



NATIONAL SEARCH DOG ALLIANCE
Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
August 7, 2014

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Search Dog Alliance was held by conference call on Thursday, August 7, 2014. President Norma Snelling called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m. EDT.

The following Directors were present and constituted a quorum:

Susan Fleming	Gloria Howard	Jan Meyer
Robert Noziska	Sherry Scruggs	Norma Snelling

Absent were:

Terry Crooks
Suzanne Elschult – vacation
Julie Gibson – memorial service
Shayla Price – moving

Also present on the call:

Sue Wolff, Acting Secretary

Minutes of the July 10, 2014, Meeting

Susan Fleming had two corrections to the minutes. Under Unfinished Business, the question of pooling Aeries Evaluators was answered in the May 1, 2014, BOD meeting and should be removed from the minutes. Also the PSARC Area Search Standards were passed as acceptable at the June 5, 2014, BOD meeting and should be removed from the minutes.

The following section of the July 10, 2014, minutes was questioned as to accuracy and if the intent was correctly understood by all involved in the voting:

Motion made by Sherry Scruggs to accept up to 3 mock NSDA tests to show Principal Evaluator proficiency to be put on by Principal Evaluators. Scoring and critiques would be used as in a regular test. This will apply to all disciplines.

Motion passed 8-0

Gloria Howard suggested that it be revisited and President Norma Snelling agreed.

Jan Meyer wanted to discuss the three mock evaluations for all disciplines. Gloria Howard stated that she did not see any difference between mock and Apprentice tests for Principal Evaluator. She said that it was the same as applying as an Apprentice Evaluator and doing two tests. Jan agreed and said NSDA would have to send a Principal to oversee a mock test the same as an Apprentice test. She said that she did not see the wisdom of mock tests and felt that the current Apprentice testing method was faster.

Sherry Scruggs stated that mock tests would help with the inability to do real tests when none were available. Jan Meyer said that the logistics of the testing would cost NSDA more

money and Sherry Scruggs said it would not as the mock tests could be done locally with no travelling involved.

President Norma Snelling asked if three mock tests were supposed to be given for Area, Trailing and Land HRD. Jan Meyer and Gloria Howard said no. President Snelling said the minutes would be amended to show this correction.

Robert Noziska said the mock testing was about having someone who is capable putting on a test quickly and not having to wait an extended period of time until an actual test is scheduled. President Norma Snelling said that NSDA has already agreed to give priority to Apprentices seeking to become Principals. Sherry said she thinking out of the box. Jan did not see any advantage to the mock tests and President Snelling stated that NSDA could accomplish the same thing with the current program. Robert said that it was an opportunity to add Evaluators.

Jan Meyer made a motion to drop the mock test on Land HRD, Area and Trailing. Susan Fleming seconded. The vote was 4-2 in favor. President Norma Snelling asked the Board members present about how they felt about obtaining votes from absent members. Gloria Howard and Sherry Scruggs both felt that votes should be sought from legitimate absentees.

Gloria Howard observed that Avalanche, Water HRD and Disaster have different requirements regarding the number of tests required for a Principal Evaluator. President Norma Snelling asked about the requirements and Sherry Scruggs responded three. Gloria stated that Terry Crooks said there was one for Avalanche. Sherry commented that Terry had indicated one real test plus two mock ones. President Snelling interjected that the minutes should be corrected to indicate this. Gloria stated that she remembered Terry saying that it was hard to find three for Avalanche.

Jan Meyer said that she thought Susan Fleming would be able to acquire more Evaluators if the number of required evaluations was cut back. Then Gloria Howard asked why not have just one requirement for all disciplines.

A motion was made by President Norma Snelling with a second by Susan Fleming to have one real test and up to two mock tests for Disaster, Avalanche and Water HRD. The motion was passed unanimously by those present. Three are to vote by e-mail.

After the discussion, the minutes were passed as amended.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Shayla Price

As the Executive Director was absent, there was no report.

OFFICER'S REPORTS

President's Report

Norma Snelling

President Norma Snelling said she received a phone call from Dun and Bradstreet at 0615

Pacific Time seeking copies of NSDA incorporation paperwork, which she supplied later in the day. Assistant Treasurer Cam Daggett received an invoice for \$718.00 from Getty Images for use of a picture. After a phone call from President Snelling to the billing department, the amount was lowered to \$346. President Snelling pursued this further and wrote a letter to the CEO of the company who had the bill forgiven.

Vice President's Report

Terry Crooks

As the Vice-President was absent, there was no report.

Secretary's Report

Julie Gibson

As she was unable to attend the meeting, Julie Gibson submitted the following report:

Susan Fleming made a motion by e-mail to accept Robin Stanifer as a Principal Evaluator in Land HRD, Terry Crooks seconded. Motion passed 8-0 1 absent

Treasurer's Report

Sherry Scruggs

The Treasurer's Report had been e-mailed to all Board members previously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Alliance Depot

Gloria Howard

Gloria Howard reported that sales for last month were \$31.50 the majority of which were for the items featured in the newsletter.

Annual Conference

Jan Meyer

Jan Meyer reported that there are twenty-two (22) registrations for the Atterbury seminar in October. She said that Land HRD and Area tests are scheduled. President Norma Snelling asked if the members receiving the Sable Scholarships had been contacted and Jan replied in the affirmative.

Education

Wade Boyd

As Wade Boyd was unable to attend the meeting, he e-mailed four (4) documents to the Board members. They were his suggestions for the website front page, maps and map reading, useful websites and recommended reading. Susan Fleming commented that his suggestion for the website front page looks like what is there now. She stated that the site's entry page looks dreary and needs to be updated. President Norma Snelling said that the website looks cluttered and needs revamping. She thought the use of dropdowns might take care of the muddle.

Evaluator Committee Chair

Susan Fleming

Susan Fleming reported that all approved Evaluators have completed their workshops. She is doing an analysis of testing since 2011 and has discovered that some Evaluators have not tested. She will focus on their meeting the requirements. Susan is also in the process of contacting NASAR Evaluators to become ones for NSDA. Sherry Scruggs thanked Susan for all of her work especially that toward increasing the number of NSDA Evaluators.

Marketing/Sponsorship

Judy Otto

Judy Otto was unable to attend but e-mailed that work is on hold waiting for Executive Director Shayla Prices's suggestions.

Membership

Ann Moser

Ann Moser, also unable to attend, sent a report showing 174 current members, 32 expired and 166 new (not yet due for renewal) for a total of 372 members. President Norma Snelling pointed out that this figure does not include Founding and Life Members. The membership types break down to 227 individual members and 144 Team members. Ann also reported that two teams are pending: Cherrytree Township Volunteer Fire Department K-9 (PA) [payment received but have not yet received team roster] and K-9 ONE Search and Rescue (MI) [have not yet received check].

PODCASTS

Larry Welker

There was no report.

Testing Chair

Jan Frazee

As she was not able to attend, Jan Frazee sent a report stating that a few people who requested testing have not yet been scheduled. Some of these are people not affiliated with an agency which would use them, which is a prerequisite. Others are singles and NSDA uses funds to send an Evaluator only when more than one person needs a test, which Jan believes to be appropriate. She continues to monitor. She also said that the only currently scheduled testing is October 7-8, 2014, at Camp Atterbury, Edinburgh, Indiana. This testing will include Area I & II, Land HRD, and Trailing II. Seminar Chair, Jan Meyer is the contact for this testing at jmeyer@n-sda.org.

Website

Norma Snelling

President Norma Snelling said she has sent changes to the webmaster and will check next week on the status of their posting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Marketing Plan for Pooling NSDA and AERIES Evaluators

Susan Fleming

President Norma Snelling asked Susan Fleming about this item and Susan said that she had asked that this item be removed from the agenda.

PA Trailing Standard

Susan Fleming

Susan Fleming said that this item had already been discussed.

NJ SAR council standards

Susan Fleming

Susan Fleming said that these had been disapproved previously.

NEW BUSINESS

Implementation of new testing fees for paid SAR workers Norma Snelling

President Norma Snelling stated that government workers prefer to have their agencies pay for their fees for testing and certifications. She also reminded Board members that a handler must be a member in order to become an Evaluator. With this in mind, she suggested that handlers who are employed by government agencies be charged \$110 for certification testing and that fee would also include membership in NSDA.

Susan Fleming asked Robert Noziska how IPWDA and NAPWDA certifications, which require memberships, are handled by agencies. Robert replied that testing fees can be paid by an agency but membership fees cannot as the membership is issued to the individual. Robert stated that agencies usually have funding available for testing. He asked how many discipline tests would be covered by the \$110. President Snelling suggested only one test with the additional ones costing \$30. Sherry Scruggs said no limit on the number of tests in one year as long as they paid for them individually.

Jan Meyer wanted to know if this new testing fee would eliminate the agency's ability to apply for the \$300 to pay for an Evaluator. Sherry Scruggs said they would still be able to apply for the funding.

Gloria Howard asked Robert Noziska in how many disciplines are Border Patrol K-9s certified. Robert responded that the majority of certifications were in narcotics with a handful in trailing. There are also forty SAR dogs in the Border Patrol certified in Area, Land HRD, Water HRD and Trailing.

Sherry Scruggs wanted to know what the fee would be if the handler wanted to test more than one dog. Robert responded that this new fee would cover only one handler with one dog; the handler would have to pay for testing additional dogs.

Robert Noziska made a motion, seconded by Jan Meyer, to create a category under Testing Fees of \$110 per year for commissioned law enforcement officers for unlimited testing of a team of one (1) dog, one (1) handler during that year. This fee would include one year membership privileges. Votes were six in favor with three to vote by e-mail.

Appointment of Signer for NSDA Bank Account Norma Snelling

President Norma Snelling reported that currently Cam Daggett, Sue Wolff and herself were signatories on the NSDA Bank of America Checking Account. A discussion ensued regarding re problems associated with changing the persons able to sign NSDA checks. President Snelling asked Sue Wolff if she minded remaining as a signatory and she was agreeable. A motion was made by Gloria Howard, seconded by Jan Meyer, to appoint Sue Wolff as Financial Assistant to the NSDA Board of Directors for one year. Votes were six in favor with three to vote by e-mail.

President Norma Snelling pointed out a problem regarding refunds on individual memberships paid just prior to a team membership which included that individual. Current NSDA policy prohibits any refunds for membership. President Snelling said this would be an amendment to the policy and felt that a refund should be made to the individual member within sixty days of payment. Sherry Scruggs suggested ninety days. After a discussion, a motion was made by Gloria Howard, with a second by Susan Fleming, that a refund of a \$40.00 annual membership may be made if the membership fee is paid within the sixty days prior to the receipt of a team membership on which the payer is included. Votes were six in favor with three to vote by e-mail.

President Norma Snelling suggested to the Board that the November meeting not get bogged down in minutiae. The meeting's aim is to concentrate on non-dog issues such as the federal campaign, promotions, monetary contributions, marketing and fund raising.

There being no further business, Susan Fleming made a motion to adjourn with a second by President Norma Snelling. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m. EDT.



, Acting Secretary, August 8, 2014

CERTIFIED