

Lines From Linda

BY LINDA AYERS TURNER KNORR

Candid Candidates



Met the Delegates seeking AKC Board positions. Times flies! The election for the AKC Board of Directors will take place in March. Here's an early look and the candidates. I asked each of them for a brief bio and to complete the sentence, "I love the AKC because..."

Hope this early introduction will aid club members in getting to know the individuals running so they can share opinions with their voting Delegates. The candidates will be in Orlando during our AKC National Championship Show. This will present ideal opportunities to meet them and learn how their special talents may guide our great organization's future.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

CLASS OF 2019

Ronald H. Menaker, *Memphis Kennel Club*

CLASS OF 2022

Robert Amen, *Greater St. Louis Training Club*

Christopher L. Sweetwood, *Trap Falls Kennel Club*

Harold "Red" Tatro, III, *Fort Worth Kennel Club*

PETITION CANDIDATES

CLASS OF 2022

Carl C. Ashby, III, *United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club*

James R. Dok, *Gig Harbor Kennel Club*

Jan Ritchie Gladstone, *Richmond Dog Fanciers Club*

Ann Wallin, *Atlanta Kennel Club*

ROBERT AMEN

NOMINEE, AKC BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
CLASS OF 2022



I love the AKC because it has offered me a never-ending opportunity to learn about people, group dynamics and, most importantly, about dogs. As an exhibitor, trainer, judge, delegate and board member, I have had the opportunity to broaden my knowledge in almost every area of our sports and related activities—breeds and breeding, canine

health, government relations, AKC clubs, the role of the dog in modern society and the resources offered by the AKC to people seeking information. I have been awed by the effort it takes to manage the thousands of events sanctioned by the AKC each year: conformation events, performance events, companion events, et al. Finally, I have learned much more about the responsibilities and role of a board member of a not-for-profit organization. The opportunities have been endless. Hopefully, I have contributed to the knowledge of others along the way.

My wife of 53 years, Barbara, and I live in Stamford, Connecticut, with our four dogs. I began my career working for the *New York Times*, first on the radio news desk, then as a news assistant in the Business News Department. I moved on to work for Bell Telephone Labs, a unit of AT&T, in the

employee news department, working on their employee magazine and newspaper.

After a few years, I moved on to what became a 25-year career in the industrial sector. I was a vice president with a Wall Street consulting firm that engaged in defending companies from hostile takeovers; an elected officer for three major public U.S. Industrial corporations, each with annual sales exceeding \$3 billion (1969-1980); president of my own financial and public relations consulting firm (1980-1992) and finally, as a partner with Ketchum, Inc., a major U.S. public relations consultant (1992-2000).

I was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Investor Relations Institute (NIRI), which is a not-for-profit international professional organization for four years and served as its Chairman of the Board and CEO from 1988-89.

My experience has included managing large staffs of executives in financial public relations, crisis management, employee information and government relations. At Combustion Engineering, Inc., for example, I was elected corporate vice president, marketing and communications, with responsibilities for all the above functions; I also was an advisor to the CEO and a member of the Strategic Planning Committee.

My consulting firm, Amen & Associates, Inc. client list included: AT&T, Campbell Soup Co., Church & Dwight Co., Inc. (makers of Arm & Hammer products), Friendly Ice Cream Corp., General Signal Corp., Lucent Technologies, Inc., The Thomson Corp., and Nynex Corp., to name a few.

I sold my firm to Ketchum, Inc., one of the nation's top public relations firms, in 1992. In 1994, I was elected a partner and named President, Ketchum Corporate Relations, the division responsible for global corporate communications

consulting—including crisis management, investor relations, internal communications and public relations. After retiring in 2000, I continued as a consultant to Ketchum for six years.

I became totally active in the dog world after my retirement, beginning with training my Australian Shepherd bitch for obedience competition. After five years of competition, she earned her Obedience Trial Championship. I then went on to become obedience-training director for Port Chester Obedience Training Club, White Plains, New York. During this period, I was a contributing editor for *Front and Finish* magazine and the obedience editor for *The Australian Shepherd Journal*, published by The United States Australian Shepherd Association. In 2013, I won a Dog Writers Association of America "Maxwell Award" for an article that appeared in *AKC Family Dog* magazine.

The sport continued to keep me busy—training three more dogs to their OTCH titles, titling an Afghan in lure coursing, becoming an AKC obedience judge and then being named a Delegate for my club. In 2011, the AKC nominating committee put my name up for the class of 2015 and I was elected to a four-year term. As a board member, I served on the pension committee, the task force that helped select major public relations firms for the AKC, as board liaison to the Delegates Companion Events Committee and as Chair of the Audit Committee (2013-2015). I still judge and compete and am working on my fifth OTCH with a Golden Retriever.

CARL ASHBY



I love the American Kennel Club because it is the only organization 100% committed to all aspects of responsible dog ownership including health care, preservation of purpose-bred dogs and promotion of responsible dog ownership. No organization does as much or deserves our support more than the American Kennel Club!

I am the President of Ann Crittenden, Inc. which I grew to a chain of 14 retail stores. I retired from AT&T as President, AT&T Custom Manufacturing Services a \$200 business unit of AT&T, which I founded. I hold a BS in Electrical Engineering, a Masters in Business Administration and a certification in Strategic Planning from MIT.

My wife, Jaimie, and I became involved with purebred dogs soon after graduating from college first in obedience and then conformation. Our first Kerry Blue Terrier litter produced an owner-handled multiple Best in Show dog. Since then we have had a limited breeding program under the Blujac prefix including two additional Best in Show Kerry Blues. We continue an active breeding program and owner handle our Kerry Blue Terriers at major shows around the country.

In addition to my many civic leadership roles, I have been very active in dog organizations, most recently completed eight years of service on the AKC Board of Directors with

the last two as Vice Chairman. I currently serve on the AKC Canine Health Foundation Board of Directors and Executive Committee, am a Vice Chair of AKC Reunite and a member of the Board of Managers for AKC Link. I belong to the Carolina and Forsyth Kennel Clubs, am a founding member of the Carolina Terrier Association and am a Life Member of the United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club (USKBTC). He currently serves as Cluster Chair for the Carolina Cluster. I have served on three Delegate committees including the Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee and most recently the All Breed Club Committee and the Perspectives Committee.

JAMES DOK



I love the American Kennel Club because of my love for purebred dogs! My first dog, as a young boy, was an AKC Registered Cocker Spaniel, followed by an AKC Registered Dachshund.

The challenges are surrounding us daily. How do we maintain the original integrity of our sport while at the same time grow the awareness of an important constituency the American public that AKC is good, our base is ever-expanding and Family-friendly? In the past, we could live on AKC Registrations and dog shows alone. Those days are gone today and for our future. Fifteen years ago, AKC recognized that problem and it was systemic.

Today, with knowledgeable Individuals, along with the New York State Not-for-Profit Corporation, AKC has maneuvered itself legally into a business platform, along with our sport platform, to effectively secure investments, (LLC's,) that mimics aspects comfortable/compatible with our original intent. These investments over time will generate income that "sustains and supports" our growth, and AKC Mission Statement. To fathom this concept is critical to our continued growth, supportive of our core interest and healthy for the American Kennel Club. It might surprise many "close to AKC," that almost 82% of our income is derived from within our business platform growth team's initiatives. Yes, my love is for all purebred dogs, but I am pragmatic enough to value the importance of all things all dogs!

My appointed Board responsibilities these past four years include: board appointed liaison to delegate advocacy and advocacy committee; herding, earthdog and coursing events committee; all-breed clubs committee and bylaws committee. I am an AKC Pension Committee member and have been since March 2015, on the Judges Review Committee as of October 1st, 2015 and AKC Detection Dog Imitative since June 1st, 2015. I have been an AKC/PAC Board Member since January 1st, 2015 and have been an AKC/PAC Chairman since January 1st, 2016.

My qualifications include: AKC/Eukanuba Invitational Championship (designated ring steward 15 years since inception of the venue), AKC delegate for Gig Harbor Kennel Club

from September, 2008 to present and Santa Clara Valley Kennel Club from September, 1993 to September, 2008. I have been on the All Breed Club Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee for three years, as well as the Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee for the past eleven years. I'm on the Ad Hoc Committee Chairman "Judges Affairs Committee" presently. I have been serving as the AKC Trial Board Officer continuously since 1998 and was appointed by the AKC Board of Directors. I am a chairman for reduction of delegates meeting and a member of "Future Nature of the Delegate Body" Committee for the past three years. I'm also an AKC Breeder of Merit and an AKC Humane Fund founding member.

I'm a member of the Basset Hound Club of America since 1980; I have been the President, Parliamentarian, on the Board of Directors, a Nationals Coordinator, Show Chairman and Futurity Chairman and have served on the Bylaws Committee.

I have also been a member of the Beagle Club of America, English Setter Association of America and the Dachshund Club of America. I was also the founding President of the Greater San Diego Basset Hound Club and a member of the Northern California Basset Hound Club and Blossom Valley Beagle Club.

Additional affiliations I have relating to pure bred dogs include being an AKC licensed judge, being President for four year of the California Federation of Dog Clubs and represented the AKC in the California Coalition of Companion Animal Activists and was designated to replace Wayne Cavanaugh and John Mandeville following their first two years.

I've attended the Kellogg West Conference at Pomona, California in 1993 and the AKC Institute on the Sporting Breeds in San Jose, California in 1998. I'm a member of the Dog Judges Association, American Dog Judges Association and the Senior Conformation Dog Judges Association.

I've held numerous offices including President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Director, Parliamentarian, Committee Chairman, Bylaws, All Breed and Breed Specific Show Chairman, BHCA National Coordinator

in 2009 and periphery areas of responsibility to numerous to record. I have had experience with group presentations and can comfortably address issues before the dog fancy including: responsible dog breeding, anti-dog legislation, litigation risks in management and breed specific issues. I also am a designated judge's mentor, since 1985, and am active on bench hearing committees for the Santa Clara Valley Kennel Club.

JAN RICHIE GLADSTONE

DELEGATE, RICHMOND DOG FANCIERS CLUB SINCE 2002



I love the AKC because I believe in purebred dogs, the dedicated AKC breeders responsible for true to purpose purebred dogs, the devoted AKC parent clubs which protect our breed standards and nurture our breeders and the committed AKC All Breed, Agility and Obedience and Dog Training Clubs which tirelessly toil to present events to showcase our dogs' unique talents. I love the AKC because I believe in our family of AKC exhibitors who show their passion for dogs in competition in conformation, companion and performance events, fair weather or foul, across the country.

I love the AKC because I believe in AKC / CHF's mission to improve the quality of life for dogs and humans, AKC/ Reunite's aid to animals in natural disasters and animal recovery and the AKC Humane Fund's goal to promote responsible dog ownership.

I am an active AKC Breeder of Merit and exhibitor of Smooth Fox Terriers and Cardigan Welsh Corgis. A Champion Leonberger and a hopeful future Champion English Setter, co-owned with Rebecca Yuhasz make up the balance of my current household. I owned the Number One Smooth Fox Terrier in 2000. My latest litter was whelped October 16, with many wonderful dogs and bitches in the interim.

I judge a number of Terriers and one Toy breed. I serve as President of the Fox Terrier Club of Maryland. I am a Member of the Board of my parent club, the American Fox Terrier Club, a Parent Club Mentor and Current Chair of our Meet The Breeds Booth. My initiative for the AFTC is Youth Outreach and New Member Mentoring and Recruitment.

I am Chief Ring Steward and a Member of the Board of Governors for the Bryn Mawr Kennel Club. I am also a Member of Morris&Essex Kennel Club. I am a past Show Chair, Board Member and Secretary for the Greater Naples Dog Club, where I was active when living in Florida, presently my part-time home and a former AKC Trial Board Chair, familiar with Event Committee appeals and the situations which provoke them in our current dog world. I now serve on the AKC Bylaws Committee.

"YES, MY LOVE IS FOR ALL PUREBRED DOGS, BUT I AM PRAGMATIC ENOUGH TO VALUE THE IMPORTANCE OF ALL THINGS ALL DOGS!"

- James Dok

I was graduated from the University of Delaware, cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa in 1982. I attended the Dickinson School of Law, where I obtained my Juris Doctorate and clerked for the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

I have been licensed to practice law in Pennsylvania since 1985. I am admitted before the state and federal courts of Pennsylvania, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court. My multi-faceted practice has included corporate, real estate and employment law.

RONALD MENAKER



I love the AKC because quite simply, it preserves the sport of purebred dogs. AKC provides the solid yet agile infrastructure that allows breeders, clubs and exhibitors to enjoy the sport we love.

I'm from Jupiter, Florida and have been actively involved in the sport for over 52 years. I'm the honorary president of the Tuxedo Park Kennel Club, a member

of the executive committee for the Morris and Essex Kennel Club, a current delegate of the Memphis Kennel Club and a current member of the Border Terrier Club of America and Palm Beach Dog Fanciers Association. I'm a former president, AKC delegate and show chairman for the Bedlington Terrier Club of America, former show chairman for the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship, former governor and show chairman for the Westminster Kennel Club and a former member of the Westchester Kennel Club. I'm also an honorary member for the Kennel Club (UK) and an approved judge for Best in Show, Sporting, Working, Terrier, Non-Sporting and Toy groups along with several Hound and Herding breeds.

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the Westchester Kennel Club. I'm an honorary member of the Kennel Club (UK) and am approved to judge Best in Show, Sporting, Working, Terrier, Non-Sporting, Toy groups and several Hound and Herding breeds.

I've been an AKC delegate from 1988-1992 then from 1994-present, a board member from 1996-1998, 2000-2012 then 2014-present, a chairman from 2002-2012 and from 2015-present and a board vice chairman in 2001.

I'm the director and former president for the AKC Museum of the Dog, former director of the AKC Canine Health Foundation, a member of the Board of Overseers of the University of PA School of Veterinary Medicine and board of New York University Medical Center where I was awarded Honorary Doctorate of Medicine. I was chairman and vice chairman of New York Downtown hospital and received the Elizabeth Blackwell Humanitarian Award. As well as, trustee of the Morris Animal Foundation and St. Hubert's Giralda Animal Welfare Center.

I've been president of JP Morgan Services from 1966-1999, managing director and head of Corporate Services Worldwide, LP Morgan. I was also a former board member for Atlanta Capital Corporation and Reckson Associates Realty Corporation.

CHRISTOPHER SWEETWOOD



I love the AKC because we are the dogs' champions. We do more for our furry companions than any organization in the world, from rescue to health research to the many venues for the fancy, we do it all.

I am the delegate for the Trap Falls Kennel Club located in Stratford, Connecticut. I serve as the Vice Chair of the AKC Delegate

Field Trial/Hunting Test advisory committee and as the Police K-9 Ambassador for AKC Reunite. I have been involved with purebred dogs since the age of eight with my father, who bred German Shorthair Pointers.

After completing a military/law enforcement career I discovered the Spinone Italiano in the 1990s. As an avid hunter, AKC pointing breed hunting test judge and CGC Evaluator I participated in AKC Conformation, Obedience, Rally,

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IT PRESERVES THE SPORT
OF PUREBRED DOGS."**

- Ronald Menaker

Hunting Tests (Pointing and Retriever) and Field Trials. I am a former board member of the Spinone Parent club, newsletter editor and Treasurer for the Southern New England Pointing Dog Club. I received the AKC Bailey Award for my work with Newtown Police Department in 2013 and in 2016 the AKC Visionary Award. I was a speaker/presenter at the 2016 and 2017 (Washington DC) AKC GR Conference and the New England Conference.

I founded the adopt a K-9 Cop program that, in conjunction with AKC Reunite, helps local police departments fund the purchase of police dogs which includes placing the AKC Reunite logo on the police patrol vehicle. To date they have funded Police K-9's for numerous departments in the country.

HAROLD "RED" TATRO III

DELEGATE FOR THE FORT WORTH KC,
CROWLEY, TEXAS, USA



I love the AKC because of the people, places and dogs. My life has been enriched by all the interesting people from so many walks of life that I have met and become friends with over the many years of attending all the various AKC events. I have been blessed to visit and see so many areas of the US and wonderful international destinations. The dogs, well I think we all do this because of our great love of dogs and what better way to fill that passion than to attend an AKC event!

In my non-dog life I am a Certified Public Accountant and work as the Chief Financial Officer for an Architectural and Engineering design company in Arlington, Texas. Originally from northern Vermont, I was transplanted to Texas after an enlistment in the US Air Force. That is where I met my wife, Denise, and where we share our home with several Whippets. I have a BBA in Accounting—Magna Cum Laude as well as a Master of Science degree from the University of Texas in Arlington.

My involvement with animals began in 4-H while growing up in northern Vermont. My competitive purebred dog experience began with a Doberman who I trained and competed in Obedience. I acquired my first Lakeland Terrier in 1982. Learned to groom and trim and successfully showed him to his championship and several Group placements—I was hooked. In 1988 I married my lovely wife, Denise, and began my involvement and love of Whippets. Over the past 35 years we have been successful breeder-owner-handlers in both the Terrier and Hound groups, having bred or owned several Champions, Group winners, Specialty winners and a couple of Best In Show winners as well. I am still an active breeder and train, condition and compete in Conformation, Obedience, Rally, Lure Coursing, and the new Fast CAT events. Denise and I believe in preserving the functionality of

our breed and also compete in Whippet straight track racing with a non-AKC organization whose purpose is to promote purebred Whippet racing with dogs that conform to the AKC breed standard and disqualifications.

In addition to serving as the delegate for the Fort Worth KC, I was recently elected to the By Laws committee. I am the President of the American Whippet Club and have served in that position for the past five years. I serve on the education committee and have served on the AWC national specialty show committee for several years. I am a longtime member of the US Lakeland Terrier Club where I have served as their JEC for the past 15 years. I have also served as Past-President, Treasurer, Secretary and Director of the USLTC at various times since 1989. I am the founding Past-President of the Lone Star Whippet Club. Over the years I have belonged to and served on the boards of a few other all-breed, specialty and group clubs. I have been an AKC conformation judge since 2003, currently approved for the Terrier Group, most of the Hounds (recently submitted and interviewed for the last five breeds), Jr. Showmanship and Best in Show. I have had the honor to judge the national specialties for both of my breeds—twice at Montgomery County KC for Lakelands and this year in Denver for Whippets. I have judged several specialties and shows across the US as well as internationally in Sweden and Australia.

ANN WALLIN

DELEGATE THE ATLANTA KENNEL CLUB



I love AKC because we are the best advocate for not only for the purebred dog, the purpose bred dog, but also for the well-being, health and protection of all dogs. We have a strong mission statement that defines what we stand for and we are not afraid to stand up for our core beliefs. We cherish our sport, our breeders and our clubs that are the foundation of The American Kennel Club. We support the right to own dogs and truly understand the importance and benefits of the human animal bond. I am proud to be a part of this great organization. We truly love dogs.

My love of dogs began at a very early age. My dad was a devoted horseman so I was on a horse as soon as I could walk and dogs were always a part of our household. My time was spent in the horse show world until I left for college and it was then that I got my first purebred Weimaraner named Faust. He had the honor of attending our wedding reception, as all our friends knew that he needed to be a part of such an important occasion because he was such an important part of our lives. One of the groomsmen escorted him in wearing dark sunglasses so he easily got past security as his seeing-eye dog. He was our only child for several years and lived a long wonderful life until the age of 12. So continued my lifelong love of dogs, which continues to this day.

Ann Wallin continued

I believe I have been preparing myself for this most important position for over 25 years, of course not realizing that so many years ago, but it has become evident to me now. As a life member of The Atlanta Kennel Club I have devoted my time and talents to the sport of purebred dogs by serving in just about every aspect of club life. I have served on the Board of Directors for over 25 years, as past President, and as their delegate for 15 years. I was an original member of the show committee that began The Peach Blossom Cluster and have continued to serve on both show committees for approximately 28 years. There is not a job I have not done from Assistant Show Chair, advertising, set up, hospitality, event hearings, to clean up and staying on Sunday night until the last box is packed and everything in between. I have also chaired our Finance and Audit committees and oversee the insurance for the club and directors. I have come to realize that longevity in any dog club is a great achievement.

My first show dog was a Rottweiler bitch named Kietel, who was truly a handful. We survived obedience school and went on to obtain a CD and were on our way to a CDX title but were interrupted by the arrival of our daughter Jenna. Keitel produced beautiful Rottweiler puppies that went onto great show careers.

My childhood love of Boxers brought me into the Boxer world with great joy. I was lucky enough to have one of my bitches win Winners Bitch at the national defeating 332 bitches that year. She also went onto to produce beautiful boxer babies. Three still fill our home with lots of energy and daily excitement.

I am very honored to have served as my club's delegate for 15 years and as the chairperson of the All-Breed Clubs Committee for 13 of those years. I have had the privilege of serving with great and talented committee members throughout all these years. One of the initiatives I brought to the committee was the task of developing Best Practices for our clubs in an effort to keep our clubs viable and strong. With the support of a wonderful subcommittee we have made that dream a reality. I feel I was "raised up", so to speak in the Delegate body and I have a great deal of respect for what the Delegate Body has to offer that I will always carry with me.

I also served on the initial AKC Reunite trailer task force that under the great leadership of Pat Laurens brought the trailer initiative to the delegate body and has since become a wonderful and successful project.

My professional life began after I graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor's of Science degree and began a nursing career that included being the one of the youngest nurses to be promoted to the position of Head nurse of a 28 bed medical and surgical unit. I went onto specializing in critical care and was part of the original staff that was in charge of the Open Heart Unit. Learning to deal with highly stressful situations became an everyday experience.

After moving to Atlanta I decided to make a career change and took a position a sales representative for a pharmaceutical company. Here I utilized my medical background and learned how to run my own territory and manage approximately 240 accounts which included doctors, hospitals and

"...TO ENSURE THE BEST DECISIONS ARE MADE TO ADVANCE AND PROTECT OUR SPORT AND TO PROMOTE THE INTERESTS OF THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB."

- Ann Wallin

pharmacies. I developed strong sales and organizational skills and turned a historically low producing territory into one of the best in the company.

For the past 16 years I have had a successful real estate career. As an independent contractor I have mastered the skills needed to run my own company within a company.

I have learned how to deal effectively with all types of personalities in stressful and complicated situations. I have developed strong negotiation skills and have become an expert in contract preparation.

One other accomplishment I am very proud of is that I was the co-chair with my dear friend Bonnie Turner that raised \$25,000 with the support of our local clubs to bring a bronze DOGNY dog to Atlanta after 911. He is prominently displayed on the corner of the State Agricultural building and the State Capitol along with a beautiful plaque that tells the great story of the AKC initiative and the clubs that made it financially possible. Thank you Dennis for creating such a wonderful project that demonstrated the true greatness of the American Kennel Club.

I have a wonderful supportive husband and family and three precious grandchildren that are the light of my life.

I believe my life experiences which includes a strong business background, extensive experience in our sport, and a proven successful track record of board experience and of making sound decisions for many years, will serve me well to take on this new and most important role as a board director of the American Kennel Club. I believe one of my strongest attributes is that I am able to focus on the details at hand while keeping the larger goal in mind. I am able to hold a divergent opinion while accepting that others may have differing opinions, goals or ideas. I believe I am a good facilitator in a board setting and can offer a positive approach to problem solving.

Most importantly I have no personal or political agenda but only to ensure the best decisions are made to advance and protect our sport and to promote the interests of The American Kennel Club. ■

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.
-Linda Ayers Turner Knorr