

Newfoundland Club of America  
Teleconference Meeting  
Minutes of February 16, 2012  
(Approved March 22, 2012)

Pat Randall, President, called the meeting to order at 8:06 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), Meredith Reggie (MR,) Pam Rubio (PR), Pam Saunders (PS) and Donna Thibault (DT). Mary W. Price (MWP), AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was present. Board-elect member Sandy Gabel was absent.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The Board considered the minutes of December 15, 2011 and January 19, 2012.

Pam Rubio moved and John Cornell seconded that the Board approve the minutes of December 15, 2011 as presented. Without objection, the motion passed.

Pam Rubio moved and Meredith Reggie seconded that the Board approve the minutes of January 19, 2012 as amended. Without objection, the motion passed.

### **Report of the President**

Pat Randall, President, thanked the Board for their quick response and the unanimous consent regarding the articles for *Showsight* magazine. He reminded the Board to make certain that all Board members are copied on all emails. Pat reported on a letter he received from an NCA member regarding the *Annual of Titlists* and the NCA database. It was agreed to address the letter under new business later in the meeting.

### **Report of the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

Roger Frey, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, asked that he give his report later in the meeting.

### **Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

Pam Saunders, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, reported that her items will be addressed under the committee reports.

### **Report of the Recording Secretary**

Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary, reported that she prepared the February 16, 2012 agenda packet and the minutes of December 15, 2011 and January 19, 2012.

She presented the results of the NCA Board election as follows: Mary Lou Cuddy – 618; Roger Frey – 578; Pam Rubio – 524; Meredith Reggie – 508; John Cornell – 488;

Sandy Gabel – 441; Laura Gallagher – 394; Barbara Finch – 335. She thanked ballot counters Lynne Anderson-Powell, Kathy Cohen, Ralph Holzhauser and Donna Thibault for their hard work.

### **Report of the Corresponding Secretary**

Lynne Anderson-Powell, Corresponding Secretary, reported that she had replied to the usual inquiries and had forwarded the appropriate emails to the Board. She asked that the Board consider the request from the AKC for the NCA membership list. It was agreed that this would be discussed later in the meeting. Lynne reported that the December AKC titles report had not been received and she was corresponding with AKC about the delay.

She informed the Board that she had sent a sympathy card to the Aliff family in response to Nancy's passing. Lynne also reported that she had been in contact with the Yates County, NY ASPCA and she was expecting some photographs of the Newfoundland items they have.

### **Report of the Treasurer**

Mary L. Price, Treasurer, reported the following balances: checking account: \$29,274.78; checking account for 2013 National Specialty: \$14,192.00; savings account: \$45,304.31; invested in CDs: \$105,496.38; and the NCA operations balance total of \$194,267.47. The Juniors Fund account balance is \$1,000.00. The Uniform Trophy Fund account balance is \$2,403.66 for a total of \$197,671.13.

Mary L. reported that she expanded the usual Treasurer's report to give the Board more information each month. She informed the Board that she is in contact with Edmund Sledzik, NCA tax preparer, and they are developing a report to the NCA Board with some ideas. There was a brief discussion about the January 19, 2012 meeting and Mr. Sledzik's participation. A Board member stated that they felt that Mr. Sledzik had done excellent work for the NCA for many years. Another Board member stated that the more recent tax returns were prepared by his daughter, Keri and afterward, reviewed by Mr. Sledzik. A member further stated that they felt that for January's meeting, that Mr. Sledzik had prepared to answer some general questions, and he had not had the opportunity to prepare for some of the specific questions that some Board members had asked.

Kathy McIver moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board request an audit of the NCA books.

A Board member stated that the request was no reflection on the excellent work of Mary L. Price, NCA Treasurer and in fact, it was intended to protect her. The Board discussed the fact that an outside audit would be expensive, in the range of \$5,000.00-\$25,000 depending on the scope of the audit. It was stated that perhaps an NCA member could

do it pro bono or for minimal expenses. The difference between a review and an audit was considered.

It was reported that the Steering Committee had discussed an audit and was preparing to recommend such to the Board. It was reported that the IRS does not require audits but does recommend an audit policy.

Pat Randall proposed that the Board temporarily postpone its consideration of the pending motion and take up the scheduled call-in report from the Electronic Publications Policy Committee Chair. Without objection, the motion to postpone was adopted.

At 8:30 p.m., Marylou Zimmerman joined the meeting.

### **Electronic Publications Policy Committee**

Marylou Zimmerman, Electronic Publications Policy Committee (EPPC) Chair, reported on the proposed wording for a disclaimer that would accompany any email generated on the ncabreeders-I and other lists. She also reported that an additional bullet point regarding the posting of personal information would be added to the guidelines. EPPC felt there were some inconsistencies between the wording for the disclaimer and the guidelines and it was suggested that the Board have legal counsel give an interpretation of the NCA's responsibility.

Pam Saunders moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board request Marylou Zimmerman, Electronic Publications Policy Committee Chair, gather NCA email policies and the proposed wording for the footer to appear on the bottom of posts on NCA email lists for review by the NCA attorney. Without objection, the motion passed.

Pat Randall, President, will write the letter accompanying the information referenced in the motion.

At 8:44 p.m., Marylou Zimmerman left the meeting.

### **Audit Discussion**

The Board returned to the previous discussion of an audit. It was stated that there was an audit policy in the *NCA Policy Manual*. The Board could appoint a committee to oversee an audit. There was additional discussion on the expense that would be incurred by an external audit. Mary L. Price was asked to use her contacts in the field to obtain bids. There was discussion about Board members also soliciting bids. There was further discussion regarding the period of time the audit would cover.

Lynne Anderson-Powell moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the NCA Treasurer will investigate costs related to an external accounting review and/or audit covering the fiscal year ending June 2011. The motion passed. 11 Yes (LA, SB, JC, MLC, KM, MLP, PKR, MR, PSR, PS, DT); 1 No (RF)

## **Report of the AKC Delegate**

Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, requested the Board's input on the candidates for election to the AKC Board of Directors. There was discussion about each of the candidates and what they could bring to the AKC Board.

Pat Randall moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board accept the recommendation of Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, that she vote for Patricia Cruz, Larry Sorenson and Lynn Worth-Smith in the election for the AKC Board. Without objection, the motion passed.

Mary also requested the Board's recommendation on the proposed re-alignment of the AKC groups. The implementation would be scheduled for mid-2015. The assignment of breeds to a particular group would be done by the AKC Board and not the Delegates and taking the concern of the parent clubs into consideration.

Roger Frey moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board instruct Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, to vote against the proposal to re-align the AKC groups. The motion passed. 11 Yes (LA, JC, MLC, RF, KM, MLP, PKR, MR, PSR, PS, DT); 1 Abstain (SB)

Mary reported that the proposal to award a three-point major to the reserve winners at National Specialties had been withdrawn and will not be voted on at the next Delegates meeting. Mary expects that after some further modifications, the proposal would be brought back for a vote.

## **Committee Reports**

At 9:24 p.m., Barbara Finch joined the meeting.

### **Specialty Show Coordinating Committee**

Barbara Finch, Specialty Show Coordinating Committee (SSC) member, reported that she was appearing for Robin Seaman, SSC Chair. She stated that at a recent meeting, the SSC discussed the policy of putting judging breaks into the schedule at the National Specialty. The committee felt that with the large number of entries at the National Specialties it was impossible to schedule in these breaks and still finish judging within a reasonable time. The committee voted unanimously to allow the present policy to be waived if the entry is so large that scheduling becomes a real issue. Some Board members stated that the judging breaks after every 60-80 dogs, which is the current policy, had been scheduled at National Specialties that were larger than the anticipated entry at this year's show and that most exhibitors appreciated knowing the exact, or close to exact, time that their class would be judged.

Kathy McIver moved and John Cornell seconded that the Board accept the recommendation of the Specialty Show Coordinating Committee and to amend the

current policy by adding: that when necessary, to facilitate the events of the National Specialty and at the discretion of the National Specialty Show Chairman and the National Show Chairman, the policy regarding the scheduling of judging breaks may be altered. The motion passed. 10 Yes (LA, SB, JC, KM, MLP, PKR, MR, PSR, PS DT); 2 No (MLC, RF)

At 9:40 p.m., Barbara Finch left the meeting.

### **Judges Education Committee**

The Board commended the Judges Education Committee for meeting the very tight deadline for the articles for the *Showsight* magazine.

Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board approve the proposed articles from the Judges Education Committee for inclusion in *Showsight* magazine.

There was discussion concerning reviewing the articles by paragraph. It was stated the articles were drawn from previously Board-approved documents and that the word count was very close to the maximum allowed by the magazine and any editing could cause problems. Some Board members felt that the articles should reference the sources from which they were drawn, *The Newf and You* and the *Illustrated Guide*.

Without objection, the articles will reference the sources of the material included in the article.

Without objection, and after amendment and debate, the motion to approve the proposed articles from the Judges Education Committee for inclusion in *Showsight* magazine passed.

### **Executive Session**

At 10:13 p.m., Donna Thibault moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board go into executive session. Without objection, the motion passed.

At 10:18 p.m., John Cornell moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board come out of executive session. Without objection, the motion passed.

While in executive session, the Board approved the January 19, 2012 applicants and considered the February 16, 2012 applicants.

While in executive session, the Board appointed Steve Britton to the NCA Governing Documents Review Committee.

While in executive session, the Board approved the requests of the Working Dog, Legislative Liaison and Rescue Prevention Committees to post committee vacancies on the *NCA Website* and in *NCA e-notes*.

## **Juniors Committee**

The Board reviewed the proposed designs for the juniors certificates. It was asked if the juniors competing in obedience and working tests would also be recognized. It was stated that these juniors are being included.

Pam Rubio moved and Kathy McIver seconded that the Board approve the Juniors Committee's proposed design for a juniors certificate. Without objection, the motion passed.

There was a brief discussion concerning the current policy that requires juniors to be junior members of the NCA to be awarded the top junior awards. It was stated that the Charitable Trust Management Board would have to make any changes to that requirement. Roger Frey will take the committee's report to the next Charitable Trust Management Board meeting. It was stated that some NCA members thought that juniors were already included in the adult membership. Past practice had also clouded the issue. All children competing as juniors are encouraged to become junior members of the NCA.

## **Steering Committee**

The Board considered a proposal from the Steering Committee that a group of advisors, such as a financial planner, project, risk and communications managers and an event planner be assembled to be available to the Board and committees when questions arise. It was agreed that the proposal needed further discussion. It was noted that the old Finance Committee would have covered some of these areas and that perhaps that committee should be revived. The Board agreed to take the recommendation under advisement.

## **Publicity Committee**

The Board considered the proposed job description developed by the Publicity Committee. While the proposal contained many good ideas, some Board members felt that the description was more that of a public relations firm. The Board established the committee to make certain that ads were being placed in a timely matter in bench show catalogs and in dog publications. It was agreed to allow the committee to contact the New-Pen-Del Newfoundland Club to offer the committee's help in arranging publicity for the 2012 National Specialty.

## **Judges Education Committee**

The Board considered the temperament article that was developed by the Judges Education Committee for publication in the AKC Judges' newsletter, *The Standard* and in *Newf Tide*.

Kathy McIver moved and Pam Saunders seconded that the Board approve as amended the proposed article on Newfoundland temperament from the Judges Education Committee. Without objection, the motion passed.

### **Membership Committee**

Mary Lou Cuddy, Membership Committee Chair, reported on a request from an NCA member for an electronic file of the NCA membership list for her personal use. The Board expressed concern that such a file could be passed along to others, either on purpose or inadvertently. It was agreed that the member would be notified that such a file is not available at this time.

In a related matter, the Board considered a request from the AKC for the NCA's membership list in an electronic file with a specific format. In previous years, a hard copy of the *Membership Directory* had been sent to the AKC. It was said that AKC was trying to gather email addresses to use for various communications.

Steve Britton moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board comply with the request from the AKC to provide member information, but to limit the furnished information to the names and postal codes of NCA members. Without objection, the motion passed.

Mary Lou requested the Board's approval of the re-wording of the dues renewal form to clarify the junior membership category. Without objection, the re-wording was approved.

There was discussion regarding the addition of the newly created Juniors Fund to the donations portion of the dues renewal form. Due to space consideration on the renewal form, if the Juniors Fund were included for this year, it would take the place of the Rescue Prevention Fund, which has not generated a significant amount in donations. The Rescue Prevention Committee will be invited to request a grant or an increase in their budget to cover any loss of donated funds.

Meredith Reggie moved and Donna Thibault seconded that the Board approve for this year placing an option for donations to the Juniors Committee Fund on the dues renewal form in place of the Rescue Prevention Committee. The motion passed. 9 Yes (SB, JC, MLC, KM, MLP, PKR, MR, PSR, DT); 3 No (LA, RF, PS)

### **Breeders Education Committee**

The Board considered the response from the Breeders Education Committee to the Board's request for input on developing a puppy information page on Facebook. Since the committee did not have any information as to how the page would be structured, the committee believed that a question and answer page would be problematic with anyone able to post as an "expert" and with that, a risk of liability. A page that was designed to allow questions about the puppies already in homes or where to find puppies would be better handled by the AKC Breeder Referral or the Breeders List. The committee did

agree that if the page was designed to merely drive people to the NCA website, that would be acceptable.

A question was raised if the Newf Ambassador Committee had submitted comments. It was discovered that the request for input to that committee had not been relayed to the committee. The Board agreed to delay any decisions until the Newf Ambassador Committee had the opportunity to comment.

### **Working Dog Committee**

The Working Dog Committee reported to the Board that the one-minute time limit to get a dog moving on the freight haul will now also apply to the maneuvering course and that dogs entering the harness and hitching area must be off-lead. These are clarifications of the regulations and not considered to be a change.

The Board considered the updates and clarifications to the Water Test Regulations. The recently approved changes to the Water Rescue Dog Excellent test regulations were included. The regulations for each water test are now consistent in terminology and format.

Pam Rubio moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board approve the updates and clarifications to the Water Test Regulations as presented by the Working Dog Committee. Without objection, the motion passed.

The Working Dog Committee requested that the Board approve the continuation of the Water Rescue Dog (WRD) requalification program. The Board had approved a pilot program for the 2011 water work season for clubs to hold a separate WRD requalification test using the current WRD regulations.

There was some discussion about options for the test such as “sudden death” when a dog or handler fails a test.

Pam Rubio moved and John Cornell seconded that the Board approve the Water Rescue Dog requalification test program under the current rules. Without objection, the motion passed.

The Board considered the proposed formatting changes for the Water Rescue Dog Excellent regulations. It was stated that the use of footnotes to highlight any changes to the regulations will begin after this revision as this revision has many changes.

Pam Rubio moved and Steve Britton seconded that the Board accept the proposed Water Rescue Dog Excellent regulations as presented. Without objection, the motion passed.

### **Rescue Prevention Committee**



It was reported that, in the process of working with outdated articles, the Rescue Prevention Committee (RPC) will need to contact the original authors or committees of the articles to see if they are willing to update their articles. The RPC is asking for permission to contact the authors or committees regarding these updates. It was also reported that Marylou Zimmerman, Electronic Publications Policy Committee Chair, has also contacted the authors and committees regarding outdated articles on the *NCA Website*. The RPC is in the process of gathering articles for the proposed Lifestages program.

Pam Saunders moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board give permission to the Rescue Prevention Committee to contact authors of articles being used for the Lifestages project for updates and revisions to reflect current information. All articles and items posted by the Rescue Prevention Committee will be submitted to the Board for approval. Without objection, the motion passed.

### ***Newf Tide* Policy Committee**

The *Newf Tide* Policy Committee submitted their response to the Board's request for input on the question of including the Register of Merit (ROM) dogs in the *Annual of Titlists*. The committee agreed that the Register of Merit, while held in very high esteem, is a recognition of the titles earned by dog's offspring. The *Annual of Titlists* is for dogs that have been awarded AKC or NCA titles. The new ROM's are featured in their own section in *Newf Tide* each year. There was a brief discussion about the Versatile Newfoundland and it was stated that the Versatile Newfoundlands appear in *the Annual of Titlists* because of the last title they earned, not because of the Versatile Newfoundland recognition. It was agreed that no further action was needed.

The Board considered a request from the committee to drop the \$10 per extra picture fee for ads in *Newf Tide*. Due to new and current technologies, there are no longer any additional costs to place extra pictures in ads.

Pam Rubio moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board accept the recommendation of the *Newf Tide* Policy Committee to change the \$10.00 per picture fee to no charge for additional pictures. Fees will be \$160 for a full page ad, \$90 for a half page ad and \$50 for a quarter page ad. Without objection, the motion passed.

There was a request for clarification of the listing of attendees at the Judges Education Committee's seminars held at National Specialties. It was stated that there should be a brief explanation of the listing. Meredith Reggie, *Newf Tide* editor, will develop the explanation.

### **Regional Clubs Committee**

The Regional Clubs Committee presented a proposal for marketing the NCA to the regional clubs. It was suggested that a series of articles be developed to explain the

activities and programs of the NCA. There was discussion about including the Publicity Committee in this project.

Pam Saunders moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board request the Publicity Committee to develop an article explaining the importance of NCA membership to be distributed by the Regional Clubs Committee to the regional clubs. Without objection, the motion passed.

### **Legislation Liaison Committee**

The Legislation Liaison Committee requested permission to bring in speakers at National Specialties. It was suggested that the committee contact the National Specialty show chair about any available educational slots that may still be open. There was discussion that the scheduling at National Specialties is so tight that many members cannot attend all the events they would like. The Board supported a suggestion that the committee consider a booth at the National Specialties with handouts and staffed so that people can ask questions.

In response to a question, the request to add two additional members to the committee had already been approved by the Board.

The Board considered a request from the committee to transfer legislative updates to a proposed NCA blogsite that would be created for just that purpose. Some members expressed concern regarding this proposal. It was agreed that the Board would take the request under advisement.

### **Newfoundland Ambassador Committee**

The Newfoundland Ambassador Committee requested Board approval to ask the Regional Clubs Committee for assistance in getting information to the regional clubs about the Newfoundland Ambassador program and to ask the regional clubs if they would like to participate in the program or if the regional club already had a similar program set up and would share their contacts with the committee.

Without objection, the Board approved the request of the Newfoundland Ambassador Committee to contact the Regional Clubs Committee to discuss the Newfoundland Ambassador program with the regional clubs.

### **Regional Club Liaison**

The Board considered the revisions to the Northstar Newfoundland Club's Constitution and Bylaws.

Donna Thibault moved and Pam Saunders seconded that the Board approve the revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Northstar Newfoundland Club. Without objection, the motion passed.

At 12:15 a.m., Roger Frey left the meeting.

### **Election Ballot Recounts**

Steve Britton gave a report on whether an additional clause or statement needed to be added to a motion from a previous meeting regarding the procedure for any possible recounting of election ballots. In essence, no additional rules or clauses are needed as the rule contained in the *Bylaws* can be suspended and the appointment of tellers to recount the ballots could be done at the Annual Membership Meeting.

### **Change of date for the 2013 National Specialty**

Due to a conflict caused by the Frankenmuth Parks and Recreation Department scheduling another event in the middle of the National Specialty week, the 2013 National Specialty has been moved to April 28 – May 4, 2013. It was reported that all the judges were able to accommodate the change.

Steve Britton moved and John Cornell seconded that the Board ratify the change of dates for the 2013 National Specialty to April 28 – May 4, 2013. Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (RF)

### **Referral to the NCA Governing Documents Review Committee**

The Board considered a request to refer information regarding conflicts of interest, document retention, whistle-blower protection and a copy of Section VI of the IRS Form 990 to the NCA Governing Documents Review Committee. There was a brief discussion on when these items would be applicable.

Steve Britton moved and Pam Saunders seconded that for the purpose of formulating applicable club policies in the areas of Conflict of Interest, Document Retention, Whistle-blower Protection, and any other area related area, that a copy of Section VI of the IRS Form 990 be referred to the NCA Governing Documents Review Committee. Further, that the committee report back to the Board at the Fall 2012 face-to-face meeting regarding any suggested policy changes. The motion passed. 10 Yes (LA, SB, JC, MLC, KM, MLP, PKR, PSR, PS, ST); 1 No (MR); 1 Absent (RF)

### **NCA Database and *Annual of Titlists***

The Board reviewed a letter from an NCA member regarding errors and omissions in the recent *Annual of Titlists*. It was stated that a procedure does exist for members to submit corrections to the database.

Pam Rubio moved and Meredith Reggie seconded that the Board postpone discussion and possible action on a letter from an NCA member until the March 15, 2012 teleconference. Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (RF)

## **Adjournment**

At 12:51 a.m., Pam Saunders moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (RF)

Submitted by,

Mary Lou Cuddy  
NCA Recording Secretary