



# LINES FROM LINDA

by LINDA AYERS TURNER KNORR

**A**s the year winds down, the AKC Class of 2020 Board race is heating up. Many within our fancy have come to me with questions about the working relationships between the Board of Directors and the Executive Staff. Here is what's at stake.

The Charter and Bylaws of the American Kennel Club clearly defines the significance of this relationship.

## ARTICLE IX: BOARD OF DIRECTORS GENERAL POWERS

The Board of Directors shall have the general management of the business and affairs of the AKC and generally perform all duties appertaining to the office of director provided, however, that all the powers conferred by this Article of the Bylaws shall be exercised subject to all other provisions of these Bylaws and to the statutes of the State of New York and all amendments thereof and additions thereto.

## ARTICLE X: BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIFIC POWERS

Without detracting from any general powers of the Board of Directors but by way of explanation it shall be understood that:

### GENERAL POWERS

**SECTION 1.** The Board shall have supervision of the funds, assets and property of the AKC and shall determine how much thereof shall be left in

the hands or under direct control of the Treasurer for current needs, and how the balance thereof shall be deposited or invested, and shall have power to withdraw or transfer said deposits or dispose of or change said investments for the benefit of the AKC.

**SECTION 2.** The Board may appoint from time to time and at will discharge committees with such powers and authority as in the judgment of said Board may be necessary to facilitate and carry out the objects and business of the AKC; and in order to facilitate business may appoint one or more persons who shall represent the AKC in such territory of the United States and with such jurisdiction as may be designated by said Board.

**SECTION 3.** The Board shall examine all proposed amendments or alterations to the Bylaws, Rules or Regulations of the AKC and report thereon to the AKC for action.

**SECTION 4.** All matters in dispute as to interpretation of the Rules or Regulations of the AKC shall be submitted to the Board for its construction, which shall be decisive.

**SECTION 5.** The Board shall have supervision and control of the Stud

Book, the registration of purebred dogs, kennel names and the transfers thereof, and determine the manner in which such records shall be preserved.

**SECTION 6.** The Board shall determine all matters which may arise affecting pedigrees of purebred dogs.

**SECTION 7.** The Board shall have supervision and control of the official kennel gazette now called the *AKC GAZETTE* and shall determine the manner and form in which it shall be published.

**SECTION 8.** The Board shall have power to approve or disapprove any or all applications for purebred dog events.

**SECTION 9.** The Board shall have power to issue and revoke licenses to Judges, Superintendents of Purebred Dog Events and Handlers of Dogs.

**SECTION 10.** The Board also shall have the power to determine and fix the rating of each breed of dog to qualify for Championship and may from time to time change such rating.

**SECTION 11.** The Board shall have the power to sanction or disapprove applications for informal purebred dog events.

**SECTION 12.** The Board shall have power to issue such regulations as it

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CLASS OF 2020  
BOARD RACE IS HEATING UP.”**

# TIME—THE MOST PRECIOUS GIFT

may deem necessary for the governing or holding of purebred dog events.

**SECTION 13.** The Board shall have power to consider charges preferred by Event Committees, Clubs, Associations or persons, and to determine whether the charges alleged have been sustained, and if sustained what penalty shall be imposed. The powers of the Board of Directors in this connection are more fully set forth in Article XII of these Bylaws entitled "Discipline."

**SECTION 14.** The Board shall have power to appoint and at will remove Trial Boards of not less than three members each, whose duty it shall be to hear such charges in the first instance as may be referred by the Board of Directors to such Trial Boards. The powers and duties of Trial Boards are more fully set forth in Article XIII of these Bylaws entitled "Trial Boards."

**SECTION 15.** The Board shall have power to determine and fix and from time to time change the amount of all fees to be charged by the AKC, whether for registration, listing and change of ownership of dogs, the granting of kennel names and the transfer thereof, the issuing of certificates or otherwise.

**SECTION 16.** The Board shall have power without previous hearing to fix and determine the amount or extent of the penalty and to impose a penalty for all uncontested violations of the Rules and Regulations of the AKC.

## ARTICLE XI: OFFICERS

**SECTION 1.** The Executive Officers of the AKC shall be a President, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Executive Secretary. The Directors, by a majority vote of those present at any meeting, may determine, for such period or periods as they deem appropriate, that one or more of the above offices may remain vacant or that the same person may hold one or more of

the above offices, except that the President may not serve as Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Chief Financial Officer, or Executive Secretary. The Executive Officers shall be elected annually at the first regular meeting after the annual meeting. The President is an ex officio non voting Director by virtue of his or her position. The President may but need not be a Delegate.

**SECTION 2.** The Board Officers of the AKC shall be a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. The Board Officers shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors at a meeting which shall be held immediately following the annual meeting. The Chairperson of the Board and Vice Chairperson of the Board must be Directors.

**SECTION 3.** The Chairperson of the Board shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson shall preside at the meeting. In the absence of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, an Acting Chairperson shall be elected by a majority of those present at any meeting. The Chairperson of the Board shall perform such additional duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors.

**SECTION 4.** The Vice Chairperson shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors and shall be the primary Board contact with the Chief Financial Officer in monitoring the finances of the AKC.

**SECTION 5.** The President shall perform the usual duties of a chief executive officer, shall preside at all meetings of the AKC and shall perform such other duties, as may be assigned by the Board of Directors. All contracts on behalf of the AKC shall be executed by the President or by such Executive Officers or Vice Presidents as may be designated by the President. In the absence or disability of the President,

the Chief Operating Officer, and in the absence or disability of both the President and Chief Operating Officer, the Executive Secretary shall perform the duties of the President. The President shall devote his/her whole time to the business of the AKC. The salary of the President shall be fixed by the Board of Directors.

**SECTION 6.** The Chief Operating Officer shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the President or the Board of Directors and shall devote his or her whole time to the business of the AKC. The salary of the Chief Operating Officer shall be fixed by the Board of Directors.

**SECTION 7.** The Executive Secretary shall keep the records of all the meetings of the AKC and Board of Directors and shall issue calls for said meetings. He/she shall keep a roll of members and Delegates, and shall have charge of all records and papers of the AKC. He/she shall have custody of the seal of the AKC. He/she shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the President or by the Board of Directors, devoting his/ her whole time to the business of the AKC. The salary of the Executive Secretary shall be fixed by the Board of Directors.

**SECTION 8.** The Chief Financial Officer shall keep the financial records of the AKC in such manner as may be directed by the Board of Directors; shall be responsible for the collection, custody and control of the funds of the AKC, subject to the supervision of the President and the Board of Directors; and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President or the Board of Directors, devoting his/her whole time to the business of the AKC. The salary of the Chief Financial Officer shall be fixed by the Board of Directors.

**SECTION 9.** The President may appoint one or more Vice Presidents or



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Assistant Vice Presidents with administrative responsibility for different AKC departments and with such additional duties as may be assigned by the President. They shall devote their full time to the business of the AKC.

## MY RESPONSES

As one of the three selected, the following are some of my responses to the questions from the AKC nominating committee:

### 1. *How long have you been a delegate?*

I was approved as the Delegate for the Greenville Kennel Club on November 1, 2004—11 years.

### 2. *Describe your experiences in the sport of purebred dogs.*

When I was only four years old, my love for tv's *Lassie* prompted my parents, Roy and Hazel Ayers, to surprise me with a Collie. "Pam" was sold to them with an AKC Pedigree, show ribbons and trophies. The ribbons and trophies did not actually belong to her it was later discovered. We began to play pretend Dog Show at home, in parks and on a nearby ballfield. I worked with Pam on a leash everyday, brushed her and fed her. My father immediately recognized her quality was not pleasing to his eye. He subscribed to *Dog World Magazine* and purchased our foundation dog, Ch. Poplar Stop the Music, from New York. My first times in the confirmation ring began when I was only six years old. My parents made everything about the sport our

family hobby. Choosing our kennel name was a contest between the three of us—Conrad Collie Kennels was chosen as that our street name sounded good with Collies. (They let me think it was my idea.) Musical names would be our theme. If you look in old magazines and books, there you will find me showing Ch. Conrad's Dancing in the Dark and many others.

Mother had my show attire custom made. My Poodle type skirts featured felt cutouts of Conrad Collies. I showed alongside my father and as he became the President of the Collie Club of Georgia, I was their first Junior Member. During the years he was President of the Atlanta Kennel Club, I enjoyed teaching training and grooming classes, doing tv appearances and radio shows. He was President of the Southeastern Association of Kennel Clubs as well as serving as AKC Delegate for the Atlanta Kennel Club.

During those years, my brother, Roy Ayers, Jr., was born and became the newest family participant in our sport.

We were blessed to travel around the globe watching and learning as our father embarked on the next step. When my father pursued his judging career, his philosophy was to either judge or show. He asked us to discontinue exhibiting in the confirmation ring. All three of us became AKC Conformation judges—a rarity! As an All Rounder, my dad inspired in our family a great

love and respect for the American Kennel Club, our lifelong passion.

### 3. *What is your educational and professional career background and how do you feel your background would help you contribute as a Board member?*

Growing up in Atlanta, I am a University of Georgia Bulldog (correctly spelled *Bulldawg*). As a young professional just out of college I served on the Executive staffs of two Georgia Governors moving on from the State Capitol to serve the Chairman of the Hyatt Hotel Corporation. One learns a lot in the worlds of politics and hotels—oh my! Moving on to found two companies in Georgia at an early age. Thirty one years ago I moved to Greenville, South Carolina where I have owned three more manufacturing firms doing business nationally and internationally. In my last CEO position I manufactured interior components for the automotive industry; for example the door panels on your new BMW, Cadillac, etc. Business journals have described me as an innovative leader and a unifier.

### 4. *Describe your experiences with dog organizations including positions held and activities performed.*

- Member of the Greenville Kennel Club for 31 years, AKC Delegate Lifetime
- Honorary Member of the Collie Club of Georgia (first Jr. member of the club), compiled the 50th Club History in 1998 and the same for







the Atlanta Kennel Club Centennial celebration in 2000

- Collie Club of America District Director 15 years, Morris & Essex, President of the Carolinas Dog Judges Study Group currently and for past 9 years
  - Dog Writers Association of America, Dogs for Disabled Board Member
- Since I was almost born into the dog world, this list of activities could go on and on.

During the past few months, my club has sponsored an AKC Reunite Trailer, donated a K9 officer for our Sheriff's department, sent other needed items for the department. They send us a list of needs yearly and we provide them. I had a very successful Match last weekend. I do live telecasts with our local weatherman during our shows. We have always been one of the first clubs to put on new AKC events, for example "My Dog Can Do That".

**5. What non-dog organizations have you been involved with that might enhance your contributions to the work of the AKC Board?**

In addition to a lifetime of serving my church and local charitable organizations, I am currently active on committees of Greenville private clubs, The Poinsett Club, recognized as a platinum club and Green Valley Country Club.

I hold Board Positions covering a wide spectrum: Upstate Visual Arts, Dogs for Disabled, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Life Member, Greenville Touchdown Club, Ducks Unlimited, Greenville Gun Club, Rolls Royce Owners Group, Audi Club, Corvette Club and Harley Owners Group.

I also mentor athletes at Furman University Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Having a great love for sports, I enjoy a passion for athletic competition.

**6. Why do you want to serve on the AKC Board of Directors? If elected, what do you hope to accomplish? How would you make a difference?**

My agenda did not list seeking to serve in this position!

After receiving calls and emails from many respected colleagues urging me to do so and after prayerful consideration, I realize that yes, I do have more to contribute to the organization which has made such an impact on my life.

Quoting myself from a *ShowSight Magazine* article I penned in December 2004, ***"Presents come in many forms. Each of us in the dog world possess countless treasures that we can give away all year long. We need not wait to share our priceless gifts. Experience gives us a wealth***

***of knowledge to distribute and believe me we have a lot of needy folks with big wish lists."***

In Roy Lessin's book, *Today Is Your Best Day*, I wrote the introduction. Here again I will quote myself, ***"Time is the most precious gift you can share to make someone happy or to make a difference."***

With a deep rooted love for our AKC and with great enthusiasm, I am willing to devote my time working to make a difference for the future of our sport.

**7. Many Delegates feel that the AKC Board and/or the AKC Staff does not listen to the Delegates on the Delegate Committee suggestions. What are your thoughts on this?**

I have never experienced this.

Knowing how to properly communicate is the key. I know how!

## HOLIDAY WISHES

With this issue featuring Collies, I just couldn't resist sharing a few of our Ayers family Christmas card photos. Roy Jr. and I were so blessed to grow up with this special breed. For my family, Christmas has always been our most special time of the year. We celebrate and reflect on the birth of a baby in a manger so many years ago. Whatever you believe, I wish you great joy during this holiday season. And from all of us at *ShowSight*... peace on earth and goodwill toward men! ■

