

High Country Newfoundland Club
General Meeting 01/12/2019
Minutes

Agenda and Sign In Distributed

Confirmation of Quorum: Members Present: Katherine Payne, Jan Curtis, Steve Gunther, Shine Sturtz, Jewel Cody, Kady Eckstrom, Larry Eckstrom, Noreene Rodgers, Karen Benenati, Claudia Walters, Lyle Payne, Terri Desnica, Sue Schneider, Mark O'Connor, Sue Raney, Johanna Matsuda and on the conference call line: Marci Smilanich, Lynn Kitch and Greg Szynskie. (19 members present, confirming the quorum)

At 1:16 pm the General Meeting was called to order by President, Jan Curtis at the Jefferson County Public Library Meeting room in Arvada Colorado.

The Minutes of the 10/6/2018 General Meeting were distributed previously through email with the meeting packet and a hard copy was available at the meeting. Terri Desnica made the motion to approve; Shine Sturtz made the second. There was no discussion. The vote to approve was passed unanimously.

Report of the President – Jan Curtis, President thanked everyone for coming to the meeting today. She highlighted the successes since our last meeting including the Fun Day/Picnic, Regional and Christmas Party. She expressed that the agenda is lengthy and being the first meeting of the year there is a lot of items to address and that we will as quickly as possible and a reminder to avoid cross talk and that she will be running the meeting. She shared with the members some information regarding a new regional opportunity in Colorado Springs in June and she turned the floor over to Karen Benenati the president of the Colorado Springs Kennel Club to share some details of this new show. This Colorado Springs Show is set for All Breed, June 28, 29 and 30th with Specialty shows on the 27th. Jan Curtis returned to the floor sharing that High Country did vote and approve the Regional in Pueblo in 2019, however in light of the newly discovered show in Colorado Springs she researched the requirements to consider participating at the 2019 CSKC Show which would require a minimum of 5 ½ months advance notice with the NCA which was why she then reached out to the board for some feedback on this since the next scheduled board meeting would not allow for consideration for 2019; however the responses were lukewarm so a special meeting of the board was not called for the board to address further and take action. She shared that to her knowledge the only breeds currently scheduled to hold their Regional at the Pueblo Show in 2019 in November are the Newfoundlands, Leonbergers, and Rhodesian Ridgebacks.

Report of the Secretary – Katherine Payne shared with the club the difference between the Standing Committees vs. the Event Committees and that what the basis for sending the blast through email to the membership with all the open committees prior to this meeting. She reported that all communications received by the HCNC Secretary have been forwarded to the appropriate parties and distributions have continued to be sent as requested. There was a request received by LoriLeigh Moreland concerning one of the Jefferson County High Schools inquiring about having Newfoundlands come for the students as we have in the past. The information regarding the requirements that the Jeffco Schools have now, the ability to comply with those requirements in the timeframe presented the decision to decline that request was made. Katherine Payne again stressed the need to have the Policies and Procedures updated and shared that this has been an ongoing request because the by-laws require that the Secretary have an up-to-date Operating Policies and Procedures Manual. An application to chair the 2019 Regional was received and was included in the meeting packet. A printed hand out was distributed which held the information gathered from the Friends of High Country Facebook page from members when asked what they would like to see and do. Shine Sturtz as the administrator of that page will expand on this under committee reports. Claudia Walters presented Katherine with two copies of a couple thank you cards received, which were read aloud during the meeting. First one from Johanna Matsuda thanking Claudia and the Committee Members for inviting her to judge the Regional Specialty Sweeps and the second one was from Ingrid Lyden to Claudia Walters and the HCNC Members thanking us for the hospitality she received and for inviting her to judge the Regional. (The original cards are being kept by Claudia Walters in the Regional Records).

Report of the Treasurer – Mark O’Connor distributed the Treasurer’s report. Mark O’Connor reports reflect the club has a bank balance of \$39,021.02. The club has two accounts, a money market with a balance of \$23,819.90 and the operating account with \$15,201.12. He also distributed a 2018 Event P/L with some of the events not finalized. He wanted to add that the club is in very good financial condition and that when he compared the records from a year ago the bottom line difference is only \$40.00. There was discussion regarding some revenue still waiting to be received and the money transferred to PayPal for the different fundraising events with teesprings.

Newsletter Editor Report – Lisa Johnson our NewfNews Editor reported she has not received much at all for this next edition of the newsletter so another final blast will be sent out to membership asking for their stories and brags. There was discussion regarding getting additional articles to be included from the various committees and members around the table and to reach out to see about republishing the article that was in the NewfTide by Katie Sidesinger regarding her dog’s rehab. That new deadline to submit will be January 15th, 2019.

Committee Reports –

Ad Hoc Constitution and Bylaws – Johanna Matsuda reported that the committee is working on some final revisions and that she will plan to have the proposed corrections and changes to the board within the next 30 days.

RCC (Regional Club Committee) – The NCA has a committee which represents all the regional clubs and we have one member who represents HCNC. The last meeting of the RCC was held when Claudia Walters was unavailable to attend so Jan Curtis as President sat in on that call representing HCNC. Jan Curtis shared her notes from the meeting regarding 3 points including: NCA position regarding Facebook Pages; the IRS and 501(c)3 and Regional Clubs to help at the National. Claudia Walters interjected asking if Jan’s comments were the official minutes of the meeting or her notes, and Jan Curtis stated she had asked Steve Britton for the minutes but had not received them yet. Claudia Walters then produced a copy of the minutes and Jan turned the floor over to Claudia to report. Katherine Payne as secretary asked if Claudia would send a copy of those minutes to the secretary to be included in the HCNC Records.

NCA Agility Trial – The chair and committee for the NCA Agility Trial in 2019 is open, there has been no applications received to chair this event. Terri Desnica was given the floor and shared that Patti Pigeon and herself would not be chairing this event, specifically stating that the lack of club support including not having club help with these events in the past. Because it is an AKC event there are requirements of having 5 NCA members present during the entire two day event which has been nearly impossible to do. Additionally she expressed the amount of time outside of the Trial Weekend including the set up and breakdown and clean up. There was discussion including the reference to the motion from the October meeting that HCNC would do the Agility Trial for the two day and again two days in 2020, however no committee or chair was seated. There was additional discussion asking about the timeline necessary if the judge and secretary that have been scheduled be given to release them from their assignments. Terri Desnica indicated we need to act on this very soon as the judges typically are booked way in advance so she presented February 1st as a drop dead date before the Secretary and Judge is released. Steve Gunther asked if there would be an interest from the club to proceed, would Terri Desnica be willing to give some guidance to that individual and Terri agreed. Terri will review a draft from Lisa Johnson prior to the publication of the Newsletter to reach out to members.

Awards Banquet – 2019 – Karen Benenati reported that the 2019 Awards Banquet will be Sunday; March 17th, 2019 at Maggiano’s Little Italy again this year. The applications for awards and RSVP documents will be forthcoming to the Secretary to distribute to the membership and also to the Newsletter editor to include in the newsletter.

Chatfield Park Liaison – Update by Terri Desnica. The parks reallocation project is underway and at this time they are reporting a possible June 1st day to access and this is subject to change based on the construction which is outside of our control. The actual schedule of training availability is not known yet and we were told not to expect this until May. The permits for Chatfield have been secured which also includes the Water Test Dates being submitted to the ranger. There was discussion regarding other water site possibilities and Kady Eckstrom brought up approaching City of Boulder and asked if we could obtain a letter of reference from Chatfield to support our request with them. Sue Raney also

offered to get documentation from across the country nationally regarding training and testing with the dogs through the Working Dog Committee of the NCA. Katherine Payne will also work with Kady Eckstrom on this.

NCA Draft Test – (Spring/Fall) – These event chair positions are open, there have been no applications received for either a Spring or a Fall test with HCNC in 2019.

Draft Clinic – There has been no applications presented to hold a draft clinic. There was some discussion on the Friends of High Country facebook page with individuals willing to help with a clinic.

NCA Water Test(s)-July and September - Mark O'Connor reported that the July Committee is still working on securing judges for the test and once that is complete the application will be sent to the WDC with the NCA. Mark O'Connor also reported that the September Committee does have their judges and has submitted their application to the WDC. Claudia Walters asked Sue Raney, Chair of the Working Dog Committee if there has been any applications received and not having details there have been some received and they are being processed, however she does not know if HCNC is one of them.

Water Clinic – Mark O'Connor expressed an interest to hold a water clinic this year focusing on the very newly started, never trained before audience and would plan for a ½ day seminar reviewing equipment and exercises. Mark has enlisted the assistance of Katie Sidesinger for this event. This request will be presented at the board meeting for approval.

Community Service – Steve Gunther tendered his resignation to this chair position, so the position is now open.

Rescue - Steve Gunther reported that HCNR (High Country Newfoundland Rescue) has not been successful in finding support to move forward and wanted to bring to the club the information and the intent to shut down the rescue and donate the treasury to the NCA Rescue unless another option presents itself. HCNR is independent and not part of HCNC but share the 4 state region and without support, it is not effective. There was a lot of discussion about Rescue and the overall opinion was to try and see what HCNC can do to help. The club agreed to form a committee to explore possibilities to assist Rescue and keep the 501(c)3 Status, while understanding rescue may suspend operations. That committee would be Claudia Walters, Shine Sturtz, Kady Eckstrom and Jewel Cody. This request will be presented at the board meeting for approval.

Holiday Carting/Tree Pulling – Steve Gunther reported at the previous meeting there was interest in looking at the St. Patrick's Parade in Denver for 2019. Some information was obtained however that information is limited until a fee is paid to participate. The Parade would be the 16th of March which is the same weekend as our banquet so for 2019, the St. Patrick's Day Parade will no longer be considered, revisiting for 2020.

Fun Match – This chair and committee position is open. We did not have a Fun Match in 2018 because the overall cost of the venue resulted in a very small profit.

Holiday Party – No official report presented however there were compliments of a good time by those in attendance.

Meet the Breed – Claudia Walters reported that the Newfoundlands are scheduled for the Meet the Breed on Sunday 2/17/2019 at the National Western Complex, the details are not yet complete as to location inside the complex. Claudia also stressed how helpful the signage and posters would be.

Membership - Mark O'Connor did not have a report to present. Sue Schneider asked what we are doing to gain new members and shared the success that the "Colorado Newfoundlands" on facebook have when they announce events. There was a lot of discussion regarding membership, Kady Eckstrom asked if we are sending out a Welcome Packet to new members and shared history of the club. Claudia Walters will prepare postcards with the Club Logo Pin and website information to forward to Mark to include with the write up that Kady Eckstrom offered to draft as a welcome packet to

new members. Katherine Payne requested the floor to address two items presented to the agenda, first the new members named in the membership roster but not announced to the club either by email or newsletter, inquiring why we aren't welcoming these spouses or significant others. Sue Schneider asked if her son could be included in her membership since the loss of her husband and after discussion, it was directed to add those members to the renewal form when renewing membership. The Second item Katherine Payne wished to bring up was consideration for raising membership dues for joint households. Claudia Walters moved to end the discussion and move discussion to a future meeting. During discussion, Katherine Payne reported that our documents state specific time frame to address this issue and if we are to consider a change the membership dues it needs to be done in the month of January, so postponing to a future meeting would be unreasonable. There was no further discussion, the vote was called regarding suspending discussion to a future meeting, polling the room, the motion passed, noting two members voted opposed, Lyle Payne and Terri Desnica and one abstention, Katherine Payne.

National Ad – Claudia Walters reports she will be doing the National Ad again this year.

2019 NCA National Opening Ceremonies and Parade – Shine Sturtz confirmed her interest to head this committee. This request will be presented at the board meeting for approval.

National Club Basket - Kady Eckstrom with the assistance of Shine Sturtz confirmed interest in heading this committee and will accept the assistance that Peggy Lange had offered. This request will be presented at the board meeting for approval.

Fun Day and Picnic 2019 - Shine Sturtz and Kady Eckstrom expressed interest in chairing this event. This request will be presented at the board meeting for approval.

Nominating Committee – Mark O'Connor reported that the nominating committee had submitted their slate for the 2019 Ballot. Naming those running for the position of Vice President: Claudia Walters and Shine Sturtz. Running for Secretary: Katherine Payne and Joyce Boone. Running for the two Director positions: Lynn Kitch, Terri Desnica, Kady Eckstrom, Jewel Cody and Marci Smilanich. Mark reminded the members of the process if anyone else would wish to be on the ballot what is required and that the deadline to submit the formal request with the sponsors is due to him by February 15, 2019.

Policies and Procedures – Tabled to the May meeting.

NCA Regional 2019 – An application for the 2019 NCA Regional to be held in November 2019 at the Southern Colorado Cluster in Pueblo, Colorado was received by the Secretary and will be presented at the board meeting for approval. The proposed committee is Marci Smilanich as chair; Noreene Rodgers (NCA membership pending), Shine Sturtz, Steve Gunther, Kady Eckstrom and Janet Heym. Also noted in the application that there are other breed specialties being held concurrently at the same location in different rings and the budget will be completed by March 1st, 2019 and dependant on availability and judges. The list of proposed judges and the sweeps judge was also shared. Also of note the committee is looking into having Obedience included in this Regional. This was the only application for the 2019 Regional received.

2018 Regional – Claudia Walters reiterated the success of the 2018 Regional. Complimenting Shine Sturtz for a job well done with the trophy sponsorship and selection and the success of the fine arts auction. Shine Sturtz reiterated that 100% of the trophies were covered by sponsorship and she thanked all those who sponsored them.

Spring Fling – Shine Sturtz confirmed her interest in chairing the Spring Fling and include a grooming clinic. She shared some thought for locations and what would be required with adding grooming. There was discussion that will continue off-line. This request will be presented for approval at the board meeting.

Sunshine Committee – Sue Schneider reported that thus far we've lost a couple dogs and she reminded everyone that she needs to be notified when cards should be sent out and she shared her email address again.

Friends of High Country Facebook – Shine Sturtz reported that overall the page has been very well received, she has had a few people apply to join but they haven't answered the questions that are sent to those applicants. She shared some feedback from another individual wishing to direct people to this page but confirmed that this page is designed for our members, friends with Newfoundlands in our region. In the interest of time, Shine Sturtz referred everyone to the hand out and encouraged everyone to visit the page. Noreene Rodgers commented she really likes the pages especially the introduction threads with everyone sharing their dogs.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

LL Bean Items featured in the LL Bean Catalog – Claudia Walters personally purchased a couple of the items to share with the club and also shared the order form. She will be managing a 'group purchase' for our membership and will forward to the Secretary the information and order forms. These will need to be returned to her by February 17th for those wishing to participate in this purchase. Lyle Payne proposed the idea of offering the membership a price below the non-members who wish to order, understanding this would require some accounting issues but it would be one thing to present to non-members as far as a benefit of membership with HCNC.

NEW BUSINESS

Educational Committee – Shine Sturtz had requested this item be brought up to consider having an Educational Committee to prepare programs available to membership (included in membership) and offer them to non-members for a marginal fee. In the interest of time, this item was tabled to the next meeting.

Supported Entry For the CSKC Show - This was a last minute agenda item added. Sue Raney proposed the club consider having a supported entry at the CSKC Show in June 2019. There was discussion including what a Supported Entry is. There was no motion to proceed at this time.

NCA offering additional title to earn in Draft - This was a last minute addition. Sue Raney wanted everyone to consider holding a Draft Test with HCNC, now that the NCA has a new title opportunity in draft work which is for the newer carting dogs being done on leash and more relaxed but still earn a title.

Next Board Meeting and General Meeting - The next Board and General meeting will be our Annual Meeting On May 11th, 2019 with a plan to have the meeting at one of the libraries as soon as it can be confirmed (we cannot book the meeting room more than 60 days out). The General meeting will be held with the results of the 2019 Election and the newly elected board will meet following that general meeting.

There being no further business, the board meeting was adjourned at 3:49pm. (JC) (CW)

Respectfully Submitted,

Katherine Payne
Secretary – HCNC

FINAL – APPROVED AS AMENDED 5/11/2019