



NEWFOUNDLAND CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

**Minutes of the
Regular Teleconference Meeting
NCA Board of Directors**

20 September 2012

Call to Order

The president called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. (EDT) with the recording secretary present.

Board members answering the roll call:

Pam Saunders, Patrick Randall, Lynne Anderson-Powell, Steve Britton, Mary L. Price, John Cornell, Mary Lou Cuddy, Roger Frey, Sandy Gabel, Meredith Reggie, Pam Rubio and Mary W. Price, ex-officio. *Absent:* Kathy McIver.

The president declared a quorum present; also attending the meeting:

Sue Marino, chair of the Working Dog Committee, joined the teleconference at 10:38 p.m. (EDT), leaving at 10:50 p.m.; Donna Zink, chair of the Rescue Prevention Committee, joined the teleconference at 10:56 p.m. (EDT), leaving at 11:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 16, 2012, regular board of directors meeting were approved as corrected.

Officer and Standing Committee Reports

President's Report

Treasurer Mary L. Price reported signing the November face-to-face meeting contract with the Crowne Plaza Airport hotel, St. Louis, Missouri, on behalf of the president and the board. The treasurer requested board members' travel arrangement information by October 28, 2012.

First Vice-president's Report

The board received a written report from Pat Randall, first vice-president. He reported that he was unable to attend the September NCA Charitable Trust Management Board meeting, but he had contacted the trust's president, Clyde Dunphy.

Treasurer Mary L. Price reported the trust board was working on its on-going projects.

Reporting on the StartMeeting™ teleconference proposal, the first vice-president informed the board that the club now has the technology to extend listening privileges for board meetings to the general membership, via a long distance telephone number. Historically, the NCA Board has maintained that it permits non-board members to attend teleconference board meetings; but realistically, the previous teleconference provider's technology limited this capability.

Roger Frey moved to immediately implement this technology. Without a second, the motion did not receive consideration.

Pam Saunders inquired if the club would benefit from delaying the privilege's start-up until after the adjournment of 2012 November face-to-face meeting.

Meredith Reggie inquired: "Would extending the privilege to NCA members interfere with the board's ability to complete its work at meetings?" She also opined there would be a benefit from extending the privilege in stages, and the board should proceed cautiously.

Generally, speaking in-favor of the proposal, Steve Britton opined that once extended, it would be disingenuous of the board to later rescind the privilege.

Speaking in favor of the proposal, Pat Randall opined that the board should request listeners pre-register before calling-in. He stated pre-registering could aid the board when transitioning into executive session, and limiting access during these sessions is important.

The first vice-president inquired: "Do board members believe that NCA committees are prepared to switch to the StartMeeting™ service?"

Discussion regarding committees using toll-free long-distance telephone numbers followed:

Treasurer Mary L. Price inquired regarding the service provider's line quality degradation. For example, would one-hundred unison listeners diminish the overall quality and integrity of the telephone connection?

The first vice-president reported that the StartMeeting™ toll-free long-distance rate was slightly less expensive than the comparable AccuConference™ rate by over a penny per-minute.

Mary L. Price, treasurer, reported the anticipated savings at the August meeting from the new service provider, didn't materialize.

During one of the two August board meetings a board member who did not have unlimited toll-free long-distance telephone service, mistakenly called the teleconference on the tolled telephone. It was reported that the board member planned to subsequently submit a telephone long distance reimbursement request to the treasurer. Generally, anticipating this mistake easily occurring within NCA committees, the following actions were taken:

The proposal concerning board teleconference listening was postponed to the October meeting.

Pam Rubio moved, and John Cornell seconded, to change to "StartMeeting™" as the club's committee teleconference meeting provider and furnish committee chairs new information. According to club policy, a roll call vote was taken:

Voting in favor: Anderson-Powell, Britton, Cornell, Cuddy, Frey, Gabel, M.L. Price, Randall, Rubio and Saunders.

Voting against: Reggie.

Second Vice-president's Report

The board received a written report from Lynne Anderson-Powell, second vice-president.

The second-vice president requested the board receive the first portion of her report in executive session.

Meredith Reggie moved, John Cornell seconded, and without objection, the board entered executive session.

Meredith Reggie moved, John Cornell seconded, and without objection, the board entered regular session.

The board took no action during the subsequent executive session.

During the executive session, the board reviewed a document pertaining to the Newf Ambassador Committee

After returning to open session, the board discussed the need for committee chairs to receive prior approval of all materials it intends to circulate outside of the committee.

Without objection, the board instructed the second vice-president to send a memorandum reminding all committee chairs of this policy obligation.

By unanimous consent, but with Pat Randall abstaining, the board took the following action:

Meredith Reggie moved and Steve Britton seconded for the board to approve the Newf Ambassador Committee's Newf Ambassador Application as received.

The board discussed using written consents, outside of meetings, to expedite approval of routine actions.

Maredith Reggie moved, and Roger Frey seconded, to postpone the committee policy revision report to the fall face-to face meeting. The motion to postpone by unanimous consent was adopted.

Recording Secretary's Report

The board received a written recording secretary's report. In it, Steve Britton, recording secretary, reminded the board that according to Connecticut non-profit corporate statute, by request, members are entitled to receive free authentic electronic copies of meeting minutes. Mailed printed copies are available at cost, which currently is eight cents per page, plus postage. To receive copies, contact Steve Britton, recording secretary, stevebritton.ncaboard55@yahoo.com.

The recording secretary expressed his gratitude to board members and other NCA members for expressing their concerns for one of his dogs during its recent prolonged stay at Michigan State University's Veterinary Teaching Hospital's Critical Care Unit. Also, he reported that the dog is doing great.

Corresponding Secretary's Report

The board received Corresponding Secretary Kathy McIver's written report documenting that: Information regarding board action was forwarded to AKC's Michael Canalizo regarding five recommendations for future Newfoundland judges at the AKC Eukanuba National Championship dog show; correspondence and AKC reports were forwarded to the appropriate committee chairs and to other club personnel; correspondence from the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, regarding its new eye registry was forwarded to the board.

In Kathy McIver's absence, the president reported receiving three pieces of forwarded correspondence from the Society for Theriogenology or the American College of Theriogenologists. The information regarding their position paper on mandatory spay and neutering were recently forwarded to board members via an email attachment.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mary L. Price reported the following NCA operational balances for August 3, 2012 to September 6, 2012:

Gross Revenue: \$42,390; Expense: \$3,960.53; Net Income: \$38,429.47;

The treasurer reported the following account balances on September 6, 2012:

Checking Account: \$43,450.68; Checking Account - 2013 Natl. Spec: \$9,157.45;
Savings Accounts: \$91,340.17; CDs: \$96,064.79; Juniors Fund: \$1,000.00;
Uniform Trophy Fund \$1,563.32.

Present NCA total cash assets: \$242,576.41.

Pam Saunders inquired about the Versatile Newfoundland Committee's certificate expense - \$91.00. The treasurer verified the amount of reimbursement for certificate preparation and mailing. Some board members expressed that they believed that \$91 was an expensive expenditure for preparing eleven certificates.

AKC Delegate's Report

Mary W. Price, AKC delegate, reported forwarding the AKC "Highlights" document from the September 2012 AKC delegates meeting to board members. She reported, in her absence, the delegate body adopted an amendment to the *Rules According to Dog Shows*. The amendment, regarding the awarding of three point majors for reserve winners at one parent club specialty each year, becomes effective, January 1, 2013. Also,

Delegate Price reminded the board that the timing of this rule change would impact the 2013 NCA National Specialty show's application.

Further, Mary W. Price reported congratulations were in order to NCA member Beckie Stanevich. At the delegates meeting, Beckie and her Springer Spaniel, "Juno," was designated AKC's Urban Search and Rescue Team number-one. Delegate Price reminded the board that one of Beckie's Newfoundlands, a bitch named, Flo-Jo, was a water-cadaver search dog.

Pam Saunders informed the board, and without objection, she would prepare a letter of congratulations to Beckie Stanevich and her Springer Spaniel for their achievement as AKC's Urban Search and Rescue team number-one.

Also, Mary W. Price reported that in December the AKC delegate body will consider a bylaw amendment; if adopted, the amendment will reduce the number of yearly regular delegate meetings from four to three.

Delegate Mary W. Price also reported she looked forward to and planned on attending the Newfoundland dog exhibits at the "Meet-the-Breeds," at the Javits Center in New York City, and at AKC Eukanuba National Championship dog show in Orlando, Florida.

The board discussed arrangements made for regional clubs' presentations at both locations.

Newf Ambassador Committee Report

The board received a written report from the Newf Ambassador Committee. In it, the committee chair queried the board about the recently approved Rescue Prevention Committee card. The previous year's budget had included funds for a similar project by the Newf Ambassador Committee. In the written report, the committee chair expressed her confusion regarding the duplicated effort. Pam Saunders suggested the Newf Ambassador committee was a relatively new committee. Without objection from the board, Pam Saunders instructed the second vice-president to remind the committee chair that there will be some overlap between her committee's duties, the duties of the General Education Committee and the duties of the RPC.

The board reviewed a business item it had referred to the Newf Ambassador Committee regarding a Facebook™ page for puppy purchasers. The committee's report suggested that the assignment was outside the committee's scope of duty. Without objection, the board discharged the Newf Ambassador Committee from further responsibility for the Facebook™ page.

Legislative Liaison Committee Report

The board received the Legislative Liaison Committee's written report. The report apprised the board on animal law initiatives, nationwide. Some board members expressed their gratitude for the expressed opposition toward initiatives in their locales; specifically, Ballston Spa, New York, and Porter County, Indiana.

Working Dog Committee

The board received the Working Dog Committee's written report, related to its evaluation of beginning judges proposal. The report's consideration began prior to Sue Marino, Working Dog Committee chair, joining the teleconference.

During discussion, Sue Marino joined the teleconference. Meredith Reggie opined that the WDC draft document was not ready for board action; she believed some of the wording was confusing.

Pam Saunders inquired if Director Reggie would assist editing the document; Sue Marino indicated she had no objection.

Without objection, the board recommitted the Working Dog Committee judge evaluation document for editing.

Publicity Committee Report

The board reviewed a puppy advertisement proposal from the Publicity Committee. The proposal was postponed to the October board meeting.

Rescue Prevention Committee Report

The Board received the Rescue Prevention Committee report and Donna Zink, chair, joined the teleconference.

The board discussed the text on the approved RPC card. Meredith Reggie and Pam Rubio opined that it would potentially make excellent advertisement copy and could substitute for what the board was just considering.

Donna Zink reported on the RPC's preference for using a PDF newsletter format and link; rather than using Constant Contact™ for the *Lifestages* series

While receiving the report:

Pam Rubio moved, and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded: to adopt the changes to the *Lifestages* formatting using a PDF with links format instead of Constant Contact™; provided, the internal links in the proposal are fixed.

Without objection, it was preferred that the document be formatted using a diagonal rather than a gradient graphic.

The committee chair requested board input for future *Lifestages* issue topics.

Without objection, the board agreed to add "Is this your first Newfoundland," to the AKC registration coupon that includes a request for a free issue of *Newf Tide*.

Without objection, the board approved the second vice-president's suggestion that a "Quick Response ("QR") be added to the, "Rescue Prevention Committee Card," document. (A "QR" code is an industrial bar-code which has been adapted for use with iphones, ipods ipads and like devices.)

Executive Session

Pat Randall moved, Lynne-Anderson Powell seconded, and without objection, the board proceeded into executive session to consider membership applications, committee appointments and other business customarily considered in executive session.

Without objection, the board proceeded to open session. Actions reported out of the executive session were:

Instructed the second vice-president to request the chair of the Newf Ambassador Committee to contact the NCA members who recently volunteered to serve on the Newf Ambassador Committee, and to request those members contact the second vice-president, expressing their willingness to serve on the committee.

Without objection, the board instructed the second vice-president to contact the Technical Resources Committee chair, instruct her to locate any back logged Versatile Newfoundland data and to report the data to the Versatile Newfoundland Committee chair by October 1, 2012.

Special Committee Reports

AKC Complete Dog Book

The board discussed the pending text for the *AKC Complete Dog Book* proposed revision. Without objection, the board agreed to place this item of business on the fall face-to-face meeting agenda, unless a pending deadline interferes and makes it necessary to consider the revised text at the October meeting.

The board reviewed the meeting agenda and retired the .St. Bernard /Value of NCA survey and the how to opt out of AKC email advertising item were retired from further consideration.

Roger Frey moved, Steve Britton seconded, and without objection at 12:37 a.m. (EDT), Friday, September 21, 2012, the meeting adjourned

Steven J. Britton

Steven J. Britton,
Recording Secretary
Newfoundland Club of America