



BORZOI CLUB OF AMERICA AKC Delegate Report

February 3, 2012

The AKC Delegate Meeting was held December 16, 2011, Orlando, Florida.

The Delegate body voted no on the proposed amendment to eliminate the prohibition of a person connected with dog food, dog remedy or kennel supply companies in the capacity of solicitor or sales man, from becoming an AKC judge.

The AKC Owner-Handler Series began January 2012 at select all breed shows. Judging will take place after Best of Breed judging in each breed ring. This competition will be open to all non-professional owner-handlers, whether experienced or novice. All dogs' eligibility must be indicated by checking the Owner-Handler box on the entry form at the time of entry and will be marked as Owner-Handler eligible with an asterisk (*) in the steward's book and catalog.

Owner-Handler Best of Breed will be selected from the dogs that are eligible to compete in the Best of Breed competition including Winners Dog and Winners Bitch. If the Best of Breed/Variety winner is Owner-Handler eligible, it will automatically be Owner-Handler Best of Breed/Variety. If BOB is ineligible and Best of Opposite Sex is eligible, BOS will compete against the eligible Best of Breed dogs of the other sex. If the BOB and BOS winners are both ineligible, the judge will choose Owner-Handler Best of Breed from the eligible Selects and eligible WD or WB. If one of the Selects is eligible, the judge will excuse dogs of the same sex as the Select and judge the remaining dogs of the opposite sex including the eligible WD or WB. If the BOB, BOS and Selects are not eligible, the judge may choose any eligible dog remaining in the ring.

Based on points from Breed, Group and Best in Show wins accrued throughout the year, we'll rank the dogs and invite our top owner-handled exhibits to a special year-end event to compete for a Best Owner-Handler Award. **AKC Owner-Handler Series Point Scale:** (Note: Owner-Handler Series points do not contribute to championship points)

Best in Show – 100
Group 1 - 30
Group 2 - 20
Group 3 - 15
Group 4 - 10
Best of Breed - 5

The March Delegate meeting will be held in Newark, New Jersey, March 13, 2012. A proposed amendment was read at the December meeting to create a new three-point major for Reserve Winners Dog and Bitch at the National Specialty, if the number of dogs is twice the number of point schedule for that region.

Election to the AKC Board, Class of 2016, will be at the March meeting. There are 7 candidates and three will be seated. The Nominating Committee slate is William J. Feeney, Sir Francis Drake Kennel Club, Thomas Powers, Kennel Club of Beverly Hills and Lynn Worth-Smith, Vizsla Club of America. I have attached the bios for all candidates.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara O'Neill

**Biographical Information on Candidates for Vacancies on the
AKC Board - Class of 2016**
as submitted by those candidates

Patricia M. Cruz – Coram, NY

Today, the American Kennel Club faces many challenges and opportunities. We need problem solvers, innovators, and communicators on the AKC Board to achieve the success that is so necessary for our sport, our breeders, our puppy buyers, and our dogs. I have a unique combination of hands-on experience, specialized expertise, and a proven track record – plus over 40 years in the world of dogs.

As the former president of the civilian employee union in one of the largest police departments on the east coast and secretary of the county-wide union representing over 10,000 employees, I know how to create solutions that eliminate barriers to success and enlist the strong support of all parties. The AKC needs more outcomes like those.

As one of the founders of the Owner Handler Association, I know how to create innovative thought leadership by consolidating a force in the fancy that had not been effectively harnessed previously and create positive change. As a professional journalist and author, I know how to create communications that yield understanding and motivation.

And as a former AKC Field Representative, an active member of the Afghan Hound Club of America, an officer of Ladies Kennel Association of America and Riverhead Kennel Club, the Heart of the Plains KC Delegate, and an internationally-experienced judge, I know how to effectively address the issues we face in the sport we all love so dearly.

I have the know-how to make a difference for the AKC. I am deeply committed to making that difference.

William J. Feeney – Cotati, CA

My involvement in our sport spans 33 years, largely found at www.biramwood.com.

Although I have enough life experience to know the value of a dollar and benefits of a balanced budget, I cannot offer the AKC specific business experience and skills. There are fine Directors with business experience and skills; another business person is not needed on the Board. I am a lawyer, but the Board doesn't need another lawyer. Rather, different thinking is necessary.

Part of the AKC's business model needs change. Casting a wide net to capture registrations has brought little change in the status quo. Instead, the AKC should consider making registrations more exclusive by a stronger commitment to quality control points. A concomitant marketing program would tell the world the AKC doesn't register every dog, only those meeting its high standards.

The success of such an approach is not without precedent. Consider the experience of Apple, Inc., which was once teetering on the brink of existence with stagnant sales and limited market share. Following demanding standards and different thinking, Apple is now the world's most valuable company.

A new class of non-voting, individual membership in the AKC should be considered as an additional source of support. Also, a true ear to constituents' concerns, and vigilance for fair and equal discipline will confirm for all that the AKC is a dependable ally.

In the end, AKC's success is tied to the public's confidence it can get a good dog and a fair shake from the venerable AKC.

Thomas S. Powers – Northridge, CA

I am a second generation dog fancier. Both my parents were active in our sport as breeders, exhibitor's club presidents, show chairs and as delegates. I have held all of those positions and have served on the Board's Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and currently as Chair of the South West Trial Board.

My wife and I continue to breed and exhibit Irish Wolfhounds and have exhibited and finished a number of Dachshunds, Beagles, Mastiffs and Harriers, including the number one Harrier in 1990, Ch. Powerscourt Patience DeAmo.

I have practiced law in California for 35 years. I have represented individuals in matters as “simple” as co-ownership disputes and as complex as serious criminal or personal injury or contract/ workplace disputes. I have represented major corporations, including fortune 500 companies in all manner of controversies. I have provided legal and consulting services to corporate clients, and high net worth individuals, some with strong businesses and some with failing business models.

Additionally I have owned and operated a chain of dry cleaners, a chain of retail pet supply stores and a veterinary hospital. For each business I compiled the business plan, managed the businesses, made the payroll and developed and implemented the exit strategy.

I have purposely reduced the volume of my practice in the last few years and have time and energy for the Director position.

John L. Ronald - Myersville, MD

Delegate Background

- Delegate, Samoyed Club of America - 24 years
 - My motion created the Delegate Committees
 - Chaired the Special Committee for the Future Nature of the Delegate Body
 - Current member of the All Breeds Committee
 - Former member: Board appointed Bylaws Committee.
 - Former member: Coordinating, Strategic Planning and Parent Club Committees
 - Edited Perspectives – 6 years

Professional Background:

- Retired Bank executive – Vice President, Head of Institutional Trust Department – Comerica Bank
- Management, financial analysis, investments, employee benefits, Not for Profit corporations
- Managed a unit dedicated to administering not for profit corporations. Sat on Boards of Trustees, prepared tax returns, participated in asset allocation decisions.
- Undergraduate degree: Marquette University, Graduate studies: University of Colorado Graduate School of Business
- Naval Officer

Purebred Dog Background:

- 4th generation Purebred dog fancier
- Served in elected positions for Samoyed Club of America - 36 years
- AKC Breeder of Merit
- Judge - Working Group & most of the Non-Sporting Group – 24 years
- Board member / Treasurer, American Dog Show Judges – 7 years
- Successfully owner-handled and bred BIS & BISS Samoyeds & Tibetan Terriers – 40 years

Important Assets:

My professional experience in management, finance, employee benefits and supervising the administration of non-profit organizations gives me a unique skill set to contribute as AKC’s Board manages the current decline in AKC’s financial health. My management experience will complement the existing Board in its decision making process in a collegial and consultative manner.

Robert A. Schroll - Clarksville TN

BS in business administration from Southern New Hampshire University. Began showing Morgan horses in eighth grade and then onto Saddle breeds, eventually campaigning the top gaited horse in 1977. I became Ted Young's farm manager and it was at Tedwin Farm that I was introduced to the dog fancy. While working there I met many of the greats of our sport. I then continued working in transportation, running school buses for two districts and managing about 75 employees.

At Tedwin I met John Gammon and we moved to Tennessee in 1977 with an old Yorkie and even older Afghan [Shirkahn daughter]. I worked for both the Senate and House Engrossing of offices for several years. We got our first Cavaliers in 1977 and so began Ravenrush Cavaliers, known worldwide.

We have produced over 50 champions, four breeder-owner-handled National Specialty winners, two of the breeds top stud dogs, a dozen LOM and ROM sires/dams and more all-breed BIS winners than anyone in America.

I am a founding director of my breed's parent club, wrote the breed standard with two others, the clubs bylaws with Hazel Arnold, filmed the breed video at Giralda and was the first Judges Education coordinator. I have belonged to my local KC for 30 years, held every office except treasurer, show chairman for 15 years, worked to make us a member club and have been its only Delegate. For 12 years I have never missed a single meeting and have served on the DRS Committee for nine years.

Larry Sorenson – Clayton, NC

I am asking for your vote to become a member of the AKC Board of Directors because I want to ensure a bright future for our organization. If we are to continue as a successful, strong brand, we must re-imagine our direction as an organization, increase revenues and revenue sources, and become more relevant to dog owners, breeders, and handlers who are our customers and followers.

Fortunately, AKC has strong resources, assets and options that can make that happen. But we are at a crossroads, and the next two years will make a fundamental difference in the life of AKC. I want to bring my fresh ideas, leadership experience and strong respect for the history and traditions of AKC, to the organization I love. If we are smart and strategic, we can both honor the past and change with the times to meet our challenges.

I have shown dogs since 1962 and have finished many dogs to their AKC titles in conformation, obedience, field trial, earthdog, and CGC. I was a PHA member and an AKC licensed handler. I am a BOM and I judge conformation, field trail, earthdog, and will soon judge in obedience. I have held leadership positions in Dachshund Club of America, local specialty clubs, all-breed kennel clubs, and a group club.

I retired from the U.S. Navy as a Master Chief Petty Officer and from AKC as Director of Public Education and Director of Club Education.

Lynn Worth-Smith – Clarksville, VA

Dog Breeder and Exhibitor in Vizslas since 1970.

Have bred: Best in Show and Vizsla Club of America Hall of Fame dogs, Top Ten Sporting Breed dog, two VCA National Specialty Best of Breeds, sire of the first Vizsla Best in Show bitch in the U.S.,

Have bred and owned: Dual Champions, Top Ten Field Dogs (VCA). Personally finished 4 Amateur Field Champions with placements in the VCA National Amateur Field Championships.

Have served: (1) Vizsla Club of America Board of Directors since 1979.

(2) AKC Delegate since 1993.

(3) Secretary AKC Delegates Field Trial & Hunting Test Events Committee.

(4) Editorial Staff of *Perspectives*.

(5) Founder & President – Connecticut Valley Vizsla Club.

(6) President – Vizsla Club of Greater New York

(7) President -- Vizsla Club of America Welfare Foundation.

Editor of the Virginia Hunting Preserve Association's newsletter.

Licensed AKC Field Trial Judge and Hunting Test Judge.

Judged many show sweepstakes.

Chairman of 3 Vizsla Club of America National Field Championships

Freelance Writer: I have a degree in Journalism and have been published in several magazines relating to the canine world: *Dog and Kennel*; *The Sporting Life*; *The Vizsla News*; *AKC Pointing Breed Field Trial News*; *AKC Gazette – Vizsla columns*; *Gun Dog* and others.

Past Work Experience: Time Magazine & other related publications; local newspapers; publicity for several organizations including League of Women Voters, Girl Scouts of America; Public Relations assistant Silver Hill Foundation, Connecticut; Chairman Greater Bridgeport (Connecticut) Area Urban Coalition for inter-community educational practices, governor's campaign.