AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

James P. Crowley
Executive Secretary

February 2016

Dear Delegate:

Pursuant to Article VIII of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, the following Delegates have either been nominated by the Nominating Committee appointed by the Board of Directors on July 20, 2015, or have been endorsed in writing by the required number of Delegates as additional candidates for such vacancies on the Board of Directors as are to be filled at the next annual meeting of the Club on March 8. 2016.

Class of 2020

Gretchen Bernardi, Edwardsville, IL
Mississippi Valley Kennel Club

Rita J. Biddle, Eagle, MI
Ingham County Kennel Club

Patricia M. Cruz, Coram, NY
Heart of the Plains Kennel Club

William J. Feeney, Cotati, CA
Sir Francis Drake Kennel Club

Linda Ayers Turner Knorr, Greenville, SC
Greenville Kennel Club

Karolynne McAteer, Pinehurst, NC
Irish Setter Club of America

Thomas S. Powers, Northridge, CA
Kennel Club of Beverly Hills

Sincerely,

James P. Crowley
JPC/ns

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Biographical Information on Candidates for Vacancies on the AKC Board - Class of 2020

(as submitted by those candidates)

Gretchen Bernardi - Edwardsville, IL
Representing the same all-breed club for nearly 29 years, I have served in almost every capacity in that club and in this body.

- •Member of the original Perspectives committee, board-appointed.
- •Served on the Dog Show Rules Committee
- •Served on the Bylaws Committee, as secretary, currently as chair
- •Currently chair the Coordinating Committee
- •Alternate member of the 2011 Nominating Committee
- •Chaired the 2012 Nominating Committee
- •Served as secretary on the High Volume Breeders Committee

Devoting my dog years to Irish Wolfhounds, I have been exhibiting, mostly as an owner-handler, and breeding continuously since 1969. I was honored as the 2011 Hound Breeder of the Year, a recognition I especially cherish, since I have always been more a breeder than an exhibitor. Our wolfhounds have won national and regional specialties and Berwyck-bred dogs consistently win top honors, especially at specialty shows.

I have served on the show committee of my all-breed club for 40 years, in addition to serving as an officer and magazine editor of my parent club. I judge 12 Hound breeds and have judged many specialties both here and abroad.

I worked as a writer in the public relations department of a major university, taught high school English and have been a working journalist since the age of 16. Currently, I own and manage a 176-acre farm, which is also our home.

Rita J. Biddle, Esq. - Eagle, MI
Education

- JD Cum Laude, Thomas M. Cooley Law School
- MA Political Science/Russian Area Studies
- University of Wisconsin; BA, Cum Laude
- Indiana University - Awarded numerous scholarships/fellowships.

Career
Retired after 40+ years in public service, 13 as a top level executive, in state/regional government in areas of Medicaid finance, Medicaid and welfare fraud and criminal justice.

Business
Owned and operated a successful, large, boarding kennel.

Law
Dog/club related practice

Dog, Club, and AKC

My 50 years of experience is broad and deep.

- I am a breeder/exhibitor of Akitas (BOM) and Great Danes, producing many champions, AOMs, and top ranked dogs.
- First approved in 1993 (Akitas and Great Danes), I now judge BIS, the Hound/Working/Non-Sporting Groups, 3 other breeds and JS. I'm told many of my winners are field champions--form follows function. I have judged all breed shows, group shows, and regional/national specialties in the US and abroad.
- I am a life member/delegate of Ingham County KC and have served in various leadership/show positions; past President of two parent clubs (Akitas, Neapolitan Mastiffs) and a regional Akita Club; member of the Michigan Hound Association and two Michigan dog federations.
- I serve on the Bylaws Committee and am an AKC Trial Board Chair.

Expertise

Through the above, I have gained valuable experience in many important areas, including problem solving, strategic planning, finance and budget, organizational structure, contracting, personnel administration, and legislative process. Such expertise will help me contribute as a Board Director.

Patricia M. Cruz – Coram, NY

I've had the opportunity these past four years to see AKC's Board achieve some success that is necessary for our sport, breeders, puppy buyers, exhibitors and our dogs. I've been able to use my unique combination of hands-on experience, specialized expertise and bring over 50 years in the sport to the Board room. That experience includes, but is not limited to:

- President of the civilian employee union in one of the largest police departments on the east coast
- Secretary of the county- wide union representing over 10,00 employees
- A founder and current member of the Owner Handler Association of America
- Active member in the Ladies Kennel Association of America (their secretary); the Riverhead KC (since 1967); Long Island KC; Morris and Essex KC; Afghan Hound Club of America and the proud Delegate and member of the Heart of the Plains KC
- Approved AKC judge since 1972 and an all-breed international judge
- Sales manager for major market radio stations in northeast allowing me to interpret budgets in the million dollar range.

I've had some success at the Board level and faced uphill challenges on your behalf. That has never deterred nor diminished my fervor for what I feel is correct/right for the sport, our exhibitors, our dogs and clubs. I am steadfast in the belief that AKC's future resides in the membership of our clubs and I'm motivated by an underlying focus of my life – making a difference by getting things done and continuing to be your voice in the Boardroom.

William J. Feeney - Cotati, CA

I am a native born son of San Francisco. Except for a three-year period as a child living in Toyko, Japan, I have lived my life in California. After graduating from law school in 1978, I obtained my first dog—a Golden Retriever. That was a life-changing event.

I have been involved in our sport for 37 years. I met my wife, Sylvia Donahey, at a dog show, and together we have bred and shown Golden Retrievers under the Birnam Wood prefix. We have been lucky to have personally shown and owned several top winning and producing dogs in our breed.
I have been a member of the Golden Retriever Club of America since 1978, and served the club in various capacities from 1988 through 1996. I was elected twice as its President in 1994 and 1995.
Since 1983, I have been a member of the Sir Francis Drake Kennel Club, San Rafael, California, and have served the club in various capacities.
In 2004, I became a Delegate. In 2006, I began serving on the Bylaws Committee. In 2010, I served on the Nominating Committee. Currently, I serve on the Board of Directors of the American Kennel Club, the AKC Canine Health Foundation, and, since 1997, the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA).
The AKC has a shining future, but there is work yet to be done for our dogs, our clubs, and our sport. Please support my reelection to the Board so that together we can make the difference.

Linda Ayers Turner Knorr – Greenville, SC
Selected by AKC Nominating Committee. As Chairman and founder of a family owned Manufacturing Corporation and real estate holding company, I have overseen acquisitions and dispositions of considerable business holdings for over four decades. My diverse companies have manufactured packaged goods for many household products you have likely used in your homes, interior components for the automotive industry you enjoy in your cars and industrial chemical products for the electric utility industry. We have partnered in commercial acquisitions in Washington, DC on a 250-million-dollar level. We have developed significant properties delivering hundreds of new home sites in addition to apartments, an IMAX theater, commercial tracts and much more.
Throughout this process, none of my companies have ever experienced a loss. Through it all I have developed a style that lends itself towards understanding what the consumer needs at a price point they can absorb. This knowledge and experience results in repeat business and profitable operations.
Combined with my entire lifetime in the sport from Juniors to Judging, my skills
bring a whole new set of expertise to compliment the Board of Directors. Recognized as a uniting force, I bring a positive approach to all challenges.
While respecting the past, I will work to embrace the future working to create new revenue streams not only for AKC but also for our clubs. Protecting and preserving the AKC registry of purebred dogs is my number one priority. Let me earn the right to represent you.

Karolynne McAteer, Pinehurst, NC
For 27 years I have worked inside investing in human and now animal health. This is a highly competitive world, where millions are spent to effect outcomes and impact lives and where product recognition is key. While I work with all financial aspects of the many investments, my strength has been promoting product and enhancing brand, and this is the area of greatest strength I bring to the AKC Board. It is also, in my opinion, the area of greatest need to insure a successful future for AKC.
I am a second generation Irish Setter breeder, starting as a junior handler, exhibitor of the family dog, breeder, breeder of merit, breeder/judge, judge of the Sporting Group and of Field Trials. Outside the usual, I am the daytime director of streaming video at both the AKC

Eukanuba National Championship and Westminster KC. It has been over 50 years of commitment to dogs. I think it is fair to say “I get it” because I am out there with you “in it.”
As an AKC delegate I served on the nominating committee for the class of 2017. I currently sit on the Delegate Field Trial Hunting Test Events Committee and am Chair of a sub-committee on Parent Club Communications.
Born in Boston, raised in Bermuda, I was educated in the US. I am a college graduate, major in English, minor in Broadcast Journalism. Hobby: frustrated amateur home decorator.

Thomas S. Powers, Northridge, California

- AKC Board of Directors for the past 4 years when great strides have been made in:
  Service to Clubs!
  Breeder recognition!
  Strengthening our intra-corporate structure!
  Building a strong public footprint inviting participation!
  Planning for financial strength to allow future generations enjoy our sport!
  Seeking new sources of revenue, from outside the Fancy!

- Service on the Board Audit Committee affording me detailed access to and an understanding of AKC’s finances, and the Appeals Committee affording me significant insight into the functioning of various AKC departments.

  Second generation dog fancier as exhibitor, dog breeder, show chair, holding officer positions in breed and all breed dog clubs.

- Dues paying member of an all-breed club for 46 years, having begun selling catalogs when I was twelve years old.

- Delegate of the Kennel Club of Beverly Hills since 2008

- Former Chair of the American Kennel Club South West Trial Board

- Member of the Board appointed Constitution and By Laws Committee , 1998-2001

- Practiced law in California for 39 years, representing clients in business, corporate, contract and employment controversies. I have represented Fortune 500 Companies medium and small business and individuals in litigation and transactional matters.

Through my past business experience I have drawn the business plan, managed the day-to-day business, made the payroll and developed and implemented the exit strategy having owned a chain of dry cleaners, a chain of retail pet supply stores and a veterinary hospital.

This experience enables me to better serve.

Please vote for Tom!