

North American Flyball Association Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Abridged Minutes, Houston, Texas

January 28, 2006

Present were: Executive Director Sam Ford
Board of Directors Brian Fay,
Glenn Hamilton,
Lee Heighton,
Jeff Kinsley,
Todd Morningstar,
Kris Pickering,
Mike Smith,
Scott Stein

Called to order at 9:06AM Central Time by Chairman Lee Heighton. Dale Smith was absent due to business commitments.

Chairman's Comments

Chairman Lee Heighton welcomed the guests present to the meeting and gave a brief overview of NAFA's operations the past and coming year. Lee reported that NAFA has completed its purchase of 11 sets of the Signature Gear lights and reiterated the Board's commitment to increase the Signature Gear presence at NAFA tournaments as we expand our commitment to that technology and transition from the older technology.

Executive Director's Comment

Executive Director, Sam Ford, reported that he had proposals to tender for board approval, including proposals concerning regional alignment around the Rockies and in the western United States as well as several new regional director appointments.

As a preliminary matter, the Executive Director advised that, shortly before the meeting, he had been given a proxy by Dale Smith to vote on Dale's behalf in his absence. The Board expressed concern that the proxy did not comply with NAFA bylaws, which prohibit the ED from voting due to his ability to veto Board decisions and trigger a super-majority vote requirement. It was decided that the Board would contact Dale immediately by phone and email to determine if he wished to reassign his proxy to a voting member.

The board took a five minute break to try to contact Dale at 9:42AM. Messages were left on both voicemail and email.

The board resumed the meeting at 9:48AM.

Sam presented spreadsheets detailing the entries of clubs/teams/tournaments as a means of documenting NAFA growth and participation over the 2003 to 2005 period. He noted that almost the same number of new CRN assignments have occurred each year, indicating sustained growth for NAFA. The total number of tournaments offered was virtually identical in 2004 and 2005, though the totals varied between regions. Sam has the comparisons done for 1999 to 2005 and commented that he uses this data when considering regional alignments.

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Sam reported on activities in new Region 19 and proposed the appointment of Melinda Fitts as RD for that region. Brian made a motion to table the motion until the Board heard back from Dale and/or decided the issue as to his proxy. Scott seconded the motion. There was no opposition to the motion.

The ED reported that all award pins are now being stocked by Regional Directors and can be purchased by competitors at tournaments. Junior Handler pins will also be available at events. Teams are encouraged to report contributing junior handler's names to their RD's for immediate presentation of the award pins at events. The criteria for junior handler awards should be flexible and established by the team proposing the junior handler candidate and the RD.

The huge volume of certificates and plaques is caught up with efforts being made to seek sources for Canadian plaque production in Canada.

Attempts to contact Dale Smith by email and telephone were unsuccessful. The Bylaws Committee offered its view that the proxy could not be accepted, given the provision in Article VI, section 4 of the by-laws which says, "The Executive Director shall not vote" and which also gives the ED his veto power. Brian moved to accept the Bylaws committee's recommended reading of the bylaws. Scott seconded the motion. For the motion: Brian, Glenn, Jeff, Todd, Kris, Mike, Scott. Against: None. The motion to invalidate the proxy was accepted. The Board noted that, should Dale return the messages and give his proxy to a voting Board member, which the bylaws permit, the proxy would be accepted.

The motion to approve Melinda Fitts as RD for Region 19 was renewed. Scott moved that the Board approve the ED's appointment of Melinda Fitts as RD for Region 19 and Kris seconded. There was no opposition to the motion and it passed unanimously.

Sam then turned to Region 12, noting that this region has been without a permanent RD for some time. The ED requested approval of his appointment of Kurt Johnson as Regional Director for Region 12. Scott made a motion to accept the ED's appointment and Todd seconded. Discussion followed in which concern was expressed that Kurt's position as a Supervising Judge and now RD might concentrate too much power in a single individual. The board also reviewed past and current submissions from the region indicating that any appointment would cause some concern from various parties in the region. Sam reiterated his belief that Kurt is the correct choice at this time. There was no opposition to the motion and the ED's appointment of Kurt Johnson as RD for Region 12 was approved.

Sam noted that any EJS must be protected by a power surge protector when using generators for outdoor use. As a general rule, it is advised that every club connect the EJS's to a properly protected multipoint extension strip that incorporates surge protection. The ED will obtain the appropriate hardware for the Signature Gear and Jason sets.

Requests have been made to reassign dogs and/or clubs from the owners listed with NAFA to new owners. It is NAFA's position that a change in ownership of a dog or a club, requires the approval of the original owner. The current listed owner must request or approve the change.

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Committee Assignments

The board reviewed the committee assignments presented by Lee in late 2005, which were as follows:

Disciplinary Committee

Lee Heighton- Chair
Kris Pickering
Todd Morningstar
Dale Smith

Judges/Education Committee

Brian Fay- Chair
Todd Morningstar
Scott Stein
Mike Smith

Marketing Committee

Jeff Kinsley- Chair
Glenn Hamilton
Mike Smith
Dede Crough

Regulatory/Rules/Bylaws Committee

Kris Pickering- Chair
Glenn Hamilton
Scott Stein
Todd Morningstar

Finance Committee

Kris Pickering- Chair
Scott Stein
Glenn Hamilton
Dale Smith

Election/Awards Committee

Dale Smith- Chair
TBA
TBA

Technology Committee

Dale Smith- Chair
Glenn Hamilton
Mike Smith

Nominating Committee

Chris VanWert

Glenn moved that we accept the assignments. Brian seconded. There was no opposition to the motion and it passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer requested that his report be included with the Finance committee report.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary announced that the new NAFA corporate web site is ready for implementation. Links to the website had been provided before the meeting for comment by the ED and the Board, with a very positive response. Lisa Peckham has done a tremendous job developing a state of the art site that brings the feel and excitement of the sport directly to the World Wide Web. Please visit <http://www.flyball.org> The site will be expanded over time to include how-to videos, increased information, the NAFA News in "e-zine" format and a more direct link to the corporation. The Board asked Glenn to authorize Lisa to "go live" with the new website.

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Committee Reports

Finance Committee/Treasurer's Report

Kris reported that the finance committee had worked diligently to transition the books of account from Dale Smith to Scott Stein as the new Treasurer and to bring NAFA's books into a position where the Finance Committee and the Treasurer could comply with the mandate in the bylaws, as amended this past year, respecting the use of an outside accounting firm and production of quarterly financial reports. Prior to 1999, NAFA employed an outside accounting firm to prepare its financial statements and IRS filings. Boards subsequent to 1999 declined to use outside assistance and brought the preparation of the annual reports "in-house" to the role of the Treasurer for fiscal years ending September 2000 to 2005. Shortly after Scott took over as Treasurer, NAFA received notice that the IRS was assessing penalties for late-filed 990's from 2001 and 2002, in the amounts of \$6,090.20 and \$6,377.84, respectively. Kris and Scott spoke to the IRS and then Kris followed up with written requests for abatement, in which NAFA communicated its belief that these 990s were in fact, timely filed and that, with the changes in the Treasurer's role, the improved communications requirements, the higher standards now engendered in the corporate bylaws that control the Treasurer role, and the hardship the penalties would inflict, the penalties should be abated. Subsequently, the IRS wrote to indicate the penalties for 2001 and 2002 have been withdrawn.

In speaking with the IRS Kris and Scott learned that the IRS does not have a record of having received a 2000 990 for FY ending 2001 but confirmed that NAFA did timely file a 1999 990 for the fiscal year (FY) ending September 2000, a copy of which has been obtained.

Dale is finalizing his role as Treasurer by preparing the 2004 990 for FY ending 2005 in conjunction with the Seim, Johnson, Sestak and Quist accounting firm with Steve Muller in Omaha, Nebraska. That firm has produced draft financial statements for 2000 to 2003 and will be developing the required 2000 990. The SJS&Q firm has said it expects to have the work on these returns completed shortly.

Kris noted NAFA's debt of gratitude to Dale for his work over the years and to Dale and Scott for the work they have done together during this transition period.

Scott then spoke and reported that he has transitioned the books from a home edition of the accounting software to a more business-oriented system. Additionally, he has begun a relationship with the certified public accounting firm re still under way to complete the valuation of the fixed of Rene Jacobs in Bennington, Vermont. The accountant has recommended that NAFA issue IRS 1099 forms to anyone being paid an honorarium of \$600 or over to be in full compliance with IRS standards.

Scott presented a Profit and Loss for the first quarter 2006 and offered an interim, yet incomplete Balance Sheet for the same period. Efforts assets (the various EJS configurations) owned by NAFA. These final figures will be updated in the next 60 days.

The finance committee noted that the Board has implemented its decision to present the current NAFA 990 for inspection on its website, as other non-profit corporations commonly do. The finance committee recommended that the board also present quarterly financial statements on the NAFA corporate web site as they become approved. Todd made a motion to accept the committee's recommendation. Brian seconded the motion. There was no opposition to the motion.

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Standing Rules/Regulatory/Bylaws Committee

There was no report offered.

Technology Report

It was suggested that Sam should contact Lisa Peckham to request an additional function for the NAFA web site that will produce an entry confirmation for people traveling to tournaments in Ontario with dogs that are restricted by the enacted Breed Specific legislation. This requirement to provide entry information is part of the requirement of the BSL in Ontario. In the short term, host clubs are encouraged to provide an entry document to teams traveling to their events.

It was suggested that the Rules Committee add a definition to the rulebook glossary to properly define some of the aspects of the Breed Specific Legislation requirements.

Scott requested information as to why the database software had not been moved to a public hosting site as has been done by the web site. Scott requested that Technology Committee bring a report about the status of the database software and its hosting location to the next in person board meeting, if not sooner.

Technology will continue its report later in the meeting.

The board adjourned for lunch at 11:50AM

The board returned from lunch at 12:20PM.

Judges Committee

The Judges Committee requested that the board adjourn to Executive Session.

Executive Session was entered at 12:21PM to discuss a matter of concern to the Judges committee.

The board returned to open session at 12:53PM and interrupted its presentation of committee reports to hear a time-scheduled address to the board. Committee reports continued following the address.

Greg Brown's Address to the Board

Lee introduced Greg Brown and Nancy Garcia to the board as they wished to address the board regarding issues with his status as Apprentice Judge. Additionally, Lawrence Cox and Elizabeth Curran were present and introduced.

Mr. Brown indicated his complete acceptance of the board's suspension of his judging activities and indicated his willingness to continue his development as a NAFA judge. Mr. Brown requested that the board reinstate his privileges and asked how best to achieve this goal.

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Lee indicated his concern that Mr. Brown had overstepped his right as an Apprentice judge when he challenged the request from Mr. Cox, his Supervising Judge at the event of Sept. 19, 2005. The board reiterated its belief that based on the argument with the Supervising Judge and subsequent withdrawal from his judging assignment, suspension of Mr. Brown's judging activities was the correct response.

The board questioned Mr. Brown at length about his actions on that day, the methods used for measuring, the need for consistent application of the NAFA rules, the procedures of the training program and the requirement that a judge appear as unbiased as possible to competitors as well as spectators, requiring special sensitivity when a judge deals with matters affecting the judge's own team or teammates' dogs, which the facts here involved.

Brian made a motion that Mr. Brown is allowed to apply to begin as a novice judge once again on January 28, 2007. The motion was withdrawn.

Brian made a motion that we enter Executive Session to discuss the matter. Mike seconded.

Executive Session was entered at 2:09PM to review Mr. Brown's address.

Executive Session was left at 2:57PM.

The board decided that the suspension of Mr. Brown's judging privileges is continued until Oct. 1, 2006 when he may reapply to begin the current Novice judging program.

Judge's Committee continues

The Judges committee recommended that we approve the appointment of Danny Fitts from CO from Provisional Judge to Head Judge. Kris made a motion to accept the recommendation. Glenn seconded. There was no opposition to the motion.

The Judges committee recommended that we approve the appointment of Phil Getty from PA from Provisional Judge to Head Judge. Brian made a motion to accept the recommendation. Todd seconded. There was no opposition to the motion.

The Judges committee recommended that we approve the appointment of Curtis Smith from AK from Apprentice Judge to Provisional Judge. Kris made a motion to accept the recommendation. Todd seconded. There was no opposition to the motion.

The Judges committee reported that it did not recommend the appointment of Charlene Pinelli from CO from Apprentice Judge to Provisional Judge. Three further assignments with measuring on each of 3 different weekends were requested.

The Judges committee reported that it did not recommend the appointment of John Rutkowski from CA from Provisional to Approved Judge. Three further assignments with measuring on each of 3 different weekends were requested.

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The Judges committee reported that it would rescind the judging status of Lisa Han from the judging list due to the incompleteness of her provisional assignments within the required time.

The committee reviewed the requirements for its judging videos and will draft a script for the use of the production company. Only footage of the Signature Gear lights will be used to avoid retro-dating the video.

Technology Committee continues

The committee reviewed the needs for the upcoming months and recommends the immediate purchase of an additional 5 sets of Signature Gear lights which would bring our total to 16 sets. With suggested lead time of 8 weeks from order to delivery, we will be able to service the needs of the community upon their receipt. The price protection period is about to expire and some savings could be realized by a prompt order. The upcoming event analysis shows that our "need" is a minimum of 14 sets. It is recommended that one or two sets always be allowed to be rotated in and out of maintenance.

SG sets are designed to be either an "odd" or "even" set based on the internal broadcasting frequencies. When two sets are being used in a 2 ring tournament, we need to use one of each type to avoid cross talking between the wireless controllers. This requirement limits the use of some pairs that are code both as "even" or "odd".

Todd made a motion to accept the recommendation from the committee to purchase five additional sets of Signature Gear EJS's, their cases and the required surge protectors. Glenn seconded the motion. For the motion; Glenn, Jeff, Todd, Mike. Against: Kris, Brian. Abstain: Scott. The motion was passed.

Disciplinary Committee

The Disciplinary Committee received a request to remove the "aggression" write-up for dog Zoe, CRN 990369. Scott recommended that we remove the aggression write-up. Todd seconded the motion. There was no opposition to the motion.

Marketing Committee

The brochure is almost complete. Sam noted that listed RD names and addresses should be removed from the brochure and that a reference should be made to the web site due to the changing nature of the information.

The Hobbes pin master is ready for production. The master was reviewed by all. Jeff reported that the pin should be made of very high quality finish to suitably reward the winners. Kris recommended that we accept the recommendation. Glenn seconded. For the motion; Brian, Glenn, Jeff, Todd, Kris, Mike, Scott. The motion unanimously approved.

The production design of the 10,000 point pins for 40k to 90k is underway but with no rendering yet ready to review.

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Outstanding Business

Mailing of Delegate Ballots re: Minimum Jump Heights

The wording of the ballots will be the same as presented on the web site comment period. They should be sent out by Feb. 14 with a closing date of April 7.

Enforcement of published minimum run-back

This issue was tabled at the request of the Rules committee.

Assignment of EJS by Regions

Note: The plan for permanent assignment of EJS's is under continued development by the ED as the new systems come into service.

New Business

Introduction of New Web Site

The board is very excited to announce the introduction of the new NAFA corporate web site. We would like to thank Lisa Peckham for her ongoing development of a state of the art presence for NAFA on the World Wide Web. This new vehicle will become the backbone for future developments of video presentation, on-line NAFA News and a more direct connection to the NAFA community. This portion of NAFA's on-line commitment was recently moved to a fully supported ISP with 24/7 support

The address new site is available at <http://www.flyball.org>

Establishing Tournament Directors responsibility for EJS Packing

Please Note: To improve accountability of the shipping and management of the EJS's, NAFA will consider the EJS Coordinator named on the sanctioning form to be responsible for the Electronic Judging Systems when they are on site.

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Judge Assignment for Alaska Tournament

After discussion, the board approved supervising judge Brian Fay as the judge for the upcoming "first" tournament in Alaska.

Region 12 Review

The board is concerned with letters of complaint received from region 12. The board approved the budget for a visit by the ED and a judge to review NAFA events in Region 12 and assist in determining and resolving the problems reported.

Proposed Changes to 60 Day Sanctioning Rule

We received a proposal from Karen Oleson requesting that the minimum number of days required for sanctioning be reduced from 60 to 30 days from closing. The on-line processes that have been enabled in our systems have streamlined the sanctioning method to make this possible.

As NAFA Vice-Chairman, Kris assumed the role of meeting chair as Chairman Lee had to leave for travel reasons. Lee gave his proxy to Scott and left the meeting at 4:51PM to meet a flight.

Scott made a motion to change the sanctioning period to 30 days prior to the closing with a minimum of a 20 day closing period. Todd seconded the motion. Brian made a motion to table the motion pending comment from the flyball community. Todd seconded the motion. There was no opposition to the motion. The rules committee will propose new wording.

Please Note: The Board noted that this is an issue on which input from the NAFA RDs, host teams and competitors would be very helpful and suggested that this matter be flagged on the website as one on which comment is particularly sought.

Executive Proposal on Regional Alignment Changes

Sam reviewed his plans with the board regarding proposed regional realignment for fiscal 2007. Todd made a motion that effective 10/01/06, that the states of New Mexico and Wyoming be added to Region 19. Jeff seconded the motion. For the motion: Brian, Glenn, Jeff, Todd, Mike, Scott. Abstain: Lee. The motion carried.

Please Note: Sam made a request that the board invite comments from the participants in Region 6 and 16 to gather their opinions on the merits of restructuring their regions to flyball@flyball.org. Jeff made a motion to accept Sam's recommendation. Todd seconded the motion. For the motion: Brian, Glenn, Jeff, Todd, Mike, Scott. Abstain: Lee. The motion was carried. It is expected that this matter will be addressed by formal recommendation from Sam and tendered for Board approval at the next meeting of the Board. The issue will be flagged on the website with the hope that input will be received from RDs, host teams and competitors.

The board recessed at 6:09PM for dinner.

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The board returned from dinner at 9:42PM. Jeff did not return due to illness and but did give his proxy to Brian for subsequent issues.

World Cynosports Flyball Championship

The Executive Director reported back to the board on the results of his negotiations for a special event to be held in conjunction with the Cynosports World Games in November in Scottsdale, AZ. Todd made a motion that the North American Flyball Association, Inc. commits its resources to sponsoring this international special flyball event to the highest level of success. Glenn seconded. For the motion: Brian, Glenn, Todd, Mike, Lee, Jeff by proxy, Scott. Against: None. The motion was passed unanimously.

Sam has worked with a sub-committee of Lee, Jeff and Glenn to review possible formats to be used in a three-day event that progresses from open classes through to an elimination-style final with Regional Champions earning a bye into the final qualifying event. It is hoped that this event will bring together teams from regions all across NAFA.

Todd moved that we adjourn the meeting. Scott seconded. There was unanimous consent.

Meeting adjourned at 10:33PM Central.