

NCA Board of Directors
Teleconference Meeting
Minutes of February 17, 2011
(Approved March 17, 2011)

Roger Frey, President, called the meeting to order at 8:02 p.m. Eastern time. The following directors were present: John Cornell (JC), Mary Lou Cuddy (MLC), Roger Frey (RF), Sue Marino (SM), Kathy McIver (KM), Mary L. Price (MLP), Meredith Reggie (MR), Pam Rubio (PR), Pam Saunders (PS) and Donna Thibault (DT). Lynne Anderson-Powell (LA) and Jacqueline Brellochs (JB) were absent. Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was present. Board-elect members Steve Britton and Pat Randall were present.

Roger Frey congratulated Steve Britton and Pat Randall on their election to the Board and reminded them that, while they could not vote, they were encouraged to participate in discussions.

Approval of Minutes

The Board considered the minutes of January 20, 2011.

Pam Rubio moved and Pam Saunders seconded that the Board approve the January 20, 2011 minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously. 2 Absent (LA, JB)

Report of the President

Roger Frey, President, asked that the minutes reflect the great pride of the NCA that NCA junior members Joanne Thibault was named Best Junior Handler at the 2011 Westminster Kennel Club show and her sister, Jessica Thibault, won Best of Breed with her Field Spaniel at the same show.

Roger reported that he had recently received two emails stating concerns with temperament within the breed and requests that the *Breed Standard* be clarified. Roger informed the Board that he would forward the two emails to the Board and they will be placed on the next agenda.

Roger requested that Board members look at their calendars during the meeting in order to set the face-to-face meeting times for the 2011 National Specialty at the end of the meeting.

At 8:10 p.m., Lynne Anderson-Powell joined the meeting.

Report of the 1st Vice President

The report was postponed until later in the meeting.

Report of the 2nd Vice President

Kathy McIver, 2nd Vice President, requested the Board's input on the proposed committee application policy. There was a brief discussion of the ambiguity of the 30-day notice and if the NCA publications needed to be identified.

John Cornell moved and Sue Marino seconded that the Board accept the report from the 2nd Vice President on committee applications as follows:

Appointment to a Committee - Committee membership is open to all NCA members in good standing; Only official NCA publications shall be used to inform the membership of committee vacancies. Included in said notice shall be information on the duties and responsibilities of the committee; All vacancy notices shall be published for at least 30 calendar days; NCA members interested in serving on a committee should contact either the Committee Liaison or the committee's chair; All volunteer applications received by either the Committee Liaison or the committee's chair will be presented to the Board in a timely manner; The Board will appoint committee members depending on the nature of the committee and the work to be accomplished; After initial Board review, but prior to appointment, committees will be asked for their applicant recommendations. Committees are reminded that their preferred candidate may not be the one appointed by the Board; Appointments to committees shall be based upon current and previous committee commitments, experience, background, and specific skills and/or knowledge deemed useful to the committee's charge.

The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (JB)

Report of the Recording Secretary

Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary, reported that she had prepared the February 17, 2011 agenda packet and the January 20, 2011 minutes. She informed the Board of the recent Board election results and thanked her counters Lori Eldridge, Caren Feinberg, Jim Pospisil and Barbara Yerks.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary

Lynne Anderson-Powell, Corresponding Secretary, reported that it had been a quiet month for correspondence with general inquiries and the latest AKC and OFA information being forwarded to the appropriate committees.

At 8:13 p.m., Jacqueline Brellochs joined the meeting.

Report of the 1st Vice President

Jacqueline Brellochs, 1st Vice President, reported that the Charitable Trust Management Board (CTMB) had met on February 2, 2011. A letter from Pat Randall on behalf of the

Breeders Education Committee was discussed and Clyde Dunphy was to relay the results of the discussion to the committee.

The plans for the 2011 National Specialty were presented: Mary Jane Spackman reported she is waiting for a response from the regional club contacted to man the second day for the National Health Challenge booth. Although both of the first two Dannyquest statues sold out, the third statue in the series has not. One statue will be raffled off each day at the 2011 National Specialty.

Jacqueline reported that Newf Rescue is in the process of picking items for the Fine Arts auction from the Anne Williams estate as well as from the Ruth March estate.

The next CTMB teleconference is scheduled for March 16, 2011.

Report of the Treasurer

Mary L. Price, Treasurer, reported the following balances: checking account: \$26,253.19; checking account for 2011 National Specialty: \$12,587.32; savings account: \$65,279.34; invested in CDs: \$103,421.69; and the NCA operations balance total of \$207,541.54 with \$4,287.63 in reserve for "Distinguished Member" expenses. The Uniform Trophy Fund account balance is \$866.50 for a total of \$208,408.04.

Mary reported that the bills for the 2011 National Specialty uniform trophies have been paid. She informed the Board that almost all the trophies were sponsored by NCA members. She also stated that the limited edition plates have been ordered.

Report of the AKC Delegate

Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, reported that she would be attending the March 7-8, 2011 annual meeting of AKC Delegates in Newark, New Jersey. She reported that the letters from the candidates for the AKC Board election have been slow to arrive so she was not able to forward them to the Board. She reported that the candidates were Robert A. Amen, Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia, Karen J. Burgess, Steven D. Gladstone, Kenneth A. Marden, John L. Ronald and Daniel J. Smyth. The Board briefly discussed the candidates.

Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board direct Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, to vote for the candidates for election to AKC Board of Directors that she believes to be the most qualified. The motion passed unanimously.

Mary reported that there were two agenda items for the AKC Delegates Meeting. Both were amendments to the Rules and Regulations for Dog Shows; one concerning the duties and responsibilities of the show veterinarian and other was setting a common deadline for a show application and the submission of the judges panel.

Mary stated that she was pleased to report that two additional NCA members had been named delegates by other clubs; Joyce Rowland for the Australian Cattle Dog Club of America and John Adams for the Concord Dog Training Club. This brings the total of NCA members serving as delegates to nine. She reported that Connie Vanacore has retired as a delegate after 26 years as has Barbara Finch.

Mary reported that June 13, 2011 AKC Delegates meeting will be in Raleigh, North Carolina. She also reported that the AKC has made a great deal of progress in reducing debt since January.

In conclusion, Mary stated that she had attended many of the fund-raising events held in conjunction with the Westminster dog show and that a good time was had by all.

Committee Reports

Breeders Education Committee

It was reported that the Breeders Education Committee (BEC) considered the Board's request for input in the matter of AKC registrations. The BEC reported that the committee does not agree with the AKC program which could allow full registration for a puppy sold on a limited registration unbeknownst to the breeder. The committee stated the only way to protect a litter is for the breeder to register the litter as well as the individual puppies to the breeder and then directly transfer the AKC registration to the new owners. The BEC offered to write an article explaining this process for *Newf Tide*, which the Board accepted.

General Education Committee

An offer from an NCA member to provide representation for at the Meet the Breeds at the International Kennel Club show in Chicago was postponed to executive session.

Working Dog Committee

The Board considered comments received on the proposed Water Rescue Dog Excellent (WRDX) changes. It was reported that not all Board members had received all of the comments. The Board was reminded that these are only concepts for the Board to consider and that when these concepts are completed with the final wording, most of the concerns expressed would be addressed. These changes came from comments received from members in response to the five-year review of the WRDX test. There will be a meeting for all interested NCA members on Tuesday afternoon, May 3, 2011, at the National Specialty to discuss and explain the proposed changes. There were brief discussions regarding several of the proposed changes.

The Board agreed that discussion would continue after the Specialty Show Coordinating Committee report.

At 9:05 p.m., Amy Lane, Sandee Lovett and Robin Seaman joined the meeting.

Specialty Show Coordinating Committee

Amy Lane and Sandee Lovett, 2011 National Specialty Chairs, reported that the 2011 National Specialty was coming together. They reported that, to date, 213 registrations had been received. The reserved grooming was full with six requests on a waiting list. There were 46 reserved handler parking requests; 91 reservations for the banquet and 83 Top Twenty tickets sold. There were 14 golf cart reservations and four vendor reservations.

It was reported that the premium list was printed and the mailing labels had been received from the NCA Membership Chair. There had been a small problem with the one of the judges but that has been remedied and the AKC will approve the show very soon.

The Board was informed of a non-NCA member's alleged irrational telephone behavior which had reportedly been directed toward a reservation staff person at the Bavarian Inn Lodge. The Board will receive a copy of a letter of concern that was authored and sent to the non-member, by the Show Chairpersons.

In response to a question, there was a discussion about the information for the heart clinic that was not included in the National Specialty packet. The correct information, along with the information about the Doppler rebates, will be sent out in the *NCA e-notes*, the *NCA Website* and the National Specialty website.

Robin Seaman, Specialty Show Coordinating Committee (SSCC) Chair, reported that the Bear Mountain Newfoundland Club will not be able to host the 2013 National Specialty due to a change in management at the host hotel and their subsequent decision not to allow dogs in the hotel rooms. The SSCC considered various options given the short timeline available. Amy Lane and Sandee Lovett have agreed to co-chair the 2013 National Specialty in Frankenmuth. The SSCC reported that the hotel would hold the same rates from 2011. The committee voted unanimously in an email vote to move forward with this plan as it would be very difficult to start planning the 2013 National Specialty from scratch at this point in time. The SSCC reported that while members who attend the National Specialty for fun and sight-seeing are tired of the site, those members who are more attuned to the showing aspect do like the site for its convenience.

Kathy McIver moved and John Cornell seconded that the Board accept the recommendation of the Specialty Show Coordinating Committee that the 2013 National Specialty return to the Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth, Michigan. The motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion of the date of the 2013 National Specialty. If the 2013 National Specialty was held in first week of May, there is a conflict with the large Composers'

Room and the NCA would not be able to use that room. But if the NCA moved to the following week, there would be no conflicts. It was also stated that negotiations with the town are underway to possibly allow motor homes to park at or near the show site.

Pam Rubio moved and Sue Marino seconded that the dates for the 2013 National Specialty will be May 5-11, 2013. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board thanked Amy Lane, Sandee Lovett and Robin Seaman for the reports and their hard work.

At 9:53 p.m., Amy Lane, Sandee Lovett and Robin Seaman left the meeting.

Working Dog Committee

The Board returned to the WRDX discussion. Sue Marino, Working Dog Committee (WDC) Chair, withdrew the proposed changes and stated that the Working Dog Committee would re-submit the changes with the final wording and rationales. Sue stated that the Board could discuss the proposed changes at the face-to-face meeting at the National Specialty; the members would be able to have input at the scheduled Tuesday, May 3, 2011 meeting and then the Board could vote at its next teleconference after the National Specialty. The proposed changes could also be posted on the *NCA Website*. It was suggested that the proposed changes also be sent to the working test judges.

The Board reviewed the comments from the WDC on items the Board had sent to committee for its input. The WDC reported that the committee did not object to clubs holding tests for requalifications only. The Board would only need to approve an amendment to the Water Test Regulations to allow for a separate test. The committee suggested perhaps that a half-day WRDX test be held with the other half of the day to be used for requalifications. Also, the newly approved proposal for Multiple Division Requalifications at water tests should offer more options for those entrants who want to requalify. After further discussion, it was agreed that the WDC will consider a proposal that had already been submitted previously.

The WDC reported that clarifying “passing” and “failing” performances was a subject that the committee was planning to consider once the WRDX changes were finished.

The WDC also reported that the committee feels that there is already a procedure in place on the rare occasions that a judge appears to ignore the rules of a working test by the use of test evaluations and the grievance procedures.

Further, the WDC reported that the committee acknowledges that there is some subjectivity in judging despite rules and regulations and that the observer judge experiences of a potential judge will include learning to handle “gray areas”.

The Board thanked Sue Marino and the WDC for all their hard work.

Obedience Committee

The Board clarified that pins will still be sent to titlists in tracking, rally, etc. Recent motions pertained only to obedience and not other performance areas.

Meredith Reggie moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board add the AKC Utility Dog Excellent title to the list of AKC/NCA titles that are recognized with a pin. The motion passed unanimously.

***Newf Tide* Policy Committee**

It was reported that the response to the Board from the *Newf Tide* Policy Committee regarding a member's Letter to the Editor was received only a day or two before the Board's meeting. It was agreed that the matter would be placed on the Board's March 17, 2011 agenda.

AKC Draft Title

Sue Marino reported that she received a letter from Mr. Doug Ljungren of AKC concerning the proposed AKC Draft title. The letter stated that the AKC would like to have the NCA's participation in the Parent Club Performance Title Program. The AKC will recognize the NCA's Draft Dog (DD) and Team draft Dog (TDD) titles. These titles may be added to the dog's registered name on AKC documents for a \$50 fee. The AKC has no plans to interfere with the NCA's regulations or tests. There was some discussion about what procedures AKC would use to verify the titles. It was agreed that the AKC needs to state their verification procedures before the NCA gives its approval.

The Board agreed to resume discussion after the Technical Resources Committee report.

At 10:05 p.m., Deb Bridge and Barbara Finch joined the meeting.

Technical Resources Committee

The Board discussed the request from an international NCA member for the use of the AKC Studbook information that the NCA receives. The information would be used for a public database. It was stated that the NCA has an agreement with the AKC that the information in the AKC Studbook cannot be used for publication. There is precedent that if the information is used only for verification and an NCA member signs the AKC agreement, then it may be forwarded. It was agreed that the member would be contacted to determine her plans for the information.

The Board discussed the inclusion of dogs in the NCA Database. It was stated that, at this time, only AKC and NCA-titled dogs are included in the NCA Database. The NCA Database, in its current state, is for determining the Register of Merit and Versatile

Newfoundland titles. It was agreed that this is confusing to both NCA and non-NCA members. An article that was to appear in *Newf Tide* explaining this has not been published.

It was also stated that the NCA Database receives data from OFA. But the OFA information will often have incorrect spellings, names, registration numbers, etc. inadvertently submitted by the owners. When a dog receives an AKC title, then the information can be reconciled. If an NCA member wishes to have a dog with OFA results or an AKC title included in the NCA Database that is not currently included, an AKC certified pedigree or title certificate needs to be presented.

Pam Saunders moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board direct the Technical Resources Committee to develop a description of the criteria for dogs appearing in the NCA Database by the March 17, 2011 Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

At 10:25 p.m., Deb Bridge and Barbara Finch left the meeting.

Good Sportsmanship Award

The Board discussed the Good Sportsmanship Award nomination process. It was suggested that the policy just be amended to add a statement that the Board may make additional nominations.

Sue Marino moved and Jacqueline Brellocks seconded that the Board add the following statement concerning the nominations of the Good Sportsmanship Award to the *NCA Policy Manual*: The Board may make additional nominations. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Communications

The Board reviewed a proposed statement regarding committee communications.

Pam Saunders moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board accept the following recommendation as amended of the NCA Governing Documents Review Committee regarding committee communications:

The Newfoundland Club of America (NCA) has an extensive network of committees who work for the benefit of the Newfoundland dog, the NCA and its members. As such, maintaining a strong and clear line of communications in the organizational committee structure is imperative for the operational effectiveness of the NCA.

NCA Committees are directly accountable to the NCA Board of Directors and may only receive their work assignments from either the NCA Board itself or the NCA 2nd Vice President who, on behalf of the Board, serves as the Liaison between committees. Neither individual Directors, unless acting at the direction of the Board, nor other NCA committees, may assign work to a committee. The position

of a NCA committee on a relevant committee matter may only be presented by the respective committee chair (or other committee designee) and not by any individual committee member.

Although formal avenues of committee communications are required for operating efficiency and consistency, this should not preclude a collegial relationship between committees or between Board members and committees.

The motion passed. 11 Yes (LA, JB, JC, MLC, RF, SM, KM, MLP, PR, PS, DT); 1 No (MR)

AKC Draft Dog Title

The Board returned to the discussion of the AKC Draft title. It was agreed that Sue Marino would ask AKC for its verification process. Sue reported that the WDC is against this proposal as the committee does not support AKC's \$50 fee for a title to appear on AKC documents. It was stated that it needs to be emphasized that this is an elective program and was never meant to be mandatory. It was reported that this program could cause some problems as these titles would appear in AKC publications, such as show catalogs, while other dogs, which also have titles but whose owners have chosen not to pay the \$50, would not have their titlists listed. It was stated that it would be a show-giving club's decision to include these titles or not.

Executive Session

At 10:35 p.m., Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

At 11:17 p.m., Steve Britton left the meeting.

At 11:57 p.m., John Cornell moved and Sue Marino seconded that the Board come out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

While in executive session, it was reported that the Board had approved the Applicants List dated December 16, 2010 and January 18, 2011.

While in executive session, the Board regrettably declined the offer of representation from an NCA member to appear at the Meet the Breeds at the International Kennel Club show due to past practice of regional clubs hosting Meet the Breeds.

While in executive session, the Board entertained jurisdiction in two grievances.

While in executive session, the Board approved a non-Board member to chair the two grievance proceedings pending acceptance.

At 11:58 p.m., Steve Britton returned to the meeting.

Board Meeting Schedule at 2011 National Specialty

The Board discussed meeting times. It was agreed that the Board would meet starting on Sunday, May 1, 2011 at 6 p.m. On Monday, May 2, 2011, the Board meeting will start at 8:30 a.m. Lunch break will be determined at a later time and a dinner break was scheduled for 6:00-8:00 p.m. The Board will meet that evening. On Tuesday, May 2, 2011, the Board will meet from 8:00 a.m. to noon. If the Grievance Chair agrees, the grievances will be heard on Monday, May 2, 2011.

At 12:09 a.m., Pam Saunders moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by,

Mary Lou Cuddy
NCA Recording Secretary