

NEBCA Annual Meeting
January 16, 2021 (via ZOOM)

I. Meeting called to order at 10AM.

Present: 57 members (41 on ZOOM; 16 proxies).

II. Procedures for the meeting were reviewed.

III. The minutes from the June 30th, 2020, ZOOM meeting were approved as written.

IV. Executive Committee Reports

A. **Secretary's Report** (Martha Walke) - At the end of 2020 there were 250 members compared to 248 at the end of 2019 and 249 at the end of 2018. We appear to be slowly growing. As of January 15th, there are 162 members: 7 Lifetime members and 155 who have joined or renewed (129 Individual memberships and 20 Farm/Family memberships). There are, to date, 10 new members. All members who have renewed/joined have been renewed in the Points System. You can check this at www.trialpoints.com.

B. **Treasurer's Report** (Denise Leonard) - Totals were reviewed and it was noted that due to the loss of income from merchandise sales and the lack of expenses for both the Novice Finals and the Fall Foliage, the end of year numbers are about the same as for 2019. The report was approved.

V. Board of Directors Report (Annie Palmer)

There were three actions taken by the BOD. (1) Canceling the sanctioning of trials due to Covid-19, mirroring what the USBCHA was doing regarding trials. (2) Issuing of guidelines for how to run a trial during the pandemic. These are posted on the website. (3) Authorizing money to be paid to trial hosts to alleviate expenses incurred related to ordained health precautions and income loss due to the lower number of participants. Werner Reitboeck and Annie Palmer were thanked for their years of service on the BOD.

VI. Standing Committee Reports

A. **Open Trials Committee** (Warren Mick) - Due to lack of trials, not much was done. The committee assisted with those trials that did happen. The 2019 High Points prizes were purchased and delivered to Roger Millen (Champion) and Mary Thompson (Reserve). There has been no decision concerning the 2021 Fall Foliage. With the Nat'l. Finals being held in VA in October, it would have to be moved to a month earlier. Three committee members, Mich Ferraro, Paul Batz and Michael Nunan, are on for another year and Christine Koval and Diane Cox are willing to stay on if reappointed.

B. **Novice Trials Committee** (Sheila Crepeau) - The committee sanctioned Hilary Flower's trial and the Eastern Quebec Conference Trials. They would like to hold a 2021 Novice Finals but are waiting to see what the Open Committee does. They agreed to carry over all points earned in 2019 to 2020 but no decision has been to carry these again into 2021. There is a problem with the Novice Points. Sheila and Maria Amodei will work on this. The committee will remain the same.

VII. Newsletter Report (Pam Mueller)

Despite the lack of trials to report on, a 20 page Newsletter was produced each quarter in 2020 with a wide range of content. Sallie Butler retired as editor but continues to provide assistance. The job of editor, coupled with layout and design, has been taken on by Pam Mueller with the assistance of Melanie Behrens helping to round up content. The Newsletter came in under budget for three of the four issues and the budget request for 2021 remains the same.

VII. Select Committee Reports

A. Merchandise Committee (Kim Lippolis) - Due to the pandemic, the NEBCA merchandise was not distributed nor sold at any trials. Hopefully, that will change in 2021 with the advent of a new trial season. The old merchandise from previous years will be discounted. The committee is looking into new items and are considering taking pre-paid orders, allowing members to select size and color. The committee thanks all those who help with the set up, sales and take down of the merchandise at trials. The current committee consists of Joanne Krause, Kim Lippolis, Liz Shaw and Ed Walker.

B. Calendar Committee (Kate Collins & George Northrop) - Due to the cancellation of trials, the print run for the 2021 calendar was reduced from 300 to 150. These were sold out by mid-December and another 50 were printed of which about half have been sold. The quote from the printer for 200 calendars for 2022 is \$649 with tax to be added. The current committee members are Kate Collis, George Northrop, Val Pietraszewska and Elizabeth Smith-Fries. They are looking for people to take over the production and distribution of the calendar, having done this since 1996. Sheila Crepeau is considering this. Please email photos for the 2022 calendar to katecollins64@gmail.com.

C. Education Committee (Rose Redick) - The committee members are Rose Redick (Chair), Chris Bowen and Liz Shaw. They have been working this year to help members host and attend clinics which are offered to NEBCA members first with non-members offered places if the clinic does not fill. There were 6 clinics offered, three in the northeast US and three in Canada, and about \$850 was utilized to support the host and offset costs. Currently the committee is offering online clinics using Zoom. All information concerning these clinics will be posted on the NEBCA website. A discussion ensued about other methods of getting clinic information to members. Heather Nadelman will work on setting up an email list for announcements, available to members only. The committee will remain the same and is requesting \$800 for 2021.

D. Library Report (Martha Walke) - In 2020 there were 24 transactions made by 14 members. Bill Black has donated to the library, in memory of Ellen Rusconi-Black, five books and a set of articles by Kent Kuykendall. These will be added to the list of library holdings posted on the website.

X. Unfinished Business

A. Election Results

President - Barbara Eriksson

Vice President - Peggy Flanagan

Secretary - Martha Walke

Treasurer - Denise Leonard

BOD - Hilary Flower & Stacey Rember

XI. New Business

A. Proposed Budget (Denise Leonard) - Except for a few items, the budget is basically carried over from 2020. See attachment.

B. Motion to Support the 2021 USBCHA National Finals

For the 2017 National Finals, NEBCA allocated \$5000. Of this, \$3000 was an outright gift and \$2000 was to be reimbursed if a profit was made. Along with this we requested to be able to place the NEBCA banner on the pen; a prime site for a NEBCA vendor; and a full page ad in the program. The motion presented by Denise Leonard asked for this same dispersal of monies for the 2021 National Finals. Discussion followed on different wordings reflecting different positions on the total amount and the dispersal of it as well as special requests. The motion was not seconded and Denise withdrew it favor of Warren Mick's proposed motion:

NEBCA will donate \$2000 to the 2021 USBCHA National Finals to be held in Middletown, Virginia, Oct. 5 - 10, with another donation of \$2000 if the 2021 National Finals actually occurs, provided NEBCA is allowed to put their banner on the pen, have a prime vendor site, and a full page ad in the program.

This motion was seconded by Sally Molloy and Debbie West.

Discussion followed. Motion was put to a vote and passed on unanimous consent. The proposed 2021 budget will be adjusted to reflect this \$4000 expenditure.

C. Committee Appointments

1. **Audit Committee** - Chris Bowen and Elizabeth Smith-Fries were appointed.

2. **Open Trial Committee** - New members will be appointed by the Executive Committee.

D. Other New Business

1. Motion by Maria Amodei:

Have Heather Nadelman set up a sub-group to Sheepdog-1 as a NEBCA messaging conduit for notifications.

Motion seconded by Elizabeth Smith-Fries. Motion passed on unanimous consent.

2. Liz Shaw asked that members look at the NEBCA website for Education Committee sponsored clinic announcements.

3. Melanie Behrens requested that ideas for content in the Newsletter be sent to Pam Mueller at pjmueller1@gmail.com.

E. 2021 Meeting Dates

Suggested dates: May 21 at 6PM via Zoom

August 27 at 6PM via Zoom

If there are any changes, they will be announced via email and confirmed on the website and in the Newsletter.

XII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:34PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Walke, NEBCA Secretary