

**Board of Directors Meeting
Phone Conference
April 21, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 MDT (8:00 CDT) by Duane Packard, President.

Board members present by roll call: Duane Packard, Patty Koller, Sonny Mahurin, Barry Breemersch, Charles Holt, Lincoln Rogers, Tim Feddes, and Peter Gonnet . Also present was Bob Wagner (new Board electee) and Angie Brooks - Executive Secretary.

Approval of Minutes

- Peter Gonnet moved that the minutes of the March 24, 2022 and April 5, 2022 Board of Directors meetings be approved. The motion was seconded by Charles Holt and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

- Lincoln Rogers presented the Treasurer's report. There is \$110,622 in the Chase account.

Old Business

- Finals Budget
 - Due to increased page count and missed deadline due to added sponsors, programs will be \$800 more than originally estimated.
 - Peter Gonnet moved that \$10,000 be left in the bank after Finals expenses. The motion was seconded by Sonny Mahurin and approved unanimously.
 - There was discussion about the hat maker and sponsor for the hats.
 - Discussion of auction income and disposition.
 - The Board agreed unanimously that the Novice final should be ran Friday night; this will save the \$1000 indoor arena rent and should help to showcase the Novice class in the evening under the lights.
 - Medical withdrawal refunds approved.
- Horseback class
 - Peter Gonnet moved that since the Intermediate team cannot be broken, another handler cannot run an Intermediate dog in the horseback class, only the handler that is part of the Intermediate team. The motion was seconded by Charles Holt and approved unanimously.
 - Lincoln Rogers moved that Novice handlers that qualify for NCA Horseback can run at the Finals in the Horseback class. The motion was seconded by Peter Gonnet and approved unanimously.
- Election Review Committee
 - Charles Holt reported that Jeff Christianson, Dan Gill, Jeff Mundorf, Allen Miller, and Jimmy Walker comprised the committee.
 - Peter Gonnet moved that the report be included in the minutes. The motion was seconded by Sonny Mahurin and approved unanimously.
 - Lincoln Rogers moved that the executive secretary oversee elections. The motion was seconded by Sonny Mahurin and approved unanimously.

Duane Packard called for a motion to adjourn. Charles Holt moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Peter Gonnet and approved unanimously.

NCA Grievance Committee Report

A committee chaired by NCA Board Vice-President Charles Holt, comprised of NCA members Jeff Christiansen, Dan Gill, Allen Miller, and Dottie Packard, met on the 11th and 18th to investigate the Grievance allegations received by the NCA Board from James Butler and Todd Jessen. During the meeting, the activities alleged in the Butler letter were less than ideal if accurate, none were explicitly in violation of the Code of Conduct and the allegations contained in the Jessen letter did warrant investigation.

The remainder of this report is comprised of two parts. The first part summarizes the committee's interviews investigating the Jessen letter and the committee's recommendation regarding the allegations in the Jessen letter and a general review of the NCA election process.

During the meeting on the 18th of April, the committee interviewed two NCA members as witnesses, NCA Executive Secretary Angie Brooks and Dottie Packard. The committee investigated allegations of intentional election tampering via inappropriate phone calls by Dottie Packard. Witness number one testified that he received a voicemail from Dottie Packard reminding him and his spouse to vote in the ongoing NCA election and not understandable. The witness never spoke directly with Dottie. The statement did not mention any specific candidates. Witness number two stated that he received a phone call from Dottie Packard in which Dottie said, "The reason I am calling is that we need your support." Dottie encouraged participation in the ongoing NCA election. Later in the call, the witness recalled that Dottie did speak in support of two candidates. NCA Secretary Angie Brooks spoke with the committee regarding her involvement in the 2022 NCA Election. Angie stated that she and the committee decided to send ballots to every individual on the membership list and determine eligibility after the election due to the election process not consult the NCA Bylaws regarding election protocols. Before the election, Angie had no previous experience with Election Buddy, the software used for the 2021 and 2022 Board elections. Angie stated that they could only see who had voted during the election but not for whom they had voted.

sent to all members who had not yet voted at approximately the midpoint of the election. Angie stated that she had appreciated Dottie's

Dottie Packard was the final interview of the day. Dottie said that the NCA Executive Secretary had run the NCA elections until 2021. Both she and Angie had overseen mail-in ballot elections during their terms as Executive Secretary. Dottie had used Election Buddy to hold the election in 2021. The decision regarding the timing of eligibility determination involved Dottie and Angie Brooks, NCA Board President Duane Packard, and NCA Board Secretary. Dottie was made to leave eligibility open during the election because of the number of trials held during the election and the potential for new members. Dottie later stated that she did not know if or how many freshly eligible members were added to the rolls during the election.

Dottie stated that she did attempt to contact approximately 20 members whose contact email or text message information was returned. She spoke with two of those members in person, leaving messages for the remainder. Dottie stated that she did not call anyone who did not answer. At the end of the election process, Dottie and Angie reviewed the voter rolls and determined the eligibility of voters who had received NCA ballots. Of those delivered ballots were spoiled as ineligible to vote. Of those seventy-seven ineligible ballots, twenty-two returned with votes cast were discarded. Twenty-two discarded ballots belonged were not notified of the fate of their ballots.

In review, the committee finds that most of the problems associated with the 2022 election were set in motion by the decision to delay the determination of eligibility until after the election. It is notable that NCA bylaws clearly state that the eligibility of voters should be resolved before the election. The decision was made at the NCA Finals, not the trial year. Had voter eligibility and contact information been thoroughly checked before ballots were issued, there would have been no election officials and NCA members eligible to vote. The unfortunate communication between Dottie and a minimal number of NCA members during the preparation before the election. Unfortunately, one of those contacts veered into an inappropriate topic of conversation between a voter and a specific candidate to an NCA voter during duty as an election official was wrong. However, we find no evidence of a widespread concerted effort to sway the 2022 NCA election intentionally.

Another unfortunate consequence of delaying voters' eligibility is that those twenty-two people who received NCA ballots and took the election on their knowledge. Clerical errors can happen. Should any of those twenty-two voters be interested in challenging their ineligibility to vote, the determination. Had eligibility been determined before the election, they never would have received a ballot. If any of those voters fail to contact the office and come to an understanding of why they did not receive a ballot or be determined eligible to vote. Twenty-two ballots represent a small percentage of the NCA electorate.

The vacancy in the position of the NCA Executive Secretary created a break in the transition of the management of NCA elections. We recommend that the board returned to the position of oversight of NCA elections in the future. Personal contact between the NCA Executive Secretary and the voters. We recommend that the board issue clear guidelines for the management of elections. The NCA membership needs to trust that NCA