



USNMC Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 25, 2020
8:30pm Eastern, 7:30pm Central

Members Present: Rachel Hosking, Carlos Munoz, Alaina Pierret, Mike McDonald, Rita Biddle, Ted Hosking, Daniel Pita, Susie Schramm, Dominic Valone, Peggy Wolfe

Members Absent: Cassandra Boczar (excused)

The meeting was called to order by Rachel Hosking at 8:35EST/7:35CST.

The minutes of the February 19th BOD meeting were presented via email. A motion was made by Susie Schramm and seconded by Peggy Wolfe to approve the minutes. No objections; motion carries.

President's Report

Rachel apologized to everyone for postponing the meeting and hopes everyone is staying healthy. She stated that Yves Belmont notified her that the Regional Specialty that was planned in Concord, NC has been cancelled by the all-breed cluster. Rita Biddle gave an update on the numbers by month of AKC events that have been cancelled to date.

Secretary Report

Alaina Pierret apologized for not being better prepared but reported that she emailed the minutes from the February meeting.

Treasurer Report

Mike McDonald stated that the treasurers' report was included in the meeting packet and asked if there were any questions. A motion was made by Rita and seconded by Peggy to approve the treasurers' report. No objections; motion carries.

Committee Reports

Membership Committee – Rachel Hosking, Chair

Rachel reported that the club has 93 members, including honorary, international subscribers and junior members. She also reported that 5 past members did not renew, 6 including Rhoda Winter Russell. Alaina stated she received sponsor forms for a new member but not the application and has contacted the sponsors. Rachel stated that she is working on 2 new applications. Peggy asked if membership list will be available to the board and if it can be put in the next issue of the NeoGram. Rachel will get list out.

2020 National Specialty Committee – Neal Pierret, Chair

Alaina reported that the committee met before the crisis with COVID 19 became so severe and stated the report was included in the meeting packet. She expressed concern over asking for trophy donations during a time that so many people are unemployed. Rachel asked about the application for Salvo Scherma and how this will affect it. Alaina will follow up with AKC and will report back.

Below is the report that was submitted by Neal:

The show committee met on March 12th. All committee members were present. We discussed judges for Regional, Sweeps and Top 10. Pat Hastings is already contracted with Tri Star Kennel Club and all agreed to ask her to judge our Regional. Mr. Wright is working on finalizing their panel so we will be in contact with him about the Supported Entry. We decided to engage

the sweeps judges in order of the “voting” from the poll. We also talked about Top 10 judges and decided to wait until the all-breed panel is complete. The recommendation regarding the announcement of judges is to go ahead and announce them like last year; all agreeing that it will have little impact on participation. Alaina reported that AKC sent the testing information to Salvatore Scherma on March 5th so it is a waiting game now. We have told him the entire process needs to be complete by April 30th.

Peggy stated that she sent emails to the members that donated trophies last year and has received some commitments. She will contact the non-members that donated last year. We also discussed having a “general trophy fund”. Different ideas were discussed. More discussion to come before making a decision. Yves asked if it was agreeable to everyone for him to reach out to some companies regarding sponsorships or donations. Everyone agreed it was a great idea.

We discussed the banquet and plans to move to the building across the street from the main show building. It is located on the property and will allow us more freedom of choice. We will not be locked into the caterers contracted with the Expo Center and have more leeway in usage times. We discussed menu option but will hold off until closer to the show to make a firm decision. The bar was also discussed. Alaina will find out if we can have our own wine rather than have a bar since it is too costly.

Neal stated that because of cleanup from the recent tornado in the Lebanon area we are following up on the condition of hotels. Alaina said the Expo Center did not have damage but the Fiddlers Grove village next door did. Rachel stated that she tried to book rooms at LaQuinta but was told they are not taking bookings. Alaina said she will check with them and other hotels in the area. She has been in contact with the director of the tourism commission. The hotels know the show will be in the area and are working with the kennel club.

Website Committee – Yves Belmont, Chair

Website Committee met on March 4, 2020 to discuss feedback about new website and process to progressively make updates and or changes to site Along with communication of such updates.

No new business to report.

Peggy commented that none of the issues that were reported during the January and February meetings have been fixed other than the spelling on the drop down menu. She noted that meeting minutes and the FAQ’s are no longer on the site but she knew the FAQ’s were previously. Mike stated that they were still there, he was looking at them o his phone but couldn’t remember how he got them. Alaina also stated that she was looking at the site on both her iPhone and her laptop but was unable to find the FAQ’s as well. He stated that they are there and will send a screenshot but will look into the issue. Peggy also stated that she has sent several emails with the questions, suggestions and comments still has not received answers or seen corrections.

Fundraising Committee – Cassandra Boczar, Chair

No report

NeoRescue Liaison Committee – Peggy Wolfe, Chair

No status update.

Communications Committee – Peggy Wolfe, Chair

Peggy reported that the winter issue of the NeoGram has been sent out to the membership and is she is working on the spring issue. She stated that she has a few archives from her files and some articles but asked if anyone has anything to please send it to her.

Alaina mentioned that she was made aware of an incident regarding the USNMC FaceBook page and explained that someone posted a picture of crossbred puppies and indicated he was apparently upset because there was no rule against it. Alaina asked for permission to update the rules on the page and to post the USNMC Code of Ethics. All agreed and gave permission.

Judges and Public Education Committee – Alaina Pierret, Chair

Alaina reported that the Dog Show Judges Association is slated to hold seminars on the Working and Terrier groups and asked for permission to sign the club up for the institute. All agreed. She also discussed the new, expanded AKC Meet the Breeds and stated that sign up has been sent out for the first two. The first is in Philadelphia on June 6-7 and the second is September 26-27 in Nashville. She stated that she received an email stating that the MTB in Philadelphia has been postponed and asked permission to sign the club up for the events. All agreed.

Also, Meet the Breed will not be held in conjunction with the AKC National Championship due to construction at the Orange County Convention Center.

Health Committee – Mike McDonald, Chair

Mike stated that he is awaiting feedback from the March Delegate meeting regarding their discussion on Embark. Peggy stated that the concerns from the Delegates and Mark Dunn is that there are no standards and no consistency in testing or protocols. She stated that they are working on writing a white paper on testing for the September meeting. She further explained that Embark markets themselves as grassroots and the biggest and fastest moving canine genetics company but hasn't really done anything and is no further along than any other company. Peggy stated that based on the Delegates meeting, Embark is not recommended over anyone else. She stated that more information is needed for the club to endorse the best possible company. Mike will gather research on why Embark over other and will send to everyone.

Elections of New Members

- Jessica Escajeda – applying for Full Membership – ballot sent – 10 votes received, 6 in favor, 1 against, 3 abstain
- Lisa Eddy – applying for Full family Membership – 8 in favor, 1 abstain
- Robin White – applying for reinstatement – 10 votes received, 8 in favor, 2 against
- Charina DeFur – applying for Full Membership – ballot sent – 10 votes received, 10 in favor
- Isis Belmont – applying for Full Family Membership – ballot sent – 10 votes received, 10 in favor

Jessica did not received the required 2/3 majority vote to be approved. Rachel will contact her.

Alaina asked permission to remove **the Abstain option on future membership ballots and explained that for the purpose of this type of ballot, it is unnecessary and counts as a "No" vote in the end. All agreed.**

Unfinished Business

- Nominating Committee – Mike McDonald, Chair
 - Mike stated that the slate will be sent to Alaina Friday

- AKC program to “Promote Your Parent Club to New Puppy Owners” – see attachments – tabled from last month
 - Rachel stated that this was table during the February meeting. Alaina stated that this is an email program that AKC is starting to provide new puppy owner with breed specific information. General discussion followed. All agreed to sign up.

New Business

- AKC Delegate Report – Peggy Wolfe
 - Peggy stated that the March Delegate meeting took place just as COVID 19 was first becoming a concern. She said that attendance was down slightly but still good. She stated that she attended the Health Committee meeting as well as others and gave an update on the election. She stated that the three candidates that we recommended were elected. Those were Dr. Carmen Battaglia, Dr. Michael Knight and Karolynne McAteer.
- AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award
 - Alaina stated that she received an email regarding the AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship award and said we have received and discussed this before but have never done anything with it. She said the award is a medallion awarded by AKC for going above and beyond for the sport and AKC has left it up to the club to determine how to award it. General discussion followed. Alaina stated that she would really like to see us participate and would really like to see the general awards from the past revived. She was instructed to send an email to the membership for nominations.

The next scheduled meeting will be held Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 8:30EST/7:30CST.

With no further business, a motion was made by Susie to adjourn. No objections; motion carries. The meeting was adjourned at 10:22pmEST/ 9:22pmCST.

Respectfully submitted,
Alaina Pierret
USNMC Secretary