



NATIONAL SEARCH DOG
ALLIANCE

**Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the
Board of Directors**

May 5, 2016

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Search Dog Alliance was held by conference call on Thursday, May 5, 2016. Susan Fleming called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM EST.

The following Directors were present and constituted a quorum:

Terry Crooks, Julie Gibson, Bridget Jackson, Kathleen Kelsey, Heather Proper-Van Valkenberg, Sherry Scruggs, Jen Skeldon, Heather Suedkamp

Absent was:

Robert Noziska

Members requesting attendance and present on the call:

Rena Ferguson, Christin Kieffer, Norma Snelling

Minutes of the April 7, 2016 meeting were approved by the Board of Directors.

Minutes of the March 3, 2016 meeting were approved by the BOD's via e-mail.

OFFICER'S REPORT

President's Report, Susan Fleming

The proposed budget for 2016 was approved by the BOD's via e-mail.

First phase of voting for American Hero Dog Contest has ended.

Evaluator General Guidelines: Norma Snelling is finishing the revision. The documents will be shorter and the current forms will be placed on the website. Evaluators should always check the website prior to testing. Norma also discovered that there are several items on the scoresheet and standard guidelines pertaining to Land HRD that were not approved by the Board. She is correcting these errors.

The new Board will be seated at the June Board meeting. The following people will be leaving the Board: Sherry Scruggs, Robert Noziska and Heather Suedkamp. The following people will be

added to the Board for a three year term: Kathleen Kelsey, Heather Proper-Van Valkenberg, Jen Skeldon and Tricia Heldmann. The President will appoint someone to fill the vacant position by July 2016. All officer position will need to be filled at the June meeting.

Vice President's Report, Terry Crooks

Still working on making contacts to hopefully bring in retired people with business experience. These folks would be a great asset if willing to be on the Board of Directors.

Secretary's Report, Sherry Scruggs

Still editing the Policies and Procedures to be more user friendly and expunging unneeded items. Can't give an exact time line on when this will go out to the Board for review, but hopefully soon.

Treasurer's Report, Sherry Scruggs

Total Liabilities and Assets as of May 2, 2016 are \$84,424.32

The taxes are being worked on by the same accountant we have always used. Will be ready to file by the May 16 filing date.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Alliance Depot, Bridget Jackson

The store made \$47.00 in the month of April. Bridget is needing to step down from this position so the President will try and identify someone to take over the store duties.

Education Chair, Wade Boyd (e-mailed report)

Worked coordinating and facilitating Ann Wichmann's Disaster Skills seminar for the Washington State SAR Conference starting May 17th. Ann's class booked up with 8 dog teams and then tacked on one more... with one Auditor... Will set up NSDA posters and signs to advertise for the group. In addition to the three day pre-conference seminar Ann will also teach classroom sessions. For more information refer to WASARCON.org for details. I have also continued to edit some documents on the web site.

Evaluator Committee Chair, Heather Proper-Van Valkenberg

GSR Evaluators added to the evaluator list: Norma Snelling, K.T. Irwin, Janet Yatchak, JoMay Pescador, Roy Pescador. There are four new people taking the Trailing Workshop: Roy Pescador (apprentice), JoMay Pescador (apprentice), Heather Proper-Van Valkenberg (apprentice) and Heather Suedkamp (principle).

Fundraising Chair, Pat Reagan

No Report

Membership, Christin Kieffer

There is a total of 372 Current Members: 6 new members joined in April, 6 members renewed in April. Two teams renewed memberships in April, (still waiting on roster) so they are not included in totals above. Approx. 20 members will be renewed under these two teams.

Podcasts, Eva Briggs

No Report

Resource Committee Chair, Jan Meyer

No Report

Social Media Chair, Suzanne Elshult (e-mailed report)

As of May 1, 2016 there are 1054 Facebook members, 26 Twitter followers, and 25 Instagram followers.

Testing Chair, Rena Ferguson

As of the end of April there were a total of 75 tests given, with 32 tests in March and 27 in April.

Website, Laurie Strite (e-mailed report)

There were 7 change requests in the month of March: 2 problems corrected and 4 end user problems that were corrected.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Research Grant Money: Paul Martin had requested some or all of the Founding Member's research grant money to complete his research project. The Board had time to personally contact Paul with any questions they had. There was a short discussion and a motion was made by Susan Fleming and seconded by Kathleen Kelsey. MOTION: Award Paul Martin with the \$500.00 available for research. The motion unanimously passed. Sherry Scruggs will contact Mr. Martin with the decision and will send him an expense sheet to fill out and send in with receipts for reimbursement up to \$500.00.

Funding Evaluators for Regional Testing: NSDA pays to send evaluators to regional test to perform certification tests. Other organizations are using these evaluators to also test dogs to their personal standard, even though NSDA is the only organization that doesn't pass those costs onto the handler. There was discussion on how this should be handled so that NSDA isn't picking up the tab for everyone. It is difficult to manage and keep track of if there are several organizations doing testing. Susan Fleming made a motion and Terry Crooks seconded. MOTION: When there is a NSDA Regional Test, then only NSDA standards will be evaluated. The motion unanimously passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Evaluations: There are many evaluators that evaluate more than one discipline. Some of these disciplines are dependent on whether and some dependent on acceptable testing sites. Also some of these disciplines aren't requested very often. Presently, NSDA requires the evaluators to give or advertise a test every two years in ALL of the disciplines in which they are Principle Evaluators. There are evaluators that are actively giving tests, but not in every one of the disciplines they are qualified to test in. This means that they will be dropped off as evaluators. There was discussion by the Board that we certainly don't want to lose these evaluators because they aren't requested to give certain tests. Susan Fleming made a motion and Heather Proper-Van Valkenberg seconded. MOTION: Principle Evaluators are required to give or advertise a test at least every two years in at least one of the disciplines they test. The motion unanimously passed.

ACTION ITEMS

NONE

Heather Suedkamp made a motion to adjourn with a second by Heather Proper-Van Valkenberg. The motion passed unanimously and, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 P.M. EST.

/Sherry Scruggs, Secretary/May 6, 2016