

**NCA Board of Directors
Teleconference Meeting
Minutes of January 15, 2015
(Approved February 19, 2015)**

Pam Saunders, President, called the meeting to order at 8:08 p.m. Eastern time. The following directors were present: Lynne Anderson-Powell (LA), John Cornell (JC), Mary Lou Cuddy (MLC), Roger Frey (RF), Sue Marino (SM), Mary L. Price (MLP), Pat Randall (PKR), Pam Rubio (PR) Pam Saunders (PS) and Donna Thibault (DT). Steve McAdams (SMc) was absent. David Helming, AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was present.

The Board observed a moment of silence for Mary Killian and Robert Stackhouse and other NCA members who have passed recently.

Report of the AKC Delegate

David Helming, AKC Delegate, reported on the December AKC Delegate's meeting in Orlando, Florida. At the start of the meeting the five candidates (Robert Amen, Carmen Battalion, Tom Davies, Steve Gladstone, and Greg Paveza) who are running for the AKC Board of Directors Class of 2019 each gave a presentation on their qualifications for the position and the issues/challenges facing the AKC. The election of three of these candidates will be at the March Delegate's meeting and their presentations can be found in the Delegate meeting minutes on the AKC website.

He reported that Alan Kalter, AKC Chairman, spoke on the importance of dedicated and responsible breeders to the future of pure bred dogs and the sport itself. Mr. Kalter announced the creation of a new AKC program to be launched in 2015. The essence of the program is built on the principles embraced by the most experienced breeders: health, education, accountability, responsibility and tradition. The program will allow the fancy to engage and educate a wide scope of breeders on best breeding practices, while creating an identifiable resource for the general public to find puppies from responsible breeders who demonstrate a validated commitment to health testing. One of the criteria for breeders in this program is that they must certify that applicable health screens as recommended by the Parent Club for their respective breed are performed on their breeding stock and they must be prepared to supply proof of such compliance upon request. Breeders in this program must comply with the AKC Care and Conditions Policy; comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws & regulations regarding ownership and maintenance of dogs; and complete continuing AKC breeder education courses annually.

The 2015 AKC Invitational show will once again have streaming video in addition to returning to television. Mr. Kalter reported there will be a two-hour educational human interest show special presented twice on the Saturday before the Super Bowl on the Lifetime Network. The special will include segments on Best in Show, Best Bred by

Exhibitor, Best Owner Handler, Best Junior judging as well as Agility and Obedience competition.

David reported that Dennis Sprung announced, in an economical move, that one floor at the AKC Raleigh location will be closed and leased out to a legal firm. Employees in the Registration and Customer Service Departments will begin working from home.

Dave also reviewed how the Shar-Pei Club donates something back to the respective communities where they hold their national specialties. The Delegate from this club stated they had recently donated 12 oxygen masks for dogs to a municipality in Kansas. David encouraged the NCA to consider adopting a similar practice which promotes community service and good public relations.

Dave reported the AKC Board has postponed a vote on the revisions to the proposed Judging Approval Process until no earlier than the February 2015 meeting in order to fully consider the input they received on it from judges, breeders, exhibitors, staff and other concerned constituents.

Approval of the Minutes

Pam Rubio moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board approve the minutes of December 18, 2014 as corrected. Without objection, the motion passed.
1 Absent (SMc)

Report of the President

Pam Saunders, President, stated that she had nothing to report at this time.

Report of the 1st Vice President

Pat Randall, 1st Vice President, stated that he had nothing to report at this time.

Report of the 2nd Vice President

Lynne Anderson-Powell, 2nd Vice President, reported on a late agenda item submitted by the Legislative Liaison Committee. The committee had developed a letter containing information about the committee and its purpose, a request for NCA members to join the committee and that each regional club appoint a legislative liaison to receive and distribute information from the committee. The committee and several Board members stated that there is a huge need to distribute information about animal rights groups and legislation that would negatively impact responsible breeders. The Board reviewed the letter.

Pam Rubio moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board approve the Legislative Liaison Committee's proposed letter as amended to the regional clubs

requesting additional committee members and the appointment of a legislative liaison from each regional club. The letter will also be published in the *NCA e-notes*, *Newf Tide* and on the NCA's web pages and social media outlets. Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (SMc)

Report of the Recording Secretary

Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary, reported that she had prepared the January 15, 2015 agenda packet and the minutes of December 18, 2014. She requested that Board members vote quickly on the January membership applicants so that they may be included in the next issue of *Newf Tide*. She also reported on a breed magazine she received from the Scottish Newfoundland Club. It was agreed that the magazine would be forwarded to Roger Frey and the International Liaison Committee.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary

Pam Rubio, Corresponding Secretary, reported the following:

- Sent routine correspondence to appropriate committees
- Forwarded AKC communications regarding regional specialties to Robin Seaman
- Forwarded new titlist information to Joan Locker Thuring
- Received the same letter sent to Board members regarding Parent Club participation from AKC
- Notified the AKC about the change in our Legislation Committee Chair
- Sent copies of the previous articles appearing in *Showsight* Magazine. Thank you to Denise Castonguay for providing them
- Notified the AKC Parent Club Committee of the health tests recommended for the breed
- Received the AKC Conditional Registration report and will forward it.

Report of the Treasurer

Mary L. Price, Treasurer, reported the following balances: checking account: \$14,285.22; savings account: \$47,696.49 and invested in CDs: \$108,904.98. The Juniors Fund account balance is \$4,479.64. The Uniform Trophy Fund account balance is \$10,749.42 for a total of \$222,402.71 for NCA operations.

Committee Reports

Working Dog Committee

It was reported that a vendor had been found for the Draft Dog patches. The quote was within the committee's budget so Board approval was not needed. It was requested that the committee forward the company's name to the 2nd Vice President for distribution to other appropriate committees.

The Working Dog Committee will offer a DDX test at the 2015 National Specialty. The committee requested financial support to assist with start-up costs for ring favors, judges gifts, trophies, etc. There will be only six entries with an entry fee of \$40. There will be a nice raffle. The judges are donating the hotel room and travel expenses. The Newfoundland Club of New England will cover the cost of the draft test equipment and they will retain possession after the test. The committee will return any profit to the NCA.

John Cornell moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board approve the Working Dog Committee's request for up to \$200.00 in expenses for the Draft Dog Excellent test at the 2015 National Specialty. Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (SMc)

The Working Dog Committee requested Board input on a proposal to change the basic control exercise in the water test. The exercise would be moved to the beach area. The proposed concept would be the dog and handler enter the test area on leash. The handler removes the leash and the judges will conduct a short heeling pattern ending at the handler's equipment. The dog and handler would then start the first exercise. It was stated that this change would save a lot of time and would enable additional dogs to be tested. The Working Dog Committee will raise the entry limit to reflect this change.

Roger Frey moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board approve the request of the Working Dog Committee to develop a change in the concept and execution of the basic obedience exercise at water tests. Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (SMc)

The Working Dog Committee informed the Board that it had developed an idea to improve the value of NCA membership. The committee suggested that NCA members be allowed to enter working tests ten days early. Once the ten days have passed, then all entries subsequently received would be treated equally and according to current policy.

Pam Rubio moved and Roger Frey seconded that the Board approve, in order to give more value to NCA membership, the request of the Working Dog Committee to allow NCA members to enter working tests ten (10) days earlier than non-members. After the ten-day period all entries will be treated equally. This policy will take effect June 1, 2015. Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (SMc)

The committee also recommended that NCA members be given preference when reserving rooms at the National Specialty host hotel. There was a short discussion of the logistics of such a policy.

Steve Britton moved and Roger Frey seconded that the Board refer to the Specialty Show Coordinating Committee a proposal from the Working Dog Committee giving NCA members priority for National Specialty hotel rooms with a report due back to the Board by August 6, 2015. Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (SMc)

At 9:14 p.m., Aura Dean joined the meeting.

***Newf Tide* Policy Committee**

Aura Dean, *Newf Tide* Policy Committee Chair, reported that the 4th Quarter 2014 issue of *Newf Tide* had been mailed and came in within budget. She had received some complaints about the size of the issue. Given the circumstances of the former editor's untimely passing, *Newf Tide* had to be mailed on time in order to carry the NCA Directory and the Annual of Titlists and to meet postal regulations, thus the smaller issue. She emphasized that the 1st Quarter 2015 issue will contain all the items that did not appear in the 4th Quarter 2014 issue due to items being on the former editor's computer and not readily available.

Aura informed the Board that Andrea Wallace has been named as interim editor for the 1st Quarter 2015 issue. Bids for the editor position for the 2nd through 4th 2015 issues are being solicited and the committee will present its recommendations to the Board.

Aura reported that in the interest of more effective communication, the committee is requesting that the Board require all regional clubs to send copies of their newsletters to the *Newf Tide* editor.

At 9:23 p.m., Steve McAdams joined the meeting.

The Board conveyed its great appreciation to Aura and the committee for the outstanding effort in light of the short timeline between the former editor's passing and the publication deadlines.

At 9:25 p.m., Aura Dean left the meeting.

Lynne Anderson-Powell moved and Mary Lou Cuddy seconded that the Board approve the request of the *Newf Tide* Policy Committee to require that all regional clubs send copies of their newsletters to the *Newf Tide* editor. Without objection, the motion passed.

It was agreed that the Regional Club Liaison would notify the regional clubs.

Executive Session

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

Roger Frey moved and Steve McAdams seconded that the Board come out of executive session. Without objection, the motion passed.

While in executive session and in the interest of full disclosure, Pam Saunders informed the Board that Andrea Wallace was her daughter, who had agreed to help the NCA in getting the 1st Quarter 2015 issue published in a timely fashion.

Social Media Committee

The Board was informed that the committee report in the agenda packet was just an update of the comments received regarding the placement of the NCA statement on social media sites.

Recognition Committee

The Recognition Committee requested the Board's guidance on sending Working Achievement Awards to two titlists who are not currently NCA members but were members when the title was completed and to the family of a titlist who had passed away since the title was earned.

By unanimous consent, the Board approved the proposal of the Recognition Committee to send Working Achievement awards to two titlists who were NCA members at the time the titles were earned and to the family of a recently deceased NCA member who had earned the title.

Nominating Committee

It was stated that the report in the agenda packet was for the Board's information and needed no action at this time.

Membership Committee

The Board considered the proposed membership renewal form. There was some discussion regarding including a check-off box to opt out of the electronic membership roster that will be available soon. It was agreed not to change the renewal form until the membership database is moved to the *NCA Website*.

Pam Rubio moved and John Cornell seconded that the dues renewal form be approved as presented. Without objection, the motion passed.

"Distinguished Member" Committee

At a previous meeting, the Board requested an inventory from the committee. The committee reported that there were 274 prints and 41 packs of notecards available.

Digital Distribution Committee

As the result of some social media discussions, the committee requested that the Board consider the development of an article on seniors caring for Newfs. The article would

have tips and ideas that may be helpful to an aging owner with a giant breed. It was agreed that the ideas generated during the Board's discussion would be relayed to the Rescue Prevention Committee for their recommendation.

***Breeders List* Committee**

The Board considered a Board member's concern regarding the *Breeders List* application/renewal form. The form details an automatic penalty that is not included in the *Bylaws*. It was suggested that the penalty statement be removed. There was a discussion regarding the Arbitration Committee and its role and different interpretations of the penalty clause. It was agreed no changes will be made at this time and the concerns will be taken under advisement.

Executive Session

Pam Rubio moved and Steve Britton seconded that the Board go into executive session. Without objection, the motion passed.

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

While in executive session, the Board considered the January Applicants List.

While in executive session, after reviewing and discussing a communication from the Working Dog Committee, the Board requested the Working Dog Committee review its aggressive dog policy and report any substantive proposed amendment to the policy to the Board by April 2, 2015.

At 10:54 p.m., Deb Bridge joined the meeting.

Database Operations Committee

Deb Bridge, Database Operations Committee Chair, reported that she is waiting for the remainder of the 2014 AKC titles and for some working titles in order to complete the end of the year reports.

She reported that OVC is no longer an open database and the information has not been transferred to OFA as earlier reported thus there is no way to currently verify some orthopedic reports. It was stated that all information must now come through OFA to be included in the *NCA Database*.

In response to a question about the new host server, Deb reported that it was a fairly seamless transition.

She reported that she should have the new Versatile Newfoundlands and Register of Merit lists ready by mid-February.

The Board expressed its appreciation to Deb and her committee for all its hard work.

At 11:02 p.m., Deb Bridge left the meeting.

Executive Session

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

Pam Rubio 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 appointed the following:

- Technical Resources Advisory Committee: Dan Zimmerman
- Newfoundland Ambassador Committee: John Affel, Cathy Hartke
- Legislative Liaison Committee: Brooke Moore
- *Breeders List* Committee: Naomi Young Meyer

Steering Committee

The Board considered the report received from the Steering Committee. It was stated that the committee had presented some good ideas to promote the NCA. The NCA is the largest organization in the world devoted to the Newfoundland dog. It was stated that some NCA members were worried about a proposed dues increase. In some members' opinions, if the number of members increased, there would be more income and the increase in dues would not be needed. It was also mentioned that some budget items could be streamlined to save money.

John Cornell moved and Pam Saunders seconded that the Board direct the Steering Committee to continue its efforts in developing ways to increase income, improve the efficiency, streamline business and increase membership of the NCA. Without objection, the motion passed.

The Board commended the Steering Committee for their efforts on behalf on the NCA.

Adjournment

It was agreed that the rest of the agenda items would be postponed until the February 19, 2015 meeting.

At 11:48 p.m., Pam Rubio moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Without objection, the motion passed.

Submitted by,

Mary Lou Cuddy
NCA Recording Secretary