

NEBCA Annual General Meeting January 19, 2013, Albany NY

Call to Order 10:05AM by Carol Campion

There were 28 members present and 19 proxies

Approval of Prior Minutes

The minutes from the Cooperstown meeting as printed in the newsletter were approved.

Executive Committee Reports

Secretary's Report - Maria Mick

As of 1/18/13 there are 157 memberships which include 33 family memberships, 6 life memberships and 1 honorary membership. I received 7 memberships today bringing the total to 164. This is down from 243 at the Annual Meeting of 2012. There were 308 memberships at the end of 2012

There are currently 53 of the memberships that elect to view the newsletter on-line (34%)

Treasurer's Report - Ellen Black

The budget summary for 2012 was presented (Included in this newsletter). This is about \$2400 greater net income than in 2011. Most items came in close to the planned budget for 2012 but there were several unplanned expenses: web domain, club banners, club conference call, sympathy gifts. The current account balance is \$23,878.82.

Standing Committee Reports

Open Trial Committee Report

- **Review of 2012 Fall Foliage and High Points- Barbara Leverett**

The 2012 Fall Foliage (FF) was held at the Mt. Saviour Monastery near Elmira NY on Columbus Day weekend. A total of 58 dogs ran which is 20 dogs more than the year before. Aled Owen judged. The high turnout was due to the challenging course and sheep and the payback added to the preliminary round.

Sue Schoen and Ester were the FF Champions with Mich Ferraro and Clive as reserve. The Long Road Award went to Joyce Geier and Jim and Amanda Milliken received the Edgar Gould Breeder's Award as the breeder of Ester. Lori Cunningham and Matt were the highpoints winners with Bev Lambert and Joe taking reserve.

Mary Anne Duffy deserves a great deal of the credit for making the trial a success. She did much of the onsite preparations and helped throughout the event. Thanks also to the many volunteers that helped, especially Martha Walke and Rose Redick. Border Collies Anonymous donated handler gift bags to all participants and also prizes. Thanks to all that donated gifts and for fund raising efforts.

- **Controlling Fall Foliage Entries – Rob Drummond**

The uncertainty of how many dogs will enter the Fall Foliage is an issue the committee will be dealing with. The current qualifying method (2 or 3 placings) can result in either too many, as

occurred this past year, or too few entries. One way to fix this would be to go to a point system for qualification like the USBCHA uses. The USBCHA method ranks entries based on points earned and takes the top 150. NEBCA could use either the current High Points tally to rank entries or switch to the USBCHA point system. About 50 dogs could be accommodated at the FF if run over 3 days. A new qualifying deadline would also be needed to give more time for planning the trial.

Dave Sharp suggested that the committee finalize any change to the rules ASAP and publicized them on the website and NEBCA-yahoo & Facebook Handlers-Tent groups).

- **2013 Fall Foliage Preparations**

The FF trial cannot be held on the usual Columbus Day weekend due to the National Finals to be held October 7-13. The past two times the finals were in the east, the FF was cancelled. Since the FF is now a qualifier for Soldier Hollow it would be desirable to hold it if at all possible. Dates from late August to mid-September are under consideration.

One possible site is at Ames farm in September and bringing in another flock of about 90 wool sheep that are nearby. Mount Saviour might also be a possible location.

Last year's committee had developed documents that could be useful for future committees organizing the FF. Barbara Leverett is assembling this information. Thanks were expressed to Barb Leverett for her efforts on the committee to bring back the prestige of the FF.

Novice Trial Committee Report - Anne Devine

Annie Palmer and Martha Walke are outgoing members. Wally Dury and Pam Davies were suggested as replacements.

Anne asked if the temporary waiver of the rule requiring novice trials to offer all three novice classes should be made permanent. Some concern was expressed that Novice-Novice class may be dropped as some trials. Others thought that this hasn't really happened and the waiver gives trial managers better flexibility.

- **2012 Novice Finals**

The 2012 Novice Finals was held at Sheepy Hollow Farm in Hop Bottom, PA. Dick and Cheryl Williams were gracious hosts and Annie Palmer did a great job managing the pre-trial preparations. Roger Millen judged a total of 63 dogs, each dog getting 3 runs. The trial came in under budget. The top ten in each class received a brass plate for a dog collar and the winners received jackets. (The results are in this newsletter)

- **2013 Novice Finals –**

A venue and date has not been set yet. The Tolland Ag center in CT was mentioned as potential site. Anne moved that the 2013 Novice Finals have a budget of \$2100. Motion Passed.

Fundraising Report – Ellen Black

Fundraising produced a net gain of almost \$700 in 2012. T-shirts and hats continue to sell well. On-line sales were good with PayPal this past year. Suggest getting more ball caps, a small order of visors and women's t-shirts. Ellen requested more help to sell items at trials. NEBCA may also want to consider selling merchandise at the USBCHA finals. Ellen moved to budget \$2800 to purchase fundraising items in 2013. Motion passed.

Calendar Report – Provided by George Northrup

“A total of 254 calendars have been sold as of today. This is a little short of break-even but we'll sell a few over the winter and at the spring trials. We're consistently selling 250-300 calendars. We have quotes from the printer for 300 and 400 calendars of \$1990 and \$2560, respectively. I would recommend that NEBCA allocate funds for 400 calendars and initially have 300 printed. If it seems we need more in the fall it is easy to have more printed and we will have money to pay for it. If we don't have more printed the excess funds will simply revert to the treasury. If someone is willing to really push calendar sales at the Finals in Virginia we may end up needing the larger number.”

Select Committee Reports

Learning Trials Committee Report – Ellen Black

Two activities occurred in 2012: One at Cummington in which runs were videotaped with realtime commentary. and Denise Leonard and Kristine Whittle offered a clinic. Ginny Prince is considering a learning trial in 2013. Barb Armata moved to budget \$500 for learning trial committee in 2013. Motion passed.

Eileen Wilentz (not present) suggested offering an incentive for trials that include the novice-novice class. Discussion continued as to how NEBCA can best be of help to novice handlers. Barb Leverett suggested that an experienced handler could act as a coach during a novice class and the committee might offer the “coach” gas money as an incentive to help. The committee will consider this idea and whether and how much compensation is appropriate.

Judging Education Committee Report –Dave Sharp

Several clinics were organized last year. Need feedback as to whether committee should be dissolved. Suggested that it be put on hold for this year and perhaps re-activate next year.

BOD Report - Dave Sharp

2012 was calm year with no major problems. Two main actions taken by the Board in 2012: The clinics page on the website was expanded to include health clinics and two banners were obtained for use at NEBCA trials to advertise the club.

Newsletter Report - Provided by Jim Allen, given by Carol Campion

The newsletter received a lot of positive feedback and came in under budget in 2012. Molly King's efforts to help provide articles and information for the newsletter has worked very well. One idea is to profile different member's lives outside of dog activities. Members are asked to notify the secretary of address changes to avoid newsletters being returned undeliverable.

A motion to budget \$2800 for the newsletter in 2013 passed.

Library Report - Martha Walke

There was a significant increase in library borrowing in 2012. Several new items were obtained: 3 books, 1 audio tape, 2 DVDs. Betty Murray donated several books to library from Dave Murray's collection. DVD's of the final and semi-final rounds of the 2012 National Finals were ordered. NEBCA will receive a donated copy of the recent “Away to Me” movie. It will be shown at the Maryland Sheep & Woolcraft fair.

Martha moved that the library have a budget of \$300 in 2013. Motion passed.

Old Business

NEBCA Hall of Fame award – Dave Sharp

A NEBCA Hall of Fame is being considered as a way to recognize the history of those that contributed to NEBCA. Nothing has been put in place yet. Maria Amodei offered to help create a HOF page on the website.

Faces of NEBCA - Dave Sharp

Discontinued?

Update on proposal to create a “How to put on a trial” Guide

This info would aid trial managers for new or existing trials. Nothing has been done. Discussion points: Some of this could be what the Open trials committee is doing for the Fall Foliage. Nancy Phillips has assembled a lot of information. Barb Leverett and Rose Redick offered to help. The two trial chairs are to look into this and to take ownership.

New Business

Election Results – Rose Redick

A total of 68 ballots were submitted. All seats were uncontested and there were no write in candidates on the ballot. Six positions were filled in the election of 2013. They are as follows: President - Warren Mick; Vice President - George Northrup; Secretary - Martha Walke; Treasurer - Ellen Rusconi-Black; Board of Directors - David Sharp & Lynn Deschambeault

Committee Appointments – Warren Mick

The Novice Trial committee will be composed of Anne Devine, Eileen Wilentz, Wally Dury and Pam Davies. Open Trial Committee appoints are TBD.

2013 Preliminary Financial Plan Treasurer – Ellen Black

Ellen presented the proposed budget for 2013. It shows a net loss of \$3050 for the year. The budget was approved with one change to increase the funding of the Learning Trial committee increased to \$500. (The approved budget is included in this newsletter)

Bank of America Account – Ellen Black

Bank of America has a new process for signature cards. The treasurer & president will need to submit new information in order to have access to the account. The president needs access in the event the treasurer is unavailable. BOA requires a vote by the membership authorizing this access.

Ellen moved that Warren Mick, as elected President and/or Ellen Rusconi-Black as Treasurer of the Northeast Border Collie Association be our designated signers on the Bank of American Checking Account. And that Martha Walke, is Secretary, of the Northeast Border Collie Association. And that Carol Campion, as past president; signature be removed as a designated signer for the Northeast Border Collie Association Bank of America Checking Account.

Motion seconded by Martha Walke and Passed.

It was also discussed if the CD account at ING should be moved to BOA.

Nomination/Election Process – Rose Redick

Rose stated that she has been on several election committees in recent years and has noticed some deficiencies and inconsistencies in NEBCA's nomination and election process. She also suggested some improvements that might be made. Above all the process should be documented. Also need a written process for proxy voting at meetings. Rose thought a committee should be put in place to work on this and that it should be done before the next election cycle. Warren moved that the BOD work to produce a written document concerning the nomination and election process and report back at the next meeting.

Gifts for Outgoing Officers – Joanne Krause

Joanne noted that the club is not consistent in giving appreciation gifts to outgoing officers and committee members. She suggested that it be done for everyone or to no one. Much discussion followed. The general sentiment seemed to be that we should be consistent but that we should not require it. I will be left up to the discretion of the executive committee to decide the manner in which outgoing officers/committee members are recognized for their work.

2013 National Finals Support

Lori Cunningham, chair of the Finals host committee is asking for as much support as possible from NEBCA members for the National finals. Info for volunteer jobs can be found on the finals website. NEBCA should consider placing an ad in the finals program.

New Trial Dates for 2013

Carol Champion is doing 3 one-day open/novice trials. Dates are 2/23, 3/23, 4/20.

Bud & Mary Ames are adding a two day double lift trial to their existing trial in July with a 40 dog limit.

Novice Points

Members are asked to check the Novice Points list on the web site and let Heather Millen know of any dogs no longer competing so inactive names can be removed from the list.

Meeting Dates for 2013

Cummington, MA on May 25, Cooperstown, NY on August 17, Fall meeting date TBD

Adjournment at 2:20pm