

NEBCA Annual Meeting
January 18, 2020, Albany, NY

I. Meeting called to order at 10:03AM.

Present: 28 (16 members on site; 12 remote sites); 19 proxies for a total of 47 members.

II. Procedures for remote participants reviewed.

III. Minutes from the Leatherstocking meeting were approved (BA/AH)

IV. Executive Committee Reports

A. **Secretary's Report** (Martha Walke) - At the end of 2019 there were 256 Members compared to 249 at the end of 2018 and 264 at the end of 2017. As of Jan. 17th, there are 187 members, 7 lifetime and 180 who have renewed (139 Individual and 41 Farm/Family memberships). There are 17 new members. All who have renewed their memberships have also been renewed in the new Points System.

B. **Treasurer's Report** (Denise Leonard) - Totals were reviewed; noted lower calendar sales; noted amount for sheep in the Fall Foliage is incorrect as it reflects the total of both cost of sheep and hauling. Noted the \$500 voted to be donated to the 2019 Finals for the webcast of the semi-finals and final runs was not sent. Also noted that the Greenfield Bank charges \$7.00/check for cashing Canadian checks. A fairer system of payment for Canadian members will be worked on. Discussion followed concerning what the organization can do to help with trials and other events. This included helping with sheep and hauling; an incentive grant system for farmers with available sheep for trials; raise the sheep budget for trials. Suggested that the two trials' committees have a few members get together and come up with a plan to help get a system going .

Report accepted with one change to be made in the Fall Foliage report.

V. **Board of Directors' Report** (Annie Palmer) - The new points system is up and running for open handlers and dogs. Maria Amodei is working on the novice classes system and will have it up soon. It is requested that trial secretaries send results to Annie Palmer as soon as possible using the correct format (information for reporting can be found on the Points System page under About/FAQs). Report accepted.

VI. Standing Committees' Reports

A. **Open Trials Committee** (Warren Mick) - The 2019 open season went smoothly with 50 sanctioned trials. There were no significant issues or problems requiring committee involvement. The committee's main activity was to plan and run the 2019 Fall Foliage which was held at Caora Farm Oct. 11-3. The judge was Allistair Lyttle from Ireland. Out of the 60 entries, 39 were qualified. Since entry was not limited it was both NEBCA and USBCHA sanctioned. Thanks to a stellar committee, many excellent volunteers and good weather, the trial ran smoothly. Special thanks to Mich Ferraro and Kak Weathers for their hospitality and support.

There were 180 open dogs earning NEBCA points in the 2018-19 season. Roger Millen's Jesse won the High Points Competition with Mary Thompson's Teagan taking Reserve. Rewards for the top 10 High Points dogs have not been arranged. It is the committee's opinion there should be no 2020 Fall Foliage because of the 2020 Finals being held in VA. Discussion on combining it with Leatherstocking (unlikely: not a viable site; too many dogs; long days). Report accepted.

B. Novice Trials Committee (Amy Hershberger) - They expect the expenses for the 2020 Novice Finals to be the same as for the 2019 Finals. The committee welcomed 4 new Novice Trials in 2019: Bittersweet Farm, True Colors, Heart Stone and Jimmie's Farm. They addressed several issues in 2019, including the cut off date for the Novice Finals' points; running in a higher class in a non-sanctioned trial; qualifying for the Novice Finals as dog/handler team vs dog only. Currently they are discussing different qualifying point(s), if any, for the Finals; the requirement of having sheep checked by a vet before being used in a trial; ideas on how to notify novice handlers on renewing their NEBCA membership; how to handle half points in scores; location and date for the 2020 Novice Finals. Discussion followed on how well the 2019 Finals went at a new venue; why fewer entries in 2019 (location); keeping the qualifying point(s) at one or none or adjust for circumstances. Report accepted.

VII. Newsletter Report (Sallie Butler) - The editors acknowledged the NEBCA members' talents, knowledge and efforts. The plan is to continue with the current format, published quarterly, both online and in paper form. Quickly locating trial results has yielded increased and timely coverage of said results. Deadlines for submitting material for the Newsletters are: Feb 1 for Spring issue; May 1 for Summer issue; August 1 for Autumn issue and Nov. 1 for Winter issue. Sallie Butler's last issue as editor will be the Summer 2020 issue. She is grateful to Pam Mueller for her enthusiasm and her dedication to the Newsletter.

Discussion with appreciation for all that Sallie has done as editor; whether Pam would be willing to take over as editor; and the value of the paper edition for educating people about NEBCA. Report accepted.

VIII. Select Committees' Reports

A. Merchandise Committee (Kim Lippolis) - The current committee consists of Joanne Krause, Kim Lippolis, Liz Shaw and Ed Walker. Our profit, after expenses, for 2019 was \$1,891.73. We set up at 8 trials in New England and NY. A huge thank you to all the members who helped with sales at the trials. A new t-shirt design has been selected for 2020. We are looking into sweatshirts and considering a variety of styles as well as other new items. We are discussing whether to set up a booth for the final weekend at the 2020 Finals in VA. While profitable, it requires a lot of work and commitment from members to help. If interested and available, please contact a committee member.

Discussion followed on setting up a VENMO account and/or using a Square for purchasers using a credit card.

B. Calendar Committee (Kate Collins) - The current committee consists of Kate Collins, George Northrop, Elizabeth Smith-Fries and Val Pietraszewska. We have 90 calendars, out of a print run of 300, left this year - a larger than usual number. A profit

was made and we see no reason not to continue printing 300. The cost for the 2021 calendar will be \$891 plus tax, which is the same as for 2019. Photos to be considered for the 2021 calendar should be sent to katecollins64@gmail.com. The subject should be NEBCA working dogs and the files should be at least 300dpi. Please submit no later than 2/29/20.

Discussion followed concerning the selling of calendars at trials with the Merchandise Committee considering buying calendars to sell in order to alleviate previous money problems.

C. Education Committee (Rose Redick) - Current committee members are Rose Redick, Liz Shaw and Chris Bowen. Barbara Armata has retired from the committee. We supported several activities during trials as well as separate events and will continue to do so. Our hope is to expand our scope to include all levels of handling. Several events are under consideration for 2020 as well as accepting suggestions from members. Discussion followed on the types of things this committee has supported as well as having a member be on the committee that will be looking at the funding of sheep/hauling for trials.

D. Audit Committee (Chris Bowen) - The process developed by Bill Black is still being followed. September 2019 was reviewed for this audit and end of year balance sheet entries were reviewed and reconciled to source documents. Feel that the Executive Committee maintains effective internal control over transactions and financial reporting. They ask that, should it be necessary, the BOD consider moving the deadline for completion of the financial audit for the previous year to the Spring membership meeting to allow for a more complete review of year end numbers

E. Library (Martha Walke) - In 2019 there were 17 transactions made by 12 members. We received 11 books donated by Fran Wheeler Hedges. Steve Wetmore's family gave NEBCA his complete collections of *The Working Border Collie* magazine and all of his NEBCA Newsletters dating back to 1983. Discussion followed on ways to help increase use of the library's holdings.

IX. Old Business

A. Election Results (Martha Walke) - There were 68 ballots received, four voted for only one candidate. Results of the BOD election are: Mary Ellen Young (55); Carolyn West (32); Ellen Fowler (25); Judy Gambill (23). Mary Ellen and Carolyn are the new BOD members. Many thanks to Ellen Fowler for her service on the BOD.

B. AED - Warren reviewed what was discussed previously and suggests that the final decision regarding purchase be left to the BOD. Discussion followed on the advantage of an AED over CPR. The small committee formed to look into training required by different states will report in the spring.

C. Points system (Maria Amodei) - The system is up and running for open handlers. She is working on the system for the nursery and novice trials and that should be up and running by the start of the spring trials. A problem is the changing close date for the novice trial year. Amy Hershberger will have the Novice Committee clarify the date in their Bylaws. Annie Palmer thanked Maria for her time and effort on this easily accessible points system!

X. New Business

A. 2020 Proposed Budget (Denise Leonard) - Suggestion to leave in the amounts for the Fall Foliage in case we have one. Need to decide on an amount to donate to the 2020 Finals.

Discussion followed on the necessity of removing the amounts we are unsure of and stop being so cavalier about our budget. Need to know what we have for those things that come up during the year.

Motion (BA/AH): Move to modify the budget at the next membership meeting when we have definitive decisions about the Fall Foliage and the AED and other committee needs. No discussion. Motion passed.

B. Committee appointments (Warren Mick) - Warren will talk with the Open Trials Committee members to see if any would like to stay on before suggesting new members. The Novice Trials Committee is complete for this year.

C. Other New Business

1. There will be a celebration of Steve Wetmore's life at his farm in Strafford, VT, on Sat., May 16th. All are invited. Details to come.
2. If you have memories of Steve you would like published in the Spring Newsletter please send them to Warren as he is compiling them. A donation was made to NEBCA in Steve's name by the Drummonds. It was suggested to incorporate it into the Long Road Award.
3. The NEBCA Facebook page was discussed and forming a media committee to monitor our face on the web was suggested.

D. Meeting dates for 2020

1. Cummington - 5/23/20
2. Leatherstocking - 8/22/20

It was suggested that we need to have a fall meeting and if anyone is hosting a fall event to please let Warren know to see if it would be appropriate for a meeting.

XI. Meeting adjourned at 12:56PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha M. Walke, NEBCA Secretary