

GCA Candidate Questionnaire for Beth Anne Gordon

1. I have been a member of the GCA since February 1983.
2. During the past five years I have attended all of the Western Specialties except for the year 2000 when a June litter kept me away. I attended the first Southern Specialty in 1998, and in 2001 and 2002. I was also present at the 1998, 2001 and 2002 Eastern specialties. My first Eastern specialty was in 1983 and my first Western specialty was in 1989.
3. I will attend all the GCA club meetings in person just as I have attended the previous four membership meetings during my past two years as Corresponding Secretary.
4. I do not support closing the stud book because I feel it is a mean spirited and short sighted move. My philosophy regarding breeding and showing Greyhounds is best stated by Bo Bengston. In the October 1986 issue of the AKC Gazette, Bo wrote the following, "The basic conformation of these dogs has been shaped by many thousand years of selective breeding, making them by far the oldest known distinct type of domesticated dog and it would be presumptuous for a modern-day judge to disregard the long, colorful and frequently quite illustrious history. This is an integral part of how these breeds appear today, whether this conforms to present notions of what is "pretty" or not." "Some knowledge of the ancient sport of coursing ought to be mandatory for anyone actively involved in sighthounds, however much 'show oriented' one is as an exhibitor, breeder or judge."

The AKC standard for the Greyhound is based on the characteristics of a coursing Greyhound, which is the function that established this breed. AKC registered Greyhounds have a very narrow gene pool, with all stock originally coming from England. The NGA Greyhound represents a gene pool of purebred Greyhounds who could be helpful to our show lines in the future. Given the small gene pool of the AKC Greyhound, and although I have never bred to an NGA dog, I do not think I any other Greyhound breeder should be denied the ability to breed to an NGA dog should we want to for reasons of health or function.

5. The most critical issue facing the GCA today is the accountability of the board to the membership for all actions taken. You, the membership, elect the board members and they are accountable to you. The only vehicle available to you for the dissemination of the board's activities is the Recording Secretary's report in the GCA newsletter. I do not feel that we have an open board where all actions are reported to the membership. For instance, the letter sent by the president to the AKC requesting to close the stud book was never published in our newsletter although it was sent in September 2001. Also in February 2002 a "white paper" signed by three officers and opposing views written by Eric Liebes and me regarding closing the stud book were sent to the AKC. None of these documents were published in the in the newsletter.

Since January 2002, this board has conducted virtually all its business via e-mail. Votes are taken, business conducted, etc. via e-mail. E-mail is an appropriate forum when matters with short response times are received from the AKC. However, I do not think that e-mail is the appropriate forum for the deliberative process especially when it comes to the discussion and voting on applicants for membership. The stud book issue has dominated all actions of this board not only with respect to the actions taken on applicants for membership but to the point where known opponents to closing the stud book have been removed from committees and replaced with stud book closure supporters.

6. I believe that all actions of this board should be open, accountable and reported to the membership. This can and should be accomplished through polling of the membership on issues and actual votes by the membership on critical issues. Although polling and balloting constitute an expense, the costs will be negligible when compared to the outcome of a membership who is informed and knows the board is responsive to their views. I think the board should commit to holding more teleconferences rather than using e-mail for the deliberations of the board. I am also very concerned that the newsletter should provide all points of view on issues and events to the membership. We should not have an editorial review board that acts as a censorship board for the newsletter.

7. I have been the Corresponding Secretary of the GCA since January 2001. I also am the Judges Selection Chair and sent out and recorded your votes for the 2003 and 2004 specialty judges. I was co-chairperson for trophies for the GCA Western Specialties in 1999 and 2000. In May 1998 and May 1999, I was Show Chairman for the Chaparral Kennel Club (an AKC member all breed kennel club), edited their newsletter from 1995 to 1999 and was on their board of directors in the mid-90s. I have been the Treasurer and Hunt Secretary of the SouthWest Coursing Club (a NOFCA club) since 1991. I was also the Secretary and Field Trial Secretary of the Eastern Slope Coursing Association (ESCA) from 1993 to 1999.

My husband, John and I acquired our first Greyhounds in 1981 and I have co-bred three litters of Greyhounds: two in 1988 and one in 2000. In the first two litters there were nine champions, three companion dogs, three field champions, four open field champions and two GCA versatility dogs. In the second litter there are three champions so far. I recently retired after 26 years of Government service, of which the last twenty were with the Air Force as a Contracting Officer.

SHERYL BARTEL – CANDIDATE FOR CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

I have been a GCA member since 2000 (sponsored by Stanley D. Petter, Jr. and Susan Obert). I have attended eleven GCA Specialties in the past five years and I have exhibited at every Western Specialty since 1996. Most of you know me as "the one with the camera" at the specialties and I have been taking photos of dogs since 1995 when my daughter first started showing them. This developed into taking photos of as many dogs as possible at the specialties to record dogs for our later study.

I feel privileged to have started out with excellent breed mentors and still consider myself an ongoing student of the breed. I have owned greyhounds since 1991, have bred two litters, and whelped a third. I have also imported several greyhounds from England to incorporate in my breeding program. I have competed in conformation, lure coursing, and obedience. I have finished numerous champions and have speialed several to top ten placements in the past five years. My daughter did the bulk of the early work in showing in conformation and also competed in Junior Showmanship. Her obedience showing was mostly in 4H but also in some AKC and CKC shows and I am currently training my own first obedience hounds at the novice level. Steve Johnston currently does the bulk of our conformation showing although I can be seen in the ring myself on occasion. I have competed in lure coursing in the past although current time constraints have limited our recent participation. I have attended open coursing in England and one of the dogs I bred and co-own is currently participating in open field coursing in the US.

I feel that our breed is very unique in having maintained an old breed standard that allows room for various viewpoints in achieving the same final result. I would not support any change in the standard and endorse a key object of the GCA constitution, the acceptance of the standard of our breed as approved by the AKC as the only standard by which Greyhounds shall be judged. Although I believe we are all looking for functionality in our hounds, I cannot support absolute requirements for functionality testing as a final measure of overall suitability for breeding. I do not support an open AKC Greyhound Stud book. To do otherwise is in conflict with the GCA Constitution and also ignores decades of careful breeding in the various AKC lines. Our breed is not in desperate need of infusion of genetic material to maintain functionality or to maintain health.

Professionally I am a member of the American Society of Anesthesiologists, the AMA, the Washington State Medical Association, and the Washington State Society of Anesthesiology. I completed my undergraduate degree (BA) at Linfield College, in McMinnville, Oregon in 1971 and obtained an additional BS in Medical Technology from the University of Oregon. I completed my Medical degree at the University of Oregon Health Sciences Center in Portland in 1977 and then did my rotating internship in Medicine at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio Texas. My Residency in Anesthesiology followed at Letterman Army Medical Center in San Francisco, CA and then I served a further four years active duty in the US Army, practicing Anesthesiology. I then was in private practice from 1985 to 2000 in Anesthesiology in Mount Vernon, Washington.

I feel a major job of the board is to communicate with the membership clearly and concisely and I feel that I can contribute in being corresponding secretary. I have experience in writing, having not only written several articles for Sighthound Review and the GCA newsletter, but I also have experience in technical writing in Medicine. As an anesthesiologist one of my primary jobs, besides providing safe and efficient anesthesia for surgery, is to educate patients and surgeons, and communicate with other medical professionals. This requires the ability for clear and concise communication, including adjustment of communication styles to the individual and situation. I have organizational experience in having served as Chief of Anesthesia and Assistant Chief of Anesthesia while in the military - being responsible for organizing departmental paperwork and providing leadership for several other physicians and the nurse anesthetists. In my private practice in Anesthesiology I also served as Chief of Anesthesia in my turn, as well as providing anesthesia services and supervision of several nurse anesthetists. I also have extensive experience in computers, working as a basic programmer in college and using my own PC since 1983. I also designed and maintain my own website and several others.

I live in Mount Vernon, Washington on acreage with running room for the greyhounds. I share the house with the dogs, my husband Chris Mott (a retired Radiologist and our dog holder at shows), and Steve Johnston, our invaluable help, and partner in the dogs. We currently not only have the greyhounds, but also several whippets. My daughter lives nearby and is currently working in a veterinarian's office and studying towards a vet tech degree, with a look at vet school in the future. Thank you.

ROSE MARY CONNER – INCUMBENT RECORDING SECRETARY

I have been a GCA member since 1998. Attending seven GCA Specialties in the past five years, I have exhibited at every Eastern Specialty since 1996, and, as GCA's current Recording Secretary, also attended the past two Western Specialties. Since 1998, my specific volunteer commitment to supporting the Eastern has been the Specialty luncheon. Since election to office in 2000, I have attended every board meeting. I strongly endorse a key object of our Constitution, the acceptance of the standard of our breed as approved by the AKC as the only standard by which Greyhounds shall be judged. Thus, I cannot support an open AKC Greyhound Stud Book. I believe that to do otherwise is in conflict with the Constitution. Nor would I support any change to our fine old breed standard.

Today's AKC Parent Breed Club Board demands more than just depth of breed experience and force of personality. It requires a team of people with varied experiences and skills, but all capable of working together purposefully and with civility. In recognition of this need to develop new skills, the AKC is sponsoring its first Parent Club Conference for selected officers from 139 Parent Clubs in October. Forum topics include club management, communications, media in judges' education, in addition to the "eternal" issues the current board has also begun to address: standards, membership, constitution and bylaws, specialties, fund raising, communications, volunteers, committees, education, rescue, stud book, health. It is my honor to have been invited to be a panelist on the Communications session at this upcoming Conference, speaking on goal setting, planning, and follow up.

When this current board was elected, there were two primary issues the membership asked us to address: (1) the stud book and (2) voting and operational conduct. My skills and experience are in the areas of organization, planning, management training, research, process, strategy development, and business writing. It's what I've done professionally for 35 years. My contribution to the current board team has been to identify and recommend solutions to GCA operational black holes and inconsistencies, thus freeing up the breed and issue experts to make their valuable contributions to these projects and enabling us to build a strong cross-functional team. When considering sensitive issues in a professional way, one has to anticipate emotional pushback. It is a time for civility and strength of purpose, not a leap toward libel.

All boards are responsible for good faith representation of the membership majority, and its decisions are, in turn, based on a board majority rule. Accepted business practice says that once a board decision is made, all must speak with one voice. Board policy is to not discuss its business on external internet lists. Thus a board member with individual goals and agendas is less likely to be a productive board member. Two invaluable resources guided us in our search for operational excellence: the AKC and GCA's core documents. All AKC Parent Breed Clubs are subject to the rules, regulations, and guidelines of the AKC, our ultimate authority. This board has consulted with it on any major decisions or challenges (voting practices, bylaws amendments, membership) and followed its advice scrupulously. Any action of the board is guided by the mandates of the GCA Constitution, Bylaws, Ethical Standards, Standing Rules, and Policies. RROR guides our conduct when the documents above are silent on an issue. At times, the commitment to consistency in abiding by our core documents may conflict with "the way we've always done it," but, in turn, it also commits us to equal due diligence and respect for any issue, whether or not we agree with it. In the face of urgings to dismiss it out of hand, we spent a great deal of time ensuring correct procedure on a membership ballot of a proposed constitutional amendment whose passage would have negated AKC's guidelines for conducting business. The membership rejected this amendment 89-17.

Examples of my efforts to increase our operational effectiveness include a template which I developed, now used for all motions and votes by the board. A report-out of each is sent to all board members and to the newsletter for publishing. Believing that GCA's operational history should not be lost, I have personally compiled for my own information a Board Book organized by sections of our bylaws and filled with the information needed to guide us as a club, past, present, and future. It's very much a work in progress, but it's already four inches thick. And there's a separate book for membership.

I have old-fashioned values and they have served me well. I have always worked from my home in order to be there for my children and animals. My first summer job was in the West Wing of the White House. Upon graduation from Smith College, I worked in publishing at McGraw-Hill and Random House, lucky enough to work with such diverse giants as John Updike, Norman Mailer, Truman Capote, Julia Child, and Andy Warhol. Since 1966, I have worked for the American Management Association, a not-for-profit management education association very similar to the AKC in size and scope. My current position at AMA is Director of Marketing Strategy and Databases. I have created, developed, and managed marketing strategies now producing over fifty million dollars annually. I have experience in all areas of non-profit management and marketing. I have also consulted in these areas for such non-profits as hospitals, universities, and The Jockey Club, as well as for such for-profit companies as Pepsi Cola. As a volunteer, I have served as President of the Princeton Smith College Club, Officer (membership) of the Eastern Dressage and Combined Training Association, on the Program Committee for Direct Mail Days in New York, speaker at many Direct Marketing Conferences, and head of volunteers (over 300) for the United States Equestrian Team's Festival of Champions (an Olympic final qualifier).

Personally, I live on a farm in NJ in a 1725 farmhouse. I share my life, home, and bed with four Greyhounds including two young males I bred (Amwell Ridge). My son is an IBM engineer, and my daughter is a Pharmacia companion animal and equine rep (also long-listed for the US Three-Day Eventing squad in the Atlanta Olympics). Thank you

GCA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE - RECORDING SECRETARY

PATRICIA GAIL BURNHAM

1. I have been a member of the GCA for twenty-three years.
2. I have attended every Western specialty, save one, since 1974. In the last five years I have attended five GCA and ten GCNC specialties
3. If elected, I will attend the GCA Club meetings in person, just as I did for my term as GCA president. Back then, we had an additional meeting each year and I attended all of them
4. For health reasons, I do not support closing the AKC studbook to racing dogs. I will, however, abide by a general membership vote on the issue, which the present Board has not done. In 1997 the general membership voted to not close the studbook. In spite of that vote, the GCA Board, in September 2001, sent a request to the AKC Board asking them to close the AKC studbook to NGA dogs. After a year of consideration, the AKC Board has sent the GCA Board criteria for resubmitting the request. The AKC has requested substantial additional justification for the request. If the AKC accepts the new request, the GCA general membership would have to vote by a 2/3 majority for closure, and then the AKC *still* reserves the right not to close the studbook.
5. Issues and accountability: The current Board has become a one-issue Board. Everything they do revolves around their desire to close the studbook to NGA Greyhounds. They have gone so far as to deny membership this year to ten well-qualified applicants who have a history of using AKC/NGA bred Greyhounds to create dual titled dogs. Many of the rejected applicants have much more experience with Greyhounds than the Board members who voted against them. The incoming Board should stop obsessing over the studbook, and get back to the business of conducting general club business. Applicants for membership should be evaluated on their merits and should be able to attend an open Board meeting at which the vote takes place on their application. Board members should be held accountable when they deny membership to the likes of George and Sally Bell, Gerald Helmke, Anne Standing of Windwood Greyhounds and Laurie Soutar of Lakilanni Greyhounds. GCA membership should be open to any person with years of Greyhounds experience who provides good care to their dogs. In the entire decade of the nineties, only five people were denied membership. One became a member at a subsequent Board meeting. One was an outspoken critic of the GCA. Two of the other rejections were for dog care problems. In the last six months, the current Board has denied membership to twice as many applicants as were rejected in the previous eleven years. The current Board should be held accountable in this election for their inexplicable rejection of these applicants.

They should also be held accountable for ignoring the 1997 general membership vote on the NGA issue. The GCA Board does not have the authority to overturn a general membership vote. It is the general membership's right to overturn bad Board votes. Final authority in the club belongs to the general membership.

6. Goals: I will perform the duties of the Recording Secretary to the best of my ability, without bias and in accordance with the GCA constitution and Robert's Rules of Order as cited in our constitution. I will urge the other Board members to conduct business in a public and accessible format, with controversial topics addressed at Board meetings that are open to all members. I will recommend that the minutes report the Board votes for each Board member. That would enable the membership to hold Board members accountable for their votes. Opening the Board actions to scrutiny by the membership is the best way to guarantee fair representation of the general members' interests.

7. Experience: I have been Secretary of the Greyhound Club of Northern California several times and of the Sacramento Dog Training Club once. With twenty-four meetings to record, the SDTC term provided a lot of secretarial experience. I have six years of experience on the GCA Board of Directors as a Board Member and as President. I am very familiar with the GCA Constitution and Robert's Rules of Order. I write good, detailed, minutes. As a previous chair of the GCA's judges selection committee, I have experience mailing ballots and information sheets to the GCA membership. In various dog clubs, I have held every office (President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer and Board Member) at least once, and most of them several times. I have also served as a show chairman, trophy chairman, obedience chairman, field trial secretary, obedience trial secretary, and tracking test secretary.

I am a registered Engineer and a professional writer. As a project engineer, I conduct and participate in many controversial meetings. As a writer, I take good notes both by hand and by recorder. Speaking of which, I still have the tape recorders that I used when I was last on the GCA Board. They, and I, are ready to serve the club again.

Herman R. Leider, candidate for Treasurer

- 1) I've been a GCA member for 8 years.
- 2) I have attended 6 GCA Specialties in the past 5 years.
- 3) If elected, I will attend GCA meetings whenever possible.
- 4) At this time, I do support closing the stud book. I take this position because I believe that there is a real concern that unwanted genetic and behavioral traits may exist in the racing population. Breeding for optimal track performance is very selective, and the associated genetic pool is ill-defined. The risks are too big to dare, as far as we can tell at this time.
- 5) The state of the breed is paramount, of course. However, easing the hostility and intemperate interactions that have characterized the GCA in recent times must be done. All possible efforts must be made to convince everyone that differences in opinion need not entail abusive and potentially actionable behavior. The AKC and the GCA have a code of ethical conduct, and it is imperative that people deal with each other respectfully as is defined in the codes and by ordinary decency. Otherwise, the GCA may founder and, perhaps, suffer fatal damage.
- 6) Since I am a candidate for Treasurer, my principal task is to maintain an accurate, accessible and understandable account of GCA finances. I would confirm the validity of all submitted charges and would aim for a minimum delay in paying our bills. In so far as I can, I would provide fiscal guidance to the Board whenever appropriate. Also, I intend to participate in updating the GCA Constitution and Bylaws, as required.
- 7) My qualifications/background is suggested in the following activities and associations(I am now retired):

Greyhound Club of No. Cal. since 1985; current v. Pres., past Pres. and Treasurer
Del Valle Dog Club since 1990

Chair, City of Livermore Public Art Committee
Member, City of Livermore Industrial Advisory Committee
v. Pres., Livermore Cultural Arts Council
Pres., Friends of the Vineyards
Member and past Sec't, Del valle Fine Arts
past Pres., Livermore Art Ass'n.
Member, Pleasanton Art League
Member and school outreach, Cal. Watercolor Ass'n.
Visiting Scientist, TOPS school science outreach program

Lawrence Livermore National Lab.: Section Leader, Physical Chemistry; Group Leader,
Materials Compatibility; Task
Leader, Yucca Mt. Prog. fuel dissolution; Task Leader, solid hydrides program.
NASA, Senior Staff, Materials and Thermodynamics Branch, Lewis Res. Lab.

American Chemical Society
American Physical Society
American Ass'n. for the Advancement of Science
American Defence Preparedness Agency

Phi Lambda Upsilon
Sigma Xi

AAU, Nationally qualified swimming official

Susan Crutcher – Treasurer

1. I have been a member since 1995.
2. 7 2-Easterns and 5-Southern
3. Yes
4. No
5. I feel the main issues of any Parent Club is to
a)protect its breed standard, b)maintain a good
and open relationship with its members and AKC,
c)educate judges and the public about the
standard of its breed.
6. As Treasurer - I will keep records accurate
and report all income and expenses to the
board and membership.
As a Board member - I will abide by the GCA
Constitution and By-Laws as well as AKC's
rules and regulations. I would like to see any
issues that come before the board be printed in
the news letter, so the membership has time to
get their views to the board before action
is taken.
7. I was treasurer for the Fort Worth Kennel
Club for two years and Vice President for
one year. I have served on a board for the
North Texas Pembroke Welsh Corgi Fanicers
as well as the Red River Welsh Pony and Cob
Assoc.I work for the Univeristy of North
Texas Health Science Center as the Mail
Services manager.My work requires me to
maintain over one hundred accounts and
report amounts to our accounting
department,US Postal Service and the
State of Texas.

Eric Liebes – Board Member

1. Twelve years
2. Nine. 2 East, 2 West, 5 South
3. Yes, in general. Sometimes my work calls me out of the country. It happens that this has conflicted with Board meetings in the last two years. Since it only happens about once a year this was an unlikely coincidence.
4. No. I especially object to the board over-ruling a club vote to do it. Now the AKC has set a future policy of a 2/3rds vote of club memberships for studbook changes. I hope that is the level of membership support they expect from us. It would be a fair way to decide.
5. The Board needs to restore an open and fair way of doing business. Nothing the board does or discusses should be secret. Board deliberations at meetings are open to the membership. We need to find a way to open email deliberations, if that is the way that the club is going to do business. A web-site would be a modern way of doing this.

The Board needs to be responsive to membership desires, instead of dismissive of them. Polls on important issues is the traditional way that the GCA did this & we should welcome that as input.

Our consideration of new member applications needs to be open and fair. We should welcome good new members as we did in the past. The current Board has been using the stud book issue as a litmus test for new applicants. This needs to change.

6. I will continue to be the voice of reason & proper procedure (Constitutional & Parliamentary), on the Board. This was my role for the last 5 ½ years as Treasurer. I resigned when reason was lost on the Board. I believe that the club belongs to the membership, not to the Board. The Board is in place to lead & to do the work of the club as the membership desires. I will do this. I will also work to open all Board processes to membership scrutiny. This was how we behaved for my first three years as Treasurer, we need to restore it.
7. I was Treasurer of the GCA for 5 ½ years (Until May, 2002). I have been President of The Greyhound Club of Northern California, The Evergreen Colorado Kennel Club, and the Fort Bend Kennel Club. I have also been Treasurer, Vice President, and a Director of those All-Breed Clubs. I am an AKC Greyhound and Hound Group judge. I have been an AKC Gazette columnist (Ibizan Hounds).

Professionally I am a Research Geophysicist for the ChevronTexaco Corporation. I work with computers & with people from all over the world. I am often involved in team decision making and I will continue to bring those skills into GCA Board deliberations.

I know how dog clubs work and how dog club leadership should behave. the GCA membership needs to elect new leadership who will lead us into the future in a responsible, responsive and professional way.

JUNE MATARAZZO – INCUMBENT MEMBER OF THE BOARD

I have been a GCA member for twenty-five years. In the past five years, I have attended and exhibited at seven GCA Specialties. Over the years, I have attended, volunteered, and usually exhibited at more than twenty other Eastern and Western GCA Specialties, winning three of them. Attending board meetings is a very high priority of mine; it is an important commitment, which every board member should honor. By missing a board meeting, you miss not just a meeting, but also a valuable opportunity to see first hand the state of the breed and the fancy. I have attended and contributed to every board meeting of the current board, as well as every board meeting during the prior four terms I have been privileged to serve on GCA 's Board in various capacities.

I do not support an open stud book for the Greyhound breed. This is an issue I have watched change and evolve and get more heated and divisive over my twenty-five years in the breed. It isn't even the same issue debated a few years ago. It's used now as an excuse to trash GCA, AKC, the board, our dogs, and our standard. It has degenerated into a political issue by people who hold the welfare of the breed less important than their own agendas. The NGA registry does not offer benefits to AKC's registry or to GCA as a club devoted to the preservation and protection of our Greyhounds. We know now to be less casual with the mingling of gene pools and less casual with access to the AKC stud book.

I have seen what change has done to the sport of purebred dogs. Gone are the halcyon days of Bill Brainard, the Farrells, and Dr. Elsie, when order reigned and integrity was never questioned. Attitude. Ethics. Respect. Sportsmanship. We need those same values today. New members need to be educated in the way business should be conducted, and old members need to show the way. Breeds are being specifically targeted for moral issues. The only way to protect GCA's healthy future is to keep it functioning according to its constitution, bylaws, and code of ethics. As an AKC parent club member, we must also abide by AKC's rules, regulations, and policies. My main concern is the future of GCA and I have the advantage of time spent in the sport to give me a larger perspective on the issues critical to GCA. One thing I know, we must never return to the "old way" of doing business. It's a new world today. When even our very rights to own dogs are being challenged, we need to look for new ways to protect our breed and our club.

We have to learn from the current turbulence. Change is always difficult, but it can be used to bring people together instead of into factions. If I am re-elected, I will do my best to support this. I am committed to GCA's future strength and unity, and I promise not to abandon that commitment mid-stream. If re-elected to office, I would like to revisit some of the issues this current board has discussed, but not been able so far to devote itself to. For example, I would like to see a GCA Yearbook or a reprinting of additional copies of GIA. I would also like to see the proposed membership amendment which did not pass in 2000 revisited. Clearly, there's a big hole there. These projects should involve all members and encourage a healthier atmosphere for the Club and put the membership in a more positive mode.

My involvement in the sport of purebred dogs started in the mid-sixties. How a Doberman in obedience turned into 35 years of Afghans and 27 years of Greyhounds, I still ask myself. Throughout this time, I've belonged to all-breed clubs, parent clubs, breed parent clubs, breed regional clubs, and a coursing club. I served five consecutive terms and three intermittent terms as a board member of Ox Ridge KC, an all-breed club. I have served four terms as a board member throughout my involvement with GCA. If I am re-elected to my current office as GCA Board member, it will be my fifth term in GCA Board office. I have years of experience in every aspect of the sport, from show committees to ring stewarding to judges' education to conducting many seminars to mentoring to packing trophies in the dark at midnight to grounds keeping. Most important to me, however, will always be breeding and exhibiting.

It is a bit odd to find myself in an "elder statesman" role in GCA, but the club and the breed need for those of us with so many years and so much experience in the breed to bridge the past and the future. If you aren't part of the solution, you're part of the problem.

Thank you.