

**USNMC BOARD MEETING  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2008  
MINUTES**

**In Attendance:** Sharon Costello, Ingrid Fortunato, Donna Welty, Irene O’Connor,  
Rita Biddle, Kendail Gonzales, Jennifer Groves, Nikki Stamper, Shani Stewart-Robbins  
Nydia Thornton

**Absent:** Anita Goetz

**Meeting called to order** at 9:05 PM EST by President Sharon Costello

Motion made to accept minutes from June 8, 2008 as printed by Jennifer Groves and seconded by Nikki Stamper.

*Motion made via email by Jennifer Groves to amend to rescind the motion from the November 11, 2007 BOD minutes where we state “Jennifer Groves moves that dues payment deadline ‘grace time’ is extended to one 30 day period. Nikki Stamper seconds. Motion passed. All ayes.” 6 ayes, 1 abstain,*

*Motion made via email by Jennifer Groves to amend to rescind the May 6, 2008 minutes for Pierluigi Scalia being placed in for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading as associate, and please amend the ballot that Pierluigi Scalia\* was sent out on and please amend the June 8, 2008 BOD minutes where his name appears again for a 2<sup>nd</sup> printing due to the fact that this is incorrect. He is a renewal – not a new member associate applicant.” 6 ayes, 1 abstain*

President’s Message: Mrs. Costello stated that the BOD must concentrate on the COE and Bylaws at this meeting. Corrected copy of Bylaws will be sent to BOD via email.

Secretary’s Report: **Correspondence sent:** Various emails re: legislation, ballot results on ATIMANA and Neogram; ballot results on new club members, drafts of Bylaws and Code of Ethics; letter to Mr. Guiseppe Alessandra re: ATIMANA; phone calls to AKC re: breed information being sent; letter sent to support anti-msn in Chicago. **Correspondence received:** AKC emails re: Responsible Dog Owners Day; legislative alerts; Spotted Lizard T-Shirts; videographer from Ohio.

Membership:

Applications presented for 2<sup>nd</sup> printing:

Theresa Almeida	Pennsylvania	Associate	Sponsor – Sharon Costello
Tom Bell	Pennsylvania	Associate	Sponsor – Sherilyn Allen
Maryann Whitehead	Texas	Associate	Sponsor – Cathy White

NEW Applications presented for 1<sup>st</sup> printing:

David White	Oregon	Associate	Sponsor – Lisa Cinciripini
William R. Means	Tennessee	Associate	Sponsor – Peggy Wolfe

Applications for Full Membership –

Nataly Hohlova-Means	Tennessee	Full	Sponsors- Sue Luedemann, Janet Hospodar
Lori DeSimon-Olsen	Utah	Full	Sponsors – Cathy White, Shani Stewart-Robbins

*Pierluigi Scalia	CA	Full	Sponsors- Sharon Costello, Shani Stewart-Robbins
Jim Deppen/Mimi Winkler	Pennsylvania	Full Fam	Sponsors – (Jim)Shani Stewart-Robbins, Jennifer Groves; (Mimi) Charles Costello, Nikki Stamper
Christopher Arts	New York	Full	Sponsors- Heather Welty, Donna Welty
Brian King	Illinois	Full	Sponsors- Sharon Costello, Cathy White
Cornell & Bernadette Bryant	New Jersey	Full Fam	Sponsors – (Cornell)Sharon Costello, Irene O’Connor; (Bernadette)Donna Welty, Nikki Stamper

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Mrs. O’Connor reported that the CPA has stated that it will take two years to establish a budget.

**United States Neapolitan Mastiff Club  
June through August 2008**

**BEGINNING BALANCE \$29,038.26**

RECEIPTS	AMOUNT	TOTAL
Membership dues	\$175.00	
NeoGram Ads	\$290.00	
2009 Trophy Donations	\$164.77	
Judges/Public Educ.	\$105.00	
Ways & Means	\$ 30.00	
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>\$764.77</b>

EXPENSES	AMOUNT	TOTAL
AKC Registration Fees	\$ 5.01	
CPA – 2007 Tax Preparation	\$ 250.00	
USNMC Monthly Website Fee (\$44.50 month)	\$ 133.50	
2008 National Specialty Judge Fees	\$ 74.85	
Judges / Public Education	\$ 400.36	
NeoGram	\$1,353.31	
2007 ATIMANA Dues(Total includes \$80 for wire transfer)	\$1,321.24	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$3,538.27</b>
<b>TOTAL LOSS</b>		<b>-\$2,773.50</b>

**ENDING BALANCE \$26,257.26**

Account	Acct. Balance	TOTAL
General Account	11,432.87	
National Specialty Account	7,647.90	
USNMC Rescue Account	<u>7,176.49</u>	<b>26,257.26</b>
Putnam Fund (USNMC Rescue)	3,909.41	<b>30,166.67</b>

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Communications** – liaison Ingrid Fortunato

#### **Website** – Co-chair Donna Welty reported a webinar was offered by Karl Groves.

Mr. Groves gave instructions on general organization of website and how to add some information. A follow-up on “coding” was to be scheduled. Club members’ names who had given written permission to have personal info list – has been added to website. Awaiting status of message board, store, and establishment of Pay Pal account. Irene O’Connor has set up Pay Pal at [usnmcstore@gmail.com](mailto:usnmcstore@gmail.com).

#### **Neogram** – editor Heather Welty submitted report stating that the fall issue of the Neogram is in the gmail account for “proofing”. Committee has a week and a half to proof ( out of two week time span ) before it goes to the printer. Missing a few ads from members who had requested space in this issue. Ad prices have been raised for the next issue. Please see below:

Front Cover - \$195.00 Color  
Back Cover - \$145.00 Color  
Inside Full Page - \$125.00 Color  
Inside Half Page - \$90.00 Color  
Inside Full Page - b/w - \$ 85.00  
Inside Half Page – b/w - \$50.00  
Inside ¼ Page – b/w - \$25.00  
Business Card - b/w - \$20.00

### **Fundraising** - liaison Nydia Thornton

To date, have inventory from Sharon Costello; trying to connect with Nikki Stamper. Irene O’Connor has taken pictures of items to be printed in Neogram and put on USNMC store.

### **Judges’ and Public Education** – liaison Sharon Costello

Chair Jim Deppen submitted the following report:

Report for Judges Education Committee:  
September 14, 2008

The Neapolitan Mastiff educational program for aspiring all ready approved AKC judges was presented at the Connecticut Dog Judges Association on June 17th 2008 in the first ever Molossar Study comparison of the Neapolitan vs. the Cane Corso, the Dogue de Bordeaux vs. the Bullmastiff. There were 30 plus attendees that participated in a four hour presentation conducted by Jim Deppen assisted by Sharon Costello and Mimi Winkler. During this presentation there were two representatives of each breed and sex present for an in depth comparison of the various Molossar breeds. The turn out was incredible and the presentation was a total success. This same presentation was then slated for the Greenville, SC Judges Study Group on July 24th, and Jim was assisted by Bullmastiff JEC Carol Beans from California initiating yet another well received and highly attended program on the four breeds.

Our next educational program will probably not be until the National Specialty being held in New Brunswick NJ in March of 2009. Ringside mentoring is scheduled for the Atlanta, GA specialty being

held on September 18-19, 2008. There is an entry of 38 Neapolitan Mastiffs each day for the two day specialty. Great efforts were put together by those instrumental in coordinating this extravaganza for the Southern States. Congratulations to the Atlanta group for all of their hard work!!

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Deppen  
USNMC Chairman JEC

A query was offered regarding the qualifications of mentoring since this has been unchanged since being accepted by AKC. Rita Biddle moved to accept no more mentorship applications until the Judges' Education Committee sets forth criteria for mentorship. The criteria should be developed within 90 days. Jennifer Groves seconded. Motion passed – all ayes

**Health** – liaison Nikki Stamper

Nikki Stamper has offered her resignation as liaison

**2009 National and Awards** – Chairperson Jennifer Groves, co-chair Cathy White

Jennifer Groves reported that the show premium is 75% done, the Pines Manor, in Edison, has been contracted as the banquet host, AKC is in receipt of communication

from FCI re: Michele Palazzo judging our National, awaiting AKC's confirmation of assignment, \$500 deposit sent to Pines Manor, the GSNMC will be hosting a Pre – National Specialty on Friday, March 20, 2009.

**Legislation** – liaison Rita Biddle

Brief update given on the status of the Michigan Bill and the proposed legislation in Massachusetts.

**Historian** – liaison Donna Welty

No report

**Ethics** – liaison Shani Stewart-Robbins

No report

**Membership** – liaison Anita Goetz

Discussion on validity of e-signatures tabled

Nikki Stamper moved that the BOD grant Pierluigi Scalia an extension of time for his dues renewal due to his payment being received 8 days late with check dated

February

26, 2008 and was deposited into USNMC account on March 17, 2008 – making this within 30 day limit. Ingrid Fortunato seconded. 7 Ayes, 0 nays, 2 abstains. Motion carried.

**Bylaws Review** – liaison Kendail Gonzales  
Will discuss under Old Business

**Local Clubs** – liaison Irene O'Connor

Update given on Eukanuba to be held in California. Medallions have been ordered.  
Sharon Costello reported that a request for either of the two clubs to help out has been issued. No response has been received to date.

## **Old Business**

**Code of Ethics** – Rita Biddle moves that we ratify the vote that we placed via email.  
Ingrid Fortunato seconds. Vote – 6 ayes, 1 nay. Motion carried. The new Code of Ethics will take effective in January 2009 with the 2009 membership renewal.

**Revisions to Bylaws** – Sharon Costello stated that she had sent an email to Brian King requesting that our recommended changes be made to his master copy. We will move forward on this regardless. A short discussion reviewing our suggested changes to the last draft ensued. Rita Biddle moved that we vote to leave in the proposed language regarding the staggering of BOD elections. Nikki Stamper seconds. Vote – 7 ayes, 2 nays. Motion carried.

**Judges' Criteria** – need to update with chairman regarding the draft of criteria for judges.

## **New Business**

Upcoming shows in Atlanta – 38 Neapolitans entered on Friday, 37 entered on Saturday  
Procedural Handbook needs updating – tabled to next meeting  
Nomination Committee needs not be formed until January 2009

## **Other**

Role of Liaisons -tabled to next meeting  
NeoRescue, Inc status – tabled to next meeting  
Rescue Trophy – tabled to next meeting

Next meeting: Sunday, October 12, 2008 at 9 PM EST

Adjournment moved by Nydia Thornton at 11:55 PM EST