

Newfoundland Club of America
Teleconference Meeting
Minutes of January 19, 2012
(Approved February 16, 2012)

Pat Randall, President, called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. Eastern time. The following directors were present: Lynne Anderson-Powell (LA), Steve Britton (SB), John Cornell (JC), Mary Lou Cuddy (MLC), Roger Frey (RF), Kathy McIver (KM), Mary L. Price (MLP), Pat Randall (PKR), Pam Saunders (PS) and Donna Thibault (DT). Meredith Reggie (MR) and Pam Rubio (PR) were absent. Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was present.

Approval of Minutes

The Board considered the minutes of December 15, 2011. A concern was raised that the AKC Delegate's report had not been reported fully in the minutes.

While reviewing the section of the minutes addressing the re-counting of election ballots, there was a question raised as to who would be responsible for re-counting election ballots. It was said that the Board would appoint tellers in the event a ballot recount was requested. A brief discussion of the *NCA Bylaws* and Roberts Rules of Order was held. Steve Britton will research if an added clause or statement needs to be added to the motion regarding the recounting of election ballots and will report to the Board either later in the meeting or at the February meeting.

Without objection, the Board agreed to postpone the adoption of the minutes of the December 15, 2011 meeting until the February 16, 2012 meeting to allow additional information to be added into the minutes. 2 Absent (MR, PSR)

Report of the President

Pat Randall, President, reported that he had received a letter from an NCA member regarding cyber-bullying. The letter will be discussed in executive session but he suggested that the Board discuss at an upcoming meeting the possibility of making a policy statement regarding this issue.

At 8:22 p.m., Marylou Zimmerman joined the meeting.

Electronic Publications Policy Committee

Marylou Zimmerman, Electronic Publications Policy Committee (EPPC) Chair, reviewed the printed material in the agenda packet that she had submitted regarding the NCA's liability and statements on NCA mailing lists. It was determined that the author of a post owns the post, thus the NCA is not liable for the statements made on the mailing lists. The EPPC is working on wording to remind members of expected behaviors. The

mailing lists are not moderated on a daily basis so it is difficult to take action quickly if needed. The list moderator does have the ability to block anyone from the list. Questionable posts can be held and referred to the EPPC and then to the Board.

There was discussion of the posting of names and derogatory statements made about dogs and kennels. It was stated that posts warning breeders not to sell to certain individuals should not include any identifying information. Only the state should be given and that if further information on an individual is requested, that correspondence should be taken off-list..

Kathy McIver moved and John Cornell seconded that the Board request the Electronic Publications Policy Committee develop wording for a policy that will not permit the sharing of personal information on NCA mailing lists or NCA social media sites. Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (PSR)

At 9:02 p.m., Marylou Zimmerman left the meeting.

At 9:03 p.m., Edmund Sledzik joined the meeting.

NCA tax return questions.

Atty. Edmund Sledzik, NCA tax preparer, joined the meeting to discuss questions raised by a Board member regarding the 2010 and 2011 NCA tax returns and the way that both National and Regional Specialties' revenues and expenses were reported on NCA, Inc.'s IRS Form 990s. There were other concerns expressed regarding revenues and expenses and the divisions between NCA, Inc., regional clubs and the AKC host clubs. It was agreed that Mary L. Price, NCA Treasurer, and Mr. Sledzik will report back at a later meeting.

At 9:35 p.m., Edmund Sledzik left the meeting.

The Board briefly continued the discussion about publishing the NCA's 1099 forms. Mary L. Price, NCA Treasurer, indicated that she was willing to resolve the issue by requesting IRS W-9. Without objection, the motion regarding the posting of 1099-Misc or W-2 Forms, or other financial memoranda to the NCA website, that was postponed from the December meeting, was withdrawn

Report of the 1st Vice President

Roger Frey, 1st Vice President, reported on a letter he had received from two long-time NCA members asking that the Board reconsider holding the Annual Membership Meeting on Tuesdays as it precludes members from attending due to the meeting being held early in the week when members may not have arrived at the National Specialty.

Roger reported on the January 18, 2012 Charitable Trust Management Board (CTMB) meeting. The meeting was a review of the previous year's activities. It was reported that

the OFA health survey had 1854 Newfoundlands submitted which placed the breed third out all the breeds. He reported that a number of new DNA samples had also been submitted.

The CTMB had approved the opening of an account with Scott Trade in the amount of \$15,000.00, along with a critical care program which will debut soon.

Report of the 2nd Vice President

Pam Saunders, 2nd Vice President, reviewed the deadlines for committee reports and the Board agenda packet and the occasional difficulty in meeting those deadlines. It was agreed that the deadline for committee reports could be moved to facilitate placing items on the Board agenda.

Report of the Recording Secretary

Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary, reported that she had prepared the January 19, 2012 agenda packet and the minutes of the December 15, 2012 meeting. She reported that election ballots are arriving every day with only three reports of members not receiving the proper election materials. Those members were subsequently supplied with the proper materials.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary

Lynne Anderson-Powell, Corresponding Secretary, reported that she had responded to the three letters of complaint that the Board had reviewed at the last meeting and had forwarded them to the Arbitration Committee. She also reported that she had responded to several general inquiries and had continued to pursue information about the possible Newfoundland artwork being held by the Yates County, New York ASPCA. She is waiting for a reply from their treasurer.

Lynne also forwarded a request from the Newfoundland Club of Russia for a letter of invitation to participate in the NCA's National Specialty. A letter is needed in order for them to apply for visas. Several individuals including some Juniors are interested in attending the National Specialty. She reported that this is the same procedure used for Russian sports teams or musical groups. It was agreed that Pat Randall would write the letter to the Newfoundland Club of Russia.

At 9:55 p.m., Pam Rubio joined the meeting.

Report of the Treasurer

Mary L. Price, Treasurer, reported the following balances: checking account: \$52,344.63; checking account for 2013 National Specialty: \$14,192.00; savings account: \$45,302.39; invested in CDs: \$104,455.86; and the NCA operations balance total of \$216,294.88 with \$4,550.22 in reserve for "Distinguished Member" expenses.

The Juniors Fund account balance is \$1,000.00. The Uniform Trophy Fund account balance is \$2,884.91 for a total of \$220,179.79.

Mary reported that she had renamed the National Specialty bank account to the 2013 National Specialty.

Report of the AKC Delegate

Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, reported that at the March 2012 AKC Delegates meeting, the Delegates will be voting on the group realignment proposal. She informed the Board that the Delegates will vote on the proposal but will have no say to which group breeds would be assigned. That will be done by the AKC Board of Directors.

Also being voted on at that meeting will be the proposal to award a three-point major to the reserve winners at designated national specialties. She reported that the AKC Parent Club Committee is actively supporting this and the All-Breed Committee is opposed to it. She observed that this will be an interesting vote. She asked the NCA Board to consider these two proposals at its February 16, 2012 meeting.

Mary will also forward the biographies of the AKC Board candidates for the NCA Board to consider.

Mary reported on her visit to the Newfoundland booth at the AKC Meet the Breeds at the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship show, hosted by members of the Newfoundland Club of Florida. She thought it significant that the members who were there at the time of her visit were not NCA members but were supporting the work of the NCA. She urged the NCA Board to be sure to thank the clubs who undertake hosting one of these booths for their outstanding presentations and hard work.

The Board briefly discussed polling the membership on the question of the three-point major for reserve winners at designated national specialties. It was questioned if a straw poll could be honored. The Board had voted against the proposal when it was first brought up several years ago.

There was a brief discussion of the group realignment proposal. Mary stated that the proposal was better received this time as some attention had been paid to the parent clubs' opinions. Also, more people are aware of the number of new breeds working towards AKC recognition. It was reported that it will lengthen judging times.

A question was raised as to who would write the letter thanking the Meet the Breeds host clubs. It was agreed that Pat Randall would write the letters. It was reported that the NCA did not have an ad in the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship Show catalog, nor were medallions given to the winners. It was stated that ads and related items need to be coordinated and that the new Publicity Committee should be of help.

There was a brief discussion of the AKC Good Sportsmanship Award. Last year, there was a misunderstanding of who was to request and receive the medallion. It was agreed that Mary W. Price will request and receive the medallion and deliver it to the 2012 National Specialty.

Committee Reports

At 10:26 p.m., Amy Lane and Robin Seaman joined the meeting.

2010 and 2011 National Specialty Reports

Robin Seaman, Specialty Show Coordinating Committee Chair and Amy Lane, 2011 National Specialty Co-Chair, presented questions on the 2010 and 2011 National Specialties financial reports and the method of accounting for leftover logo items from the 2010 National Specialty. It was reported that some of the leftover items had been sold at a discount at the 2011 National Specialty. There were questions about the number of items in the inventory and how and where the excess items were reported in each of the financial reports. Also discussed was the proposal that the New-Pen-Del Newfoundland Club will sell some of the leftover items at the 2012 National Specialty.

Pam Saunders moved and Steve Britton seconded that Mary L. Price and Amy Lane develop the revisions, as needed, to the 2010 and 2011 National Specialty financial reports with the revised reports presented to Board before the 2012 National Specialty. Without objection, the motion passed.

There was a discussion about the division of any profits from the NCA-hosted National Specialties. The Board had voted several years ago that any profits from NCA-hosted National Specialties be split as following: one-half for seed money for future National Specialties, one-quarter for Health Challenge and one-quarter for Newfoundland Rescue. Also discussed was a decision by the Board at the November 4-6, 2011 meeting to request monthly updates from National Specialty Show chairs. The Specialty Show Coordinating Committee felt the request was unreasonable. It was said that the decision was made to increase communication so as to avoid some of the problems being discussed at this meeting.

At 11:22 p.m., Amy Lane left the meeting.

The discussion turned to the limited edition plates. It was reported that the 2012 artwork is ready for the decal. Hope Taylor is the artist. The revenue for the plates has been down for the last several years. Some years, the plates have not sold out. Recent trophy chairs have been instrumental in gathering funds and donations to cover part of the costs of the trophies which relieved the pressure on the limited edition plates' declining revenues. The Board discussed the number of plates to produce for 2012 and the purchase price of the plates.

Mary L. Price moved and Pam Rubio seconded that 200 limited edition plates be produced and sold for \$45.00 at the 2012 National Specialty.

Roger Frey moved and Mary Lou Cuddy seconded, and after discussion, the following amended motion, without objection was adopted: That 225 limited edition plates be produced and sold for \$45.00 at the 2012 National Specialty.

At 11:45 p.m., Robin Seaman left the meeting.

Working Dog Committee

Due to the late hour, the Board discussed whether to review the proposed changes to the Water Rescue Dog Excellent regulations. It was decided to have Sue Marino, Working Dog Committee chair, to call into the meeting.

At 12:01 a.m., Kathy McIver left the meeting.

Breeders List

While the Board waited for Sue Marino to call in, the Board reviewed the *Breeders List* application form.

Lynne Anderson-Powell moved and Pam Saunders seconded that the Board approve the *Breeders List* application as presented.

The Board discussed the use of the word “investigate” in a phrase and the intent of the phrase.

Roger Frey moved and Meredith Reggie seconded to call the question. Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (KM)

The motion that the Board approve the *Breeders List* application as presented passed. 10 Yes (LA, JC, MLC, RF, MLP, PKR, MR, PSR, PS, DT); 1 No (SB); 1 Absent (KM)

At 12:05 p.m., Sue Marino joined the meeting.

Working Dog Committee

Sue Marino, Working Dog Committee Chair, informed the Board that the Water Rescue Dog Excellent exercises had remained virtually the same with the wording clarified, tightened up and standardized. Sue briefly pointed out the few exercises where real changes had been made. The Working Dog Committee felt that the regulations now flow better with the housekeeping and repetitive items moved to the general regulations. The general regulations were also edited to include WRDX references.

Sue reported that at the next meeting of the Working Dog Committee, the committee will be making the same general changes to the Water Dog and Water Rescue Dog regulations to match the WRDX regulations.

It was reported that the Working Dog Committee had approved the WRDX regulations unanimously.

Lynne Anderson-Powell moved and Pam Saunders seconded that the Board approve the concepts as presented in the revised Water Rescue Dog Excellent regulations and that the Working Dog Committee present the final formatting at the Board's February 19, 2012 meeting. Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (KM)

At 12:29 p.m., Sue Marino left the meeting.

Executive Session

At 12:29 a.m., Pam Saunders moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board go into executive session. Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (KM)

At 1:08 a.m., Pam Saunders moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board come out of executive session. Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (KM)

While in executive session, the Board approved the December 15, 2011 Applicants List.

While in executive session, the Board agreed to develop and publish a position statement on cyber-bullying and disrespectful behavior.

While in executive session, the Board waived policy and appointed Mary Lou Roberts and Joan Fenwick to the Newfoundland Ambassador Committee.

While in executive session, the Board appointed Lisa Lathrop and Patti Emmerling to the Publicity Committee.

Scheduling of the Annual Membership Meeting

Steve Britton moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board postpone the discussion of scheduling the Annual Membership Meeting beginning with the 2013 National Specialty to the February 16, 2012 meeting. Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (KM)

Without objection, consideration of the proposed amendments to the Northstar Newfoundland Club's Bylaws were postponed to the February 16, 2011 meeting.

Adjournment

At 1:15 a.m., Pam Saunders moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (KM)

Submitted by,

Mary Lou Cuddy
NCA Recording Secretary