

**NATIONAL SEARCH DOG ALLIANCE  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
January 19, 2008**

The National Search Dog Alliance held a meeting of the Directors by conference call on January 19, 2008. The call to order was by President Dee Wild at 7:07 PM, CST

The following Directors were present and constituted a quorum.

Dee Wild	Terry Crooks
Norma Snelling	Scott Robbins
Mary Jane Boyd	Lisa Higgins
Sherry Scruggs	Jennifer Massey

Members in attendance:

Dana Kirsch Ray	Peggy Ann Buchman
Dave Lynch	Deana Hudgins
Mary Saunders	Shay Walden
Larry Welker	

**I. NOTICE**

The meeting was called in accordance with the bylaws of the corporation. Notice was emailed to the directors and membership.

**II. FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT, Mary Jane Boyd**

A cash balance of \$21,266.34, less restricted cash of \$4,500 leaves \$16,766.34 available for operations.

**III. OFFICER'S REPORTS**

**President's Report by Dee Wild**

We are trying to hold down costs for NSDA by holding conference call meetings rather than using 800 numbers.

Our newsletter now has over 760 subscribers and has published 10 issues.

The Standards Committees are looking for hosting teams to "test the test" by handlers in this country and abroad. The teams will report back what they learned, recommend time to allot to the test, etc. to the committee. Any handler interested can get in on this. It is not for certification but for Beta testing purposes. Avalanche will be the first standard tested.

The First Annual Conference preparation is going on. It will be a hands-on program. More information will be put out in the newsletter as the plans progress.

The Executive Board is holding a Strategic Planning meeting in March.

**Vice President's Report, Norma Snelling**

The embroidery person chosen to do our work on T shirts, hats and other items will be sending samples to the Board in the next week.

**Treasurer's Report, Mary Jane Boyd**

As of January 19, 2008 we have 230 members, including 14 Founding, 2 Life members and 214 Introductory members. Members are from the U.S., Italy, Canada and the Philippines.

**Secretary's Report, Sherry Scruggs**

More Peer Review committee members were added to the Avalanche committee. Less members have been sending in requests for email address changes so it appears that more are using our web site for changes.

**IV. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Area:** Ms. Boyd reported that the preliminary draft has gone to the Board and Peer Review will begin next week.

**Avalanche:** Mr. Crooks stated the test is ready for testing. A request has been put out in the newsletter and one team response has been received so far.

**Disaster:** Ms. Scruggs said the draft went to the Board in December and is back to the committee for revisions. It is almost ready for Peer review.

**HRD:** Ms. Higgins reported the first draft is finished. It will be 2 – 4 weeks until Peer review.

**Tracking:** Ms. Massey stated the Basic and Advanced tests are completed. The committee is working on evaluator instructions. Peer review should be the end of January.

**Education:** Ms. Snelling reported that the committee members are developing a list of topics for the Training Manual which will be categorized into chapter headings. Chapters will be developed by groups within the committee.

**Conference:** A discussion took place discussing tentative instructors.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Wild explained ideas for the Strategic Plan: The Board will spend two days in March in New Orleans. It will be the first time in a year, since our first newsletter was printed, that the Board will have had a chance for a face to face meeting. We feel this is vital in order to work through issues which will arise and to plan for the future of the organization. Donna Kulawiak will be the facilitator for the meeting and will give the Board members assignments necessary for

preparation. The location was chosen because two Board members live in the immediate area and another is within driving distance.

Ms. Snelling suggested that holding our annual meeting at the time of the Strategic Planning meeting would save Board members from traveling twice. Ms. Wild countered by saying holding the annual meeting in September at Camp Atterbury when many members will already be attending would be even more efficient. A vote should be taken of the membership to waive our By-law requirement of having the annual meeting in June, which would be one year from our first membership offering. We could still hold elections in June. A notice will be sent out to all members.

Ms. Scruggs asked if there was any information available regarding our web site. The President stated that nothing is ready to report.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

Member Larry Welker presented a proposal to add another committee to the NSDA which he referred to as an Alliance Committee. NSDA has 230 members. The purpose would be to get the teams involved in a committee to discuss and solve team level issues. There is presently no good method for teams to communicate and share information. The first task would be to ID what is necessary in order to pull the teams together.

Ms. Snelling spoke in favor of the committee formation.

Ms. Scruggs asked how to determine what teams would be eligible to take part in the discussions and suggested that two members of each team would take back a better representation of what was discussed. Mr. Welker responded that a NSDA member would have to be a part of the team in order for it to be eligible and two people would certainly be desirable.

Ms. Boyd agreed that a NSDA member need to be on each team. She sees this committee as a “think tank operation”, not to set rules. They would have a round table discussion of team problems and operations. It would be an exchange of ideas. Mr. Welker responded that the committee was never intended to make rules. There would be an agenda to discuss problems affecting multiple teams. If a problem is identified it may be brought with suggestions to NSDA for work needed.

Ms. Wild stated the committee would not deal with dog training issues but with team problems, i.e. by-laws, team divisions, problem handlers, etc. An announcement will be placed in the newsletter.

Mr. Welker will start by identifying eligible teams, engage the teams to start it up and plan how to grow and discuss their first agendas. This could be done by Web cast or Web conference mode.

Ms. Scruggs thought it was a fantastic idea which could be provided as a perk to NSDA members’ teams. It will bring teams together across the nation.

A motion was made by Ms. Body and seconded by Mr. Robbins to form such a team as discussed above. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Ms. Boyd expressed concern about Board members time available. Ms. Snelling offered to be the Liaison if the Board desired. She will help Mr. Welker set up conference calls and identify teams.

Ms. Wild wanted to have a different name other than the Alliance Committee. Mr. Welker will make up a list of suggested names and provide it to the Board. He will outline the structure of the committee and identify any needs from the Board within the next 10 days. He will also write an article for the newsletter.

President Wild thanked the members in attendance and stated that any other ideas from members would be welcomed. She thanked Mr. Welker for his presentation and work.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the directors agreed to adjourn at 8:15 PM, CST.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Norma Snelling, Acting Secretary

Approved March 22, 2008