



# MNRC News

Official Newsletter of the Master National Retriever Club

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## President's Message...

Greetings Master National Retriever Club Enthusiasts:

Since our last newsletter to you a lot has been going on. Bob Meyer resigned as Region I Vice President for personal reasons. Thanks Bob for all of your hard work for many years. Mary Williams was appointed to replace Bob. Thanks Mary for taking on this undertaking in the middle of the stream. We will all help you.

The past three months have been busy and frustrating for the MNRC Board. The answer to everyone's question is that the 2005 event will be held as a two-way split with AKC licensing. Many will perceive this as the Board ignoring the vote of the delegates at the 2004 Special meeting by not breaking away from the AKC. However this is not the case.

Let's back up and discuss what has occurred since March. At the annual winter Board meeting in February we voted to apply for the three-way split. We submitted that request to AKC which was slated for review at the Board of Directors meeting in April. It was postponed for decision until May. In the interim we learned that the AKC Performance Division had recommended to the AKC Board of Directors to reject our request. In defense and support of our position we sent letters to each member of that Board. Our attempts were futile as the three-way split was denied. While proceeding to make plans to hold the event without AKC licensing we began to run into problems that indicated that leaving AKC might not be as easy as was supposed. The result was a letter sent to all MNRC member club delegates and contacts along with a ballot requesting a decision to either: 1) run the 2005 event as a two-way split with AKC licensing, or 2) run as a three-way split and leave AKC. A copy of this letter is included in this issue. This mail vote resulted in an overwhelming mandate to run as a two-way split and remain with AKC for the present time.

What are the difficulties in leaving AKC? Many of these are outlined in the letter that was sent to the clubs. After that letter was sent we learned of additional legal issues associated with who owns the various items associated with the MNRC and what is appropriate in terms of the club's Constitution. This includes but is not limited to the MNRC logo, "Master National Retriever Club" name, and even the mention and use of the AKC Regulations. Looking

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## VISION STATEMENT

The Master National Retriever Club, Inc., is committed to the hunting tradition, and devoted to the promotion, breeding, training and best interests of retrievers. In order to carry out our commitment, Master Hunters will be tested annually in a non-competitive manner at the Master National Stake to the maximum of the standard set out by the American Kennel Club. We firmly believe in supporting the hunting test program and that all participants should conduct themselves as good sportsmen. To obtain the maximum of the standard there shall be such utilization of terrain, bird placement, and natural conditions so as to provide significant challenge to the abilities of the master hunting dog.

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# Minutes of the 2005 Annual Winter Board Meeting

## February 4-5, 2005

Bill Blochowiak called the meeting to order at 8:00AM. Board members present were, Frank Barton, Mike Bunting, Bill Blochowiak, Bill Teague, Julie Cairns, Molly Moxley, Cindy Read, Dave Bornhofer, David Christianson, and George Tookey. Also present was Frank Prendergast-delegate, Sandy Kappus from the Host Club and Ray Muth - Past President. Bill Blochowiak introduced the new board members and visitors

Secretary Frank Barton passed out the minutes from the Special and Annual Meetings. Mike Bunting made a motion to approve the minutes from 10-1-04. It was seconded and passed. Bill Teague made a motion to approve the minutes from 10-2-04. It was seconded and passed.

Frank distributed the constitution changes and new Constitution. Frank distributed the list of 2004 paid clubs with delegates and contacts.

Mike Bunting passed out the 2004 event financial report. Cindy Read made a motion to approve the Financial Report. It was seconded and passed. The 2005 event budget report was reviewed. Mike reviewed Investment account report. Mike reported that all insurance policies were current and in force.

Sandy Kappus from Rose Country Retriever Club gave a report from the local committee. She said that a preliminary host hotel had been contacted that had room for 263 people. They are also working on lining up the banquet and meeting room locations. All of these facilities are located in Palestine. She reported that improvements to the test grounds were planned including road enhancements and construction of additional technical water areas.

Julie reported that Policy and Procedures Committee and the Judges Selection and Qualification Committee had several changes to be discussed later that were a result of the Constitution changes in 2004.

Bill Blochowiak reviewed the trailer inventory. Equipment that was lost or stolen was discussed. Julie suggested that we replace some of the bird drying racks.

Bill Teague suggested that the mileage reimbursement be increased to 40.5 cents per mile. This was deferred until the discussion regarding Policies and procedures.

Bill Blochowiak reported that the Bird Contract for 2005 would be the same cost as in 2004. The contract prices are \$8.00 for drake ducks and \$10 for rooster pheasants.

KMI is still under contract to do the event catalog.

MNRC clothing contract with The Graphic Group was reviewed.

This contract was approved.

Frank Barton reviewed the website contract. It was decided that Frank will receive bids for a new webmaster and was given the approval by the board to award same provided it did not exceed the cost from 2004.

The photography contract for 2005 was discussed. At this time no formal proposals were available.

Bill Blochowiak announced the 2005 Committee Chairs. They are as follows:

Chief Marshall Bob Meyer. In Bob's absence, Julie suggested that another person be trained to do test sketches, test timing, & equipment procurement. Julie's point being that Bob was going to be busy as Chief Marshall.

Equipment Bob Meyer

Test Artist Bob Meyer

Stewards: Cindy Read and George Tookey

Bird Throwers: Dave Bornhofer

and David Christianson

Grounds and Traffic: Mike Bunting

Marshals: Molly Moxley and Julie Cairns

Sponsor Liaison:

Safety: Julie Cairns

Hospitality: Bill Teague

Sound Truck: Frank Barton and Judy Meyer

Guns Frank Prendergast

Julie Cairns gave the Chief Marshal's report for 2004. Julie reported that we had a great test that was challenging. Areas of improvement were noted and discussed.

Discussion began on the events at the special meeting and annual meeting in 2004. Among items discussed was the UKC Grand format. After lengthy discussion the board decided to make a proposal to AKC to have the 2005 event to include a three way split and hired workers. Two proposals will be prepared. One will have the judges only judging the dogs in their flight. The other will have the dogs rotating thru the judge's stations and coming together for a final series. The board's preference for 2005 is the first proposal.

Under New Business from the 2004 Annual Meeting there were several items presented to the board. The board considered the items as follows:

- 1) Consideration for MNRC dates that do not conflict with hunting season. (Author unknown) The Board

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# Letter to the Clubs

May 25, 2005

Greetings Master National Retriever Club (MNRC) Delegates and Contacts of record:

We are writing this letter to keep you up to date with the MNRC. A two-way split for our hunt test was approved by AKC last fall when the original 2005 test application was submitted. Subsequently, we wrote a letter asking for a three-way split. The Performance Events Division put this request on the agenda for the American Kennel Club (AKC) Board Of Directors at their April 2005 meeting. The Performance Division at that time recommended that the request be denied. The MNRC Board drafted two letters that were sent to the AKC Board of Directors, the AKC President, and Executive Secretary detailing and defending our request for a three-way split. The request was heard again for a final vote at the May meeting and denied. This puts the future of the MNRC in a dilemma and in your hands. A MNRC Board meeting was held May 18, 2005 and the ramifications of this action were discussed. We have two options: run as a two-way split and stay with AKC or run a three-way split and run without licensing.

This letter is being sent to all MNRC club delegates and contacts (of record) for a mail vote for a one-time, temporary change to the MNRC Constitution and Bylaws. A mail vote has been done in the past when the amended MNRC constitution was voted on by mail in 1998. At the Special meeting in Horicon the delegates passed several amendments to the Constitution and by-laws. One of these (Article IX, section 4, C 1) specifies that flights should be limited to 125 dogs each and Article 1 Section 2b now states in the event that the request to AKC for additional splits is denied the event would be run without AKC licensing. We know how you voted last year at the meeting in Horicon, but we also believe that much of the information affecting this move was not fully presented to you and that running the event without AKC licensing could have a direct impact on the future of the event. We are not just talking about this year or next, but the long-term future. Because of the gravity of the decision that we are facing we felt it proper to present these additional facts for your consideration. Your regional director or vice president will contact you personally to discuss the contents of this letter and answer any questions you may have. We are asking for your permission to run this year's event as a two-way split with AKC licensing. In order to move effectively we need your club to return the enclosed ballot by June 20, 2005. All votes will be published in the next MNRC News along with this letter.

The "PROS" for running without AKC licensing follow:

- The MNRC can move on and order what is needed for the 2006 event.
- The event in terms of AKC recognition is already meaningless.
- A quality event run in as many splits as necessary could result.

- RFTN will continue to track qualifiers as long as we continue to use AKC events as our method of qualification.
- General insurance should not be a problem.
- Most of our sponsors will stay with the MNRC despite a split with AKC
- Some judges do not care if this is an AKC event or not.
- The MNRC delegates voted to hold the event without AKC licensing at the 2004 Special Meeting.

The "CONS" of running without AKC licensing follow:

- Running this event without AKC licensing is more than just a one-year situation: it would mean a total divorce from AKC and could have a tremendous impact on our future. If we split from AKC, we will never be able to go back.
- All inventories with "AKC" in the logo would be void.
- Our insurance, which is through AKC, would be cancelled. We currently have three types of coverage: general insurance, BOD liability, and judges' "hold harmless". The first two can be obtained elsewhere. The third is provided by AKC and we are not sure of its availability. Without it our judges could be at risk. In an instance of a lawsuit that exceeded our coverage we would not have AKC to back us up.
- At this time it is unknown as to whether some of our judges will judge a non-AKC event. If not, we will have to pick new judges who you did not vote for or may not have even been on the ballot in 2004.
- All mention in the constitution and by-laws of "AKC" would have to be removed. The powers of the MNRC hunt test committee would be limited and need to be specified in the constitution and by-laws as there will be no disciplinary procedures in place for any violation at our event other than expulsion from the event.
- If a split occurred, the grounds planned for the 2006 MN Hunt Test would currently not be available. This may impact other year's test sites.
- In some states usage of state property requires an event to be licensed.
- It is essentially guaranteed that if we split, AKC will start a new club to fill the void of the MNRC. This could lead to a title superior to anything we may offer. We could turn in to a long weekend event.
- One host club for the 2005 MNHT will withdraw their sponsorship.

In conclusion, we have no way of knowing what the ultimate results of our course of action will be beyond this year's event. Will Master handlers continue to support the MNRC event or move on to a new event that will be developed? Will AKC clubs continued to support and provide a means of qualification for a non-AKC event? Will three, four, and five way splits provide a meaningful event? Anything is at this point is speculation.

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## *Report from the Judges Nomination Committee...*

The MNRC Regional Directors sent out judges' nomination for the 2006 event were to all paid member clubs by March 15. A total of 58 clubs responded by the April 30 deadline. Letters of interest were then sent to persons nominated with a response deadline of June 25, 2005. The MNRC Board of Directors will select a ballot of prospective judges from those that have responded that they are interested in judging. Selection will be to those best suited to judge the event based on a variety of factors. Below is the list of clubs that sent in nominations and those persons nominated to judge. Remember that inclusion on this list only indicates that they were nominated, but does not mean that they have responded to the letter of interest or will appear on the actual ballot. The ballot for 2006 will be published in the September MNRC Newsletter.

### Region 1- 17 clubs responded:

American Chesapeake Club, Colonial Retriever FTC, Greater Pittsburg RC, Keystone RC, Labrador RC, Lumber River RC, Mid Jersey Ret Club, Ohio Valley RC, Penobscot HRC, Shoreline RC, Southern Berkshire Golden RC, Susquehanna RC, Talbot RC, Tallahassee HRC, Westchester RC, Western New York RC, Yankee Waterfowlers HRC

Nominated: William Ash, Eugene Bird, Arline Buchanan, John Cavanaugh, Bill Clark, James Drager, Ted Finley, Clarence Klaus, Frank Prendergast, Tim Summers

### Region 2 - 13 clubs responded

Backwater RC, Blackhawk RC, Central Minnesota RC, East Tennessee RC, Fox Valley RC, Island View RC, Lake Country RC, Lake Charles RC, Magnolia RC, Manitowoc County KC, Mid Illinois RC, North Dakota RC, Wisconsin Amateur FTC

Nominated: John Blackbird, Alan Bruhin, Daniel Heard, Bob May, Wilfred Mcanespy, Rich Pyka

### Region 3- 16 clubs responded

Alamo RC, Brazosport RC, Bryan/College Station RC, Coastal Bend RC of Texas, Ft Collins RC, Greater Houston Golden RC, Idaho RC, Kansas City RC, Minot RC, Mount Rushmore RC, Pikes Peak RC, Sooner RC, Tejas Hunting RC, Treasure State RC, Waterloo Amateur RC, Western Montana RC,

Nominated: Bruce Bachert, D Blair Clark, Bill Cummings, Kaye Fuller, Roger Fuller, Mike Galvin, Rick Greer Lynn Morrison Stephen Parker, Jeff Schoonover

### Region 4 -12 clubs responded

Greater Pacific Northwest RC, Hills Ferry HRC, Inland Valley RC, Lassen RC, Monterey Bay HRC, Oregon Retriever Trial Club, Rose City Labrador RC, Sacramento Valley RC, Sagehens RC, Sierra Nevada RC, Southern California RC, Umpqua Valley RC,

Nominated: Jerry Drum, Robin Gulvin, Larry Johns, Bill Largent, Diane O'Hearne, Rick Schulke, John Tate, Dick Weiner, Myrna Zumwalt

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## **Meet Your New Board Member**

*Mary Williams of Hampstead, NC recently joined the MNRC Board as Region 1 vice president. She fills the spot vacated to Bob Meyers who resigned from the Board due to health concerns. Bob served three terms as director for Region had been elected to the vice president position in 2003, We thank Bob for his many years of hard work and dedication to the MNRC. He is greatly missed.*



I grew up on a small farm north of Atlanta. I learned one end of a gun from another while hunting squirrels, rabbits and shooting snakes. I became obsessed with being "outside" and active. In fact, my high school physical education experience was so wonderful, that I chose physical education as my college major. I've taught and coached each level from college to kindergarten. When Sidney Williams discovered that I loved the outdoors and knew something about guns, dogs and fishing, he introduced me to dove and duck hunting. Needless to say, I was hooked and so was he. We married in 1981. We purchased our first Chesapeake in the early 80's and joined the Tar Heel Retriever Club. We both became active board members and ran our chessies in field trials. When the hunt test was developed by AKC, we initiated and ran that program for the Tar Heel Club. I began training gun dogs professionally and encouraged clients to participate in the hunt test program. The most satisfaction I received during that time was watching the owner go to the line with his or her own dog. Qualifying a dog for the Master National was my goal and to pass a Master National test was a dream. It took a lot of work but I have accomplished both. I have had dogs qualify for the MN each year since 1993 and have passed the MN test six times. I am honored for the opportunity to serve on your MN board.



## Letter to Clubs (cont'd)

The MNRC Board of Directors recommends that this year's event be run as a two-way split event with AKC licensing. This is because there are a number of uncertainties associated with leaving AKC which must be resolved. Leaving AKC may not be in the best interest of the hunt test program or the MNRC. We believe that we need to develop strategic plans for not only a continued relationship with AKC but also a program that would be run solely by the MNRC. Quite honestly we need more time to do this properly.

The MNRC Board of Directors stands ready to pursue the course of action that the member clubs want us to take. We ask you to vote for what you believe will be the best for the long-term future of this event and the hunting test program.

Sincerely and thoughtfully submitted,  
*Bill Blochowiak*

***Included here is a list of how our member clubs voted on the issue of holding the 2005 event as a two-way split with AKC licensing.***

### Clubs Voting "YES" for the 2-way split

Albuquerque RC  
American Chesapeake RC  
Backwater RC  
Black Creek RC  
Blackhawk RC  
Bootheel RC Brazosport RC  
Brazosport RC  
Bryan-College Station RC  
Central Arkansas RC  
Central Kentucky RC  
Central Minnesota RC  
Central New York RC  
Colorado Women's RC  
Del Bay RC  
DownEast HRC of NC  
East Tennessee RC  
Evergreen GRC  
Fairbanks RC  
Flat Coated RSA  
Fox Valley RC  
Ft Collins RC  
GRC of Greater LA  
GRC of America  
GRC of Illinois  
Great Western Flat Coated RC  
Greater Pacific NW RTC  
Greater Pittsburgh GRC  
Heart of Texas RC

Hills Ferry HRC  
Inland Valley RC  
Island View RC  
Jayhawk RC  
Keystone RC  
Labrador Retriever Club  
Lake Champlain RC  
Long Island RFTC  
Lower Alabama HRC  
Lumber River RC  
Madison RC  
LRC of Greater Denver  
Magnolia RC  
Manitowoc Kennel Club  
Marin RC  
Middle Tenn Amateur RC  
Mid-Florida GRC  
Mid-Jersey LRC  
Mid-South HRC  
Minnesota Iron Range RC  
Mississippi Headwater GDC  
Missouri Valley Hunt Club  
Monterey Bay HRC  
Norcal GRC  
North Dakota RC  
Northwest Missouri RC  
Ohio Valley RC  
Palmetto RC  
Pikes Peak RC  
Ponchartrain HRC  
Port Arthur RC  
Puget Sound LRA  
Rainier HRC  
Redwood Empire RC  
Rogue Valley RC  
Rose City LRC  
Sagehens RC  
Salem RC  
Shoreline Retriever Club  
Sierra Nevada RC  
Snake River Retriever Trial Club  
Sooner RC  
Southern Berkshire GRC  
Southern California RC  
Southwest Missouri RC  
Susquehanna RC  
Swamp Dog Club  
Tallahassee HRC  
Tejas HRC  
Tidewater RC  
Treasure Coast RC  
Waterloo Amateur RC  
Westchester RC  
Wisconsin Amateur FTC  
Yankee GRC  
Yankee Waterfowlers HRA

### Clubs Voting "NO" for a 2-way split

Chattanooga RC  
Colorado Foothills RC  
Eastern Idaho RC  
Hudson Highlands HRA  
Idaho RC  
Lassen RC  
Oregon HRC  
Oregon Retriever TC  
LRC of Greater Denver  
Sacramento Valley RC  
Treasure State RC  
Umpqua RC  
Western New York RC

### Clubs Not Responding

Alamo RC  
Alaska Women's RC  
Atlanta RC  
Big Elkin Creek W & R Assoc.  
Black Warrior RC of Alabama  
California South Coast RC  
Coastal Bend RC  
Colonial Retriever FTC  
Copper State HRC  
Duluth RC  
Ft Detroit GRC  
Gateway RC  
GRC of Greater St Louis  
Greater Houston GRC  
Kansas City RC  
LRC of Albuquerque  
LRC of Greater Boston  
LRC of Southern California  
Lake Charles RC  
Lake Country RC  
Maine RC  
Maryland RC  
Mid-Illinois RC  
Minot RC  
Missouri Headwaters GDC  
Mount Rushmore RC  
Nebraska Dog & Hunt Club  
Northeast Louisiana RC  
Northern Flight HRA  
NW Iowa RC  
Ozarks HRA  
Penobscot HRC  
Rappahannock River RC  
Retriever Club of Alaska  
Rose Country RC of East Texas  
Sand & Sage RC  
Shreveport Bossier RC  
South Mississippi RC  
Sunflower RC  
Talbot RC  
Tulsa RC  
Wasatch HRC  
Weber River RC  
Western Montana RC  
Wolverine RC  
Yadkin River RC

## POSITION VACANCY

### *Corporate Sponsor Liaison*

#### Brief Job Description:

This person is the link between our Corporate Sponsors and the Board. The CSL is responsible for each side fulfilling their commitments to each other.

This position requires good communication and business skills.

For more information contact the club through the Master National website:

**[www.masternational.com](http://www.masternational.com)**

## ***Letter to AKC Board of Directors to Request Three-way Split***

May 3, 2005

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The purpose of this letter is to explain and defend the Master National Retriever Club's (MNRC) request for a three-way split at our annual event. A brief look at the history of our event will help explain our request. For additional history detail and statistics, please see second letter.

The Hunt Test program began in 1985 and has met with overwhelming success. So much so that a National event was developed in 1991 for the "cream of the cream." There were 96 contestants at that first event. Success continued and 224 dogs were entered in 1994. The AKC Board of Directors (BOD) approved a two-way split as early as 1995, where it was not needed. The following year entries again increased to an all-time high of 230. With these numbers a two-way split was implemented in 1997. Success was so great that AKC licensed a three-way split for the 2000 MNRC event. At that time the MNRC Board felt that there was not enough volunteer personnel available to run the event so a two-way split event was held. We believe we may approach 350 entries this year.

In December 2003, the President and the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the MNRC were invited to the AKC Performance Division's office in Raleigh for a discussion of the "future of the MNRC." From many perspectives we had just completed one of the worst MNRC events (2003 a two-way split) in our history. This was second only to the event held in 1996.

This meeting focused on the original concept of the MNRC event and AKC's concerns. These concerns included: the event should be an owner/amateur event, it should be a single event (flight), the qualifications should be raised, the event itself should be equal to two or three weekend hunt tests, and more control over selecting the judges should be exercised.

The MNRC Board of Directors attempted to implement the items discussed above. However, the MNRC delegates objected with an overwhelming campaign to stop these attempts. The delegates of the MNRC Member Clubs were successful. At a "special" meeting held to discuss the concerns, the delegates voted to keep qualification for the MNRC annual event at the same level. Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws were approved that mandate splitting the event at 125 entries and that, failing to receive licensing, the MNRC event should be held without AKC approval.

The problem all comes down to numbers and quality of judging. In almost every AKC venue time is the most

important factor in determining how many dogs can be judged in a given period. This holds true for field events too. At the weekend level hunt tests a limit of 30 dogs per day is the standard at the Master level. This means that in order to complete the requirements of a weekend test a pair of judges has two days to evaluate 60 dogs and three days with up to 90. Given the factor of 30 and the entry of last years flight size of 160 it would take a minimum of 5 days to complete the requirements of a weekend hunt test. In 2004 we missed the goal of two weekends of tests by one double blind hunting situation. The year before with two flights of 175+ we made the requirements of one weekend plus one series.

Our event is scheduled to run over seven days (with an additional day if needed) and it is not only AKC's wish, but also ours as a Board that we complete the requirements of two weekend tests at a minimum. This would be possible with flights of 125. Flights of this size would allow judges to setup challenging tests and evaluate dogs fairly and completely. Quality judging is only possible if judges have the time to do it. Consistent judging is done by communication between the MNRC and the judges. We met this challenge in 2004 and know we can continue to do so.

Our desire for the 2005 Master National Retriever Club event is that dogs be judged to the "highest standards" and meet the AKC Performance Division's desire for only the "cream of the cream" to finish. We believe that a three-way split will allow for better tests and more complete testing. All successful dogs will have run all series. We guarantee the event will be equal to at least a "two-weekend" hunt test equivalent. Maybe more!

We want to maintain our partnership with the America Kennel Club and satisfy the demands of both the Performance Events Division and our delegates. The MNRC event is enormously successful and nearly half of all weekend Master hunt test entries are dogs that are attempting to qualify for the event. These are dogs and their owners that are staying in the AKC program and running tests because of the MNRC event.

It is difficult to understand when weekend tests have mandatory splits in order to improve the quality of the event, why an event as important to the AKC Hunt Test program as the Master National is handcuffed with a two way split. We humbly and respectfully request that you grant our request for a three-way split if not on a permanent basis, at least on a one-year trial basis.

Sincerely,

*William M. Blochowiak*

## Minutes of the 2005 Annual Winter Board Meeting (cont'd)

will continue to take hunting seasons into account, but recognized the difficulty in accommodating all regions of the country. Conflicts may exist because of this national event.

- 2) Have entry confirmations sent out sooner. (Author unknown) The Board decided that all confirmations would be sent out within 72 hrs of receipt.
- 3) Do we need an amendment to the Constitution that better defines an "amateur" (author unknown) This matter will be discussed as a possible Constitutional Amendment.
- 4) Board needs to address the issue of large entries. (Stu McNamers The Board is and will continue to develop methods to deal with this problem.
- 5) Study the format of the UKC Grand to see if it would be beneficial to conducting the MNRC event. (Alan Luthy) The Board is discussing this possibility
- 6) Have a delegate packet with bios on judges, information on amendments, financial reports, proposed officers and directors. (Judy Smith) The Board will continue to develop the website as delivery method for important information.
- 7) Review the minutes of the 2003 annual meeting for ideas to handle the numbers, for example: regional qualifications. (Sidney Williams) The Board reviewed the results of the special survey and determined that this was not viable at this time.
- 8) That the board provide delegates and participants a deadline by which to provide alternative methods to allow manageable entries at the MNRC event. (Kristie Wilder) The Board felt that proper notification will be given to the delegates.
- 9) That the MN Board develop proposals that will provide a reasonable number of qualifying dogs to run in a non-split MN and submit such proposals to the clubs for approval. (Lanier Fogg) The Board feels that this has been addressed in one of the proposals to AKC.

The session adjourned until Saturday morning

Saturday February 5, 2005

Julie Cairns presented the report from the Policies and Procedures Committee. The committee did a complete review of the P&P Manual.

Bill Teague expressed the Board's appreciation to Julie for her work on the Policies and Procedures Committee.

New Business: Bill Teague made a motion to upgrade the Secretary's computer to the latest version of Windows and the latest version of Office and also the same for the Treasurer's computer if needed. It was seconded and approved.

Requests by the delegates at the 2004 meeting were reviewed and the board decided to continue to solicit ideas from the member clubs

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Barton

## *President's Message (cont'd)*

back historically, the MNRC was created by AKC as an extension of its hunt test program. AKC funded the money to get the club running until it could stand on it's own. Incidentally this initial investment was never paid back as AKC forgave the loan. The logo was commissioned and paid for by AKC and the name evolved at the first Board meeting in 1992, long before the first Constitution was ever ratified. This is just the beginning of many legal aspects that must be explored more fully. Quite honestly we are in the middle of differing opinions and the actions that have been taken have been in the best interest of the continuation of the MNRC

program as well as all of the stakeholders that are involved with this event. To deal with these complex issues a "Legal Concerns" committee has been formed to investigate what they believe to be our legal issues, within and without the MNRC. This committee will make recommendations to the MNRC Board of Directors even to the point of hiring an attorney or reincorporating. We need to know exactly where we stand before any future plans are made.

We learned two things during this vote in the course of conversations and from notes on the ballots themselves. The first is that many clubs want to remain with AKC permanently. In fact an underlying sentiment exists among a number of clubs that if the Master National were to leave AKC they would no longer support the program. There appears to be a growing desire to find a way to agree to reduce entries. The second thing we discovered was that some of the proxies and delegates solicited clubs that they knew were lacking representation for the 2004 meeting. Were they voting for those clubs or their own desires? It is important that member clubs vote according to their wishes rather than relinquish that right to someone who may vote differently.

Finally another committee to look at the future of the MNRC has also been formed. These appointees will be a part of the family of participants that want to make the MNRC succeed. This committee will pass recommendations to the MNRC BOD and club delegates. These recommendations will eventually be in the form of amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws and will be discussed at the 2005 Master National Hunt Test Annual Meeting.

As I said before, staying with AKC means we must change. I also believe they too must change. I believe the alternative could be the demise of the MNRC. Therefore I urge you to support the decision to stay with AKC.

Sincerely

*Bill Blochowiak*

***Lodging Information for 2005 Master National  
Location: Big Woods On The Trinity, Tennessee Colony, TX'  
nearest town-Palestine, TX***

*The following motels accept pets*

*Express Inn (host hotel)*

*(903) 729-3151*

*Single \$55, Double \$65 Suite \$99 plus tax*

*40 rooms held, will be released about a  
week before two weeks before the event*

*Quality Inn and Suites*

*(903) 723-7300*

*Same prices as above*

*Best Western*

*(903) 723-4655*

*\$56.50 plus tax*

*Tex Ann*

*(903) 729-6049*

*\$30 single, \$35 double tax included*

*The following DO NOT accept pets*

*Town and Country*

*(903) 729-1660*

*Holiday Inn Express (takes dogs under 10  
lbs)*

*(903) 723-4884*

*Super 8*

*(903) 731-9495*

*BIG WOODS CABINS (at the test site)*

*(903) 391-1112*

*Several lodging situations are available  
from \$60-\$95 per night*

*Weekly rates available. No dogs in rooms.*

**For more information on the Palestine, TX area go to**

**[www.visitpalestine.com](http://www.visitpalestine.com)**

**Complete information will be in the next newsletter**

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**MNRC NEWS**

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