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USNMC Board Meeting Minutes for November 15, 2011

**Attendance:** Joe Attaway, Peggy Wolfe, Rachel Hosking, Wendy Gieske, Ciaran McCloskey, Lena Moles, Susan Vann-Spruill, Dr. Robin White, Heidi Brown, Troy Stroud

**Absent:** Dr. Pierluigi Scalia

**Guest:** Jessica Stite

Meeting called to order at 9:04 PM EST by Joe A, President

Joe asked that the topic of the website be moved to the beginning of the meeting for the convenience of our guest. It was also agreed to move the Executive Session topic from "Old Business" to the end of the meeting after all "New Business."

There was a brief discussion of the status of the club's website. Jessica has joined the committee and Robin also volunteered to join the committee. Jessica stated that she had a friend with the ability to re-do the club's website and asked what does the club want from the website. The conclusion of the discussion was that the committee should meet and come up with some ideas on how to proceed. Jessica signed off after this discussion.

**Minutes from previous Meeting.** Motion to approve the minutes made by Troy. Second by Ciaran. All unanimous.

**President's Message:** Joe thanked everyone for showing up and asked that as this was a full agenda that we keep to topics and proceed quickly.

**Secretary's Report**

Secretary has:

- mailed award certificates to all those who earned them but did not attend the National Dinner There were enough extra Dinner Programs that I included one in each envelope so they could all see all award earners
- Mailed thank-you cards to Marlene Church and Rex Davis for their splendid above-and-beyond the norm donations to our fund-raising auction. Also included in each of these was one of those little silver engraved plates as we could not re-use them in the future and there were only 2 left
- Mailed to Robin White a copy of each of the old neograms so she could scan in all the health-related articles included in them over the years.
- Created October little Neogram for mailing / emailing to members (copy sent to board separately for review before mailing)
- Mailed judges certificates for the 3 judges who attended the seminar
- Re-did the draft of the History document into one word file
- Mailed the membership ballots to the board

**Treasurer's Report:**

UNITED STATES NEAPOLITAN MASTIFF CLUB

REGIONS BANK BUSINESS CHECKING

September 1, 2011 - September 30, 2011

Activity Summary

Beginning Balance as of 9/01		\$3,038:78
Deposits/Credit		
New Members Fee	\$135:00	
2011 Nationals Dinner	\$135:00	
Deposit/Credit - 2 items	\$270:00	
Withdrawals/Debts		
9/21 Duhon CPA		\$250:00

Withdrawals/Debts - 1 item \$250:00  
 Ending Balance as of 8/31/201 \$3,058.78

Summary of checks written -  
 09/21 Check 02 Duhon & Associates - CPA \$250:00  
 Prep. Of 2010 Tax Return

REGIONS BANK SAVINGS ACCOUNT  
 September 1, 2011 - September 30, 2011

Activity Summary  
 Beginning Balance on 9/01 \$10,698.27  
 Deposits/Credit 0:44  
 Withdrawals/Debts 0:00  
 Ending Balance as of 8/31/2011 \$10,698.71

PUTNUM INVESTMENT ACCOUNT  
 2011 YEAR-TO-DATE STATEMENT  
 01/01/2011 - 06/31/2011

Beginning Balance 01/01/2011 \$3,991.55  
 Change in Value 0.00  
 Ending Balance 06/30/2011 \$3,991.55

UNITED STATES NEAPOLITAN MASTIFF CLUB  
 REGIONS BANK BUSINESS CHECKING  
 October 1, 2011 - October 31, 2011

Activity Summary  
 Beginning Balance as of 10/01 \$3,058:78  
 Deposits/Credit  
 Transfer from Savings \$1,500:00  
 2011 National Dinner \$360:00  
 2011 National Dinner (paypal) \$500:00  
 Deposit/Credit - 3 items \$2,360:00  
 Withdrawals/Debts  
 CafePress (Ways & Means \$33.95  
 Richard J Reame Trophy \$32.62  
 Clarion Hotel (Dinner) \$2,908.22  
 Café Press (Ways & Means) \$494.21  
 Clarion Hotel (Dinner) \$85.10  
 USNMC – Cash \$500.00  
 Debit Card Fee \$4:00  
 Withdrawals/Checks - 6 items \$4,058.10  
 Ending Balance as of 10/31/2011 \$1,360.68

Summary of checks written -  
 10/14 Check 03 USNMC - Cash \$500:00  
 Cash change for Nationals (Ways & Means and Auction) - \$500 will be deposited back into account.

REGIONS BANK SAVINGS ACCOUNT  
 October 1, 2011 - October 31, 2011

Activity Summary  
 Beginning Balance on 10/01 \$10,698.71  
 Deposits/Credit 0:40

Withdrawals/Debts		
Transfer to Checking Acct	1,500:00	
Ending Balance as of 10/31/2011		<u>\$9,199.11</u>

PUTNUM INVESTMENT ACCOUNT  
2011 YEAR-TO-DATE STATEMENT  
01/01/2011 - 10/31/2011

Beginning Balance 01/01/2011		\$3,991.55
Change in Value	0.00	
Ending Balance 10/31/2011		<u>\$3,991.55</u>

Status of Putnum Account: As of November 7th, 2011, the Putnum Fund has been closed. The funds have been redeemed and a check was mailed to NEORESCUE, INC in the amount of \$3,991.550 on November 8th, 2011.

Peggy moved to accept the treasurer's Report. Troy Seconded. All in favor.

**Committee Reports**

**2011 National Specialty:** Robin reviewed the National Specialty financial report submitted by Robin and sent to the Board as part of the Treasurer's Report and noted that there was an additional \$30 received from Cafepress after the info had been sent. Joe thanked David, Robin and the rest of the committee for the work well done. Joe also noted that Rachel's mother had made some wonderful sacks to hold and protect the challenge trophies.

**2012 National Specialty:** Susan reported that the show cluster had accepted the USNMC's request to join them in 2013 as well. The AKC clubs were now meeting to determine how and if they could use our judge on their judging panel. Lena noted that we do have a responsibility to help FCI judges understand AKC protocol when they come to this country. It was noted that Sharon Costello had had dinner with Imbimbo before the weekend began and had gone over AKC protocol at that time. Robin noted that she had a list of helpful hints / clues / ideas / suggestions for the show committee.

**Historian Committee:** Peggy reported that a draft of the History document had been made available at the National and copies had been sent to board members and to other long-established club members for review and feedback. All kinds of ideas had been suggested, both positive and negative feedback received. She reported that Lena and Wendy were volunteering to now take this draft to the next level and that she would be happy to help them if they needed her help.

**Membership Committee:**  
**REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (Nov. 15, 2011)**

The Board has accomplished a great deal of updating Membership initiatives in a very short time. **Thank-you all** for expediting the approval for the updated forms, the future "Membership Buttons" and the Membership Drive and Drawing under tense circumstances, i.e. in the month preceding the 2011 National. I hope you all got a chance to look at the new forms, sample surveys and other forms in person at the National. I'm very grateful for all of your suggestions and tried to accommodate as many as possible. They aren't written in stone and can be amended in the future as needed. The Secretary can take what she wants for her database – the extra info is data that may or may not be used in the future. Not sure when or how the Membership buttons should go out – we need discussion on this. Many suggestions have been made. Please let me know what you would like to do. There are pros and cons for all of these; hopefully we can work out the details soon.

The Board has also discussed a Lapsed Membership Process. Discussions have led to a procedure that parallels the membership process and is streamlined and painless. Hopefully we can get a method and new form in use soon. I'll be emailing you a list of people who did not renew last year.

The Membership Drive Drawing will end on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, coinciding with the membership renewals for 2012. And related to this: please see the requests for short meetings in early Dec 2011 and early March 2012 **which directly affect the timetable for new members confirmed** this year and sponsors when applicable, who would be entered into the drawing in 2011 and again in 2012 if they renew on time. **This timetable also affects new full members who wish to become members by Dec 31.** I would like to have a volunteer to do the Drawing online with a Skype type program or something similar in March, date to be announced. My first choices to do this would be Joe or Lena. And, a very special thank-you to Carlo Pietroniro for donating the fantastic handmade leather collar!

At the 2011 Annual Meeting and in previous Board discussions, Lena Moles suggested that we use a 1-5 year payment option for annual dues and the idea was passed by a quorum at that Meeting. A renewal form and details need to be approved for that process. I would like to get a form approved as soon as possible – renewals need to be mailed in December.

Most of you saw the sample surveys for present and former members at the National. These were based on Cathy's former Membership Committee's sample survey that she forwarded to me. I would like to use these in the future to send out to a few people picked at random; to get their answers to the questions and to get their feedback about the questions and then make changes as necessary. One of our goals is to find out who and why people join this club and why some have let their memberships lapse. Surveys can be a great tool when used logically.

I would also like to remind everyone that we (and previous Boards as found in previous minutes) have discussed prorating the dues in the past: a suggestion would be to offer a discount of 10%, 15%, 20%, 25%, in Sept, Oct, Nov and Dec respectively or a 20%, 25%, 30%, 35% in Sept, Oct, Nov and Dec respectively or whatever – you get the picture. I'd like to explore this whenever the Board sees fit to discuss it again.

As reported by the Secretary we have several applications going and I have mailed many more out to people in the last 3 weeks so I won't repeat that information here. I am looking forward to Welcoming New Members to the USNMC!

### **MEMBERSHIP APPLICANTS**

All four applicants from the last meeting and published in the mini-Neogram were voted in as new Members. Eleven applications were now ready for processing and will be published in the next mini-Neogram:

#### **Ready for processing:**

Adrian and Karli Bueno	Family Sponsors	Suzanne Storms & Charina Smith
Anna Price	Full Sponsors	Suzanne Storms & Charina Smith
Ted & Sandra Hosking	Family Sponsors	Joe Attaway & Susan Vann Spruill
Autumn Mahoney & Harry Dobson III	Family Sponsor	Charina Smith & Mindy Aaron-McElyea
Edin Quick	Full Sponsor	Charina Smith & Mindy Aaron-McElyea
Tabitha Johnson	Subscriber	(no sponsors needed)
Marcus & Theresa Curtis	Family Sponsors	Joe Attaway & Troy Stroud

Hector Pizano                      Full      Sponsors                      Rachel Hosking & Lena Moles

**STILL WAITING**

Alaina Pierret                      Full      Sponsor                      Rachel Hosking & Lena Moles  
(waiting for Moles form)

Deena Patterson                      Full      Sponsors                      Charina Smith & Mindy Aaron-McElyea  
(waiting for both sponsor forms)

NOTE: Charina Smith has already sponsored 5 applicants in 2011...Patterson needs a different sponsor

**Old Business**

**Relationship with Neorescue and USNMC:** As nothing had yet been heard back from Neorescue about the proposal presented to them in September, this topic was tabled.

**Meet The Breeds:**

New York booth on schedule to proceed this coming weekend.

Florida Booth: Appeals have been made for new volunteers to staff the booth. Rachel has two persons who contacted her and she will be following up with them.

**New Business**

**Determination of suitability of club members for official roles** (submitted by a club member for board consideration)

**Proposed;** That the USNMC board of directors create a Standing Procedure that no club member who is convicted in a court of law of cruelty to animals shall be allowed to represent the club in any official or public capacity (such as committee member, committee chair, etc.).

This topic was discussed and it was decided that we should find out from other Parent Clubs what their policies are in this respect. Peggy offered to contact the Parent Club email list and report back.

**Need to activate Judges Selection Committee to come up with a list of judge candidates for 2013 – 2014 nationals**

The board should now create an active committee to build a list of judges suitable for future Nationals. The board to give that committee a deadline so the list can be sent to the members and gotten back in time for the 2013 national planning. Past members who have volunteered for this committee include: Rhoda Winter-Russell. Sharon Costello, Lena Moles, Rita Biddle and Jim Deppen. Board members volunteered to contact these individuals to see if they were still willing to perform this task for the club and report back at the next meeting.

**Consideration of whether or not to accept Troy Stroud's automatic resignation**

Troy Stroud missed two board meetings in 2011 without notifying anyone in advance. Therefore, per the bylaws, his resignation has been automatically submitted.

Peggy made a motion to accept Troy's reasons for non-attendance and to allow Troy Stroud to continue as a board member. Seconded by Troy. Voting: Ayes:Peggy, Rachel, Troy, Robin Nays: Lena, Heidi, Ciaran, Susan, Wendy. Motion failed. Troy thanked everyone for their work on the board and signed off.

Board members briefly discussed filling the now-empty position. Some names were suggested. It was decided to table this decision to the next meeting.

**Executive Session Topic:** The board entered Executive Session.

**Next Meeting:** a brief discussion was held regarding the next meeting schedule. Decided on Dec 6. Robin moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:08pm CST