



Working Notes

Northstar Working Group Association monthly publication

April 2009 Issue 3

**2009 NWGA
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Sunny Lambert
Sharon Olson
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Dear NWGA Members,

Spring has officially arrived. I've included a photo of what spring looks like in my backyard. I'll be glad when the sun can arrive and the dogs and I can venture out to the parks for play and some free running. (The photo is too big for the email version)

Thank you for all the kind comments about the new look of the newsletter. I am experimenting with formats and color, so if you do or don't like something it does help to have the feedback.

One thing I'd like to include in the newsletter is some personal interest stories and/or good news from shows

either conformation or performance about you and your dogs. You can email information and photos to me: sunnylambert@earthlink.net.

I remind you all that the Animal Rights bastions are among us and doing their part with legislatures in just about every state. It appears we've held them off for another year here in Minnesota. Be aware that their goals are to eliminate our dogs. I know that sounds radical, doesn't it? Read their statements and goals to educate yourselves. We need everyone's energy and voice to oppose them and all the laws they propose.

Send me your wins and good news!
Sunny Lambert, Newsletter, Editor

**Next Meeting Thursday, April 16, 2009
7:30 PM**

**Board Meeting: 7:15 PM
at Perkins in Lakeville, 1787 Kenyon Ave.**

Directions to the meeting: Take I-35E south or north to Exit 85 (County Rd. 5/County Road 50 in Lakeville). Go northwest on County Road 5 to 172nd St. W. Turn left onto 172nd St. W., then turn left again onto Kenyon Avenue. Perkins Restaurant is at the end of Kenyon Avenue.

NORTHSTAR WORKING GROUP ASSOCIATION

Minutes
March 19, 2009

The Northstar Working Group Association met at the Perkins Restaurant in Eagan on Thursday, March 19, 2009. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Sid Levin. A quorum was present.

It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes of the January meeting as printed. The motion was carried.

President's Report: None.

Secretary's Report: Diane Levin reported that correspondence sent included lapsed membership letters to Gayle Hartranft, Mick Murphy, Jan Richards, and Bonnie Swanson; show application and judges panel application for the August 2009 conformation show; and several mailings advertising the Pat Miller seminar in March. Correspondence received: copies of letters from AKC to two exhibitors at the NWGA January conformation show whose dogs were ineligible (because of age) for the classes they were entered in; an e-mail notice from AKC regarding the ABC Nightline program segment dealing with health problems in purebred dogs; an e-mail from Jan Ahlgren with information on two breeder regulatory bills introduced into the state Senate; a flyer for the Lake Minnetonka Kennel Club B match held on March 13; a brochure from AKC regarding insurance for affiliate clubs; a brochure advertising a seminar on shelter dog behavior in Wisconsin; a postcard advertising an event listing service.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Olson reported that after all bills had been paid, we made a profit of \$2,141.84 from the January conformation show, thanks largely to Deb Wilkins's hiring of provisional judges. We made a profit of \$72.94 from the January obedience and rally trials, which is not bad considering that entries were down substantially from 2008. The club's \$12,000.00 CD was automatically renewed. The checking account balance as of the meeting date was \$16,586.22.

Committee Reports:

Show: Diane noted that the January 2009 conformation show was closed out by AKC. The show report was printed in the January newsletter.

August 2009: AKC has approved the show application, special attraction application (for Bred-By-Exhibitor Group), and judges' panel. Debby Wilkins will judge the Bred-By Group. Premium list copy has been sent to Judy

Cunningham, St. Croix Valley Specialties coordinator. We want to finish earlier than last year and will state in the premium list that we will make every effort to conclude judging by 3:00 p.m. If entry numbers follow the same pattern as the last two years, we will be able to use four rings and all judges will finish breed judging at close to the same time. Diane emphasized that we will need eight stewards for four rings and reminded everyone that they can steward and show on the same day. She asked anyone interested in volunteering to give their name to Jim Olson, chief ring steward. Diane also noted that information about the awards the club will offer in support of the entry at the St. Croix Valley Kennel Club (SCVKC) all-breed shows was sent to Al Roth, SCVKC trophy chair, and to Judy Cunningham, who will be proofreading the premium list.

Obedience: Diane said that the January 2009 obedience and rally trials were closed out by AKC. The trial report was printed in the February newsletter. Co-chair Sharon Olson reported that she sent contracts and assignment sheets to the two judges hired for January 2010; she is still waiting for one response. She has contacted Total recall and given them the corresponding dates for January 2010. Sharon noted that the North Star Herding Group Club (NSHGC) will again share the location with us.

Agility: Sharon has received all approvals from AKC and prepared the premium list copy. Webmaster Deb Merritt posted the information on the club web site and set up a procedure for volunteers to sign up online.

Match: Deb Wuetherich said that she has not yet located a site that would be reasonably priced. Sid mentioned that the single ring at Pet Junction is available to clubs for free, but there is no crating space. There was some discussion about whether to hold a separate conformation match, as we did last year in conjunction with a picnic, or do a combination match. John Wilkins suggested we do a combination match including all-breed obedience. To do this would require at least two and preferably three rings. It was noted that both C & E Dog Training and Animal Inn have three rings. Sunny Lambert noted that C & E is available only on Sundays. After additional discussion, it was decided that Deb Wuetherich would check rental costs for both sites; once we have the information, we will settle on a date and format.

Trophies: Ann Porwoll said that trophies for August 2009 have been ordered: twelve-inch wind spinners with a paw-print centerpiece for Best of Breed, and wheeled coolers for Group placements. Best Junior will receive a thermos bottle and Best Bred-By-Exhibitor will receive a folding chair, both from our stock of unused trophies. Sharon asked if we have anything on hand that could be used for the agility trial. Ann will send Sharon a list of available surplus trophies.

Hospitality: Bliss Bancroft has contacted Buca di Beppo in

Burnsville and they are holding Sunday, November 22 (the Sunday before Thanksgiving) for the awards banquet and holiday party. The menu will be determined later. We will have the same number of choices as we did last year; the price will be held to \$25.00 for adults and \$15.00 for anyone under 16. Current plans include omitting the silent auction, as we don't need to do fundraiser, but continuing with the white elephant gift exchange and auction.

Advertising and Publicity: Sid noted that this position is still vacant following the resignation of Karen Johnson and asked for a volunteer. Advertising our matches, shows and trials will help increase our entry.

Membership: Membership Application, First Reading: Catherine Shonka, who has Portuguese Water Dogs, is sponsored by Sharon Olson and Diane Levin. Moe Flaherty wrote a letter in support of her application.

Membership Application, First Reading: Carol Van Nostrand, who has Doberman Pinschers, is sponsored by Diane Levin and Kathie Galotti. Kathie wrote a letter in support of her application.

Membership Application, Second Reading: Lynai Torabpour.

Ways and Means: John has rain jackets and a few other clothing items available for purchase. John asked for suggestions for items people might be interested in; he mentioned soft-shell jackets and pique polo shirts as possibilities.

Education: Diane reported on the status of the Pat Miller seminar. She sent brochures to humane societies and shelters in Minnesota and handed out flyers at the Pet Expo in Minneapolis. Margaret Ontl sent a follow-up mailing to in-state training facilities. Diane switched our reservation at the Conference Center to a room with a lower minimum and a maximum attendance of 72. We currently have 60 registrations with two more promised; Diane will accept registrations as late as possible. We got a good room rate for Pat's hotel, and she got a very good price for her plane ticket. We have passed the break-even point and should see a small profit.

Finance: Sid said that the Heart of Minnesota Great Dane Club had switched from Sportsman's Insurance Agency to R.V. Nuccio, and obtained \$1,000,000/\$2,000,000 liability coverage, \$100,00 officers and directors insurance, and bonding for less than they had been paying for liability coverage alone. This agency has been in business for quite some time, but has only recently moved to expand its nonprofit customer base. Jim will check them when our insurance is due for renewal. Jim noted that the club's \$12,000.00 CD has been renewed.

Newsletter: Everyone liked the new format newsletter pro-

duced by new editor Sunny Lambert. Sunny wants to actively encourage all club members who have e-mail to receive the newsletter electronically. She also wants to include more human interest items and add pictures to the newsletter.

Web Site: Deb Merritt has posted pictures from the August 2008 and January 2009 conformation shows and the January 2008 and 2009 obedience/rally trials, and has sent the prints to historian Wencke Gulbro. She compiled statistics for 2008 showing the heaviest traffic in May, June, and December, probably from people looking for information about events in July, August, and January. She recorded over 54,000 hits from more than twenty-five countries. Sid asked about the possibility of posting the newsletter on the web site. Deb said that this can be done very simply. Sunny noted that the newsletter should not be posted until after club members have received theirs and had a chance to read it; it was suggested that the newsletter for a given month should not be posted online until after that month's meeting.

Legislative: Coleman Nemerov said that he and Laurie have not been able to keep up with events this year and suggested that someone else take over this position. Sunny had information about the current language of this year's proposed breeder bill: anyone with more than twenty intact breeding animals who produced more than five litters per year would be considered a commercial breeder subject to licensing requirements. Members were urged to contact their own state legislators, preferably in writing, to express their opinion about this bill.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Coleman mentioned AKC's proposed group realignment, which will be voted on by the delegates at their next meeting and will take effect in 2012. The realignment would split off the Northern breeds into a group of their own. We need to investigate what position AKC might take on multi-group limited breed clubs. We also need to find out AKC's position on combined-group matches, which could be held to facilitate the licensing process for new group clubs. Coleman will look into this. Jim noted that Fred Bock is the Key City Kennel Club's AKC delegate; he attends all the meetings and would be a good source of information.

There being no further business, it was moved and seconded to adjourn. The motion was carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Levin, Secretary NWGA