



NATIONAL SEARCH DOG ALLIANCE

Minutes of an Open Meeting of the Board of Directors

February 13th 2023

certified

An open meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Search Dog Alliance was held via zoom on Monday, February 13th, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm EST.

The following Board members were present and constituted a quorum:

President/Chief Executive Officer Terry Crooks	Chief Financial Officer Jan Meyer
Executive Vice President Amity Larsen	Corporate Secretary Gail Collins
Board Member At-Large Zephrin Allen	

Others present were: No members attended the meeting.

Old Business

Meeting Minutes. Chief Financial Officer Meyer made a motion to accept the minutes from the Open Board meeting held on 24-Jan-23, Executive Vice President Larsen seconded, passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report. Chief Financial Officer Meyer gave an update on the finances as of 30-Jan-23. Income was roughly the same and membership dues were down approximately \$300 compared to the same time last year.

Program Reports.

Testing Program. Nothing reported.

Evaluators Program. President Crooks reported that Supervisor Lamson is continuing to work on getting paperwork and applications through the system, and that her efforts are very much appreciated.

Education Program. Nothing reported.

Communications Program. Corporate Secretary Collins reported that Manager Proper-Van Valkenburg had posted the website photo contest to the Facebook page, and that we were getting good interest. She was also able to post the newspaper article from the Idaho Avalanche testing event.

Website. Corporate Secretary Collins reported that she and Chief Financial Officer Meyer continue to meet with the new webmaster to get updates on the website development. The estimated launch date is still set as early March and beta testing will begin soon. Board Member Allen reported that he will work to move the podcasts to a free hosting site as well as that he is exploring possibilities to restart the podcast program.

SAR Shop. Vice President Larsen reported that she expects the vendor will have their NSDA shop up in the next week or so. She is also working on an item list and is taking suggestions.

Bylaws Review and Board Ethics. Vice President Larsen reported that the Bylaws Committee is continuing its work and that she will have additional proposals to present at the next meeting.

The membership is reminded that the Board passed proposed amendments to the Bylaws during the 24-Jan-23 Board meeting (see the meeting minutes), and that the **30-day comment period will be open until 25-Feb-23.** Any comments on the proposed changes can be sent to: Secretary@n-sda.org.

Volunteer Survey and Suggestion Box. Corporate Secretary Collins reported only one suggestion had come in – to create a list of all State and Federal service dog laws applicable to SAR K-9s. The Board decided that this was beyond its purview and it would be too difficult to keep the information current.

Appointments and Personnel. President Crooks reported that he is continuing to reach out to interested members about vacancies, several individuals were discussed for various positions.

New Business

Evaluator application process. President Crooks and the Board reported on continuing discussions and proposed changes regarding the existing Principal Evaluator application process.

Testing and Certificates. The Board discussed reinstating the requirement that all handlers seeking certification submit a Letter of Reference from a deploying agency or SAR Coordinator. Chief Financial Officer Meyer made a motion to reinstate the requirement, Executive Vice President Larsen seconded, passed unanimously.

Membership program. President Crooks and Corporate Secretary Collins reported on discussions related to updating the fee schedule for NSDA to keep up with raising costs and to better provide for access to testing. Board Member Allen made a motion to accept the following, Chief Financial Officer Meyer seconded, approved unanimously.

- Lifetime membership: \$500 [no change]
- Team membership: \$300/year for up to/per 15 handlers [increased]
- Individual membership: \$45/year [no change]. *Evaluators that conduct at least 2 tests in a calendar year will have their membership fee waived the following year.*
- Written (online) tests: \$5/test [no change]

- Field tests: \$50/test [increased]
- Small Group Grant to reimburse Principal and Apprentice Evaluator travel: \$400/group/year [increased].
- Regional Testing Event reimbursements for Principal and Apprentice Evaluators; *Evaluators must perform at least 3 tests during the event to be eligible:*
 - o Meals: up to \$50/day [increased]
 - o Lodging: up to \$110/day [increased]
 - o Dog boarding: up to \$50/day [no change]
 - o Gas: provide receipts [no change]
 - o Air travel: provide receipts [no change]
 - o Rental car: provide receipts [no change]
 - o Miscellaneous: up to \$200 with receipts [no change]

Seminars.

Idaho Regional Testing Event. Executive Vice President Larsen reported on a Regional Testing Event held in Emmett, Idaho in early February, hosted by Mountain States Detection Dogs. The event went well, multiple evaluations were offered in Land HRD and Area Live Search with Cadaver, and three Apprentice Evaluators were able to participate.

Avalanche Testing/Seminar. President Crooks reported on an Avalanche testing event and seminar that was held in Brundage, Idaho in early February tied into the Idaho Regional Testing Event. The event went well, eight teams were certified with several good possibilities for additional evaluators.

Texas Seminar. Board Member Allen and Chief Financial Officer Meyer reported on their continuing work to develop a multi-discipline field seminar to be tentatively held Fall 2023 near Dallas, TX.

Other Business.

SAR Dog News Newsletter. Board Member Allen reported on an individual interested in taking over as Editor of the Newsletter on behalf of NSDA. The Board discussed sideboards that would need to be in place if NSDA were to become the owners, and Board Member Allen will reach out to discuss the matter further with the interested party.

Member questions/comments. No members attended the meeting.

The Board will hold an open business meeting on Monday, February 27th, 2023 at 7:00 pm (EST), followed by a closed Executive Session if required. Members interested in joining should send an email to Secretary@n-sda.org no later than February 25th. As there was no further business, a motion was made Executive Vice President Larsen, seconded by Chief Financial Officer Meyer to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:42 pm EST.