

NCA Board of Directors
Teleconference Meeting
Minutes of March 19, 2015
(Approved April 16, 2015)

Pam Saunders, President, called the meeting to order at 8:09 p.m. Eastern time. The following directors were present: Lynne Anderson-Powell (LA), Steve Britton (SB), John Cornell (JC), Mary Lou Cuddy (MLC), Roger Frey (RF), Sue Marino (SM), Steve McAdams (SMc), Mary L. Price (MLP), Pat Randall (PKR), Pam Saunders (PS) and Donna Thibault (DT). Pam Rubio (PR) was absent. David Helming, AKC delegate, *ex-officio* was present.

Report of the AKC Delegate

David Helming, AKC Delegate, reported that he had attended the March 10, 2015 AKC Delegates meeting in New Jersey. He informed the Board that NCA member Steve McAdams was seated as the Delegate from the Illinois Valley Kennel Club of Peoria.

David reported the results of the AKC Board of Directors election. Steve Gladstone, Robert Davies and Dr. Carmen Battaglia were elected. Ron Menaker was elected as Chair with Carl Ashby as the Vice Chair.

Alan Kalter, outgoing AKC Chair, reported the following:

- AKC enjoyed some gains and growth over the last year.
- There were 3.2 million entries across all AKC venues which is the first increase in five years.
- The AKC donated over \$800,000.00 to the AKC Canine Health Foundation.
- The AKC is continuing to push its message via social media with success.
- The AKC has admitted that it has received a lot of criticism on the new AKC website and invited all clubs to submit the appropriate changes and updates to their information.
- A new Chief Veterinarian will be appointed to facilitate a greater AKC presence in the veterinary schools and community.

Dennis Sprung, AKC President and Chief Executive Officer, reported on the success of the AKC Meet the Breed exhibition held during the Westminster Kennel Club show. The Bear Mountain Newfoundland Club, representing the NCA, saw its booth rewarded with a Working Group I. He also reported that 46 AKC employees at the Raleigh, North Carolina location will now be working from home which allowed AKC to sublet that space for a savings of three million dollars over the next three years.

Joseph V. Baffuto, Jr., Chief Financial Officer, reported that net assets were up with the AKC pursuing more options and initiatives for the future. Registrations were up 5% over last year, but litter registrations were down 2%.

David reported that the AKC raised \$32,000.00 last year for the Political Action Committee which supported 56 candidates of which 96% were elected. The AKC will be soliciting donations again through the President's Challenge in 2016.

David informed the Board that 19 emergency trailers for the AKC ReUnite program have been delivered. The NCA's logo will appear on the trailer stationed in Bergen County, NJ.

After a discussion, it was agreed that David Helming and Steve Britton will collaborate on a letter to AKC inquiring about AKC's reasoning in denying international members' voting rights in parent clubs. The letter will be brought to the Board for approval at its next meeting.

David reported that he had not yet received an answer from AKC to explain the inclusion of a white and brown Landseer in the AKC Meet the Breeds booklet.

Approval of the Minutes

The Board considered the minutes of February 19, 2015.

John Cornell moved and Sue Marino seconded that the Board approve the minutes of February 19, 2015 as amended. Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (PSR)

Report of the President

Pam Saunders, President, reported that thanks to donations by Lynne Anderson-Powell and Mary L. Price, all the items stolen from Beth Grispin at the AKC Meet the Breeds have been replaced.

Pam informed the Board that due to a personal commitment, she will need to leave the April 16, 2015 meeting early and that Pat Randall, 1st Vice President, will finish the meeting.

Executive Session

At 8:32 p.m., Steve Britton moved and John Cornell seconded that the Board go into executive session. Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (PSR)

At 8:43 p.m., Lynne Anderson-Powell moved and John Cornell seconded that the Board come out of executive session. Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (PSR)

While in executive session, the Board was updated on a concern regarding an *NCA Breeders List* participant.

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 that StartMeeting™ has been implemented for all NCA committees. She recommended that the Board consider discontinuing AccuConference™ as a teleconference provider for NCA committees. Lynne informed the Board that she will monitor NCA committees' usage to maximize savings for the NCA.

Report of the Recording Secretary

Mary Lou Cuddy, Recording Secretary, reported that she had prepared the minutes of February 19, 2015 and the March 19, 2015 agenda packet. She informed the Board that the February applicants had received preliminary approval. She also reported that the Board members who, in the past, had received hard copies of the agenda packets have all agreed to receive their packets electronically to save the NCA an estimated \$500.00 over the year.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary

Pam Rubio, Corresponding Secretary, was absent.

Report of the Treasurer

Mary L. Price, Treasurer, reported the following balances: checking account: \$24,297.91; savings account: \$36,286.93 and invested in CDs: \$108,923.41. The Juniors Fund account balance is \$4,479.64. The Uniform Trophy Fund account balance is \$10,749.42 for a total of \$207,437.44 for NCA operations.

Mary presented a preliminary 2014 National Specialty financial report. She informed the Board that there was missing information and she hopes to have the final report ready and in the NCA's format at the May 2015 face-to-face meeting.

Committee Reports

Working Dog Committee

Sue Marino, Working Dog Committee Chair, presented the Working Dog Committee's proposal for changes to the basic control exercise of the water dog test. The proposal was made to speed up the judging and help the tests run more smoothly in addition to ensuring that the dogs entered are under control when close to the water. Sue stated that it may be possible in the future to increase the entry limit. There was discussion about wording in the proposal.

Roger Frey moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board approve the proposed changes to the water test's Basic Control exercise and to change the wording from "push into position" to "place in position". Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (PSR)

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

***Newf Tide* Policy Committee**

Aura Dean, *Newf Tide* Policy Committee, reported on current policy for commercial advertising by outside vendors in *Newf Tide*. The current policy has been in effect since 1994 and requires that outside non-NCA member vendors pay a rate of 100% more than the NCA member price. She informed the Board that over the 15 years the policy has been in effect, there have only been four or five commercial ads. The committee was unanimous in that they do not feel that at this time they are able to function as an advertising coordinator and suggested that the Board may want to appoint a coordinator.

In response to a question, it was stated the figures were not available at this time to determine if the cost of ad covers the cost of production of said ad.

Aura updated the Board on the 2nd Quarter issue of *Newf Tide* and reported that the issue was at the printers. The committee made a recommendation to the Board that Andrea Wallace be retained as editor *pro tem* for the 2nd Quarter issue of *Newf Tide*.

The Board expressed its utmost gratitude and its recognition of the immense job the committee and the editor *pro tem* faced after the sudden passing of Maredith Reggie, the previous editor.

Roger Frey moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board approve the recommendation of the *Newf Tide* Policy Committee to retain Andrea Wallace as editor *pro tem* for the 2nd Quarter 2015 issue of *Newf Tide*. The motion passed. 10 Yes (LA, SB, JC, MLC, RF, SM, SMc, MLP, PKR, DT); 1 Abstain (PS); 1 Absent (PSR)

Aura thanked the Board for its support and encouragement during this time.

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

The Board discussed further the tremendous amount of effort it took to produce the last two issues of *Newf Tide*. It was suggested that procedures be developed and put in place where all incoming information can be stored and made readily accessible by more than one person to prevent future problems such as this.

Working Dog Committee

The Board considered the Working Dog Committee's proposed clarifications and updates to the Draft Test regulations. It was stated that these are areas which have been questioned in the past and this is a clarification of the regulations in question. The updates include changing a dog leaving the ring during basic control to a disqualification and changing an arm's length to a four-foot radius.

Roger Frey moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board approve the Working Dog Committee's proposed clarifications and updates and to instruct the committee to insert "place into position" rather than "push into position" into all Working Test regulations. Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (PSR)

The Board considered the committee's response to a request from the Board to review the aggressive dog policy.

Roger Frey moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board accept the following change to Working Dog policy: *When a judge excuses a dog for aggression this automatically creates a grievance. No fee is required when this occurs. The test committee must follow the grievance process by collecting witness statements and conducting a grievance meeting after the test. The judges must be included in the meeting.* Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (PSR)

The Board considered information regarding Ovary-Sparing Spaying surgery now being done on bitches. This procedure sterilizes the bitch but with the ovaries remaining intact, the bitch will still have "silent heats" and will be a distraction to the males.

Pam Saunders moved and Donna Thibault seconded that the Board accept the Working Dog Committee's recommendation that bitches who have had Ovary-Sparing Spays must be tested the same as a bitch in season. The motion passed. 10 Yes (LA, SB, JC, MLC, SM, SMc, MLP, PKR, PS, DT); 1 Abstain (RF); 1 Absent (PSR)

Technical Resources Advisory Committee

The Board reviewed a video illustrating the capabilities of the proposed membership app for smart phones. It was reported that an Android™ version is in beta testing. There was a brief discussion concerning contact people and procedures for transmitting updated information. The committee would like to do a presentation at the Annual Membership Meeting to introduce the mobile application and also be available at certain times during the National Specialty to help members load it on their smart phones.

Mary Lou Cuddy moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board approve a smart phone application for the NCA membership as presented. Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (PSR)

It was reported to the Board that the Technical Resources Advisory Committee has assembled a packet of information regarding the storing of NCA committee files and information on Wiggio. This would enable the storage of information on the cloud

instead of on members' personal computers. This packet will be distributed to committees.

The Board was informed that the committee is soliciting bids to develop the members-only section of the *NCA Website*. There are some companies interested in submitting a bid. A report will be sent to the Board when all the bids have been received and reviewed.

Steering Committee

The Board reviewed the Steering Committee's proposed survey card. The card will be passed out at the Annual Membership Meeting when members check in and committee members will collect them during the meeting.

Sue Marino moved and Roger Frey seconded that the Board approve the Steering Committee's proposed survey card with the suggested changes for use at the 2015 Annual Membership Meeting. Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (PSR)

The Board discussed the suggestion of using the "wordle" developed by the Steering Committee on shirts for the Board to wear at the Annual Membership Meeting.

Lynne Anderson-Powell moved and Steve McAdams seconded that, with the consent of the Steering Committee, the Board use the "wordle" developed by the Steering Committee on T-shirts for purchase by Board members, at their own expense, to wear at the Welcome Reception and Annual Membership Meeting. Without objection, the motion passed. 1 Absent (PSR)

The Board discussed ways to make the shirts available and what to do with any profit that might possibly be generated by the sales.

By unanimous consent, the Board agreed that Lynne Anderson-Powell will set up an account at CafePress™ for items with the Steering Committee's "wordle". 1 Absent (PSR)

Roger Frey moved and Steve McAdams seconded that the profits from any sales of the Steering Committee's "wordle" items be split 50% to NCA, Inc. and 50% to the Charitable Trust. 10 Yes (LA, SB, JC, MLC, RF, SM, SMc, MLP, PKR, DT); 1 No (PS); 1 Absent (PSR)

Rescue Prevention Committee

It was reported that the information presented on the *Lifestages* link was for the Board's information and no further action was necessary.

It was agreed to postpone review of the tutorial being developed by the committee until the next meeting.

Regional Club Liaison

The Board reviewed the proposed changes to North Central Newfoundland Club's bylaws and discussed the fiscal year dates it contained. There was a difference in opinion regarding the use of those specific dates.

At 10:44 p.m., Pam Rubio joined the meeting.

Steve McAdams moved and Pat Randall seconded that the Board approve the proposed changes to the bylaws of the North Central Newfoundland Club as presented with the understanding that the club remove the reference to a fiscal year or check with IRS regulations and insert the advised dates. 10 Yes (LA, JC, MLC, SM, SMc, MLP, PKR, PSR, PS, ST) 2 No (SB, RF)

Roger Frey moved and Steve Britton seconded that the Board approve the proposed changes to the bylaws of the North Central Newfoundland Club as presented with the understanding that the club remove the reference to a fiscal year. The motion failed. 2 Yes (SB, RF); 10 No (LA, JC, MLC, SM, SMc, MLP, PKR, PSR, PS, ST)

The Board considered a request from the Pacific Northwest Newfoundland Club (PNNC) to determine if the Columbia River Newfoundland Club (CRNC) was a viable and functioning club. The PNNC is updating its bylaws and would like include CRNC's territory if CRNC is no longer a viable club. The Regional Club Liaison had informally contacted CRNC with no response back.

Sue Marino moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Regional Club Liaison send certified letters to the last reported officers of the Columbia River Newfoundland Club to determine the status of the club with a response due back to the NCA Board three weeks from the date of the letter. Without objection, the motion passed.

Recognition Committee

The Board reviewed the Recognition Committee's proposal to include the Draft Dog Excellent (DDX), Team Draft Dog Excellent (TDDX) and the Water Rescue Dog Excellent (WRDX) titles in determining the Working Achievement Awards.

Pam Rubio moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded the Board accept the recommendation of the Recognition Committee to accept the DDX, TDDX and WRDX titles for the Working Achievement Award, effective immediately. The motion passed. 11 Yes (LA, JC, MLC, RF, SM, SMc, MLP, PKR, PSR, PS, DT) 1 Abstain (SB)

The Board reviewed the request from the Recognition Committee to change the wording on the pins awarded to Newfoundlands who complete obedience and other performance titles.

Sue Marino moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board approve the wording change on the lapel pins from Newfoundland Club of America Obedience to Newfoundland Club of America Performance. Without objection, the motion passed.

The Board considered the proposal from the Recognition Committee to purchase stock rosettes for the Versatile Newfoundland, Working Achievement and the Register of Merit awards and then add a center tail each year with the year and location. It was discussed that this would save money and reduce the chance for errors on the rosettes.

Sue Marino moved and Donna Thibault seconded that the Board approve the Recognition Committee's recommendation to purchase standard rosettes in given colors with the printing on the left tail being the award name, i.e. "Versatile Newfoundland" and on the right tail "Newfoundland Club of America". Each year a center tail would be ordered with the year and location of the award. This tail is to be either white or silver contrasting to the main color of the rosette. The Versatile Newfoundland rosette to be purple, the Working Achievement rosette to be navy blue and the Register of Merit rosette to be red, effective at the 2016 National Specialty. Without objection, the motion passed.

The Board reviewed the request from the committee to publish a reminder for the membership to apply for their TOD/TODD awards.

Pam Rubio moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board approve the Recognition Committee's request to publish a reminder in the *NCA e-notes* for members to apply for their TOD/TODD and Working Achievement awards. Without objection, the motion passed.

Juniors Committee

The Board reviewed the proposed changes to the Juniors awards application.

Donna Thibault moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board approve the proposed changes to the Juniors awards application. Without objection, the motion passed.

By consensus, the Board postponed discussion of recognizing NCA juniors winning Best Junior at all-breed shows until its next meeting.

Digital Distribution Committee

The Board considered the request of the Digital Distribution Committee that it be allowed to provide Newfoundland-specific information to support the AKC social media and in turn this would allow the NCA greater exposure to the public. It was stated that the AKC has been very supportive of the NCA on social media.

Pam Rubio moved and Sue Marino seconded that the Board approve the request of the Digital Distribution Committee to provide AKC with Newfoundland-specific information to

help support AKC social media. The motion passed. 11 Yes (LA, SB, JC, MLC, RF, SM, SMc, MLP, PSR, PS, DT); 1 No (PKR)

ad hoc Breeders List Guidelines Committee

The Board reviewed a request from the *ad hoc Breeders List Guidelines Committee* to encourage *Breeders List* members to use a standardized format when submitting information to the Breeder Referral Chair. This would enable the Breeder Referral Chair to give registered names and OFA health information in response to requests for puppy/litter information and would aid in educating the public.

Steve McAdams moved and Steve Britton seconded that the Board approve the *ad hoc Breeders List Guidelines Committee's* proposal that breeders listing litters with the Breeder Referral Chair be encouraged to use the proposed standardized format. Without objection, the motion passed

Breeders Education Committee

The Board considered the proposed letters developed by the Breeders Education Committee. The letters contained an apology and explanation of the lateness of the refunds from the 2014 Breeders Education seminar with Dr. Carmen Battaglia which had to be cancelled. The Board was informed that the committee is waiting to hear from Dr. Battaglia in regards to the complimentary books he was to send.

Donna Thibault moved and Pat Randall seconded that the Board approve the proposed letters from the Breeders Education Committee to attendees of the 2014 Breeders Education Committee's seminar with Dr. Carmen Battaglia. Without objection, the motion passed.

The Board briefly reviewed correspondence from AKC regarding AKC's proposed Breeder Ambassador program.

By unanimous consent, the Board referred the email regarding AKC's proposed Breeder Ambassador program to the Breeder Education Committee.

2015 National Specialty Update

Donna Thibault, 2015 National Specialty Chair, updated the Board on the site plan for the show. The Crowne Plaza has put an indefinite hold on some proposed construction which will allow the show rings to be placed much closer to the hotel. The rings will have grass and it is hoped that the grooming tent will be on grass also. The vendors will be placed close to the rings. The draft tests are not affected by the recent changes.

2017 National Specialty

It was reported that the Specialty Show Coordinating Committee is discussing the 2017 National Specialty with a West Coast club.

Digital Distribution Committee

It was reported that the Digital Distribution Committee would like to advertise for volunteers for the committee to help with specific tasks.

Pam Rubio moved and Lynne Anderson-Powell seconded that the Board approve the request of the Digital Distribution Committee to advertise for volunteers for its committee. Without objection, the motion passed.

Working Dog Digest

The Board considered a request for breed-specific material from the *Working Dog Digest*.

Sue Marino moved and Donna Thibault seconded that the Board approve the request from the Judges Education Committee to send the articles previously used in the *Showsight* magazine to the *Working Dog Digest* for use in their publication. Without objection, the motion passed.

Executive Session

At 11:39 p.m., Sue Marino moved and Donna Thibault seconded that the Board go into executive session. Without objection, the motion passed.

At 11:45 p.m., Sue Marino moved and Pam Rubio seconded that the Board come out of executive session. Without objection, the motion passed.

While in executive session, the Board:

- Reviewed the March Applicants List
- Discussed developing a letter to the AKC in regards to maintaining NCA's international members' voting rights
- Made a recommendation that a dispute between a puppy buyer and an NCA breeder be referred to the Arbitration Committee.

AccuConference™

Roger Frey withdrew his agenda item regarding AccuConference™ since all NCA committees are now be using StartMeeting™.

First Platinum Grand Champion Newfoundland

The Board considered ways to honor the first Platinum Grand Champion Newfoundland.

By unanimous consent, the Board approved a certificate to the first Platinum Grand Champion, GCh. Bright Str Berrin Charles Jager CGC to be presented at the 2015 Annual Membership Meeting.

Adjournment

At 11:57 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