



## SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> & ANNUAL Meeting 19<sup>TH</sup>

**Meeting called to order at : 8:30 P.M. EST Duration: Hrs Mins End:**

**Motion to Adjourn:**

8:34pm EST called to order

**ROLE CALL: IN ATTENDANCE OFFICERS & BOD**

PRESIDENT: Carlo Pietroniro NJ (July 2014-June 2016)	present
VICE PRESIDENT: Joe Attaway AL (July 2014-June 2016)	present
SECRETARY: Lena Moles TX (July 2013- June 2015)	present
TREASURER: Rachel Hosking LA (July 2013-June 2015)	present
<b>SEVEN DIRECTORS:</b>	
Carol Armbrust OH (JULY 2013-June 2015)	present
Santo Donati MO (July 3013-June 2015)	
Bill Goetz NC (JULY 2014-JULY 2016)	present
Will McGill CA (July 2013-June 2015)	present
Deborah Priester VA (JULY 2014-June 2016)	present
Gonnie Shaffer NJ (July 2013- June 2015)	present
Peggy Wolfe KY (July. 2014-June 2016)	present

### **Presidents Message:**

We have to prepare for our Nationals -

Let's try to avoid any confrontation, especially in public at the national. Let's work as a team, any outside issues of concern come to the BOD

### **Secretary Report:**

I am preparing for the Annual Meeting \_ I will have it all printed out by Sunday night

I need All Reports – by Friday

### **Minutes to previous meeting approved:**

***Peg made motion to approve minutes as amended. Deb P. 2nded. Motion approved unanimously***

Treasurer Report:

## UNITED STATES NEAPOLITAN MASTIFF CLUB

### REGIONS BANK BUSINESS CHECKING ACCOUNT

August 1st - 31st,  
2014

#### Activity Summary

<b>Beginning Balance as of 08/01/2014</b>				\$10,397.15
Deposits/Credits				
8/21/2014		Trophy - donation	1096.71	
8/21/2014		Ingham County Kennel Club	190.9	
		Banquet	75	
		National T-Shirts	333	
Total Deposits				\$1,695.61
Withdrawals/Checks (Debits)				
8/19/2014	1056	American Kennel Club 2014 medallions	125	
8/19/2014	1057	Rachel Jacobsen - National Trophies	100	
8/28/2014		JMG - 2014 National Trophies	917.14	
8/18/2014		Electronic Quill - Nationals	309.84	
Total Withdrawals				<u>\$1,451.98</u>
Ending Balance as of 08/31/2014				<u>\$10,640.78</u>

#### Summary of Checks/Debits Outstanding

Date	Check #	Description	Amount
9/3.2014	1058	Carol Armburst	466.86

### REGIONS BANK SAVINGS ACCOUNT

August 1st - 31st,  
2014

#### Activity Summary

Beginning Balance as of 08/01/2014	\$9,202.94
Deposits/Credits	
Interest Payment	<u>\$0.08</u>
<b>Ending Balance as of 08/31/2014</b>	<u>\$9,203.02</u>

\* Interest rate is 0.01%

#### Notes -

American Kennel Club - Eukanuba 2014 Medallions are paid and forms are completed  
JMG - Juan Manuel (Mexico Club) payment in full for the 2014 National Trophies  
Rachel Jacobsen - payment for Artwork for National Trophies. Rachel charged the club just for supplies

Carol Armburst's expenses for Ways and Means and the Auction.	
Hang Time	133.38
Custom Wrapping Paper	53.9
Wholesale Screen Printing Co	279.58

There are more Expenses for Carol from Ways and Means which need to be verified

\*There was a Budget of \$500 approved by the BOD for 2014 Nationals Auction :  
 Dannyquest was purchased for \$306.50  
 Item from Kelp company for \$47.40

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***Note that still a couple of outstanding expenses 293.71 for keychains***

***Note that AKC Eukanuba Medallions were previously approved, 5 medallions to be awarded at the AKC Eukanuba. (note, board previously approved to always approve medallions in future)***

***Motion to approve Treasurer's Report 1<sup>st</sup> Peg2<sup>nd</sup> Carol passed unanimously***

***Lena noted that she has purchased an external drive to hold club stuff and ink cartridges and will be putting together receipts for Rachel for reimbursement.***

***At annual meeting will be annual treasurer's report from 2013, plus tax returns for 2013 etc.***

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**Committee Reports:**

**Judges Education Committee Report:**

Committee preparing for presentation at the National on the proposed changes to the standard including handouts and judge's ed seminar.

Lena has noted that so far she's received contacts from 3 judges about attending judges's ed seminar.. Carlo asked why more last year? Lena got emails from judges, asking about it. It was put on the website August 13. Was put on judges email list. We knew we were having this at time and place last year. Have to do a better job of communication for next year. Must be something we did wrong. Maybe in future do a little mail-out.

Carlo noted that he got an email from Matt Stander (Dog News Magazine) who wrote to say that they would like to feature the neapolitan mastiff national specialty in the next issue. Carlo felt this was a good sign that the breed is being recognized in this country. Peg asked if carlo needs to name someone to be responsible for providing article and photos. Carlo said he will not point any fingers, no one will be responsible, everyone will be responsible. We all need to do it as a board of directors. Photos, what is going on, what we are doing, direction of the club, and so on and so forth.

Current Members of JE Committee: Judge Jim Deppen (chair), Judge Sharon Costello, Judge Gonnie Shaffer, Carlo Pietroniro, Lena Moles. Robin White the BOD invited at August meeting but has not accepted the offer to join the committee. Peggy suggested adding Bill Goetz to this

committee. Lena suggested deferring adding anyone new to the committee given the national etc. Peggy will bring up the suggestion at the next board meeting.

### ***SIDEBAR DISCUSSION***

Commentary on annual needs – need checklist so that same issues don't come up every year. Do we have a checklist? Are we following it? Do we need to develop one.

Answer, no checklist the way we should have. Developing, trying to get 'em used, hard to make that happen in any meaningful way.

Yes, we need to develop better procedures.

Unless use same people to do the same thing every year, so they know it, yes, it's discovery over and over and over.

Bill...Suggestion, by next meeting have an outline for how to build procedures guide

### **Judges Selection**

Short list was sent to the members for prioritization.

Result of Member prioritization was as follows:

- #1 Alessandra
- #2 Acrudo
- #4 Lorenzo
- #4 Bas Bosch
- #5 Palazzo tied w/Ruiz

Others

- #7 Anglada
- #8 Inzoli tied with Pat Trotter
- #10 Dana Cline tied with Pat Hastings
- #12 Bezzecchi tied with Thornton
- #14 Biven tied with Gladstone
- #16 Neitsche tied with Parmiaciano
- #18 Shelton tied with Vics

Discussion:

Carlo will contact and will try to get a resolution / agreement before the national

Note: list is approved for both 2015 and 2016

### **2014 National Specialty Committee**

See Bottom For Report from last meeting

### **2015 National Specialty Committee    Mike McDonald Info    2015 - APPROVED & SIGNED**

Mike had send information on the Doubletree hotel to the board and asked the board to approve that he engage a contract discussion with the Doubletree to make it the USNMC Host Hotel for the Tulsa, 2015 show. Info:

Doubletree Hotel Tulsa at Warren Place

### Guest Rooms

- Special guestroom rate of \$89 per night
- One time pet fee \$30; maximum of 2 dogs per room
- Includes full hot breakfast buffet in our Warren Duck Club (Value of \$15.95 per person)
- Complimentary high speed wireless internet access in the hotel lobby
- Complimentary shuttle service to and from the Tulsa International Airport
- Complimentary Garage Parking
- Meeting space room rental is waived. (Value of \$300 per day)
- Dinner pricing may vary depending on what you choose; Our Chef is happy to customize menus

Mike will bring a form for trophy donations to the 2014 national hoping to get early donations for trophies.

Next step is get judge selected / agreed to.

### **Membership Committee:**

Status Report: Halim Porras application was approved by vote of the board members.

He will be sent notice of congratulations and acceptance. (Peg will send).

**Lena will bring application forms to show**

**Member contact info booklet emailed out (name / address / contact info)**

**NeoGram Committee & NewsLetter** Alaina - emailed Monitor has gone out – about – 9-5-14  
(single mailed copy sent by Peg to single member w/out email)

### **BY Laws Committee**

Status Report: see at end

### **Website Committee**

Status Report: Barbara doing updates twice a month, Mike being liaison. All working well although we often get questions about why isn't information up on the website sooner than it is. Some ads already up there, so club is getting some income from the website. Members only section not yet created; litter section not yet created. Note that club needs to identify what needs to be in both of these sections before they can be completed.

**A Form can be filled out to BUY Advertising on the Website - Mike is bring to the 2014 national**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Report from new World Organization by Antonio Di Lorenzo** report by Carlo

There are approximately 9 Countries & specific Regions have joined in affiliation" Naples, Italy, Norway, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Mexico, Columbia, Russia, USA

Carlo noted that he sent an outline of the organization to Peggy. This same outline had previously been sent to the entire board and Peggy was the only new member this year. Carlo will re-end to rest of board to refresh memories.

There will be a hand out at the Annual meeting of description and more developments in the future.

### **Eukanuba meet the Breeds - Dec 2014**

Rachel Stated that only the electric form needs to be completed if needed and medallions had been paid for 2014. The electric is something that we need to address.

## **CHIC**

Report from Gonnie.

Gonnie sent summary from the CHIC website. Note is OFA CHIC program.

The website says the club needs to

1. Have a health committee
2. Do survey to determine breed health needs and outline tests wanted
3. Designate liaison for chic

In order for us, we need to come up w/ a list of tests to evaluate the problems that the neapolitan mastiff have. No required number. The club submits the list to the OFA. Their chic coordinator reviews and approves the list for your breed or they may make suggestions of what they think you should do. Once they approve it, they give you the next step to do. (OFA does this not the AKC).

Gonnie says that we don't have to do the same tests previously suggested by MHF (Robin W). We can do anything we want.

Big discussion about role of the USNMC vs members vs mhf

Conclusion:

Gonnie suggested all board members sending him their own suggestions and he will collate and collect and report back to the board.

Gonnie will send to chic and wait for them to reply to what he's sent them.

**NEW BUSINESS: None**

Meeting adjourn: 9:45pm EST.

Next meeting Sept 30

ATTACHED:

2014 Show Committee Meeting summary of Sept 8 meeting

Bylaws Committee Meeting summary of Sept 4 meeting

## **2014 National Specialty Committee Report from September 8**

### **Show Committee Meeting held on Monday, Sept 8 6:30pm cst.**

In attendance: carlo, peggy, aaron, carol, mike, lena, rachel

Not attending: Jim, Joe

#### Discussion of Best Head Class

Issue: onofrio did not put class on the screen. (their mistake) and no one called them to let them know. They only realized the error when 1 paper entry was received and asked for the class. Problem is no one knew to call them.

Peggy called akc and they said we could have our own separate event NOT AT THE SHOW SITE but we could do our own thing separate and decide how to judge

Lena. suggested. Ask Frank to write down the armband # of the best head of the whole entry and announce at the dinner and give award there!

UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT Doesn't require leaving show site, and setting up ring at separate place and scheduling....everyone like answer.

Reviewed schedule:

#### Thursday arrival

Peggy will get cakes ordered at Walmart ( 2 or ? ) BOD only knows of 1 or is it me ?

Carol & Tom will stay at wildwood w/ways-n-means

Rachel will have all trophies

Lena reports that Frank will be driving himself and will drive over to purina farms on Saturday don't know if he will stay for the dinner or if he will be checking out sat am

On Saturday, Carlo & Lena should be at show site by around 10am but it may be tight (driving back from ST. Louis)

#### Friday

ways-n-means set-up—Carol, Tom, helped by Peg, Gay & anyone else we can snag

Judges ed seminar ok

...coffee

...hand-outs (lena has asked jim for hand-outs to make some copies hasn't received 'em yet but expects to have and will have copies ready)/

...equipment (projector, screen, microphone) all set

..

#### Regional

sweeps trophies (Aaron has some Rachel has some)

sweeps judge? Carlo

regional trophies? (kip is doing nameplates)

steward (Lena if possible will do or will help)

ring-side mentoring both days? (last year Carlo did, can do it on Friday, not Saturday, Peggy will do both days)

annual meeting  
...agenda – Lena has or will have ready  
...hand-outs – Lena has or will have ready  
Lena will buy veg / fruit trays for snacks

meeting on standard Jim and Carlo in charge and Carlo reports everything is set no problem no one need worry about it at all.

#### Saturday

...sweeps trophies – Rachel / Aaron has  
...national trophies – Rachel / Aaron has  
...shadow-boxes shipped to purina – Ciaran reports will have shipped and will finish up when there  
...steward (Lena as soon as gets there will help w/trophies and Linda Robey will help there too. Lena is looking to Linda for help in learning how to ring steward  
...ring-side mentoring Peggy will help

evening set-up?

Cake = peg will bring

evening agenda? (awards, auction? other?)

Who will be host / manage schedule – be mc? Lena volunteers to keep us on schedule

Awards – Carlo will do announcing helped by Rachel & Aaron

Rachel will ensure awards / plaques etc are there—note: one plaque per dog not per owner

Note An Affiliate of the Mastino Club of Mexico will come over -- should we give something to him? extra plaque available

Carol has shipped pre-ordered shirts already and included a keychain in each package  
has clipboards, etc paperwork, paddles, etc.

hope Mike has a big vehicle (he says he does but will have a big dog in it)

and Rachel isn't bringing kitchen sink in her trailer so there'll be room there.

Lena -- look into mailing old neograms via media shipment...how many sets of 5 -- she will be flying--allow a week to 10 days..need to go to mail asap...

#### Sunday

...trophies / set-up – Rachel / Aaron helped by peg & whomever is around

...ring-side mentoring – if needed, peg and anyone else who wants to help can clean-up?

### **BYLAWS COMMITTEE STATUS REPORT – FROM MEETING OF SEPT 4 -**

*Comment from the Secretary (Lena) Considering the fact the BYLAWS Committee has not met for over 15 months – It is fantastic we have a group of volunteers to work on the USNMC BYLAWS, this has been a concern of the BOD, although due to volunteers working on other projects – this Committee had been put off. We are pleased to inform we have a committee ready to work.*

*This Meeting date & time was announced only to committee members, not the entire board. Note that the President has the option to attend any and all meetings and was not informed - All of the content of the meeting has to be run past the board before anything can be done. The next BYLAWS meeting can take place as early as October – 2014. Peggy, as committee chair, noted that her hand was effectively slapped.*



Follows is the Report of the bylaws committee by Peggy:

The bylaws are the skeletal structure of the organization. They list the core group of rules that must be followed for the integrity and “fairness” to all members in the basic operation of the organization.

While any bylaws can seem complicated they should follow a logical structure with each “section” including a group of definitions vital to the orderliness of the club and its members. Our bylaws follow the general AKC-recommended outline for AKC dog clubs.

Note that the bylaws must contain some rules, but many (or even most) club “rules” do NOT belong in the bylaws.

Here is a summary of the USNMC bylaws Sections, plus an outline of the major issues currently existing.

## **SECTION 1: MEMBERSHIP**

*(The section includes definition of requirements to become a member, types of membership, dues requirements, how to apply, who reviews / approves application, how renewal works, how termination of membership works, etc.)*

### ***Some moderately big problems here...including:***

- Eliminate clauses that require Board Members to vote Yes on every application
- Correct clause requiring publication of applicants to include
  - a. Correct statement of where to publish (currently Club Meeting Minutes)
  - b. Add statement of to whom to publish (currently doesn't say)
  - c. Add statement that publication is required before voting by board members
  - d. Add statement of how long to publish before voting is allowed
- Remove rejected applicant's ability to ask the board to override the full membership vote. (A proper vote of the full membership may override the board but the board (who are members and also vote as part of the membership) may not override a vote of the whole membership.)
- Correct verbiage to clarify intention that Full members can sponsor only 5 individuals per year (not 5 applications).

### ***Suggestions for Improvement***

- Allow membership applications to be emailed in with scanned copies of written signatures and for sponsor forms to come separately
- Eliminate Full Family as a Membership type but introduce a Family (Household) Dues rate for **all** types. (Currently only two Full members at the same address get a reduced due rate. What if there are 3 members at the same address? Or 2 Subscriber Members or one Full
- Change requirement for Chapter Clubs from “2/3 of Officers / Directors have to apply to be club members” to be “have to be USNMC Club Members

## SECTION 2: MEETINGS

*(This section includes types of meetings, who can attend / participate, meeting notice and one Subscriber?) requirements, what type of business can be transacted during the meeting, etc)*

### ***No big problems, but needs review for consistency, including:***

- Review references throughout bylaws to mailing and add emailing as an option
- Review all references throughout bylaws to quorum and ensure quorum is of Full Members only
- Clarify reference to Board meetings to show that meetings can be either more or less frequently but are “usually” monthly.
- Contact AKC to find out preferred verbiage for communications to allow various types outside of physical meetings.

## SECTION 3: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*(This section includes definition of board positions, terms of office, responsibility of positions, how positions may be terminated, how replacements enacted.)*

### **There are some *problems here including:***

- Eliminate ability of board to vote off elected board members without member complaint. (only requires change of one word.)
- Remove extraneous paragraphs that are standard definitions in RroR and not necessary in the bylaws.
- Fix reference of replacements put in by board only being in office until next annual election should be until next election of that position.
- Fix term limits clauses (also see discussion needs)

### **There are also some issues that need to be discussed and decided if we want to change before we know how/what to change. These include:**

- **TERM LIMITS:** do we need them, do we want them, if we do, how much and for what positions.
- **SECRETARY:** Some clubs have two Secretary roles Corresponding and Recording. We combine those roles into one. Do we want to change that? There are pluses and minuses to both ways.
- Also do we want to formalize the role of Membership Secretary? Currently this is responsibility of Secretary but is often (not always) delegated.) Do we want to make it a defined Officer position?

## SECTION 4: CLUB YEAR, VOTING, NOMINATIONS ELECTIONS

*(This section includes definition of fiscal accounting year, of club operations year, how voting is done, how nominations and elections for office are run, etc)*

### **There is one minor problem here including:**

- Remove requirement that only Accounting firms be used if an outside organization is used to send / count / tally ballots if members cannot do it. It is standard, in most dog clubs, to use other organizations as feasible and cost-effective. (like other dog clubs, etc.)

## **SECTION 5: COMMITTEES**

*(This section includes outline of how committees are created, how committee membership is enacted and terminated etc)*

**There are one problem here – which is related to section 6.**

- Remove reference to Ethics Committee (this is also related to the needed changes in Section 6.)

## **SECTION 6: DISCIPLINE**

*(This section includes definition of how complaints by members of members must be processed and consequences allowable, etc)*

**There are *BIG* problems here**

- This section needs a complete re-write to return it to the previous version which is the AKC boilerplate. This means
  - Complaints require documentation (current bylaws don't require this)
  - Complaints handled in a quick timeframe (current bylaws have no timeframe of resolution, it can go on for many many many months)
  - Complaint processing only involves board members (current bylaws allow other club members to be involved in "investigation")
  - Both parties in complaint treated equally . (current bylaws allow investigation to involve complainer but don't give same consideration to the complaine)

**The last five sections follow standard boilerplate outline from the AKC. No problems perceived, no changes recommended.**

## **SECTION 7: IMDEMNITY**

*(This section includes the definition of how members acting for the club are protected by the club if legal action is taken against them for correct actions taken on behalf of the club)*

## **SECTION 8: AMENDMENTS**

*(This section defines how amendments to the bylaws and other core club documents must be enacted. Who is allowed to participate, and an outline of the process that must be used, etc.)*

## **SECTION 9: ORDER OF BUSINESS**

*(This section includes a boilerplate agenda to be used for the different types of meetings, etc.)*

## **SECTION 10: DISSOLUTION**

*(This section outlines how the organization can terminate itself if necessary, etc.)*

## **SECTION 11: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

*(This section defines what parliamentary authority is to be used to determine procedures to be used for situations beyond the aegis of the bylaws themselves etc.)*