better price.

Kathy McIver moved and Sue Marino seconded that the Board accept the recommendation of the Recognition Committee to change vendors for the championship medallions. The motion passed. 10 Yes (LA, JB, MLC, RF, SM, KM, MLP, PR, PS, DT); 1 No (MR); 1 Absent (JC)

Working Achievement Committee

The Board considered a request from the Working Achievement Committee to develop a patch and pin set, which is similar to the Versatile Newfoundland award. The committee reported that they had been asked by members to develop this award.

Pam Rubio moved and Kathy Mclver seconded that the Board approve the recommendation from the Working Achievement Committee to develop a proposal and cost estimate for a Working Achievement patch and pin. The motion passed. 10 Yes (LA, MLC, RF, SM, KM, MLP, MR, PR, PS, DT); 1 Abstain (JB); 1 Absent (JC)

Specialty Show Coordinating Committee

It was reported that the Specialty Show Coordinating Committee considered the Board's requests for recommendations on several topics. The committee discussed guidelines for the appointment of National Specialty committee chairs and the committee determined that the Board should develop the guidelines. The committee will make a recommendation for an Elizabeth Loring Powers perpetual trophy for the Stud Dog and Brood Bitch classes at National Specialties after reviewing the NCA Historian's report.

The committee considered silent auctions/fund-raising at the National Specialty by regional clubs to raise funds for rescue. The committee decided that the issue is addressed in the *Specialty Show Guide*: NCA policy allows the Health Challenge Committee and the NCA Rescue Committee to have a set-up near ringside on three days of the National to auction items. These functions are the responsibility of the Health Challenge Chair and Rescue Chair. Typically these fund-raisers are silent auctions, supported and manned by outside regional clubs.

A Board member questioned what procedure is used to tabulate the specialty judges balloting list. It was replied that the committee would have to be consulted for the answer.

Executive session

At 11:17 p.m., Kathy Mclver moved and Sue Marino seconded that the Board go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (JC)

At 11:44 p.m., Kathy Mclver moved and Sue Marino seconded that the Board come out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (JC)

While in executive session, the Board considered the June 17, 2010 Applicants List.

While in executive session, the Board considered a letter from an NCA member regarding poor sportsmanship at the National Specialty.

While in executive session, the Board voted to accept the proposal for Web Design and Maintenance services as presented by Marylou Zimmerman in the amount of \$8,320.00.

AKC Parent Club Working Titles Program

Mary W. Price and Sue Marino reported on a letter that they had written at the Board's request to the AKC declining an opportunity to participate in the AKC Parent Club Working Titles program and the response from Mr. Doug Ljungren, AKC Assistant Vice President of Performance Events. Mr. Ljungren responded that the AKC considers the NCA water tests to be unique to our breed and there would be no attempt by the AKC to change the titles. Members of the AKC staff would like to attend a water test this summer to see the regulations in action.

The draft test would be a different matter and the AKC could change the NCA's draft titles so that several breeds would be able to utilize them. He stated that AKC would recognize the requalification numbers but it would cost \$50.00 for each title or requalification unless the exhibitor waited until his dog had achieved all the titles and then applied for all the titles at once. The AKC was very complimentary as to the quality of all our working test regulations.

Sue reported that the Working Dog Committee upheld its previous recommendation to decline participation in the AKC Parent Club Working Titles programs. The Board agreed with the recommendation as it was felt that the program was not beneficial to NCA members. Mary and Sue will call Mr. Ljungren with the Board's decision and follow up afterwards by letter.

Board Fall Face-to-Face Meeting

The Board considered various dates and locations for its Fall face-to-face meeting. It was agreed that the Board would meet November 19-21, 2010 in Chicago, Illinois. O'Hare is a hub airport for several airlines and there are nearby hotels with meeting rooms which would accommodate the Board's needs.

Adjournment

At 12:05 a.m., Pam Saunders moved and Donna Thibault seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (JC)

Submitted by,

Mary Lou Cuddy
NCA Recording Secretary