



NATIONAL SEARCH DOG ALLIANCE
Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

February 2, 2017

certified

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Search Dog Alliance was held by conference call on Thursday, February 2, 2017. Acting President Terry Crooks called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. EST.

The following Directors were present and constituted a quorum:

Terry Crooks, Julie Gibson, Kathleen Kelsey, Heather Proper-Van Valkenberg, Sue Wolff

Absent were:

Susan Fleming (on leave), Jen Skeldon (on leave), Norma Snelling (out of the country)

Also attending were:

Rena Ferguson, K.T. Irwin, Roy Pescador, Sherry Scruggs

Minutes from the January 2, 2017 meeting were approved as written.

OFFICER'S REPORTS

Acting President's Report, Terry Crooks

Since President Susan Fleming is on leave, he is Acting President. In his capacity as Vice-President, he has been doing business online as before. He has received a request for tests in Texas which he has forwarded to Rena Ferguson for scheduling.

Acting Secretary's Report, Sue Wolff

As Secretary Jen Skeldon is on a leave of absence, Acting President Terry Crooks appointed Sue Wolff to the job temporarily. Sue Wolff reported that she had sent a thank you letter to Lee Shumsky of New Jersey for a donation of \$150 to NSDA.

Treasurer's Report, Julie Gibson (e-mailed report)

Summary of the NSDA Financial Position as of January 31, 2017:

Net income=\$1,751, Total Liabilities & Equity = \$83,783, a 4.6% increase over the same period in 2016.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education, Roy Pescador

Roy Pescador reported that President Fleming had appointed him to the position of Chair of the Education Committee before going on leave. He said he had no report as he is waiting for direction.

Newsletter, Norma Snelling (emailed report)

Readers stand at 1,363. Mike McMillan is doing excellent job of finding seminars and conferences to add to newsletter list plus he is sending articles.

Membership, Christin Kieffer-Wisser, (emailed report)

Status	# of members
Current	409
Expired	24
New	18
Founding	14
Lifetime	12
Total	477

Nominating Committee, Julie Gibson

Julie Gibson reported that information regarding NSDA elections had been put out on Facebook, in an email to NSDA members and on the NSDA website. She has sent out three applications so far but has not received any back.

PODCASTS, Eva Briggs, (emailed report as she is working)

I have a Podcast recording for the February 15th and several interviews coming up in the pipeline.

SAR Shop, Susanne Guizar, (emailed report)

No sales

Sue Wolff mentioned that customers were unable to order from the NSDA website because SAR Shop had new address but did not inform NSDA.

Social Media Chair, Suzanne Elshult, (emailed report)

NSDA Social Media Metrics 2017

Facebook

Date	Metric
	Likes
November 2014	434
January 6, 2016	895
January 1, 2017	1201
January 29.2017	1224

NSDA Social Media Metrics 2017 continued

Twitter

Date	Metric
	Followers
January 1, 2015	5
January 6, 2016	11
January 1, 2017	32
January 29, 2017	32

Instagram

Date	Metrics
	Followers
January 1, 2015	8
January 6, 2016	22
	23
January 1, 2017	50
January 29, 2017	50

Testing Administrator/Resource Chair, Sherry Scruggs

Sherry Scruggs asked that this section's reports be put under the Evaluator Chair as they are relevant to each other. She reported that there had been one test so far in 2017. She said that two people had called her saying that they should be included on the Resource List and she is researching that assertion. She asked that she be informed if anyone knows of someone who is missing from the List. She said she is in the process of removing handlers who have defunct certifications.

Evaluator Committee Chair, K. T. Irwin

- Principal Evaluator Observations score sheet for Apprentice Rachel Kravitz received from Bill Hilsman via Principal Evaluator Jan Meyer. Documentation forwarded to acting president, Terry Crooks. Evaluator Chair requests Board approve Rachael Kravitz as Principal Evaluator in the discipline of Land HRD.
- Principal Evaluator Observations score sheet for Apprentice Sue Bonney received from Bill Hilsman via Principal Evaluator Ann Wichmann. Documentation forwarded to acting president, Terry Crooks. Evaluator Chair requests Board approve Sue Bonney as Principal Evaluator in the discipline of Disaster Type III.
- Received report from Christine Wisser regarding expired membership dues.

Testing Chair, Rena Ferguson

Rena Ferguson reported that there was little activity in January but things have picked up in the last two days. She said two new forms have been added to the website under the Testing Tab. They are the Testing Form for individual or Small Groups and Regional Testing information.

Website Liaison, Laurie Strite (emailed report-conflicting meeting)

WEBSITE STATUS; Month of January:
15 changes completed
1 end user problem closed out

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Water Standards, Sherry Scruggs

Sherry Scruggs wanted to commend the Water HRD Committee for all their work. The standard has been completed and approved. She asked Acting President Crooks if it is alright to send the finished work to Laurie Strite for posting on the NSDA website and he said yes. Acting President Crooks stated that more research needs to be done on some of the sections and re-evaluated in two years by another committee.

Rewrite of Evaluator Objectives & Professionalism, Sue Wolff

In January, President Susan Fleming tasked Norma Snelling, K. T. Irwin and Sue Wolff with clarifying two sections of the Evaluator Guidelines. These were the Objective and Professionalism. The following was presented to the Board for comparison.

OBJECTIVE: CURRENT VERBIAGE

The objective of an NSDA Evaluator is to encourage the training, testing, maintenance and subsequent deployment of capable K---9 SAR teams. Within this purpose, NSDA Evaluators are to focus on the gravity of the mission and the personal responsibility of the K---9 team. They are to be mission oriented and to seek the best for others, the team and, above all, the lost and hurting they are called to serve. SAR K---9 is not a hobby but a calling. The NSDA tests are set up to challenge the credibility of the team which is testing. It is not to be used as a process to gift a certification to a team that has not clearly shown themselves ready for the mission. It is not designed to be used to politicize K---9 search and rescue (SAR) but to challenge everyone to work together. The deployment of the dog teams that we would want called if it were ours in need must always be a serious consideration.

OBJECTIVE: NEW WORDING

The objective of an NSDA Evaluator is to test canine teams in the discipline in which they have been approved to test; to follow the guidelines of the standards to the best of their ability as is stated within each separate standard; to judge teams fairly, not harshly and not easily but justly while considering environmental factors that may affect the test as is stated within the standards for each separate discipline.

PROFESSIONALISM: CURRENT VERBIAGE

The Evaluator is a vital part in the testing/educational component of NSDA. It is not an opportunity for egotistic control or showmanship of the Evaluator's talents, tricks, cleverness or personal agenda. Experience mixed with humility is a very important blend when dealing with humans, dogs and the environment. The examination also assesses the Evaluators' ability to administer tests accurately and realistically. As an Evaluator, they are there to not only critique the team's performance but also to inform. It is easy to set up tests to fail the team if the handler does not understand variable environmental challenges. Tests are intended to pressure the candidate and challenge them under stress and at the same time present an opportunity for learning in a realistic setting rather than in an actual SAR situation.

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.

PROFESSIONALISM: NEW WORDING

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NSDA Evaluators shall not compromise our certification tests in any way. Our Evaluators shall practice objectivity in testing as well as demonstrate professional actions and appearance. Therefore NSDA Evaluators will not participate in such activities as testing members of their own teams, family members or handlers with whom they train or test regularly. NSDA realizes that there may be extenuating circumstances in which this may be necessary. If this situation should arise, please notify the NSDA Testing Committee Chair immediately. If need be, the Testing Committee Chair may confer with the Evaluator Committee for a ruling on the matter. Final decisions on unprofessional behavior or the compromising of our standards rests with the Executive Committee.

Sue Wolff made a motion to approve the new verbiage for the Evaluator Guidelines with a second by Heather Proper-Van Valkenberg. Voting was as follows:

Terry Crooks - yes

Julie Gibson - yes

Kathleen Kelsey - yes

Heather Proper Van-Valkenberg - yes

Sue Wolff yes

The motion was approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Acting President Crooks mentioned that Hero Dog nominations were now open. He encouraged K-9 handlers to nominate their dogs and to select NSDA as their charity partner.

As there was no further business, Julie Gibson made a motion to adjourn with a second by Sue Wolff. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m. EST.



Sue Wolff, Acting Secretary/February 2, 2017