

# North American Flyball Association Inc.

Teleconference

December 1, 2004

## Abridged Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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

Called to order at 8:10 PM Central Time by Chairman Lee Heighton.

### Chairman's Remarks

Lee expressed thanks to outgoing board members Ule James and Aaron Hughes for their years of service and welcomed the new members Dale Smith, Scott Stein and Kris Pickering to the board.

As his major goal for the new year, Lee stressed the need for better communications with the flyball community. The new policies of publishing minutes to the web site are a step towards meeting that objective. Lee requested that Committee heads prepare goals for their individual committees by the next in-person board meeting.

He would like to continue with the night-before committee meetings but reports are due into the whole board seven days in advance of the next meeting. Glenn will advise ten days in advance. Kris suggested the use of a docket number for the various committees to track projects. The numerical system is easier to track and report on than a text name. Lee requested that executive session usage be described in better detail, i.e., that we report the reason for executive session as well as the outcome.

### Executive Director's Remarks

Sam announced that there will be changes in the NAFA business systems that will work towards a better organization. Already, changes have been made to the sanctioning person and related software changes will follow to expedite the sanctioning process. Karen Oleson has been appointed by Sam to handle sanctioning while Judy Hagan will handle mail distribution, CRN and New Club assignments. Equipment will be moved to the new offices as soon as possible. Sam doesn't believe in a wholesale change of staff but there will be changes made in the upcoming months. The ED is working with the old legacy policy documented by Connie Austin and Ule James to develop a new policy while continuing to manage the existing back-log of sanctioning requests.

*Clubs that have submitted sanctioning requests for tournaments that close before February 15, 2005 that have not yet been posted on the NAFA web site should contact [flyball@flyball.org](mailto:flyball@flyball.org) for expedited service.*

Sam reiterated the need for improving the speed of communications to the flyball community.

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### Committee Reports:

**Financial:** Nothing to report

**Regulatory:** Handled an issue where a club had warmed up a dog in violation of the 90 day rule.

**Disciplinary:** Four sets of charges under way. One set of charges will result in a hearing at the January board meeting, one has been outstanding for several months, a third is pending further review by the Disciplinary Committee and the fourth will be presented to the DC shortly.

**Technology:** Report follows. The three main areas of interest are the Signature Gear negotiations, the repairs to the Hughes EJS's, and changes to the web site.

Minor changes that are required with the Signature Gear contract were discussed and developed. Additional EJS's will be available for purchase by NAFA at \$9,500 per system until March 31, 2006. Five systems have been ordered and will be delivered by Signature Gear to NAFA by March 31, 2005. Acceptance testing of the systems will be made using the prototype in an earlier tournament in December 2004.

The Hughes systems are undergoing repairs. It is noted that some repairs that are being made to the Hughes EJS's are caused by being damaged by inconsiderate handling and are not the fault of the EJS.

The web sites are undergoing change and a new, more corporate look will be developed.

**Bylaws:** Nothing to report.

**Judges:** Two judges will be contacted for failing to judge two tournaments in FY2004 and will be required to judge an event under a Supervising Judge. *Brian to contact and follow-up on requirements.*

**Marketing:** Work is ongoing on the brochure development and the two new awards.

### Outstanding Business

The list of outstanding tasks was reviewed:

- Todd has ordered special wicket bags to preserve the measuring wickets
- A new storage space for ED records was obtained
- Two auctioned EJS sets have been sent to the Canadian purchasers while the two US purchasers will be shipped their sets by December 9.
- Dale will obtain a copy the Sportsmen's Insurance policy for the board to review
- Signature Gear contract negotiated
- Kris is almost complete in the annual corporate filings for Michigan. She recommends the use of a national legal service to handle future filings for NAFA

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### New Business

#### **Ratification of Committee Assignments**

Dale made a motion that the list of committee assignments, as announced on the NAFA web site, be approved by the board. Scott seconded the motion.

For the motion: Jeff, Glenn, Dale, Ken, Brian, Todd, Scott and Kris. Against: None. Motion carried.

#### **Executive Committee Appointment:**

Sam reiterated his announcement of Karen Oleson for sanctioning and Judy Hagan for mail distribution, club and CRN applications. Glenn requested a list of new Regional Director appointments from Sam who replied that none was required as he was expecting to stay with the current RD's. Ken indicated that RD appointments ceased with the change in Executive Directors. There was some disagreement within the board about the requirement for RD re-appointment. Lee suggested that the board review the Regional Director assignments at the January meeting. Sam agreed to do so and would provide a list at that time.

#### **Request to Amend Accepted Breed Registry List:**

Scott and Susan Weber requested that NAFA add the National Stock Dog Registry (NSDR) to the list of NAFA-recognized registries as outlined in Corporate Policies and Procedures Section 6.2 - Classes of Competition, paragraph (d) so that the breed McNab could be recognized by NAFA. In discussion, the concern was expressed that the NSDR did not differentiate or define the individual breeds to the extent desired by the board. Jeff noted that the American Herding Breed Association had a better definition of its breeds, which may serve to better describe the McNab breed. Dale made a motion to table the motion and assign it to the Standing Rules Committee for review. Kris seconded the motion.

For the motion: Jeff, Glenn, Dale, Ken, Brian, Todd, Scott and Kris. Against: None. Motion carried.

#### **Request for Clarification of Announced New Awards:**

Kim Murray requested more information on the name(s) and the award structure of the new awards announced at the 2004 Annual General meeting. Dale made a motion to table the Mim Murray's motion and assign it to the Marketing Committee for response when more information became available. Kris seconded the motion.

For the motion: Jeff, Glenn, Dale, Ken, Brian, Todd, Scott and Kris. Against: None. Motion carried.

#### **Next In-Person Board Meeting:**

Lee announced that the next in-person meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2005 at the Holiday Inn Westport, 1973 Craigshire St., St. Louis, MS. Time and room to be announced.

Todd left the meeting at 10:20PM CT.

Brian made a motion that with all the business completed, that we adjourn the meeting. Jeff seconded the motion.

For the motion: Jeff, Glenn, Dale, Ken, Brian, Scott and Kris. Against: None. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25PM CT.

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### Technology Report submitted December 1, 2004

Our top three projects currently are:

- **Signature Gear EJS**
  - A contract with Signature Gear has been signed to purchase 5 EJS systems for delivery on or before March 30, 2005 with an option for five more at a reduced price within 6 months of the initial delivery. Price for the first 5 is \$9600 each and the price for the 2<sup>nd</sup> five is \$9400 each. Upgraded tree (as requested) added some cost to the systems. Price break on 2<sup>nd</sup> five is based on quantity and advance payment with each order of 5. We will review the new tree when it is ready. Plan to run the prototype (nearly as seen in Phoenix) at December Omaha tournament to further ring out the hardware and initial software in real tournament conditions - a NAFA EJS will be available as backup.
- **Hughes EJS**
  - Beginning an effort to document and classify each problem encountered with the EJS (and which unit it occurred on). Working to acquire schematics and software listings from the builder. Plan to assess problems encountered and existing hardware and software architecture with an eye to rewriting or modifying the software (or hardware) to allow for the continued use of the systems. This does not yet assume a rewrite or modification will be necessary. We need to understand the specific problems first.
  - This documentation and classification effort will be extended to all NAFA-owned EJS systems in an effort to spot problems early and provide effective preventative maintenance.
- **Static website - [www.flyball.org](http://www.flyball.org) (pull information)**
  - The static website is gradually being modified. Initial changes involve removal of some features, reorganization of menus and timely content publication of interest to our constituents. Future plans involve a new look and feel, movement of the discussion forums to a separate site and further refinement of the web structure to reflect the organization (eg., adding areas for each committee or for each region).
  - Ultimately, a strategic plan will be presented with well-defined long-term goals. We can then assess whether to continue with the current structure or move to another offering dictated by the defined goals.

Other items that are being worked on:

- **Certificate generation process**
  - Provide professional looking certificates and distribute while minimizing volunteer labor.
- **Streamlined sanctioning**
  - Allow timely sanctioning with minimum effort from the sanctioning secretary. This may include online application for sanctioning.

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- **Online New Club apps**
  - Allow new Clubs applications online much like CRN - some approval needed for name conflicts.
- **EJS preventative maintenance**
  - Effective program needed to ensure a long life for our critical assets.
- **Scoring program update**
  - Enhancements to the NAFA electronic scoring program to fix bugs and add new features. Bob Long is working on this now.
- **Other NAFA software**
  - Are there other software applications NAFA should provide to host Clubs like the scoring application.
- **Enhancements to the NAFA database**
  - Explore and prioritize desired enhancements.
- **NAFA chat technology**
  - Implement a reliable and responsive chat infrastructure to enable online chats with NAFA constituents and to support other NAFA requirements if found.
- **NAFA email notifications (push information)**
  - interested parties list (permission to email)
  - opt out of paper communications
  - what to notify people of
  - Provide a framework to proactively notify interested parties of new information available on the NAFA website. Ensure that people receiving NAFA communication have requested it to avoid SPAM liabilities. Allow for a reduction in paper communication where possible.