

MNRC Club Members,

As with many of your local clubs, the Master National Retriever Club (MNRC) also has the need to review and update the bylaws which we utilize to operate the club. Changes occur over time that necessitates these updates. Your MNRC Board of Directors (BOD) has reviewed and created updates to the MNRC by-laws. The current bylaws must be voted upon by all member clubs to become effective. In addition, following the current by-laws, a special meeting must be called by several member clubs or the MNRC President to facilitate the vote or at the MNRC Annual Meeting. As President in conjunction with the MNRC BOD, I have requested to call a special meeting so we can get our MNRC by-laws updated. Many changes have occurred to our annual event over the last several years that demand we update the bylaws by which we operate. The bylaws that you will be voted on are administrative in nature and do change how the MNRC currently operates our annual event.

Changes include AKC definitions of who can participate in our event. Also, we cleaned up language for a better understanding of the bylaws. The most significant area of change was in the area of membership dues.

We have identified an issue that has created issues not only for the MNRC but can also affect member clubs. The issue is the payment of membership dues. Our secretary spends many hours attempting to communicate with the member clubs to ensure that their membership dues are paid. Two notices are sent to the clubs for dues payments. After several attempts to get dues paid, there is a clause in the bylaws that the delinquent clubs be terminated and must pay a reinstatement fee and be voted on and approved by the BOD before reinstatement can occur. During that period of time the club is passed due, tests that the club may run are not counted towards MNRC event qualification. Due to the amount of work and time the secretary spends attempting compliance with dues payments, we have added a late fee to the bylaws to hopefully help reduce this issue. To also help with dues issues the BOD modified the bylaw language to ensure clubs understand the membership period is the same as the MNRC event qualification period. Internal procedures have been updated to send dues notifications earlier in the process. The secretary will be working closely with the Regional Directors to allow them time to communicate with clubs to help ensure dues compliance. Additionally, the BOD is working to create an online payment system so clubs can make dues payments electronically. Taking these internal steps should help member clubs as well as the MNRC.

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact your Regional Vice Presidents or Directors. You can also contact myself or the Secretary.

Keith Kiesow

President MNRC