

Newfoundland Club of America, Inc.
Board of Directors
Teleconference Meeting
June 20, 2013
(Approved July 18, 2013)

Pam Saunders, President, called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m. Eastern time. The following directors were present: Lynne Anderson-Powell (LA), John Cornell (JC), Mary Lou Cuddy (MLC), Roger Frey (RF), Sandy Gabel (SG), Steve McAdams (SM), Mary L. Price (MLP), Pat Randall (PKR), Meredith Reggie (MR), Pam Rubio (PR), Pam Saunders (PS) and Donna Thibault (DT). Mary W. Price, AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was present.

Attending the meeting was: Sue Marino, Working Dog Committee Chair

Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes of the May 16, 2013 meeting.

Pam Rubio moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board approve the minutes of May 16, 2013 as amended. Without objection, the motion passed.

Report of the AKC Delegate

Mary W. Price, AKC Delegate, reported that she had attended the June AKC Delegates meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina. She attended the AKC Parent Club Committee meeting which had scheduled a presentation on the AKC Exemplary Parent Club Recognition program. Some smaller parent clubs had appealed some of the requirements for this recognition and the presentation to the AKC Board was postponed so these issues could be addressed. Mary stated that she has no doubt the NCA will be recognized as among the best of the AKC Parent Clubs. The Parent Club Committee also voted unanimously to request that the AKC Board approve the printing of all licensed events at a national specialty in one catalog.

Mary reported on the following items: The editing on the new edition of the *AKC Complete Dog Book* is almost complete and a proof will be sent to each parent club for approval. Over 300 requests per week to add the Canine Good Citizen title to dogs' records have been received and that over 8,400 requests have been received to date. AKC will release a position statement that electronic balloting will be permissible if a club's bylaws and state of incorporation will permit it. The AKC is still working towards developing a Draft Dog title and the six parent clubs that host tests will be contacted soon. The delegate from the Pointer parent club suggested that the AKC consider reducing the fee to \$10 for transferring a dog's registration to and from a junior handler.

Mary also informed the Board that the AKC is planning a large breeders' conference to be held in conjunction with AKC/Eukanuba National Championship show.

Mary summarized the AKC Delegates Meeting as follows: the proposed bylaw amendment to prohibit former AKC employees from serving on the AKC Board failed by a substantial margin. The rule to allow the Irish Setter Club of America to hold a Gun Dog Championship open to walking handlers only passed. Alan Kalter, AKC President, announced the hiring Christopher Walker to direct and improve the AKC's presence on social media. The AKC has hired the public relations firm, Edelman, and the expectation is that AKC will become more proactive rather than reactive.

NCA's AKC Delegate nominee David Helming will be published in the July and August *AKC Gazette* and should be approved as the NCA's AKC Delegate in time for the September Delegates meeting. It was also reported that Jack Hyatt, NCA member, has retired as Delegate for the Greater Hickory Kennel Club.

Report of the President

Pam Saunders, President, asked the Board to consider possible dates for the Board's fall face-to-face meeting.

Pam Rubio moved and John Cornell seconded that the Board set its fall face-to-face meeting to start at 6:00 p.m. local time Friday, November 1, 2013 through 2:00 p.m. Sunday, November 3, 2013 in Chicago, Illinois with possible participation at North Central Newfoundland Club's *Newfiepalooza*. Without objection, the motion passed.

Mary L. Price will coordinate the arrangements.

Pam asked for the Board's input on a request from the AKC for donations to the AKC CAR Canine Support & Relief Fund in light of the recent Colorado fires and the Oklahoma tornadoes where the AKC had a significant presence.

John Cornell moved and Steve McAdams seconded that the Board approve a donation of \$500 to the AKC CAR Canine Support & Relief Fund for the victims of the recent Colorado fires and the Oklahoma tornadoes. Without objection, the motion passed.

The Board considered a request to honor the Sharon, Connecticut Fire Department for their heroic actions during the fire at Evelyn DeReus' kennel as their actions in using the specialized pet oxygen masks saved the lives of some of the dogs.

Meredith Reggie moved and Roger Frey seconded that the Board present the Sharon, Connecticut Fire Department with a plaque thanking them for their heroic efforts to save the Kloofbear Newfoundlands (Evelyn De Reus and Brian Wessels) from the fire which destroyed their kennel and that an article be developed for *Newf Tide* outlining the necessity for fire departments to have pet oxygen masks. Without objection, the motion passed.

Report of the 1st Vice President

Pat Randall, 1st Vice President, reported on the recent Charitable Trust Management Board (CTMB) meeting. The CTMB also considered a Sharon, Connecticut donation but did not reach a decision. Pat also reported on the vacancy left by the resignation of Mary W. Price and the CTMB has sent a recommendation to the Trustee for approval.

The Board was reminded that appointments to the CTMB are done by the Trustee. A Trustee meeting will be scheduled for July.

Report of the 2nd Vice President

Lynne Anderson-Powell, 2nd Vice President, reported that the insert included in each Newfoundland AKC registration needs to be updated and a decision needs to be regarding the General Education packet (\$5.00) that the late Joanne Peterson sent out upon request. It was stated that there were approximately 4 requests during the past year and all the information in the packet is now easily accessible on the *NCA Website*. By consensus, it was agreed that the General Education packet be referred to the General Education Committee for their input. The Board was informed that the Rescue Prevention Committee, that revised the AKC insert, needs a quick decision so the AKC insert can be updated as soon as possible.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary

Pam Rubio, Corresponding Secretary, reported that she had forwarded all correspondence to the appropriate committees. Pam reported that she is receiving the specialty approval letters from the AKC and was advised to forward these letters to the Specialty Show Coordinating Committee.

Pam reported that the Newfoundland Club of Florida has agreed to once again participate in the AKC Eukanuba Meet the Breeds in December and they will submit a budget shortly.

Report of the Recording Secretary

Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary, reported that she had prepared the minutes of the May 16, 2013 meeting and prepared the June 20, 2013 agenda. She reported that the previous recording secretary is working on the April 18, April 28-30, 2013 minutes and it is anticipated those minutes will be ready for approval soon.

Report of the Treasurer

Mary L. Price, Treasurer, reported the following balances: checking account: \$2,958.40; checking account for 2013 National Specialty: \$47,947.57; savings account: \$60,136.67 and invested in CDs: \$96,543.02. The Juniors Fund account balance is \$2,068.14. The Uniform Trophy Fund account balance is \$3,972.69 for a total of \$213,626.49 for NCA operations.

Mary also reported that the 2013 National Specialty report is close to being finalized and the preliminary figures are promising. She informed the Board that approximately ten NCA Committees have turned in budget projections and to expect a lengthy budget discussion at the July meeting.

Committee Reports

Working Dog Committee

Lynne Anderson-Powell, Committee Liaison, reported a petition that is being circulated by some Working Test judges about the Working Test judges' requirements. Some Board members wondered why these concerns were not simply brought to the committee for discussion before the petition was circulated. Lynne reported that Sue Marino, Working Dog Committee Chair, will be calling into the meeting.

Regional Club Committee

The Regional Club Committee met on June 2, 2013 and adopted a resolution that the Opening Ceremony at the 2013 National Specialty should be implemented at subsequent National Specialties.

Roger Frey moved and Meredith Reggie seconded that the Board refer the Regional Club Committee's report on the 2013 National Specialty Opening Ceremony to the Specialty Show Coordinating Committee for input with a response due by the August 15, 2013 meeting of the Board. Without objection, the motion passed.

Rescue Prevention Committee

It was reported that the Newfoundland Dog Club of Canada has requested permission to print the *LifeStages* newsletter with the appropriate credit in their club publication, *Newf News*.

Roger Frey moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board refer the request for permission for the Newfoundland Dog Club of Canada to print the *Lifestages* newsletters with appropriate credit in their club publication to the Rescue Prevention Committee for its input. Without objection, the motion passed.

Breeders Education Committee & Health Longevity Committee

It was reported that the Breeders Education Committee and the Health & Longevity Committee had held recent meetings to consider the information being circulated on the Internet regarding the cardiac clinic that was held at the 2013 National Specialty. There were concerns expressed about confirmed misdiagnoses and the brevity of the echocardiograms that were performed at this clinic.

The Board held an extensive discussion concerning, among other points, evaluation procedures and variances between cardiologists and exams performed in a clinic setting versus the cardiologists' offices. Also discussed were the criteria required for OFA cardiac certification and whether attendees at this particular clinic should be notified of the concerns that have been raised. It was stated that NCA members need to have confidence in the information received from these clinics.

Meredith Reggie moved and Pat Randall seconded that the Board direct the Health & Longevity Committee or their designated representative to discuss cardiac evaluation criteria with the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals and the evaluations performed at the recent 2013 National Specialty and to report back to the Board by its next agenda deadline. Without objection, the motion passed.

The Board briefly discussed the concerns about the sub-aortic stenosis DNA test and the lack of peerreview on this test. An article for *Newf Tide* is being developed to explain this test and the implications surrounding it.

Sue Marino joined the meeting.

Working Dog Committee

Sue Marino, Working Dog Committee (WDC) Chair, explained to the Board that a petition being circulated concerning working test judges requirements started out of the Working Dog Committee discussion forum at the 2013 National Specialty. It was discussed openly and the four people who started the petition would like the WDC to appoint a subcommittee to look at the working test judges requirements. Sue reported that the WDC has met and discussed this request and the committee feels that they should handle the review and not a subcommittee.

Sue also reported that the *Draft Dog Test Regulations* included in the Board's agenda packet reflected two approved changes that needed to be added and, in addition, the committee did a general editing to update the regulations. The committee elected to drop the "intriguing distraction" component of the test since unplanned naturally occurring distractions were always part of a test and due to the lack of definitive guidelines for an "intriguing distraction".

The Board briefly discussed certain changes and then thanked the committee for its excellent work.

Sue Marino left the meeting.

Lynne Anderson-Powell moved and John Cornell seconded that the Board approve the *NCA Draft Test Regulations* as edited by the Working Dog Committee and the Board. Without objection, the motion passed.

There was additional discussion regarding the petition. It was stated that the petition was not sent to all working test judges.

Maredith Reggie moved and Steve McAdams seconded that the Board request the Working Dog Committee to review the qualifications for all levels of working test judges. Without objection, the motion passed.

Sub-Aortic Stenosis DNA Test

The Board resumed discussion of the sub-aortic stenosis DNA test. It was stated that there are serious questions if the right gene has been identified, the lack of peer review and the effect of the test on the breed. This is not a simple DNA test such as the cystinuria DNA test. There was also discussion why the earliest concerns were not brought to the Board but were circulated on the Internet instead. It was also stated that there are some knowledgeable people who think the test shows promise in the future.

Executive Session

Pam Rubio moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board go into executive session. Without objection, the motion passed.

John Cornell moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board reconvene the open session. Without objection, the motion passed.

While in executive session, the Board approved the Newfoundland Ambassador Committee's recommendation to remove a member.

While in executive session, the Board accepted Diane Lynch's resignation as chair of the Companion Newfoundland Committee.

While in executive session, the Board made the following appointments:

Companion Newfoundland Committee: Sue Putts
Health & Longevity Committee: Vu Nguyen, Pat Randall

While in executive session, the Board accepted Steve McAdams' resignation as the Regional Club Liaison and appointed Sandy Gabel.

NCA Database

Lynne Anderson-Powell reported that all committee members have accepted their assignments to the new Database Operations, Electronic Publications and Technical Resource Advisory Committees. She also reported that some missing titles were being updated and that several boxes of working test information have been delivered to the committee for entry into the database.

Letter to the Editor

Maredith Reggie, *Newf Tide* Editor, reminded the Board that a Board response to a Letter to the Editor needs to be developed.

Adjournment

At 11:06 p.m., Pam Rubio moved and Mary Lou Cuddy seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Without objection, the motion passed.

Submitted by,

Mary Lou Cuddy
NCA Recording Secretary