



NATIONAL SEARCH DOG ALLIANCE
Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
January 5, 2017
certified

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Search Dog Alliance was held by conference call on January 5, 2017. President Susan Fleming called the meeting to order at 1701 hours MST.

The following directors were present and constituted a quorum: Susan Fleming, Julie Gibson, Bridget Jackson, Kathleen Kelsey, Jen Skeldon, Heather Proper-Van Valkenberg, Sue Wolff

Absent were: Terry Crooks, Norma Snelling,

NSDA members present were: Rena Ferguson, K.T. Irwin, Sherry Scruggs, Christin Kieffer-Wisser

Minutes of the December 1, 2016, Board Meeting were approved by the Board as written. Sue Wolff had a question going back to the November 2016 minutes regarding the change that was made and asked what that change was. As no one remembered, it was decided that minutes going forward from this January 2017 meeting would include any changes made to a previously corrected document.

OFFICER'S REPORTS

President's Report, Susan Fleming

President Fleming addressed the issue of Board Member's attendance at Board Meeting. She reported on absences in the seven (7) meetings of 2016 by current members: herself none; Terry 2; Julie 4; Bridget 4; Kathleen 3; Heather 1; Jen 1; Norma 1. She stated that meetings are scheduled for the same time every month and that Board members should make these meetings a priority in their schedules.

A thank you gift of \$300 has been sent to NSDA webmaster Gary Blocker for all the extra work and care that he has given the Alliance.

President Fleming announced that she has appointed Sue Wolff to fill a vacancy on the Board and selected K.T. Irwin as Evaluator Chair. The Education Chair is still vacant.

Vice President's Report, Terry Crooks

No report

Secretary's Report, Jen Skeldon

Secretary Skeldon stated that the Policies & Procedures as updated have been uploaded to the Google Drive folder. She said that the Policies and Procedures are a work-in-progress.

Treasurer's Report, Julie Gibson

Summary of the NSDA Financial Position as of December 31, 2016:

Net income=\$3,651.

Total Liabilities & Equity = \$82,017, a 4.7% increase from December 31, 2015.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Evaluator Chair, KT Irwin

No report

Newsletter, Norma Snelling (emailed report)

I would like to welcome Michael McMillan to our Newsletter Committee. He will be collecting and providing information on testing and seminars across the U.S. I would also like to thank Sue Wolff for stepping in and producing the January/February issue of SAR Dog News since I will be out of the country.

Membership Chair, Christin Kieffer-Wisser

Status	Number of members
Current	407
Expired	4
New	0
Founding	14
Lifetime	12
Total	437

Nominating Committee, Julie Gibson

Julie Gibson reported that she and Norma Snelling worked on a comprehensive list of what Regional Board positions need to be covered for 2017-2018, both one (1) year and (3) year, and ascertained who the members-at-large are for 2017-2018.

Podcasts, Eva Briggs (emailed report)

Two new Podcasts have been recorded: January 15 - Peter Kick, author of Desperate Steps, a book about wilderness mishaps in the northeast and lessons learned from them (lessons both for individuals and for SAR); Feb 15 – Dr. Cynthia Otto of Capable Canine/PennVet Working Dog Center on conditioning.

Others who have agreed to speak for future podcasts are Eric of Superfit Canines and Terry Fleck on legal issues focusing on Human Remains Detection

SAR Shop, Susanna Guizar (emailed report)

One patch and one decal sold.

Social Media Chair, Suzanne Elshult (emailed report)

Date	Facebook Likes	Twitter Followers	Instagram Followers
January 1, 2015	434	5	8
January 6, 2016	895	11	22
January 1, 2017	1201	32	50

Testing Administrator/Resource Chair, Sherry Scruggs

No Report

Testing Chair, Rena Ferguson

Rena Ferguson reported that four new forms have been posted on the web page.

Website Liaison, Laurie Strite (emailed report)

5 change requests completed; 0 problems

Julie Gibson wanted to know where to put the Board of Director's election information on the website. Sue Wolff suggested putting it as a separate item under *News*.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Currently the NSDA Evaluator Guidelines state:

NSDA Evaluators will not compromise our certification tests in any way. Our Evaluators promote objectivity in testing as well as avoid unprofessional appearance and possible jeopardy to court testimony. Therefore NSDA Evaluators will not participate in such activities as testing members of their own teams, family members **or handlers with whom they have trained in the six (6) months prior to testing**. Final decisions on unprofessional behavior rest with the Board of Directors.

A prolonged discussion followed regarding changing the length of time between instruction and testing to three (3) months from six (6) months. As no conclusion could be reached, President Fleming tasked Norma Snelling, K.T. Irwin and Sue Wolff with re-writing the sections on *Objective* and *Professionalism* for discussion and a vote at the next Board meeting.

In the Water Human Remains Detection Standard, some objections had been voiced regarding the use of placenta as a source. Also encasing cadaver material in concrete for testing had been talked about. After a lengthy discussion, President Fleming called for a vote on each item separately.

Can we use placenta as a source material for testing?

Julie Gibson– No

Jen Skeldon– No

Susan Fleming– No

Bridget Jackson – No

Heather Proper-Van Valkenberg– Yes

Sue Wolff– Yes

As a result of the voting, placenta was rejected as a source for Water Human Remains Detection testing.

Can we use any cadaver material encased in concrete for testing?

Sue Wolff– No

Jen Skeldon– Yes

Bridget Jackson– No

Susan Fleming– No

Heather Proper-Van-Valkenberg– No

Kathleen Kelsey– No

Julie Gibson– Yes

The result of the voting was that cadaver material cannot be encased in concrete for testing.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

There being no further business, Sue Wolff made a motion to adjourn with a second by Julie Gibson. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 1802 hours MST.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sue Wolff", written in a cursive style.

Sue Wolff, Acting Secretary/January 5th, 2017