



TO: All KCA members

The 2021 Nominating Committee of the Keeshond Club of America, Inc (KCA) has submitted the following three (3) candidates for positions on the Board of Directors of KCA:

Carissa Boettcher (nominee for a 2nd consecutive term)
1963 Cascade Drive, Waukesha WI 53188

Kathy Gray
3789 SE 68th Avenue, Hillsboro OR 97123

Liz L. McKnight
211 7th Street, Snohomish WA 98290

Each of the above candidates has accepted his/her nomination.

Respectfully submitted,

2021 Nominating Committee
Robin Hite, Chair
Committee Members: Kristen Dowd and Dave Leiker

The KCA Bylaws provides the following mechanism for additional nominations:

Additional Nominations. A regular member in good standing may be proposed for nomination by petition signed by one-tenth of the regular members in good standing. The member must use the approved KCA Petition form which is available from the Recording Secretary or on the website. The Recording Secretary must receive the petitions, a signed statement of acceptance of nomination, and a biography of the member (not to exceed ½ page) on or before November 15th. If all of these items are not received by November 15th, the petitioner will be declared ineligible for inclusion on the ballot. If no valid additional nominations are received by the Recording Secretary on or before November 15, no balloting shall be required and the Nominating Committee's slate of three candidates shall be declared elected on January 30 of the following year." Also note that the By-law provide that all Board Members shall be residents of the United States.

[Note: One-tenth of the regular members in good standing is 46]

Best regards to all,

Donna Stekli
KCA Recording Secretary
5799 Cold Run Valley Road
Berkeley Springs WV 25411
dstekli@astarz.com
304-258-0292

2020 Board of Directors

President

Lois Waddell (DE) 2016-2022
(856) 582-1590
loanddave@gmail.com

First Vice President

Mary Ellen Meyer (WI) 2015-2021
(920) 901-1651
markwrightkeeshond@yahoo.com

Second Vice President

Bonnie Fowler (NC) 2016-2022
(336) 817-5845
bonnie.fowler@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary

Carissa Boettcher (WI) 2018-2021
(262) 391-3899
caboettcher@uwalumni.com

Recording Secretary

Donna Stekli (WV) 2018-2021
(304) 258-0292
dstekli@astarz.com

Treasurer

Kellie Siekierski (TX) 2018-2022
(972) 571-2235
goingboeing@hotmail.com

Board Members:

Toni Hicks (CA) 2020-2023
(916) 717-6168

cash343s@yahoo.com

Robin Hite (FL) 2020-2023

(502) 216-9067

robinrhite@hotmail.com

Melinda Hughes (OK) 2020-2023

(918) 448-3874

adonaikees@yahoo.com

Bio of: Carissa Boettcher

Carissa is currently Corresponding Secretary for KCA. She has served on the board for the last three years. She was also an officer in other clubs.

Carissa has been involved in multiple breeds for her entire life. Her main focus is Keeshonden and Smooth Fox Terriers. Her mother was involved in breeding/showing before Carissa was born. Carissa has also been actively involved in breeding/showing Schipperkes and has been a member of the parent club for years.

Carissa has trained in Obedience and some agility too, but mainly does Conformation. She has worked for numerous professional handlers and handled on her own.

Carissa works full time for UW Madison as a Senior Research Specialist in medical research and manages a boarding kennel in the evenings. She also makes the kangaroo leather leads too!



Bio of: Kathy Gray

Kathy has served Mount Hood Keeshond Club as President, Vice President, Secretary and Board Member at various times throughout the years. She has been in charge of Specialties trophies for many years. Her first KCA National was in 1999, in preparation for the first MHKC National in 2000.

In 1995, Kathy and her family acquired their first companion Keeshond, and Kathy began exhibiting in 1997 with their first Keeshond puppy. She has been breeding since 2003 and has bred some 11 AKC Champions. Kathy is proud to be an AKC Bronze level Breeder of Merit. She has also had success with obedience, agility, rally, trick dog and four generations of therapy dogs to help the community.

Kathy's emphasis is on mentoring new puppy families and helping new owners/handlers learn and obtain AKC Championships and other titles. Most Kidkees owners become family.

Kathy has been married to Brad since 1986, and their two daughters now live independently with their own dogs. Kathy graduated with an English degree from Oregon State University. She has worked in Special Education in the local school district since 2004.

Dogs are family at Kidkees, and there are currently just two, 8-year-old Ziva and 6-year-old Tallinn. If Kathy is not grooming or walking them, she might be planning the next family vacation or working in the yard or checking in with friends.

Kathy continues to strive for healthy, structurally sound, and beautiful Keeshonden with their famously wonderful temperament. She looks forward to giving back further to this special breed by serving on the KCA Board and considers it an honor to be nominated.

Bio of: Liz McKnight

Liz has a lengthy background in Keeshonden, having acquired her first dog in 1987. She was looking for a family pet and stumbled upon a Keeshond and immediately fell in love with the breed. She attended a dog show to learn more about them and soon found herself in the conformation ring, leash in hand. Having bred and shown Arabian horses with her family, the transition from the horse show ring to the dog show ring was seamless. Liz was fortunate to have some exceptional mentors along the way who graciously shared their vast knowledge with her, and she is forever grateful for their guidance.

Liz was co-founder and charter member of the California Sierra Keeshond Club (CSKC) along with a handful of other Keeshond fanciers. She has served as President, Vice President and Secretary of the club. CSKC was formed to mentor existing owners as well as new puppy buyers in breeding, grooming, showing, and training Keeshonden. CSKC continued to grow in numbers and successfully hosted the 2007 and 2015 KCA Nationals.

Liz, along with her partner of 20 years, Ron Spaulding, showed multiple dogs to national rankings. Along this journey, Liz began her breeding program known as Wild Heart Keeshonden, which centered around a commitment to the breed standard with a focus on health, structure, and temperament. Liz has been a Breeder of Merit since the program was first implemented by AKC. Among her most notable show dogs were “Ariel” BISS CH Windrift’s Mutual Assets HOF ROM (Owner Handled), and Ariel’s son “Gabriel” BISS GCH Windrifts Non-Negotiable Asset HOF ROM (Breeder & Owner Handled).

Liz was born and raised in California and attended West Valley College in Saratoga. She successfully raised two stepchildren and has a grandchild who is attending Arizona State University. Liz’s career was spent in the financial industry, primarily as a white-collar crime investigator

Now retired, Liz resides in the Pacific Northwest where she hopes to expand her breeding program and spend more time in the show ring with her “young hopefuls”. Liz is very grateful for her extended “Keeshond family” all over the world. Liz previously served on the KCA Board and is looking forward to giving back to the breed that has given her so much joy over the years. Her expertise and extensive knowledge of the Keeshonden will be an asset on the KCA Board.

