

NEWFOUNDLAND CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

Board of Directors
Teleconference Meeting
Minutes of February 20, 2014
(Approved March 20, 2014)

Pam Saunders, President, called the meeting to order at 8:06 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). David Helming, AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was present. Sue Marino, Board member-elect was present. Also present were Cissy Sullivan, Robin Seaman, Aura Dean, Beth Sell and Donna Zink.

The Board observed a moment of silence for Martin Gabel, Mary Lou Roberts and other NCA members who have passed recently.

Report of the AKC Delegate

David Helming, AKC Delegate, reported that he will be attending the AKC Delegates meeting on March 11, 2014 in Newark, New Jersey. The election of the AKC Board of Directors will be held at that meeting and David requested the Board's recommendations as to which candidates he should support. The Board discussed the various candidates.

By unanimous consent, the Board instructed David Helming, AKC Delegate, to vote for his recommended candidates in the AKC Board of Directors election.

David reported that he had received a response from Mari-Beth O'Neil, AKC Assistant Vice-President, Sport Services regarding the NCA's complaint of questionable Newfoundland breeding practices by a non-NCA member who is producing impure Newfoundlands. Her reply was "The sire of the litter in question has been put on permanent referral and all offspring are on referral indefinitely. This means AKC registration will not be provided if those dogs are bred, sold or transferred. Awards will not be recorded if any of these dogs were to participate in an AKC Event." The Board felt that the AKC's actions adequately addressed this matter.

Approval of Minutes

The Board considered the minutes of the January 16, 2014 meeting.

Pam Rubio moved and John Cornell seconded that the minutes of the January 16, 2014 meeting be approved as edited. Without objection, the motion passed.

Report of the President

Pam Saunders, President, requested that the Board set the meeting schedule for the upcoming face-to-face meeting at the National Specialty. It was agreed that the March 20, 2014 teleconference will be used for minutes, officers' reports and housekeeping items and that the agenda will be carried over for the April 6-7, 2014 face-to-face meeting. The Sunday, April 6, 2014 meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m. and will run until approximately 10:00 p.m. On Monday, April 7, 2014, the Board will meet at 8:00 a.m. with a grievance hearing scheduled for 10:00 a.m. After the hearing, the Board will meet until dinner and will resume the meeting after dinner, if needed.

Pam stated she would arrange for a Parliamentarian to attend the Annual Membership Meeting on April 8, 2014. The Board briefly discussed arrangements for refreshments at the Board meeting and the Annual Membership Meeting.

By consensus, the Board approved the recommendations of Kathy Paxton, 2014 National Specialty Show Chair for the refreshments to be offered at the Annual Membership Meeting.

It was reported that the Colonial Newfoundland Club, host club for the 2014 National Specialty, would be hosting the Juniors pizza party.

The Board discussed some questions from Kathy Paxton regarding the opening ceremony and regional club flags, the Fine Arts Auction and the "Celebrating Our Best" reception that will be held after the Best of Breed judging and developed recommendations for her.

Report of the 1st Vice President

Pat Randall, 1st Vice President, had no report at this time.

Report of the 2nd Vice President

Lynne Anderson-Powell, 2nd Vice President, requested that the Board consider changing the name of the Electronic Publications Committee as it is very similar to the Electronic Publications Policy Committee. The Board considered the change and discussed some possibilities.

Lynne Anderson-Powell moved and Meredith Reggie seconded that the name of the Electronic Publications Committee be changed to the Digital Distribution Committee. Without objection, the motion passed.

Report of the Recording Secretary

Mary Lou Cuddy, NCA Recording Secretary, reported that she had prepared the minutes of the January 16, 2014 meeting and the agenda packet for the February 20,

2014 meeting. She reported the Board had approved the January membership applicants.

Mary Lou requested the Board's recommendation for a procedure to be used in the event of a tie in an NCA Board election. She reported that the vote count between the sixth and seventh candidates in the recent election was extremely close and could easily have ended in a tie. It was agreed that this topic would be added to the next agenda for further discussion.

The Board discussed the timing of the notice for the Annual Membership Meeting. The notice must be mailed at least 21 days before the meeting per the *NCA Bylaws*. The notice usually is mailed with *Newf Tide* but because of the early dates for the National Specialty and *Newf Tide's* production schedule, *Newf Tide* will not be mailed early enough for the notice to be delivered to the members on time. The Board considered alternatives including sending the notice out on a postcard to save expenses.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary

Pam Rubio, Corresponding Secretary, reported that she had forwarded correspondence to the appropriate committees. In response to a question, the Board directed that the quarterly OFA reports should be sent to the Health & Longevity Committee. A request for information about two pen and ink drawings was forwarded to Mary Jane Spackman, NCA Historian. The suggested reading list on the *NCA Website* was recommended as a response to a request for recommended books about the breed. The Newfoundland Club of Victoria (Australia) invited the NCA to sponsor a trophy at its 40th Anniversary Championship Show. It was reported that an NCA Medallion will be sent for Best of Breed.

At 9:00 p.m., Aura Dean and Beth Sell joined the meeting.

***Newf Tide* Policy Committee**

Aura Dean, *Newf Tide* Policy Committee Chair, agreed with an earlier discussion that the notice of the Annual Membership Meeting would not be able to be sent with *Newf Tide* in time to meet the deadline per the *NCA Bylaws*.

Roger Frey moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Annual Membership Meeting notice be mailed to members on a postcard and include the link to the *NCA Website* and the notice as required by the Bylaws. Without objection, the motion passed.

Lynne Anderson-Powell moved and Mary L. Price seconded to approve DB Design and Graphics to print and mail the Annual Membership Meeting notice via postcard. Without objection, the motion passed.

Due to recent significant increases in postal levies, the *Newf Tide* Policy Committee developed recommendations for the levies charged to international members. Beth Sell,

Newf Tide Policy Committee member, outlined the increases and discussed the difficulties with mailings to international members.

Mary L. Price moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that, effective as of July 1, 2014, the following changes to the levies charged for Newf Tide postage due to the recent increase in postage will be:

- *Canadian/Mexican members - current postage levy of \$33.00 will be raised to \$36.00*
- *International members - current postage levy of \$44.00 will be raised to \$69.00*

Effective March 1, 2014, the following changes for Newf Tide subscribers will be:

- *US subscribers - current annual subscription of \$55.00 will be raised to \$60.00*
- *International subscribers - current annual subscription of \$103.00 will be raised to \$120.00*

Without objection, the motion passed.

It was agreed to not change the membership application fee to reflect the postal increases at this time. The Membership Chair was requested to provide the costs of sending materials sent to members during the application process and to bring those figures to the Board at an upcoming meeting.

At 9:30 p.m., Donna Zink joined the meeting.

Rescue Prevention Committee

Donna Zink, Rescue Prevention Committee Chair, explained to the Board that the original plan for the *Newf Tide* coupon program was to use the remaining back issues of *Newf Tide* to fulfill the coupon requests. The back issues stockpile has now been depleted and that is one of the reasons the committee is requesting additional copies be printed. It is the committee's desire that enough extra 4th Quarter issues be printed to meet the committee's needs for the year. The 4th Quarter issue was chosen because the NCA photo contest is in that issue. The committee is sending approximately 125 copies per year. It was noted that there has not been a significant increase in membership applications and approximately only 11-12 subscribers from this program. Some Board members questioned the efficacy, including costs, of this program. Donna responded that the program is meant to be educational even if membership application does not increase. She also stated that the program is coming in under their budgeted amount.

There was discussion about adding an expiration date to the coupon in the event the program is terminated in the future. There was some discussion about the promotion of the *Answers!* page on the *NCA Website* which is meant to provide quick information to new owners.

At 9:46 p.m., Aura Dean and Beth Sell left the meeting.

The Board considered the request from the Rescue Prevention Committee to include an option on the *Newf Tide* coupon and the *Lifestages* subscription page for new owners to receive information about the regional club in their area and to provide contact information to the regional club. The regional club might possibly contact the new owner if the new owner indicated they would appreciate such a contact. The committee believed these contacts could lead to increased regional club membership. Some Board members said this could be a good fit for the Newfoundland Ambassador program. The Board took no action at this time.

Donna requested that the Board consider appointing Christine Owen as co-chair of the committee

At 9:53 p.m., Donna Zink left the meeting.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary, continued

Pam Rubio presented a letter from Denise Castonguay requesting the NCA's approval as part of her AKC permit judging license application.

Roger Frey moved and Meredith Reggie seconded that the Board give parent club approval to the permit judging request from Denise Castonguay and instruct the NCA President to sign the letter advising AKC. Without objection, the motion passed.

The Board briefly discussed the Crufts invitation process and agreed that the Best of Breed, Best of Opposite Sex and the NCA Selects at the 2014 National Specialty should receive the invitations.

The Board considered correspondence from a non-NCA member who requested to enter a non-Newfoundland in an NCA Draft Test. The Board reviewed the applicable Draft Test regulations. There was consensus during discussion that *NCA Draft Regulations* do not require clubs to accept non-Newf entries.

Roger Frey moved and Steve McAdams seconded that the Board support the Newfoundland Club of Northern California in upholding the regulations pertaining to NCA Draft Tests and non-Newfoundland entries. Without objection, the motion passed.

Meredith Reggie moved and Roger Frey seconded that the Board request that the Working Dog Committee review the wording in the NCA Working Test Regulations regarding non-Newfs and working tests. Without objection, the motion passed.

At 10:00 p.m., Cissy Sullivan and Robin Seaman joined the meeting.

Juniors Committee

Cissy Sullivan, Juniors Committee Chair, presented the Juniors hat and pin that will be available at the 2014 National Specialty. She reported that the Juniors logo is close to completion. Several changes to the logo formerly proposed were discussed.

There was discussion about the Juniors Committee's request that the NCA help, if needed, with the shipping costs of the life-size metal Newfoundland that will be a prize for the Juniors Committee's raffle to be held at ringside before and after the Junior Showmanship judging.

Lynne Anderson-Powell moved and Pam Rubio seconded that, if needed, the NCA would pay up to \$100.00 to ship the life-size metal Newfoundland silhouette to the winner of the Juniors Committee raffle at the 2014 National Specialty. Without objection, the motion passed.

Cissy reported that the Colonial Newfoundland Club would be sponsoring the Juniors' pizza party at the National Specialty and the committee expresses its gratitude.

It was reported that the host club, the Specialty Show Coordinating Committee and the Junior Showmanship/Intersex judge agreed to move the Junior Showmanship classes to follow the Best of Breed lunch break and before the bitch judging resumes.

By consensus, the Board approved the Juniors Committee's raffle to be held at ringside before and after the Junior Showmanship judging.

At 10:20 p.m., Cissy Sullivan left the meeting.

Specialty Show Coordinating Committee

Robin Seaman, Specialty Show Coordinating Committee Chair, presented the committee's request that the Board revise the price of the 40th Anniversary limited edition plate to \$40 from the previously approved \$50. The plate is smaller than recent plates and can be produced for less cost.

Steve McAdams moved and John Cornell seconded that the Board revise the price of the 25th anniversary limited edition plate to \$40.00 as recommended by the Specialty Show Committee. Without objection, the motion passed.

Robin reported that everyone who submitted a reservation form for the host hotel received a room. She reported that reservations and orders are coming in slow and that registration is down from last year at this time. Some Board members commented that the National Specialty being a month early could be one of the reasons.

The Board agreed to address the committee's questions concerning the international NCA member breeder judges' information form at the next meeting.

At 10:30 p.m., Robin Seaman left the meeting.

Report of the Treasurer

Mary L. Price, Treasurer, reported the following balances: checking account: \$15,177.38; savings account: \$71,242.57 and invested in CDs: \$108,720.64. The Juniors Fund account balance is \$2,680.64. The Uniform Trophy Fund account balance is \$12,864.16 for a total of \$210,685.39 for NCA operations.

Committee Reports

Judges Education Committee

The Board accepted the Judges Education Committee's recommendation not to donate to the Dog Judges Institute sponsored by the American Dog Judges Association.

Rescue Prevention Committee

The Board returned to the discussion of the Rescue Prevention Committee's *Newf Tide* coupon program, the cover letter for that program and the addition of a question of receiving information from regional clubs or Newf Ambassadors. The cost of the program versus the low return of gaining few members or subscribers was discussed. Some Board members liked the intent of the program but not the expense.

Roger Frey moved and John Cornell seconded that the Board accept the recommendations of the Rescue Prevention Committee:

- to continue the *Newf Tide* coupon program as requested
- update the cover letter sent when the Newf Tide coupon is honored to direct puppy owners to the *Answers!* page instead of the www.ncanewfs.org main page
- add a question to the *Newf Tide* Coupon Offer and to the *LifeStages* subscription pages to ask whether the person making the request would like to receive information about the regional club or Newf Ambassadors in their area, and work directly with regional clubs or Newf Ambassadors on these inquiries.

The motion passed. 6 Yes (LA, MLC, RF, SG, MLP, DT); 3 No (SM, MR, PS); 1 Abstention (PSR); 2 Absent (JC, PKR)

Awards Committee

The Board considered the request for information from the Awards committee concerning the Canadian title Canine Good Neighbor (CGN) and whether it is considered a title or a designation and would it be allowed to listed on NCA awards. The Board agreed that more information was needed, perhaps from the Canadian Kennel Club.

The Awards Committee requested input from the Board concerning the publishing of unofficial titles, such BIS or BISS, in the Top Twenty catalog.

Donna Thibault moved and Meredith Reggie seconded that the policy for the listing of titles on NCA awards be followed for the Top Ten catalog. Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (JC)

Executive Session

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

Pam Rubio moved and Meredith Reggie seconded that the Board come out of executive session. Without objection, the motion passed.

While in executive session, the Board:

- Appointed Christine Owen as co-chair of the Rescue Prevention Committee
- Appointed Ken Price and John Cornell to the Arbitration Committee
- Appointed Lori Eldridge to the Recognition Committee
- Appointed John O'Neill to the Health & Longevity and Steering Committees
- Voted to accept the recommendation of the Working Dog Committee to flag a mentor level water test judge who will not be permitted to accept judging assignments for the 2014 calendar year.
- Voted to approve Honorary Life Membership to Dr. Ulreh Mostosky for his work with Newfoundland foreleg anomaly.

Financial Oversight Committee

The Board considered the recommendation from the Financial Oversight Committee.

Roger Frey moved and John Cornell seconded that the Board approve the Financial Oversight Committee's recommendations to establish a committee fundraising policy as follows:

- (1) All requests for fundraising by NCA committees must be approved in advance by the Board of Directors. (Regional clubs are not required to obtain approval.)*
- (2) The Specialty Show Guide specifically grants approval to the NCA Health Challenge and NCA Rescue Committees and the Uniform Trophy Fund to carry on fundraising at the annual National. All other requests would be approved or denied on a case by case basis.*
- (3) That requests be submitted with the following information for the benefit of Board discussion:*
 - (a) Did the Committee submit a budget as required?*
 - (b) If so, why was this project not included for funding?*
 - (c) The purpose (project description) of the need and use for funds raised.*
- (4) That the NCA Board does not approve any year round (internet) fundraising due to concerns surrounding sales tax and unrelated income liability*

concerns.

Without objection, the motion passed.

Newfoundland Ambassador Committee

The Board considered a request from the Newfoundland Ambassador Committee to send an electronic newsletter to all Newf Ambassadors to pass along updates and other information.

Meredith Reggie moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board approve the request of the Newfoundland Ambassador Committee for an electronic newsletter to be sent to all Newfoundland Ambassadors. Without objection, the motion passed.

Regional Club Liaison

Sandy Gabel, Regional Club Liaison, reported that she had reviewed proposed changes to the North Central Newfoundland Club's Constitution and Bylaws and had sent the document back with some suggestions.

Awards Committee

Pam Saunders reported that she had emailed a Canadian NCA member who informed her that the Canine Good Neighbor is a Canadian title. The Board agreed that the Canine Good Neighbor title should be treated the same as the AKC's Canine Good Citizen title on NCA awards.

Adjournment

At 12:42 a.m., Pam Rubio moved and Sandy Gabel seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Without objection, the motion passed.

Submitted by,

Mary Lou Cuddy
NCA Recording Secretary