

### **Sue LeMieux – Incumbent GCA President**

I have been a member of the Greyhound Club of America since 1995. However, I have owned and exhibited Greyhounds since 1990. I have attended every Eastern since 1990 and have exhibited at most of them. In the past five years I have attended eleven GCA Specialties, five Eastern, four Western, and two Southern. I also attended several Western Specialties prior to becoming an officer of GCA. As GCA Recording Secretary and President, I have not missed a Board meeting. I will continue to attend Board and General meetings.

I have bred two litters and my stud dogs have sired five other litters in this country. Although my first love is Conformation, two of my own Greyhounds have earned their JC titles with one obtaining two legs toward his SC and five field championship points. Several Greyhounds bred by me or sired by my dogs have achieved Coursing titles. Although I do not exhibit in Obedience, my dogs are trained in basic obedience (and silly circus dog tricks), in order to give them confidence, keep them safe, and give us an opportunity to have fun together. I believe that part of the responsibility of the GCA is to promote performance activities for our breed. Our Versatility Awards certainly encourage this type of well-rounded participation.

I do support the closing of the stud book. To be honest, I have changed my mind on this issue because of many personal experiences and observations I have made over the past ten years. I was approached by a “reputable” NGA breeder to use my dog in his breeding program. I was assured this could be accomplished, even within strict NGA registration controls. I receive calls every week from people who have lost beloved NGA pets to Osteosarcoma and other health problems, and now want a healthy AKC Greyhound. Many of these loyal adopters have lost two, three or even four Greyhounds before they have made their decision to stop adopting. I believe our duty as breeders is to maintain, protect, and preserve the AKC Greyhound, and all of the hard work, planning, and breeding programs of past breeders of AKC Greyhounds. As GCA members, we are pledged to “produce Greyhounds of exceptional quality in physical health, temperament, and conformation to the Standard”. NGA dogs are not bred to the AKC Greyhound Standard or any standard other than the maintenance of speed over a short distance.

I feel that the critical issue facing the GCA at the present time is to resolve the conflict that has evolved over the issue of closing the stud book and extended to many other facets of club business and interpersonal relationships. Our Code of Ethics states that “Each member shall demonstrate tolerance, regard for others, and a willingness to work together for the welfare and benefit of the Greyhound and the Greyhound Club of America.” It is time to divorce our political views from our interactions with other Club members. As long as we are unable to accomplish this task, we will not function as a successful unit, and our breed will suffer.

Other critical issues include bringing the present GCA Constitution in line with current practices and AKC guidelines, revisiting membership requirements, developing education materials of which we can truly be proud, and improving communications between the Board and club members. Members need to know what is going on. I have been working to that end, and after examining several different options in depth, am putting together a method for doing just that. Our Newsletter comes out four times a year, and much club business is conducted between those times. It is not done in secret. We have no other way to communicate between meetings other than by email, phone, and postal service. We have had no way to disseminate this information in the past, other than the Newsletter. During the six years I have served as an officer of GCA, we have invited and encouraged attendance at Board meetings. Several members have done so, but only a very few. I would like to see so many GCA members at Board meetings that we have to request a larger meeting room!

I will continue to work toward improving the way GCA is run., and to follow our own Constitution and AKC guidelines. The “old ways” were not working. I could see that from the moment I took office as Recording Secretary six years ago. Votes were being taken by a few people that affected the entire membership, then new votes on the same issues were taken when opposing motions were made a few months later. Many, many decisions were made at meetings that were not followed through and were lost after being voted upon. No one was taking responsibility to see that these decisions were implemented. I asked AKC for guidance many years ago and will continue to look to them for direction as an AKC Parent Club President.

I recently retired after a 35-year career as an educator. During those years I was a Title I coordinator, Director of Resident Outdoor Education Program, Science Department Head, Director of several Federal Education Grants. I developed a 12 Acre Land Laboratory, Chaired Countywide Gifted and Talented Committee, presented numerous workshops, was a member of Core Team for Alcohol/Drug Related Problems in school age children, Advisory Board Member of Netcare Mental Health Facility, Member of Champaign County Arts Council, Co-Founder of CC Humane Society, author of *The Book of the Greyhound* and numerous articles for *Dogs in Review* magazine, in-house and freelance Science and Health editor and writer for major textbook publishing company, owner of Art Gallery, Grooming and Training facility, co-founder of Obedience Club, past or present member of Miami Valley Collie Club, (Secretary, show chair, show secretary), Mad River Valley Kennel Club, Greater Columbus Sighthound Coursers, Irish Water Spaniel Club of America, and the Eastern Greyhound Association