

NATIONAL SEARCH DOG ALLIANCE
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 22, 2007

The directors of the National Search Dog Alliance held a conference call meeting on September 22, 2007. The meeting began at 1900 and ended at 2015.

The following directors were present by telephone and constituted a quorum pursuant to the Bylaws of the Company: Dee Wild, President; Norma Snelling, Vice President; Mary Jane Boyd, Treasurer; Sherry Scruggs, Secretary; Terry Crooks; Lisa Higgins; Jennifer Massey. Also present by invitation were: Sylvia Arango; Mike Duceung; Marcia Koenig; Heather Roche; Mike Thomas; Shay Walden; and Larry Welker. Dee Wild presided as Chairman of the meeting and Sherry Scruggs acted as Secretary.

I. NOTICE

The meeting was called in accordance with the Bylaws of the Company. Notice was e-mailed to the directors and membership September 1, 2007 in accordance with the Bylaws.

II. FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT

Mary Jane Boyd, the Treasurer of National Search Dog Alliance then presented the financial status report. Our cash on hand totals \$16,620.42, \$3,000.00 of which is restricted funds. We have 191 members, which include thirteen founding members, one life member and 177 introductory members. The majority of the members are from the United States, but we have members from Italy, Canada and the Philippines. Not reflected in these numbers are one additional founding member and three introductory members whose applications were received today. Once these funds are deposited our cash total will be \$17,695.42, \$3,000.00 of which is restricted.

III. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

President's Report:

Dee Wild opened the meeting thanking those that have decided to join us this evening for our first quarterly general membership meeting. In an effort to help the members present know who is talking, the Board Member will announce themselves before making their comments. At this time, I would like to provide a brief overview of the latest efforts taking place within the organization.

- a. When a small group of handlers from across the country came together to form this organization, it was decided early on that we would make every effort to communicate with the members of the organization about what was taking place. It was decided that NSDA would not be operated in a

vacuum. Additionally, it was identified early on that experienced and less experienced handlers input was of value. Therefore, as we developed the by-laws, which was the first document of the organization, quarterly general membership meetings was included. This is our very first quarterly general membership meeting and we look forward to many more in the future.

- b. Our newsletter is now reaching over 680 handlers from across the US and abroad. We have published 7 newsletters since our inception in March 2007. The newsletter has grown to cover seminars, training, organizational updates, educational articles and research projects. We have been offered articles from Hatch Graham that we can publish in future newsletters. This will provide an important opportunity to develop a library of knowledge from some of our senior handlers. Future articles from handlers in other parts of the world and outcomes from research projects are also being plan.
- c. From an organizational perspective. We have obtained our incorporation status and have filed for 501.c.3 status, which we anticipate to have by the end of the year.
- d. We are in the process of developing Policies and Procedures that will outline organizational issues from how we handle our funds to dealing with programmatic issues.
- e. We have implemented committees that are actively working on developing standards, education programs or identifying better ways of communicating between user agencies and handlers. These committees will be discussed later in our meeting.
- f. A marketing plan is being developed. We will be looking at ways to provide information on canine SAR to the general public and potential canine handlers.
- g. Future projects
 - i. We are investigating a mentoring system where senior handlers can reach out to new teams getting started.
 - ii. Building working relationships with organizations that directly utilize canine resources
- h. The Executive Board is moving toward developing a strategic plan. It is important that the organization have a plan and the steps that will be taken in the future to accomplish the goals and objectives of the organization.
- i. A K-9 Memorial has been implemented. A special page on the website will be developed so that NSDA members can provide a photo and up to 300 words about their K-9 partner. The K-9 can either be in training or field operative for search and rescue. We hope that this will help handlers as they deal with the loss of a very special K-9.

Vice President's Report

Norma Snelling reported that Ben Alexander's research survey, which is now posted on the website, is being looked at and there have already been several responses. There needs to be two databases that could be constantly edited by members that have

volunteered to help in any way. One is a database listing discussion groups that exist around the country. The other is a database of SAR groups and where they are located.

Secretary's Report

Sherry Scruggs reported that an effort was being put forth to gather names of members interested in serving on peer review committees. These names and contact information are being populated onto a spreadsheet that the committee members can utilize to fill the positions on the peer review committee. The Committee Chair and Board Liaison can go through the spreadsheet and contact the members that have expressed an interest in serving on a committee. We are interested in having a broad spectrum of handlers serve on the peer review committees. If someone has specified several areas of interest we need attempt to utilize them in the area they have specified as their first interest.

Committee Reports:

- Policies and Procedures: The policies and procedures committee has developed its first draft.
- Education: The education committee should have a draft ready to go to the executive board by the end of September. They are working on a training manual and CD's. They still need more peer review committee members.
- Avalanche: The members are individually writing what they perceive to be the perfect testing criteria. They will be meeting two times within the next week.
- Area: They are working on how to address the different terrains that exist around the country. There will be a conference call scheduled.
- Disaster: The committee has identified templates that we will use to write our standards. We are presently editing and tweaking those documents to reflect the committee's ideas of how the standards should be written. We are pretty far along in discussing a lot of the details concerning the testing sites as well as what we expect of the dogs and handlers. I would expect that we could have a draft to the peer review committee within the next 4-6 weeks.
- Tracking/Trailing: The selection of members for the primary tracking committee has been completed. Ideas are being solicited from the committee members on "real life" parameters for the testing standard. We do not want scenarios to test training standards but rather what we are called upon to do when called out. The committee is collecting data on committee members' search experience in order to set realistic guidelines for the test standards. A first rough draft should be ready by the end of September.
- Land HRD: The committee is looking at standards that already exist for some SAR groups around the country plus looking at some law enforcement standards. They should have a draft ready for the peer review members in about two weeks.
- 2008 conference: The committee started looking at possible locations and dates.
- Law Enforcement: The members are looking at ways in which law enforcement and SAR personnel can all work together. They are also working on a code of ethics for handlers.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Membership cards: Continental Kennel Club has printed the first batch of membership cards. Peggy Ann Buchman has done an excellent job getting the first batch of membership cards out to the members. We anticipate having all of our membership cards out by the middle of next month.

Strategic plan for NSDA: Dee has identified someone to develop this for the organization. She may be asking the Executive Board for some preliminary input in preparation of the meeting. We hope to have the meeting in early 2008.

Website: The home page of the website needs to be reworked. The Yip Yap portion needs to be replaced and move some of the other items on the front page under a button. A Members Only section needs to be developed that would have information such as the organizations membership. that would take people to a member directory. We are also working on a canine team directory that will be posted on the website for individuals interested in getting involved or agencies looking for resources can go to see what is in their area. The membership application is on the website, and the webmaster is trying to make it so new members can fill in the blanks right on the website instead of having to download the file.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Dee Wild tabled the discussion about the Ruff Wear Company because Scott Robbins wasn't able to attend the conference call.

Dee Wild suggested that in the next newsletter, we remind people to provide us with their professional expertise on their membership application as often times, we have needs that are not canine related, such as marketing, strategic planning, education and research to name a few.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

They're being no further business, the directors agreed to adjourn the meeting at 2015.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherry Scruggs