

NEBCA Annual Meeting - January 18, 2014  
Antrim, NH

Present: Warren Mick, President; George Northrop, VP; Ellen Black, Treasurer; Martha Walke, Secretary; Lynn Deschambeault, BoD; and 24 other members. There were 16 proxies.

Called to order at 10:13AM.

Warren thanked the Drummonds for hosting the meeting, setting up tables and chairs, and providing drinks and lunch (pizza).

Minutes from the Cooperstown meeting were accepted with no change.

#### Executive Committee Reports

A. Secretary - As of 1/17/14, there are 163 memberships which translates to 212 members (123 individual and 40 family (82 people); 7 life; 2 honorary). Of these, 12 are new memberships (6 individual and 6 family). At the end of 2013, there were 280 memberships (132 individual; 41 family; 6 life and 1 honorary). Currently, there are 72 memberships that elect to read the Newsletter online.

M/S to accept. Discussion: how to attract new members – signing up new puppy buyers for one year; get brochures out at all events; push calendars; push pdf newsletter on website; send a one page preview of newsletter to members.

Report accepted.

B. Treasurer – see attached 2013 Financial Statement with comments.

M/S to accept. Discussion: the number of ads has increased; need better tracking of fence rental equipment (Rose Redick agreed to help with this). Need to think about making up our loss as in six (6) years, if loss continues, we will be out of money. Board needs to re-evaluate: dues; budget; ads in newsletter. There was an audit this year; no issues; it will be done annually.

Report accepted.

#### Standing Committee Reports

A. Open Trials Committee – Rob Drummond

The Fall Foliage trial came in just under budget; the new qualifying rules (see website) this year; limited the entry to 50 dogs; having a course director and dedicated setout people worked well; the payout in the preliminary was achieved by an increase in the entry fee. To support the 2014 Fall Foliage, raffles and fundraising ideas are being considered. There are 3 sites under consideration for 2014: Dave Fetterman's Borders on Paradise site; Dick Williams is looking into the fairgrounds near Hop Bottom; and Old Chatham. The committee requested a \$3000.00 budget for 2014 FF Trail. Discussion on funding & prize money. The committee will be considering a change in the high point system for implementation at the start of the next trial season (Aug 1).

B. Novice Trials Committee – Eileen Wilentz & Warren Mick

The Novice Finals were held at the Tolland Agriculture Center in Vernon, CT, Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, 2013. About 50 dogs competed, each getting three runs with the best two

being counted for the placings. Sheep were provided by Carol Campion. Chris Bowen judged all runs and Carol and Gene did the set out. The site for the 2014 Novice Finals has not been determined. The committee requests a budget of \$2600 for the 2014 Finals. Anne Devine and Eileen Wilentz are leaving the committee, two new members will be appointed.

#### C. Fundraising – Ellen Black

A merchandise inventory was presented. Ellen suggests a rise in prices of \$3 or \$5. Send suggestions of items to sell to Ellen.

#### D. Calendar – George Northrop

There was an initial printing of 300 2014 calendars which ran out in and 50 more were printed. There are approximately 35 2014 calendars left. The cost for shipping needs to be updated on the website. Dana Erickson offered to get a quote for printing calendars from a printer she has worked with.

### Select Committee Reports

#### A. Learning Trials Committee – Emily Yazwinski

The committee funded 6 events, some being stand alone trials and the others were mentoring at established trials. The committee feels they are encouraging and facilitating members new to the sport with a small amount of monetary support. It was pointed out that the mission of this committee is closest to NEBCA's mission and that, at trials, it is important to be aware of new handlers and to offer support. The committee needs to keep evolving – an example being to offer mentoring to new open handlers.

Emily will be stepping down as co-chair of the committee. She also commented that 7 members was too many.

#### B. Judging Education Committee –

Did not do anything in 2013. Recommend it be dissolved.

### Board of Directors Report - Dave Sharp and Lynn Deschambeault

#### A. Actions in 2013

Developed and posted the Information Policies and the Nomination/Election/Audit/Proxy Process. Both docs may be found in the Members Only section of the website.

Developed and posted the Lifetime membership Process and Criteria. Found on the Special Recognition tab on the website.

Developed revised Audit Procedures with assistance from Bill Black. The 2013 audit was completed and an audit will be done each year from now on.

#### B. Initiatives

1. Duffy/Millen/Wetmore proposed that NEBCA sponsor the pen at the 2013 USBCHA Finals at Belle Grove. They raised \$2000 towards this and requested NEBCA put in \$500 to meet the total of \$2500. The proposal was approved.

2. Dave Fetterman proposed that NEBCA provide access, on the website, to all past issues of the American Border Collie Magazine. The BoD is looking into copyright issues & ownership; digitizing and an index; other due diligence as required.

3. Ginny Prince proposed that NEBCA initiate a “Good Shepard” award to recognize members who have demonstrated good shepherding during a just completed trial season. The BoD is reviewing this proposal and is interested in feedback from members:

- a. is the award too restrictive? Is there a more inclusive title?

- b. does NEBCA need another special recognition award?
- c. who would see that the award get proper attention?
- d. what would be criteria, recognition, and nominator for the award?

#### Newsletter – Jim Allen

Molly King is doing an excellent job of finding/getting articles as well as editing. Please send in pictures from the camera (not reduced). Please volunteer to write an article. Suggested that a list of High Points dogs be published. Because postage is rising, it was suggested members might want to reconsider getting the newsletter online. Dana Eriksen is going to look into getting advertising for the newsletter.

#### Library – Martha Walke

In 2013 there were 35 transactions made by 22 borrowers for a total of 90 items (63 DVDs/videos; 18 books; 9 CDs/tapes).

The library acquired 18 DVDs (8 DVDs of the 2012 Finals; 9 DVDs of the 2013 Finals; 1 DVD on trial judging); 5 books (2 *Hints & Tips for the Trial Field*; *Sheepdog Glory*; *Training a Sheep Dog* [pamphlet]; and *Understanding Border Collies*). We had donated to the library 1 book (*Sand and Gravel* by NEBCA member Clara Stites) and 4 DVDs (2005 ISDS World Semi-Finals; 2005 World top 5 runs; *Basics of Sheep Management*; and *Away to Me*). As far as I can make out, we spent @\$95.50 for postage and \$144.00 for items for the library for a total output of \$239.50, leaving us with a balance of \$60.50. As is the case with all libraries that lend AV items, the wear and tear is beginning to show on some of our more popular items. Some of this is from improper handling of the DVD and some is from improper packaging of the item. Some of these will have to be replaced in 2014.

#### Old Business

- A. The Trial Managers Handbook is on the website. Nancy Phillips headed up the committee that wrote/updated it. It is an evolving document.
- B. The rule in the novice trial guidelines that requires novice trials to include all three class has been suspended the past several years as a test. The Novice Trials Committee has decided to make this a permanent change in 2014.

#### New Business

A. 2014 Proposed Budget – Ellen Black reviewed the proposed budget for 2014. A motion to accept this budget was seconded but later withdrawn. Discussion followed as to how to achieve a balanced budget. It was suggested that we reduce costs and increase revenue where possible in 2014 but not try to balance the budget in one step. Many suggestions were made. M/S – Reduce the Fall Foliage and Novice Finals contributions by \$500 each with the remainder of the proposed budget accepted as written. Accepted. It was suggested that the BOD consider increasing dues for both individual membership and family membership by \$5.00 each, effective for 2015.

B. Election Committee – Martha gave the election results: Barbara Armata 47 votes; Carol Champion 48 votes; Barbara Levinson 40 votes; Nancy Phillips 44 votes. Warren announced that Barbara Armata and Carol Champion were elected to the Board of Directors.

C. Committee Appointments – Warren Mick

Steve Wetmore and Dave Fetterman were appointed to the Open Trials Committee. Novice Trial committee appointments are not yet determined.

D. Other New Business

It was suggested that members who currently receive the paper version of the newsletter and wish to change and receive the newsletter online should email the secretary ([walkem@sover.net](mailto:walkem@sover.net)).

E. Meeting Dates for 2014

There will be a meeting Saturday, May 24, at the Cummington Trial; and a meeting Saturday, August 16, at the Leatherstocking Trial.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Walke, Secretary