

**USNMC Board Meeting Minutes for September 20, 2011**

**Attendance:** Joe Attaway, Peggy Wolfe, Rachel Hosking, Wendy Gieske, Ciaran McCloskey, Lena Moles (at 9:10p), Susan Vann-Spruill, Dr. Robin White.  
**Absent:** Troy Stroud, Dr. Pierluigi Scalia, Heidi Brown

**Guests:** Stephanie Paulicelli (President NRI), Cathy White (Treasurer, NRI) Joe Steinfeld (Director NRI)

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

Peggy asked that the topic of the relationship between Neorescue, Inc and USNMC be moved from Old Business to the beginning of the meeting for the convenience of our guests. She also asked that an item for Executive Session be added to the end of the meeting. All were in agreement with the agenda changes.

Relationship Between NRI & USNMC Stephanie reported that they had done an initial review of the document outlining the proposed relationship between the two organizations. They found it, in general, to be reasonable but felt that they had to discuss it as a board in total first before proceeding. They will review and come back to the USNMC.

There was a brief discussion of the status of the monies in the Putnum MM account. Rachel H explained that procedure as outlined by Putnum and that she was working with the Putnum representatives to get the transfer enacted. She cautioned that the Putnum folk expected it to take no more than 6 months but it was not known how much sooner things would happen. There was a discussion of the process. The NRI folk signed off after this discussion

**Minutes from previous Meeting.** Motion to approve the minutes made by Susan V. Second by Lena M.. all unanimous.

**President's Message:** Joe reported that the National was getting close and that preparations were underway. .

**Secretary's Report**

Review of old Procedures Guide continues. The website updates are continuing. Every single page needs to be reviewed for corrections. Everything sent to Barbara so far has been updated. The 2011 National information has been corrected (typo in hotel phone #)

**Treasurer's Report:**

**Tax** – 2010 tax form has been filed on deadline.

**UNITED STATES NEAPOLITAN MASTIFF CLUB  
REGIONS BANK BUSINESS CHECKING  
August 1, 2011 - August 31, 2011 Activity Summary**

<b>Beginning Balance as of 8/01</b>		<b>\$2,684.97</b>
Deposits/Credit		
Transfer from Savings	\$2,325.03	
New Members Fee	<u>\$135.00</u>	
<b>Deposit/Credit - 2 items</b>	<b>\$2,450.03</b>	

**Withdrawals/Debts**

8/8 Hodges Badge Company	\$2,096.22
<b>Withdrawals/Debts - 1 item</b>	<b><u>\$2,096.22</u></b>

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**Ending Balance as of 8/31/2011** **\$3,038.78**

**Summary of checks written**

**No checks written**

**One debit for 2011 National/Regional Trophy's  
to Hodges Badge Company in amount of \$2,096.22.**

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**REGIONS BANK SAVINGS ACCOUNT**

**August 1, 2011 - August 31, 2011 - Activity Summary**

<b>Beginning Balance on 8/01</b>		<b>\$13,012.80</b>
Deposits/Credits	+\$0.50	
Withdrawals/Debits		<u>-\$2,315.03</u>
<b>Ending Balance on 8/31</b>		<b><u>\$10,698.27</u></b>

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**PUTNUM INVESTMENT ACCOUNT**

2011 YEAR-TO-DATE STATEMENT 01/01/2011 - 06/31/2011

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

**Status of Putnum Account:** Funds still remain with money market account and have not transferred to NEO RESCUE, INC. Putnum informed me that it could take up to 190 days after authorization has been approved. I have not received notice of authorization as of this date. I have not received a current statement and the most recent is June 30, 2011.

**Tax:** 2010 Corporate Tax Return has been complete (see attachment).

**Insurance:** Atlanta Expo Center requested a Certificate of Insurance with Additional insured listed. This form was completed, sent to Equisure, Inc and they will send directly to the facility manager at the Atlanta Expo Center, deadline request 10/01/2011

**Status of 501C7.** Rachel will meet with a new CPA on Tuesday to discuss the club's irs status and the advisability of 501C7 (non-profit).

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

**Committee Reports**

**Membership Committee:** Wendy G. reported that she was sending a letter to each of the 23 members who had not been given the correct Code of Ethics to sign upon their joining the club. The letter briefly outlines the club's mistake and asked them to sign and return the correct COE in a stamped – addressed envelope.

Peggy reported that she has not heard back from the AKC Club Relations on the advisability of changing the bylaws in two stages. She hypothesized that they would say that the club could do what it wanted even though it would probably not be the best way to proceed from their point of view. She promised to follow up with them again.

**National Specialty:** Robin W. reported that the committee had things fairly well in hand for the time being. The committee was meeting again next week. Rachel H noted that there had been, to date, no dinner reservations received! There was a discussion of the effectiveness of the emailed notices and of the internet postings going on. All were encouraged to get their own dinner reservations in and to encourage others to do as well.

Cairan volunteered to be the one to take dinner reservations at the show, to staff a table at the show or the entrance to the banquet or whatever it took.

### **New Member Applications**

Peggy reported that there appeared to be two applications ready for processing and 10 more in various stages waiting for documentation (some waiting for sponsor forms, some for correct COE signatures.) The membership committee is following up closely on the applications waiting to be processed.

The two ready for processing are

<b>Hector Pizaon</b>	Full	\$ Rec'd / COE - OLD
	Sponsors	Lena Moles & Rachel Hosking BOTH REC'D
<b>Mario Nieto</b>	Full	\$ Rec'd / COE = CORRECT
	Sponsors	Lena Miles & Rachel Hosking BOTH REC'D

The process for membership was discussed both what is required by the bylaws and what is customary. The current bylaws require that

- 1) the applications are presented to the board
- 2) The board votes (secret ballot)
- 3) The list of applications must be published in two sets of minutes of club meetings

Peggy noted that board meetings are not club meetings and that the only club meeting the USNMC holds is the Annual Meeting. She also noted that the bylaws do not state that applications have to appear in the club meeting minutes before the board votes....so the board may vote at any time.

It is customary to publish applications to club members so members know who is joining their club and can also provide feedback to the board before the board votes. It may also be customary to "read applications into the board meeting minutes"

Peggy motioned that as a regular procedure we publish membership applications in the monthly emailed Neogram and that two weeks after this publication the board be mailed a ballot (double-blind envelope procedure as outlined in the bylaws) to vote on applications. Motion seconded by Wendy. All unanimous.

*Note: After the meeting it was determined that Hector Pizaon's application lacked a correct COE and so was not quite ready for processing.*

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 11. Neogram and communications with members**

##### **Current situation:**

While it has always been true, we are finding even more difficult than before to get materials submitted to the Neogram.

##### **PROPOSED:**

That the USNMC board vote to do the Neogram as a Monthly Newsletter and an Annual Magazine.

Produce a monthly emailed (mailed) small newsletter to the membership, and deem this emailed Newsletter to be another manifestation of the Neogram. This would be at most 16-20 "pages" (in the size of a premium-list which makes it 4-5 printed physical pages).

One Annual Neogram (perhaps re-named to the Neogram Annual or Yearbook) with special report on all USNMC Shows and events (national, all regionals, meet-the-breeds) and include end-of-year announcements such as any metrics, congrats, etc. With this annual to be printed and mailed as a club magazine.

Wendy made the motion to produce the Neogram as a monthly (emailed / mailed to those with no email) newsletter focusing on club business and announcements and as an annual magazine to be printed and mailed to all members. Seconded by Peggy. All unanimous.

**AGENDA ITEM I-2 Funding for Meet The Breeds (and other similar events).**

**BACKGROUND**

USNMC Club Members have volunteered to staff two Meet The Breeds (MTB) booths as part of two AKC-sponsored events. One at the AKC Meet The Breeds in New York in November (coordinated by Cathy White with help of Joe Steinfeld, Ted Deluca and others) and one at the AKC Eukaneuba in Florida in December (coordinated by Rachel Hosking, Charina Smith and others).

The question was asked, “will the USNMC contribute toward the expenses of the club attenders?”

The USNMC Board needs to develop a policy towards these sorts of events. Whatever we plan to do for one, we should plan to do for both, indeed, for any that come up.

The board reviewed and discussed the old policy (see attachment). Wendy made a motion to approve this as the current policy. Seconded by Cairan. All in favor. It was suggested that the Judges / Public Education group should be contacted to see if they had additional input.

**AGENDA ITEM I-3 Need for Legislation Committee**

The board discussed the suggestion by member, Rita Biddle, that the club maintain a Legislation Committee if only to keep track of proposed legislation around the country and communicate it to club members.

It was noted that the AKC has a Legislation Department who will send email alerts to the club contacts. These can be used to communicate with others and as Club Secretary, Peggy is automatically also notified of these legislative alerts.

It was also noted that anyone can sign up for these alerts. It was decided that members should be encouraged to sign up for these alerts and that when one was received by the club Secretary that was of particular interest to our club / breed it would be communicated to the membership in the Emailed Neogram. No separate committee was developed at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM: I-4 Need to develop documentation of basic minimum criteria for acceptance of any Proposal for the National Specialty.**

Tabled again until a future meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The board went into executive session to discuss a matter of importance to the club.

Meeting adjourned at 12:18am EST

**ATTACHEMENT**

**Funding of Breed Seminars or Breed Info**

*At the January, 2007 Board meeting the following was approved: This was reviewed and re-approved at the September, 2011 meeting.*

The Board enacted a procedure to fund the cost of educational breed booths or seminars with the expectation that no individual event would be reimbursed over \$300 and that there would be no more than 5 or 6 events a calendar year.

**Criteria:**

- Event must be managed by a club member
- Event must be scheduled / approved by the board before being enacted for club funding (to be sure we don't have conflicts and that we haven't "maxed out" for the year)
- Receipts must be provided to the Treasurer before reimbursement
- Allowable and re-imbursable expenses:
  - copying of materials,
  - shipping of any materials from club inventory to member or event location;
  - gas costs or transportation or one night lodging (not food) in a hotel
- Maximum reimbursement per event would be \$300 (even if multi-day)
- Expectation is that we would have around 5 or 6 events a year funded in this manner.

**WHAT TO DO:**

If a club member becomes aware of an opportunity to put on a seminar or host a breed-education booth and would like to be reimbursed for some expenses by the club:

- Contact any member of the Board of Directors, usually the Secretary and ask that it be approved.  
Info to provide
  - Date of event; type of event (booth, seminar, etc)
  - Location (city, state, any pertinent information)
  - What materials you would need provided by the club
- This will either be added to the agenda at the next board meeting or, if time is of the essence, board members will be polled before the meeting and the result affirmed at the next meeting.

If a member gives a breed seminar, they should also get a copy of the attendance roster and provide that to the USNMC Education Committee Chair.

It would also be nice if members could provide an article for the newsletter on the experience (with photos of possible).