

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

Pam Saunders, President, called the meeting to order at 8:12 p.m. Eastern time. The following directors were present: Steve Britton (SB), John Cornell (JC), Mary Lou Cuddy (MLC), Roger Frey (RF), Steve McAdams (SMc), Mary L. Price (MLP), Pat Randall (PKR), Pam Rubio (PR) Pam Saunders (PS) and Donna Thibault (DT). Lynne Anderson-Powell (LA) and Sue Marino (SM) were absent. David Helming, AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was absent.

Approval of the Minutes

The Board considered the minutes of January 15, 2015.

Pam Rubio moved and Pat Randall seconded that the Board approve the minutes of January 15, 2015 as presented. Without objection, the motion passed. 2 Absent (LA, SM)

Report of the President

Pam Saunders, President, reported on a request from the Charitable Trust to invite a representative of the AKC Canine Health Foundation to speak at the May 5, 2015 NCA Annual Membership Meeting and present to the NCA a banner in recognition of its enviable record of support and donations.

At 8:17 p.m., Sue Marino joined the meeting.

Pam Rubio moved and John Cornell seconded that the Board approve the NCA Charitable Trust's request to invite Samantha Wright, Program Manager for the AKC Canine Health Foundation, to speak at the 2015 NCA Annual Membership Meeting. Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (LA)

In response to an AKC email received by Board members regarding the AKC Good Sportsmanship award, the Board reviewed the past protocol in determining how this medallion is awarded. The AKC Good Sportsmanship Award is given to the NCA Member of the Year which the Board selects at its face-to-face meeting at the National Specialty and the medallion is then awarded at the Annual Membership Meeting.

The Board considered its meeting schedule while at the 2015 National Specialty.

By unanimous consent, the Board agreed to meet in Warwick, Rhode Island on Sunday, May 3rd at 5:00 p.m. and Monday May 4th at 5:00 p.m. for its face-to-face meeting. 1 Absent (LA)

At 8:30 p.m., David Helming joined the meeting.

AKC Website

The Board reviewed concerns brought forward by a member concerning the updated AKC website. It was reported that there were numerous errors and inaccuracies in the information about the Newfoundland. David Helming, AKC Delegate, reported that there are universal inaccuracies across the website and he suggested that the NCA needed to voice its specific concerns to the AKC.

Pam Rubio moved and Pat Randall seconded that the Board request the Judges Education Committee to review the new Newfoundland listing on the AKC website for inaccuracies about the breed and to contact the AKC with the appropriate corrections. Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (LA)

There was some discussion about the picture of three Newfoundlands, one of which was a brown and white, that appeared in the AKC Meet the Breeds booklet which was handed out to visitors at the Meet the Breed exhibit at the Westminster Kennel Club show. David Helming will follow up with the AKC about disqualifying colors appearing in an AKC publication.

Report of the 1st Vice President

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

Report of the AKC Delegate

David Helming, AKC Delegate, summed up the problems with the AKC website and the lack of quality control. He stated that there will be numerous revisions coming.

The Board considered recently received information regarding the AKC's position on international members' voting rights.

Executive Session

At 8:45 p.m., Pam Rubio moved and Roger Frey seconded that the Board go into executive session. Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (LA)

At 8:55 p.m., Pam Rubio moved and Donna Thibault seconded that the Board come out of executive session. Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (LA)

While in executive session, it was agreed that a Board member will draft a letter to AKC stating the NCA's position and interpretation of the AKC Bylaws in regards to international members' voting rights.

The Board reviewed the candidates for the AKC Board elections.

Roger Frey moved and Sue Marino seconded that the Board instruct the AKC Delegate to vote for three candidates for the AKC Board in accordance with his best judgment. Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (LA)

David Helming encouraged the Board to look to other resources to raise funds and not raise the dues at this time.

Report of the 2nd Vice President

Lynne Anderson-Powell, 2nd Vice President was absent.

Report of the Recording Secretary

Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary, reported that she had prepared the minutes of January 15, 2015 and the February 19, 2015 agenda packet. She informed the Board that the January applicants had received preliminary approval.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary

Pam Rubio, Corresponding Secretary, reported that she had distributed all correspondence to the appropriate committees. She reported on a request from *Dog News* for members who had completed Championships and working titles on the same dogs.

Report of the Treasurer

Mary L. Price, Treasurer, reported the following balances: checking account: \$23,690.12; savings account: \$36,286.93 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 \$206,811.22 for NCA operations.

The Board discussed a letter received from the AKC Canine Health Foundation thanking the NCA for its donation. The letter was very complimentary to the NCA and it was felt that the membership should be made aware of the letter.

Committee Reports

Juniors Committee

The Board reviewed a request from the Juniors Committee for an interpretation of the policy regarding stipends for NCA Juniors who compete in junior showmanship with a Newfoundland at the Westminster Kennel Club and the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship shows.

Steve Britton moved and Sue Marino seconded that the Juniors Committee interpret the Juniors award application as 200 points for each of the two invitations to Westminster and the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship Show and that the committee will submit to the Board for its approval revised wording to clarify the procedure. Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (LA)

AKC Canine Health Foundation Letter

The Board returned to its discussion of the letter and how to publicize it. It was mentioned that promoting the letter goes along with the request from the Charitable Trust that the Board considered earlier in the meeting.

Roger Frey moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the letter from the AKC Canine Health Foundation thanking the NCA for its latest donation be published in the next issue of *Newf Tide*. Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (LA)

Juniors Committee

In response to a question from the Juniors Committee, the Board re-affirmed that the stipend given to juniors who participate in junior showmanship with a Newfoundland at the Westminster Kennel Club show or the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship will be given after the respective show.

Recognition Committee

The Board considered a request to purchase a supply of Versatile Newfoundland pins.

Pam Rubio moved and Sue Marino seconded that the Board approve the request of the Recognition Committee to purchase 250 Versatile Newfoundland pins and 250 patches.

There was concern expressed that the request did not come from the committee chair but from a committee member. Additional concerns were the estimated cost of the pins and the fact that the pins were not included in the committee's budget request last year.

The motion was withdrawn.

Steve Britton moved and Roger Frey seconded that the request to purchase Versatile Newfoundland pins and patches be referred back to the Recognition Committee for a report from the committee chair to the Board by its March 19, 2015 meeting. Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (LA)

Regional Club Committee

The Board considered a report from the Regional Club Committee in response to the Board's request for input about the perceived value of NCA membership. The Board thanked the committee for the report.

Regional Club Liaison

Sue Marino, Regional Club Liaison, reported that she had received the proposed changes to North Central Newfoundland Club's Constitution and Bylaws. By unanimous consent, the Board deferred discussion until its March meeting so that Board members would have time to review the changes.

The Board considered a suggestion that an NCA promotional ad developed by the Newfoundland Club of New England be sent to all regional clubs with the recommendation that the ad be included in all regional club newsletters on an ongoing basis.

Roger Frey moved and Mary Lou Cuddy seconded that the Board recommend to NCA regional clubs that the "Did You Know" NCA promotional ad developed by the Newfoundland Club of New England, along with the NCA logo, be included in all regional club newsletters on an ongoing basis. Without objection, the motion passed. 10 Yes (SB, JC, MLC, RF, SM, SMc, MLP, PSR, PS, DT); 1 No (PKR); 1 Absent (LA)

Steering Committee

The Board considered three items brought forward by the Steering Committee. The committee would like to conduct a short poll at the 2015 Annual Membership Meeting consisting of two questions regarding the value of NCA membership. There was some discussion concerning the questions and Board approval of the questions.

Steve McAdams moved and Steve Britton seconded that the Board approve the Steering Committee's request to conduct a short poll consisting of two questions at the 2015 Annual Membership Meeting. The two questions will be submitted to the Board for its approval. 10 Yes (SB, JC, MLC, RF, SM, SMc, MLP, PSR, PS, DT); 1 No (PKR); 1 Absent (LA)

The second item submitted by the committee was a recommendation that the membership dues remain at current levels. The committee felt there was a perception among members, based on the committee's survey a year ago, that dues were too high already and that an increase may catch many members by surprise as they have not seen discussion of a need for an increase. The Board did express its appreciation of a logo included in the committee's report and would like to see the logo refined and made available to members.

The Board then considered the recommendation of the committee that *Newf Tide* advertising policy be reviewed in regards to non-members or outside vendors. It was stated that offering space in *Newf Tide* to outside advertising would help to offset publication costs.

John Cornell moved and Roger Frey seconded that the Board refer the Steering Committee's recommendation, to review the *Newf Tide* advertising policy for non-members / outside vendors as a potential revenue source, to the *Newf Tide* Policy Committee with a report due to the Board by June 1, 2015. Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (LA)

At 10:30 p.m., Pat Randall left the meeting.

Working Dog Committee

In response to a complaint from a member, the Board reviewed the decision to discontinue engraving obedience titles on the pins sent to members when obedience titles are completed. The current policy to discontinue engraving the pins was developed due to difficulties at that time with getting the pins engraved in a timely manner and the costs involved.

By unanimous consent, the Board referred the question of engraving the obedience pins to the Recognition Committee for an updated review.

Sue Marino, Working Dog Committee (WDC) Chair, outlined the proposed changes to the Basic Control section of the water tests. The committee is working hard to try to have the changes ready for the 2015 water tests. The committee will come back to the Board with the finalized changes.

The Board considered the recommendation of the committee that a surcharge be imposed when corrections are requested on the title certificates. When a handler arrives at a test and checks in they must review the information that the test secretary has put on their record form. They then sign that form under a statement saying that they verify the information is correct. The WDC continues to receive requests for corrections to certificates even though handlers signed stating it was correct at the test. It is time consuming and costly for the NCA.

Pam Rubio moved and Donna Thibault seconded that the Board approve the Working Dog Committee's recommendation as follows: NCA working test certificates for qualifiers will be printed as they appear on the signed record form. If there is a mistake that was not corrected by the handler on the record form at the test there will be a \$15 charge (including shipping) for a corrected certificate. If a second certificate is requested because a handler lost the original or wants a copy for a co-owner the charge will be \$10. There will be no charge if the mistake was made by the Working Dog Committee's records person or the secretary of the test. Without objection, the motion passed. 2 Absent (LA, PKR)

Executive Session

At 10:51 p.m., Roger Frey moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board go into executive session. Without objection, the motion passed. 2 Absent (LA, PKR)

At 11:15 p.m., John Cornell moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board come out of executive session. Without objection, the motion passed. 2 Absent (LA, PKR)

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

While in executive session, the Board appointed Chris Owen to the Rescue Prevention Committee.

While in executive session, the Board received information regarding a rescue situation.

New Business

The Board reviewed a letter received from the AKC ReUnite program thanking the NCA for its donation and requesting a copy of the NCA logo to appear on an AKC ReUnite Pet Disaster trailer.

By unanimous consent, the Board approved the placement of the NCA logo on the AKC ReUnite Pet Disaster trailer located in Bergen County, New Jersey.

Breeders Education and Health & Longevity Committee

The Board requested an update on the status of the refunds and books to be shipped due to the cancellation of the Dr. Carmen Battaglia seminar at the 2014 National Specialty. Many Board members expressed their concern that the refunds and books had not yet been distributed to those members who had registered and paid their fees for the seminar. The Board agreed that action must be taken by the persons charged with resolving this situation before the next meeting.

At 11:25 p.m., Roger Frey moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board go into executive session. Without objection, the motion passed. 2 Absent (LA, PKR)

At 11:31 p.m., Pam Rubio moved and Roger Frey seconded that the Board come out of executive session. Without objection, the motion passed. 2 Absent (LA, PKR)

While in executive session, the Board considered its response to the delay in the distribution of the aforementioned refunds and books.

Membership Dues

The Board considered the report of the Financial Oversight Committee and its recommendation that the amount of the dues be increased. Many Board members reported that they had received numerous negative comments from the membership in regards to the increase. Many stated that an increase could negatively affect the membership numbers with many members not renewing. Many members are older and on fixed incomes.

The Board discussed ways to be more fiscally conservative. It was stated that it was imperative that committees must start to use the StartMeeting™ program for all teleconference calls. This change would save a significant amount each month. Some projects may have to be postponed. Committees must do a better job in preparing their budget requests and submit more accurate budgets to include inventories and proposed projects. Board and committee members must think more outside the box.

There was no motion made to increase the dues for the upcoming fiscal year.

Adjournment

At 12:31 p.m., Pam Rubio moved and Steve Britton seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Without objection, the motion passed. 2 Absent (LA, PKR)

Submitted by,

Mary Lou Cuddy
NCA Recording Secretary