



USNMC Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 9, 2016
8:30pm Eastern, 7:30pm Central

Members Present: Gonnie Schaffer, Rachel Hosking, Alaina Pierret, Michael McDonald, Carol Armbrust, Sherry Deans, Bill Goetz, Aaron Lozano, Will McGill, Deborah Priester, Peggy Wolfe

The meeting was called to order by President Gonnie Schaffer at 8:32EST/7:32CST.

The minutes of the February 10th BOD meeting were presented. A motion to approve the minutes as distributed on February 27th was made by Rachel Hosking and seconded by Carol Armbrust. No objections; motion carries.

President's Report

Nothing to report.

Secretary Report

Alaina reported that she uploaded the membership list to AKC site. She also reported that she received an email from Don James regarding the USNMC becoming an AKC Member Club. General discussion followed and several questions were raised. Peggy Wolfe was asked to provide some feedback regarding the pros and cons of becoming a member club.

Treasurer Report

Mike presented the financial statement. He requested permission to release the NeoRescue funds collected with membership renewals. He stated that roughly \$120 have been collected. All agreed to release the funds and that no motion was necessary to do so. A motion was made by Rachel and seconded by Debbie Priester to approve the treasurers' report. No objections; motion carries.

Committee Reports

Membership Committee – Rachel Hosking, Chair

Membership renewal

March 1st, 2016 was the grace period deadline for Membership renewals. As of this date we have 87 members that renewed for 2016. The membership at the end of 2015 was 97 members therefore we had 10 members that did not renew (see below for breakdown). All members who had not renewed before the official deadline were sent an email reminder. Then prior to the grace period deadline another email reminder was send out and a courtesy phone call was made to the last remaining few.

Non – renewals are as follows:

Debra Bruns and Andy Penn (see reason below)

Anthony and Dell Hatch (no longer active in the breed)

Christopher Arts – decided not to renew

Angela Lucas – contacted via regular mail, email and courtesy phone call, no response

James Gala – contacted via regular mail, email (undelivered) and courtesy phone call (phone number no longer valid)

Chester Kavanaugh (subscriber)

Mark Reed (subscriber)

Noel Goodrich (full)

EMAIL FROM DEBRA BRUNS:

On Feb 25, 2016, at 10:20 AM, Debra Bruns <debrabrun@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hi Rachel. Thank you for the reminder email about our membership renewal. Unfortunately Andrew Penn and I will not be renewing our family membership in the USNMC this year.

We lost our beloved Neapolitan, Apollo, to bone cancer this past November. Although we loved him dearly and miss him every day, we have decided not to get another Neo. As you know, this is a very demanding breed. They require a lot of socialization, training, and attention, not to mention space, food, and clean-up due to their gigantic size...lol!

With that said, we want to thank the USNMC for its support of the breed and, specifically, for our late Apollo. We thoroughly enjoyed participating in USNMC events over the years and met many wonderful Neo owners, breeders, and rescuers as a result of our membership.

We wish you and the USNMC all the best in your future Neo endeavors and hope that you continue supporting and getting the word out about this magnificent breed!

Sincerely,
Debra Bruns

NEW MEMBERSHIPS

Adrian Bueno (sponsors Gonnie Schaffer and Aaron Lozano), Jesus Valasco (sponsors Gonnie Schaffer and Aaron Lozano) and Lisa Hershberger (lapsed). All names were uploaded on the website and an email went out for membership review. It has been two weeks and no feedback from the membership. BOD vote required.

On February 28th the BOD was sent a lapsed Membership application:

Marcus Curtis (no sponsors needed). Name has been uploaded on the website and an email needs to go out for membership review.

On March 7th, 2016 the BOD was sent two full membership applications:

Mariano Morales (sponsors Rachel Hosking and Susan Vann Spruill)

Erick Ibarra (sponsors Gonnie Schaffer and Aaron Lozano)

On March 7th, 2016 the BOD was sent on full membership application:

Gretchen Wright (sponsors Carol Armbrust and Bill Goetz)

The following names Marcus Curtis (uploaded on website), Mariano Morales, Erick Ibarra, and Gretchen Wright need to be uploaded on the website and an email sent to the membership for their review.

SEVEN NEW APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP WERE EMAILED OUT LAST WEEK.

Please if anyone knows someone who may be interested in joining our club, please contact me or Debbie Priester, Lena Moles, Bill Goetz and we will be more than happy to send them the applications. And to **all Breeders**, we do have a Free Breeder Referral Program (FBR) (information below)

This application is for a FREE Breeder Referral (FBR) status in the USNMC. This does not make the applicant a Member of the USNMC, but it does add them to the mailing list and contact list for the club and allows them to begin their association with the club.

FBR status will last for one calendar year from application. After that the FBR status ceases and the individual will be sent an application for Club membership. They can then apply for any applicable Club Member status.

While in FBR status the individual:

- Will receive all free (emailed) notifications that are sent to club members.
- Will not be mailed a NeoGram, although they will be notified of publication and may certainly buy any issue by sending a note and payment to the club Secretary.

- May participate in non-binding surveys or studies that the club's board of directors may choose to send to Members and FBR's.
- May participate in board-approved club-endorsed internet activities for members
- May choose to join the club at any time using the regular membership process (they don't have to wait for the end of their FBR status to submit an application.)

Our expectation is that the FBR individual will be able to use this status as an opportunity to get to know other club members and to learn about the USNMC, its initiatives and its needs from the inside.

2016 National Specialty Committee – Sherry Deans, Chair

We do now have 1 sweeps judge, Troy is checking with him to see if he has a preference. He has judged sweeps before at the Lansing Regional.

We would like to propose that the seminar cost be raised to \$30 in advance and \$40 at the door. The cost for the seminar is the room rental of \$350 and Dr. Hutchinson is \$500 for the 2 hours plus expenses. If we don't fill the room, we won't make much if anything on the seminar. The room seats 100 people. We are able to have it advertised in the Show Premium and open it to all attendees.

The Clermont County Kennel Club is working on judging assignments and it looks like for Saturday we will have Walter Pinsker from Canada.

We plan to have the club Meeting on Friday evening, we are looking for a place off sight on Friday to hold an informal dinner/get together and drinks with the club meeting immediately following dinner. Alaina voiced concern about holding the meeting with dinner and stated that in her opinion the meeting should be held first.

Jessica Gibbons is working on a Menu for the dinner, as soon as I have it we will talk about the cost of each banquet ticket and the menu. Jessica emailed the hotel catering contract and Sherry asked everyone to look over it and respond by Friday (March 11) so it can be signed and returned.

Has it been decided who will be doing the Judges Education? Discussion followed and several members were discussed as possible presenters; Peggy Wolfe, Troy Stroud, Gonnie Schaffer were discussed.

Rachel asked about plans for trophies. Sherry stated that the committee is working on several ideas but so far have agreed on large rosettes in shadow boxes and back banner that drape over the dog for nationals. Rachel stated that she had some ideas and is willing to work with the committee on sources.

Fundraising Committee – Carol Armbrust, Chair

NeoRescue Liaison Committee – Carol Armbrust, Chair

Coordinating rescues all over the country with NeoRescue, Inc and helping Gretchen Wright

Website Committee – Michael McDonald, Chair

Members only section created, as of right now, it contains 2 NeoGram's, one from 2010 and one from 2011, and 4 eNeoGrams from 2011 which were monthly it appears, which was all on the old website. Still waiting for people to send me past NeoGrams to place in this section.

Regular website updates, new members and event announcements on front page. Mike asked Carol to take over the EBay store as part of the Fundraising Committee. She agreed and they will work out the details.

Communications Committee – Alaina Pierret, Chair

I am still having some computer issues that I am working through. I will send an email to the membership explaining the delay with the newsletter and NeoGram. The NeoGram has also been put on hold due to the same issues.

By-Laws Committee – Peggy Wolfe, Chair

- Sent version 2 of the proposed amendments of the bylaws to the AKC Club Relations Dept. Awaiting response from their 2nd review.
- Sent version 2 of a member communication to Club Communications coordinator (aka Secretary) asking for feedback from members on term limits.

Am drafting short article for newsletter /NeoGram on progress on bylaws amendments and on next steps

Judges and Public Education Committee – Lena Moles, Chair

No report received; no communication. The board asked Gonnie to reach out to Lena again and possibly provide some direction.

Nominating Committee – Michael McDonald, Chair

The committee is working, contacting members from the list of renewed members who are interested in serving for one of the open positions for 2016.

We have several people interested, and will vote as a committee to create the official slate.

The Official Slate will be emailed to the Secretary later this month, before the next BOD meeting.

Elections of New Members

- Adrian Bueno (New, Full)
- Jesus Valasco (New, Full)
- Lisa Hershberger (Lapsed)
- Marcus Curtis (Lapsed)
- Mariano Morales (New, Full)
- Erick Ibarra (New, Full)
- Gretchen Wright (New, Full)

Alaina will create the BallotBin to vote on Adrian, Jesus, and Lisa

Unfinished Business

- Reimbursement request from Carlo Pietroniro – see attachment
 - Received receipts; Rachel made a motion via email to reimburse the expenses and apply that to Carlo's dues as requested; Seconded by Sherry. No objections; motion carries with 9 votes in favor and 2 abstains.
- 2017 Judges List
 - Alaina reported that a request was put on the USNMC Members Only FaceBook page and she received a response from Lena. The board directed her to send an email to the membership requesting names and repost on FaceBook. She was also asked to include requests for national specialty proposals.

New Business

Rachel reported that she received communication from members of the Cane Corso Club of America inviting us to join them in 2018 for their National Specialty to combine efforts. General discussion followed and the board asked Rachel to request more information. She said she would and would report back with any further details.

The next scheduled meeting will be held April 13, 2016 at 8:30EST/7:30CST.

With no further business, Alaina made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mike. No objections; motion carries. The meeting was adjourned at 10:10EST/9:10CST.

Respectfully submitted,
Alaina Pierret
USNMC Secretary