

**USNMC BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 2007
MINUTES**

BOD Members in attendance: Sharon Costello, Ingrid Fortunato, Donna Welty, Irene O'Connor, Rita Biddle, Anita Goetz, Jennifer Groves, Kendail Gonzales, Nikki Stamper, Nydia Thornton, and Shani Stewart-Robbins

Meeting called to order at 9:10 PM

Minutes from the September 9, 2007 moved to be accepted as printed by Jennifer Groves, seconded by Ingrid Fortunato. Motion passed.

President's Message: Mrs. Costello expressed a welcome to the entire board and a Welcome Home to Kendail (vacationed in Italy). Sharon voiced her gratitude to Ingrid, Shani, Bill Brimberry and Dan Renfrow for a fantastic visit to Washington. Sharon had a lovely time and saw some lovely dogs. Hopefully, the 2010 National will be held in this area. Sharon informed the BOD about a 9/11 email from Peggy Wolfe concerning the AKC Parent Club Conference and the IRS. A letter has been sent to Ms. Wolfe with a copy to Mr. Michael Liosis (AKC).

Secretary's Report:

Correspondence sent: Letter to Michael Liosis, letter sent to Ms. Wolfe, letter sent to membership
Correspondence received: from Ms. Peggy Wolfe; Purina Parent Club Partnership Program Earnings Update (\$22.25); AKC various letters concerning specialties held this year and last year; Connecticut River Working Group Association; letter from AKC re; AKC Drafting Regulations; Email from Ms. Wolfe re: AKC Parent Club Conference; from Jan Mahood re: Purebred Dog Writers Luncheon (Westminster Week); Contest announcement from Alliance of Purebred Dog Writers; various emails from website "Contact Us"; email from Michael McKinney from Cecil Graphic concerning a possible fund raiser; address corrections, email from Sue Lemieux re: Dog World article on Top Producing Sires and Dams; email from Heather Gaillillea inquiring about status of rescue; email from Mrs. Nataly Hohlova (Means); letter from Karl Groves.

Membership: Emails from Cathy White Re: revised letters, suggestion for renewal notification, correspondence from a "PAM" requesting info on her membership status;
Completed applications received from **Wendy Gieske** (MN) for associate membership (2nd reading) sponsored by Cathy White, **Ann Bielawski** (NJ) for associate membership (1st reading) sponsored by Sharon Costello; **Brenda Prochilo** (NH) for full membership (1st reading) sponsored by Cathy White and Jennifer Groves; **Robin L. Swartzlander, Sr** (MI?) for associate membership (1st reading) sponsored by Anita Goetz; **Zane Smith** (NY) for associate membership (1st reading) sponsored by Donna Welty.
Incomplete applications received from Mary Ann Whitehead (sponsor sheet only), Debraoh Cerraifo (sponsor sheet only).

Shani Stewart- Robbins moves to go into Executive session. Ingrid Fortunato seconds.

Donna Welty moved to end Executive Session. Ingrid Fortunato seconds. Regular meeting resumes at 9:48 PM.

Treasurer's Report: Email polls taken to reimburse Pierluigi Scalia's travel expenses for CHF Conference (\$413.40) and to pay I.R.S. \$1,082.84 for late filing fees and penalties for the years 1997 and 1998 occurred by previous boards. (see below for more details)

Bills to be paid - \$54.26 to Shani Stewart- Robbins for copying materials for Judges' Ed
\$74.40 to Rescue for euthanasia for Sue Luedemann
\$2.25 Dog Registration Certificate AKC\
\$86.37 for tri-color printer ink, mailings of Neograms, to Heather Welty
\$100.00 for new graphic artist

Jennifer Groves motioned to pay above bills, Ingrid Fortunato seconded. Motion passed unanimous

Irene clarified IRS charges of \$1,822.84 as having been paid. She also informed us of 2003 bill from the IRS in the amount of \$1,429.97 were made as “paid late” in June of 2005 and the IRS has sent us a check \$1/40 as overpayment. Irene again stated the history of the 1997-1998 levy notice. According to the IRS, the IRS sent return/receipt mailings that were unclaimed to the Princeton, KY address in April of 2007.

Irene filled us in regarding Pierluigi Scalia’s bill. His airline ticket was a little over \$700. He is asking us to pay around \$300. He is also asking us to pay \$50 per night at hotel. Irene is contacting him and will ask for receipts.

The Putnam Fund is located in Providence, RI. Whereas Irene (?) spoke to Rosemary Rosensteel in regards to the \$3,811 that is to be turned over to rescue and has still not been done, a suggestion was made to write a letter to the Putnam Fund.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications – liaison Ingrid Fortunato

Website – email sent on October 19th informing status of new site. Karl Groves asked to call in to speak. Karl informed us that a new graphic artist has been working on the site. Karl is asking for help in writing of content of site. Anyone interested in helping out – contact Karl Groves. Karl also stated that he would like a person in charge of adding/updating information in each category of site. If board members decide not to volunteer, he would like to open this up to members.

Neogram – No committee report. Heather Welty had spoken with Ingrid in regards to next issue which will include this year’s TOP 25 Dogs in inside. Pictures will be needed. Next deadline is in November. Editor had asked Board via email to authorize payment of \$1,199.00 for Indesign CS3 program to do Neogram. This program is actually a suite of three different programs(Photoshop CS3, Illustrator CS3 and Acrobat Professional 8 and Adobe) that if purchased individually would exceed amount requested for all three. Nydia Thornton moved to pay amount for Standard Suite program. Ingrid Fortunato seconds. Motion passed unanimously. Brief discussion held on sending copy of latest Neogram in for the Alliance of Purebred Dog Writers contest. (An email stated a category for newsletters). Rita Biddle so moved. Irene O’Connor seconded. Motion passed (all ayes). Irene to send check in the amount of \$20.00 to Heather Welty for submission fee. Advertising Committee reminded to keep up with the ads.

Fundraising – liaison Nydia Thornton

Nydia reported on progress of the t-shirts and note cards from Iveta, Kendail Gonzales offered two books on the Neapolitan that she purchased in Italy for the Auction to be held at the 2008 National. Nikki Stamper stated that she might be able to get some Neapolitan books also.

Judges’ and Public Education – liaison Sharon Costello

Three copies are left out of the last 100 copies printed. To date, over 150 Commentated Standards have been mailed. The greatest feedback comments received have been from Judges. Shani Stewart-Robbins had offered to print the standards in color and for only the cost of the paper needed. The next scheduled meeting is set for this coming Wednesday night. Kudos to Shani for her idea of printing in color and for the time she has offered in accomplishing this.

Health Committee – liaison Irene O’Connor

Irene has spoken to Dr. Scalia who in turn reported that the CHF Conference was EXCELLENT. He will be writing up some articles for the Neogram. A meeting will be set up.

2008 National – Jennifer Groves. chairperson, Cathy White, co-chair

Next committee meeting set for this Tuesday. All paper work is in. Supported entry application confirmation for Sunday received. Sharon mentioned the due date for the Premium. Short discussion. Donna Welty moved that the club pay for Ingrid Fortunato’s many phone calls to Alessandra. Jennifer Groves seconds. Motion passed – all in favor.

Legislation – liaison Rita Biddle

Donna and Rita clarified status of committee. Rita will forward any new legislation not on Pet law to Donna for posting. Rita talked about what the Akita National did to survive a show in Louisville, KY. Legislation has been quiet due to recess. Look for things to heat up!

Historian – liaison Donna Welty

Club member Christopher Arts has graciously joined the committee. Donna thinks she has every Neogram since club's inception – question is how do we present the covers through the years.

Ethics Committee – liaison Shani Stewart-Robbins

Shani reported that there has been confusion over the purpose of this committee since the “name” change of Ethics Committee to Code of Ethics Committee and Ethics Review Board. Shani moves that the BOD accept the name change to be Ethics Committee. Jennifer seconds. Motion passed – all in favor. BOD reviewed latest documents offered by committee for application to be on committee. Discussion ensued. Suggestion made to add term “resolution” to question #3 on application. Donna Welty moves to accept criteria as presented with the addition of the word “resolution” to question #3 on application Jennifer Groves seconds. Motion passed – all in favor.

Membership – liaison Anita Goetz

Correspondence from Cathy White regarding many topics – membership renewal, adding an information sheet to AKC registrations (already done), BIG membership, Pins as awards, etc. Suggestion made to invite Cathy White to attend next meeting to discuss suggestions.

By-laws – liaison Kendail Gonzales

Kendail reported that chairperson Dale Mc Donald held a meeting on October 4. Refer to minutes sent from Dale.

Local Clubs – liaison Nikki Stamper

Nothing new. The latest on the California issue was that AKC informed them to work it out. Garden State Neapolitan Mastiff Club held a supported entry with the Ramapo Kennel Club on October 14, 2007. Also, the GSNMC celebrated their 10th anniversary with a tailgate party at the show.

OLD BUSINESS

- ❖ Rescue Status – Neo Rescue, Inc has insurance. The USNMC needs verification of policy. Short discussion. Nydia Thornton moves that Jennifer Groves send a copy of the paid insurance policy, which states the policy number to Donna and Irene. Shani seconds. Motion passed. All ayes. Will be okay for Irene to send check to Neo Rescue, Inc for \$2500 **when above-mentioned verification received.**
- ❖ Neo Rescue, Inc asks to be named as the official Neapolitan rescue that is working with the USNMC. Short discussion in which it was stated that Neo Rescue, Inc presently has 20 plus members. Donna Welty moves that Neo Rescue, Inc be named as the official Neapolitan rescue for the USNMC. Seconded by Kendail Gonzales and Ingrid Fortunato simultaneously. Motion passed – all in favor.
- ❖ To date, Neo Rescue, Inc should have funds in the amounts of \$9,992.17 and pending upon the receipt from the Putnam Fund \$3,811.51 due them.
- ❖ Shani Stewart-Robbins moves that the USNMC endow Neo Rescue, Inc money in the amount of \$2500.00 quarterly until the line item budget is depleted. Irene Seconds. Motion passed – all in favor.
- ❖ Shani Stewart-Robbins moves that monies from the Putnam Fund be included when received. Jennifer Groves seconds. Motion passed – all in favor

Donna moves to table rest of agenda – All second.

Next meeting – Sunday, November 11th at 9 PM EST

Jennifer Groves moves to adjourn at 11:45 PM

Not part of the minutes!

Here are a few suggestions to make our meetings shorter and more productive:

Secretary forwards all email correspondence to BOD before meeting

All committee chairs send written update to liaison who in turn sends to all BOD BEFORE meeting

Set time limit for meeting and stick to it

No side conversations – stick to agenda

Can you guys think of any others?