

## **Biographies of Candidates for the 2019-2020 GSCA Board**

### **Frances Beraud (NC) – GSCA Governor**

My family started with Gordon setters in 1989, both my mother and father had Irish setters growing up and used them for hunting in Argentina. I always say I was involved in the breed before I could walk and feel fortunate to always have had them in my life. Having raised multiple Gordons as part of the family, I have also enjoyed getting involved in local obedience and conformation clubs. I began showing Gordons in 2011 and have been fortunate to pilot numerous dogs to wonderful successes. Outside of the show world, my dogs enjoy traveling, hiking and exploring life alongside our Scottish Highland Cattle, on the farm. Additionally, I have been privileged to have met and established friendships with a handful of extremely dedicated individuals, who I am eternally grateful for my current and future involvement in the breed.

I think the role of the Board of Directors is critical, for the advancement and succession of our Club. As an individual who runs the Board of Directors operation at my employment, I feel the focal point is parallel: education, commitment, responsibility and prosperity. Furthermore, I believe that having well-rounded members of all generations, with knowledge outside the conformation ring, is imperative. I welcome the idea of joining to GSCA Board, to provide creativity, aid in education and lastly, harness greater commitment to our cause, the Gordon Setter Breed.

### **Kristi Boehm (TX) – GSCA Governor**

I've admired/loved the Gordon Setter breed for the past 45 years and have been an active GSCA member for more than 20 years. My dogs have competed in conformation, hunt tests, obedience, and barn hunt.

I've served on the GSCA Board for 10 of the past 12 years (2007-2012 and 2015-2018). I'm committed to making sure that the club serves the members and the breed they love. My biggest concern for the breed is the frequency of the many kinds of cancers that drastically shorten the lives of Gordons. I believe that, through support of high-quality research studies and through promoting health screenings and sharing of information, we can gain a better understanding of the causes of and effective treatments for cancer and other diseases/disorders that impact Gordon Setters.

I was the GSCA Health and Genetics Committee Chairperson from 2008 to 2017, and have been active in the GSCA Archives Committee and GSCA Publications Committee. I did GSCA Rescue in Texas from 1998 to 2006, and actively raised funds for rescue efforts. I was on the committee and inaugural board of the combined Gordon Setter Health/Rescue Foundation and am on the board of the subsequent independent Gordon Setter Health Foundation. Forming a foundation to focus on and promote the health and wellness of the breed was my purpose for organizing a separate health foundation.

I've worked in research since 1983 (nutrition, oncology, diabetes, and GI disorders), which has contributed to my keen interest in improving the health of the breed.

### **Brigadier General (retired) Rhonda Cornum, PhD, MD (KY) - GSCA Governor**

I began in the GSCA in 1967 as a 12 year under the guidance of Sangerfield Kennel. A Breeder of Merit, I have continued with Gordons that are successful in homes, shows and field events in the US and Europe. I believe the most important thing for the GSCA and the future of

purebred dogs is interesting more young people in participating. Because field events require the greatest investment, in terms of room to train and birds to train with, the field potential of the Gordon is the attribute most at risk. The way to interest more people in competitive performance events is to encourage hunt test participants to try field trials. That will require more walking trials, for which riding, boarding, traveling and training with a horse is not required. Certainly that is and will be a focus.

In 2012, became a field event judge, and have been a member of the Board of Governors of the Gordon Setter Club of America since 2013. Professionally, I served as an Army officer from 1978 through 2012. Now the Director of Health Strategy for "Techwerks", a small software development and training company. I own and operate "Munroc Farm", a mixed use farm that produces grass-fed beef, pastured poultry, corn, soybeans, hay, and a few Thoroughbreds every year. In December of 2018, Munroc Farm will host the fifth annual All Gordon, and All breed, Walking Field Trials. Looking forward to working with the entire club to ensure the successful future of Gordon Setters.

### **Susan DeSilver (CT) - Vice President**

Gordon Setters have been in my life since 1962; I was honored to share the Gordon Hill name with friend and mentor, Muriel Clement, since breeding my first litter in 1980. During the last 38 years, I have been fortunate to have bred and finished, among many champions, ten Duals, three BIS winners, a Westminster Group winner, multiple National Specialty winners, several top producers, Gordons who titled in obedience, agility and, most importantly, loving family companions.

I served the GSCA as governor from 1993 to 1997. Thereafter I served as AKC Delegate through 2005, when family obligations necessitated my resignation. I represented the GSCA at three AKC Pointing Breed Field Trial Advisory meetings. I have chaired the TarTan Gordon Setter Club field trial since 1978; I chaired the Committee that originated the GSCA National Championships, and served as event chair for several National Championships. I contributed to all GSCA Reviews since 1978 and have designed many logos for National events.

My lifetime commitment to Gordons includes the dual ideal of form and function and rigorous attention to temperament and health. I believe the best policy decisions to benefit our breed and our club are made by practicing inclusive policies, representing our volunteers and members with transparency, respect, communication, and member input. My institutional knowledge and commitment to consensus building would be an asset to the GSCA board.

I was educated at Yale University. Now retired, I still work in illustration and as a volunteer. I live in Northford, Connecticut with Ron Anthony, four Gordon Setters and twenty vintage British motorcycles.

### **Amy Johnson Edwards (IN) – President**

I am a small animal veterinarian in southern Indiana. After spending almost 3 decades in a traditional busy practice I now have a house call practice that I love. I have been a member of GSCA since 1988 and previously served on the GSCA board as a Governor, 2 terms Vice-President, and 2 terms as President. The purpose of GSCA is to encourage, promote, protect and advance the interests of Gordon Setters along with hosting events and encouraging sportsmanlike competition at such events. The GSCA board is entrusted with the general management of the club's affairs and should promote the purpose and best interests of the club.

I will ask that all the Governors and Officers come with ideas and objectives that can be accomplished during their term. It is fine to say “we need to increase membership” but what we need are specific ideas of how we increase membership. The Board needs to be open to suggestions from the membership that can benefit the club.

Communication between the Board and members needs to be a 2 way street and I would encourage Board members to be able to discuss club matters with members. The Board is there to serve the club, however we need to remember that we are all volunteers giving our time to our beloved breed.

I look forward to being able to serve GSCA once again and hope I can help set a bright future for this club and the sport of purebred dogs.

### **Cheryl Edwards (MO) – GSCA Governor**

My name is Cheryl Edwards and I currently live with my husband in Osceola, Missouri. I got my first Gordon in 1989 and have had one ( or more than one) ever since. I currently breed under the kennel name, Osage Ridge.

My experience with Gordons is not only in the conformation ring, but for several years I helped with Missouri Valley Rescue. My husband, a veterinarian, was generous with his time and assisted with the rescues. I still currently have a rescue pulled from a shelter as a puppy who turned out to be something other than a Gordon, but she has lived a long (really long) life with us.

I have helped put on two national specialties, one with the Missouri Valley Club and once with a group of volunteers for the 2015 national in St Louis. I am currently helping with the 2019 national as well. I have been asked to be on the standing committee for the national.

My reason for wanting to be a member of the board is to be able to put our dogs first by promoting new members, encouraging more participation in activities and bringing club members together instead of seeing the divisions that seem to be occurring.

I believe I am able to listen to various opinions and ideas. I am able to think outside the box to come up with solutions. I am not afraid to try new things. I think that a board position would allow me to help move the club in a positive direction.

### **Patricia L. Engler (CO)/ Kennel name: Taliesin Gordon Setters – GSCA Governor**

A member of the GSCA since the late 1980's, served as AKC Public Education Coordinator, VP for High Plains Gordon Setter Club, President of High Plains Gordon Setter Club, show chair for one HPGSC Specialty, AKC Hunt Test Judge, judged sporting dogs at fun matches for two Denver clubs, judged Skyline Brittany Club's fun event, as owner, breeder and handler I have earned 1 obedience title, 2 GCH, 4 JH, 6 CH on my dogs (1 CH was finished by Joyce Standish) earned 2010 No. 8 Gordon, bred 3 litters, co-bred 1 litter, and earned AKC Breeder of Merit and I am currently serving as an interim GSCA board member.

I am interested in running for a position on the board of GSCA. I have long promoted membership in GSCA with all my puppy owners and Gordon owners I've casually met throughout the years. I believe belonging to GSCA helps bonds us in the joys, health, concerns, education, celebrations, rescues and support of the breed. I would like to see those bonds extended more to pet owners of Gordons.

Due to retirement which was interrupted by health issues, I have had to let go of my physical involvement in activities of judging hunt tests, breeding, showing, even judging fun matches including an invitation to judge a Gordon Puppy Sweepstakes Class. My passion of the breed has not diminished nor has the desire to still be an active part of the Gordon World. I now

have the time to serve on the board of GSCA first and foremost for the breed, as well as for the members present, past, and future.

### **Karen Gatchell (CT) – GSCA Governor**

Hello, I am running for an open board position. Some of you may not know me as I am an oldie in the breed, since 1972. I grew up with Fld English & later added Fld Irish, and participated in Maine Walking Fld Trials, then came my first Gordon and everything changed, they have become the constant in my life. Over the years I have finished well over 75 Ch of record, a few have become Canadian, Russian (Fld) and Int'l, & World.

My very first Gordon became my foundation bitch, she was Am/Can/Bmda Ch Jadehill Adhran of Tri-Sett Am/Cn CD.

I have served on the board in the past from 1985-1988 and again from 2003-2005, but both times life interfered, now I am fully retired and will have more time to devote to our club, my goal would be to help not only expand our membership but encourage participation at all our events. We have a wonderful organization and I want to see it continue.

### **Jenny Gibson (TX) - Recording Secretary**

As relative newcomers to the Gordon Setter world my husband and I had owned and trained hunting dogs in the past, but in 2005 we decided to try something new, a pointing breed, and we settled on a Gordon Setter. We brought our first Gordon home in 2006, Tamdhu Orions Canis Major, and a whole new world opened to us. We started learning how to train "Gunny" to hunt and ultimately earned his AKC Master Hunter title. I decided to give conformation shows a try and purchased Bit O' Gold Good Golly Miss Molly in 2009. "Molly" finished her AKC championship and went on to become a Grand Champion and we put two legs on her Senior Hunter title. We decided to breed Molly and created the *Lainstaur* kennel. We currently own four Gordon Setters including three of her descendants. I am an AKC Breeder of Merit.

Over the years we joined Badgerland GSC, Gordon Highlanders, Sunbelt GSC, and GSCA. I have served as an officer and member of the board and am currently secretary of the Sunbelt GSC and Recording Secretary for GSCA. I have served on numerous event committees for conformation, hunt tests, and field trial events. I designed the 2014 National Specialty website and served as webmaster and have previously worked on the GSCA Pictorial. I currently serve as the hunt test secretary with Sunbelt GSC. I am now retired and much of my life is spent breeding, raising, training, grooming, and enjoying my Gordon Setters. I feel that attracting new members is the critical issue for the future of GSCA.

### **Sally Gift (AZ) - Vice President**

My lifetime involvement in purebred dogs began in earnest over 45 years ago, when with setter by my side, I joined the local all-breed kennel club and began showing my dogs in obedience and conformation. At the tender age of 21, I was elected President, a role I filled for many years for this AKC recognized club and others that followed. I've been elected to serve every Officer role, for one club or another during the past 45 years. My skillset includes serving on the Board and as an Officer for multiple non-profit organizations.

Without financial soundness activities of the Club cease. These past two years, I've concentrated to repair gaps we uncovered in GSCA financial management, while remaining focused on activities that fulfill club objectives. GSCA now has more solid financial management.

A few of my ideas to set the Club on a forward path include:

- Protect and safeguard finances
- Fulfill fiduciary responsibilities
- Improve Club recordkeeping
- Improve communication between Board and membership
- Centralize records archiving
- Develop programs to increase membership including internet presence.

We can accomplish much by voting to elect a Board filled with enthusiastic, forward thinking Gordon Setter lovers who recognize GSCA is founded on shared knowledge, commitment to the breed, continued refinement of breeding, and longer, healthier Gordon Setter lives. For your consideration, vote for those you believe are committed to upholding our Constitution and Bylaws, understand their fiduciary responsibilities and who have the interest of the Gordon Setter, our members and the future of GSCA at heart.

### **Kathy Hubbard (IL) – GSCA Governor**

My association with dog-related activities is broad. My dogs have hunted, competed in Obedience, Rally, and Conformation in the American Kennel Club, United Kennel Club and Canadian Kennel Club, plus Barn Hunt Association, and have been certified by Therapy Dogs International, Inc.

I have taught all-breed Beginner Obedience/Canine Good Citizen classes and I am a CGC evaluator for the AKC.

From 2002 until 2011, I was a member of the Board of Directors of TAILS Humane Society, DeKalb, IL. Also from 2002 until 2011, I was an Approved Humane Investigator for the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

In 2014, I joined the Board of Directors of Oaken Acres Wildlife Center, Sycamore, IL, a federal and Illinois licensed wildlife rehabilitation facility. Also in 2014, I joined the Board of the GSCA Foundation for Health and Rescue, now the Rescue Foundation. I am a member of the GSCA National Rescue Committee.

I have been Co-Chairman since 1998 of Gordon Highlander Rescue Program, a GSCA Rescue committee/licensed rescue in the State of Illinois. I have facilitated the re-homing of 200 Gordon Setters. But, I also counsel families on how to keep their Gordon Setter in their home, so that relinquishment is not necessary.

In 2007 and 2014, I organized the Parade of Rescue Dogs at the GSCA National Specialty Shows. I also chaired the Obedience/Rally Trials at these two Nationals.

Although my rescue work is a 24 hour/365 day labor of love, I want to become more involved with our Club. I know the value of cooperation and working toward a common goal. I hope to expand our club's outreach to the Gordon Setter ownership community, and most of all, to encourage others to develop a love of the breed.

### **Matt Marr (OH) – GSCA Governor**

My name is Matt Marr. I live in Ohio with my wife Katie, just west of Akron in a town called Wadsworth. I work as a chiropractor and in my spare time hang out with our four Gordons, as well as play music.....if I have that much spare time! We started into Gordons just under seven years ago now when we got our first, Ewan. He broke us into the life of the Gordon Setter, and I would say fit the standard very well.....definitely not blindly obedient! From that

point on, it has been a whirlwind ride with many hours of traveling to dog shows and experiences of getting to meet many great individuals in this breed. As you all know, Gordons can be challenging, but I'm definitely glad to have the opportunity of being a part of it. It is always a challenge to see how you will be able to tire them out in the evenings after work, but always so rewarding when they finally settle down in the evening and crash on the ottoman to focus in on "nursing" their favorite toy while watching tv. I definitely have been blessed through these past 7 years with getting to watch my wife Katie pilot our girl Yummy to some amazing wins, be part of co-breeding two litters and watch her work with the puppies as they learn about this thing called "dog shows". Through it all, I'm just glad to be a part of it and hope that as we progress with this breed, that we can step up and help continue the education and support for future generations of Gordons.

### **Robin Marshall (MA) – GSCA Governor**

I have been in love with Gordon Setters since 1987 when I met my first one. Since then I have had 8 wonderful Gordons, each of whom stole my heart in their own ways. I have had 3 rescue dogs and 5 dogs from breeders that I am lucky to call friends.

I have been a GSCA member since 1989. I have served on the Board of Governors for the current board term. I am currently the President of TarTan Gordon Setter Club and have been Specialty Chair, Picnic chair and whatever is needed for as long as I can remember. I represent the view of the pet and performance dog owner. I look forward to serving on a GSCA board that can function without personal rancor and will strive to help make this happen.

### **Peggy Nowak (WI) – GSCA Governor**

I have been a member of GSCA since 1984 after I had purchased my first Gordon Setter, Creek Farm's Lady Herschel from Chuck and Vicki Robinson in Charlevoix, Michigan. My family, including my two young daughters, became involved in showing and breeding under the Bit O' Gold kennel prefix. On the local level, I became involved in the Gordon Highlander Area Club serving as president, specialty chairperson, and specialty coordinator. When the Highlanders took on the task of hosting Nationals, I chose to be the Event Coordinator for the 2007 and 2014 GSCA Nationals which were held in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. Between the years 2010-2013, I served on the GSCA Standing National Specialty Committee that planned and coordinated the 2011 National in Ohio. In 2016, I was elected to the GSCA Board of Governors and am currently serving in that capacity. This summer the Board appointed me as Chairperson of the Audit Committee and committee member to the Standing National Specialty Committee.

What can I offer GSCA as a Board of Governor? As a current member of the GSCA Board, I will provide continuity in the follow up on the development and enactment of procedures to ensure complete fiscal responsibility is maintained according to the GSCA Bylaws.

I offer my dedication to work with the Financial Planning Committee and GSCA Board to implement a responsible operational budget for the GSCA that will keep GSCA solvent. I will work with the Standing National Specialty Committee to research and develop ways to make the GSCA National Specialty planning process less cumbersome and work intensive for area committees.

### **Denise Dunham Schiele (IL) – GSCA Governor**

I have owned Gordon Setters for 45 yrs and a member of GSCA for 44 yrs. My GSCA duties have been **many**, but most recently I stepped in to resolving our tax exempt status. I got numbers; figures and IRS forms filled out and sent to IRS. I am excited to say that my work paid off! Our status was reinstated!! My volunteer duties include but not limited to, taking over the Treasurers duties at a very difficult time (10/17), GSCA Corresponding Secretary (6 yrs), Treasurer of the National Specialty Standing Committee (10 yrs), Treasurer for 3 National Specialties, Treasurer for the National Agility Committee (6 yrs), Board member and Treasurer of the GSCA Foundation for Health and Wellness. I have been the GSCA Membership Chair, and was involved in the startup of the Gordon Highlander Rescue program. I have owned and finished dogs from every AKC group except Working. My knowledge gained from these other breed clubs is huge and can give us direction in certain areas in which we might be lacking. Of the breeds I have shared my life with Gordon's are my priority and passion. I have been active and successful in all venues with Gordon's (obedience, agility, conformation, field and now with CAT). As a GSCA Governor I believe I can pool this wealth of experience and contribute to a clean up of the club which in turn will be better for the members. I feel my background makes me eminently qualified to serve as a GSCA Governor. Thank you for reading!

### **Rosanne Schwiegerath (CO) – GSCA Governor**

During my 29 year membership in GSCA I have served the club in a variety of capacities:

- Served on Board of Governors 12 years
- President 2014-2015
- *Pictorial* Editor 6 years
- Breeder Referral Chair 10 years
- Newsletter staff 8 years
- Archives Committee 4 years
- Health and Genetics Committee 6 years
- GSCA Foundation for Health and Wellness 3 years
- Standing National Specialty Committee 9 years
- Treasurer of New Mexico Gordonites 20 years

Throughout this time I have bred nine generations of Gordons, am an AKC Breeder of Merit, and actively and successfully participated in conformation, field and obedience venues under the *Amberlove* kennel name.

My experience and contributions to the club and to the breed have been broad in scope, giving me a full understanding of the workings and history of the Gordon Setter Club of America. This background and perspective will serve me well as a member of the Board of Governors and allow me to effectively serve the membership. Gordon Setters are my passion, their health and temperament my priorities and their versatility a continuing inspiration. I am retired, hold a Masters degree in Chemistry, and have spent my professional life as a Pharmaceutical Research Chemist. My retired life is largely focused on the enjoyment and betterment of this breed I so love.

### **Nance Skoglund (MN) - AKC Delegate**

I got my first Gordon in 1966. I've been a GSCA member since 1985, participating in numerous GSCA projects and events including chair and treasurer of the Archives Committee; Board member on our Rescue and Health foundations; Chair of the 2017 National Specialty; Standing National Field Trial Committee member; By-Laws Review Committee member; Chair and Treasurer for various regional events. I have served as AKC Delegate for the past 12 years, currently serving on the AKC Delegate Standing Committee for Field Trial and Hunting Test Events. I recently served as an alternate on the AKC Board Nominating Committee. I am concerned about the future of the sport of pure-bred dogs and making sure that the interests of the Gordon Setter are represented at the AKC. I am equally concerned that we steer this Club in a positive direction. What Club members would want is top of mind in the decisions I make on the GSCA Board and at the AKC.

My husband Paul and I currently have two Gordons, a mini wirehaired Dachshund, an inherited Bichon/Shih-Tzu mix, seven cats, two parakeets and a horse. I currently show in breed, obedience and rally. I serve on the boards of both the North Country Gordon Setter Club and the Minnesota Dachshund Club.

I hold a BA from Augsburg University with majors in Mathematics and French. After spending 27 years at a major insurance company holding management, marketing, research and underwriting positions (I also hold the FLMI insurance designation), I retired and now hold realtor and property/casualty licenses in Minnesota.

### **Laurie Ward (CO) – GSCA Governor**

A GSCA member since 2001, I have owned and bred many Gordons, obtaining several conformation and agility titles. My kennel name is *Hotchkiss*. I am an AKC Breeder of Merit.

Serving the club in many capacities, I have served on: the GSCA Board for 6 years (2010-2016); the committee to form and subsequent board of the combined health and rescue foundation, Finance Committee, and was Breeder Referral Chair. I've contributed to many National Specialty committees, including Advertising Chair, Grooming Space Chair, Trophy Chair, and Event Coordinator. I'm currently the Treasurer for the 2019 National Specialty.

Locally, I've belonged/contributed to the High Plains Area Committee since 1990. I've been the Trophy/Advertising Chair for our Back-to-Back Specialties for more than 10 years. I've been the rescue coordinator/chair for the Rocky Mountain Region for the past decade. Rescue is the most heartwarming of my GSCA tasks.

My GSCA experience has given me a fuller understanding of the needs, history, and workings of this group. I mentor new/potential owners – I'm passionate about this breed. The continued health and wellness of this breed is my utmost priority. I'm a champion of honesty and sportsmanship.

I'm a CPA and worked for Ernst & Young after graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Math and Accounting. I later obtained my Masters in Taxation from DU. This background will be helpful in keeping the club financially sound.

This background and my prior experience will make me more effective in my service to the membership.

### **Brenda Westbrook (TX) - Treasurer**

I am currently a member of both the GSCA and the Sunbelt Gordon Setter clubs. I am mother to 3 Gordon Setters, and have adopted 3 through Sunbelt Rescue over the years. I am a

life-long supporter of rescue and volunteered at the Houston SPCA as an Adoption Counselor for many years. My objective in volunteering for the Treasurer role is solely to help the Club. I don't show, I'm just a Gordon mother who loves her dogs. I am happy to contribute in any way I can to further the objectives of the organization.

I have extensive experience in the Treasury function for non-profit organizations. I have served as Treasurer for The Houston Boxer Rescue for 4 years. In that role, I have been responsible for all financial aspects of the Rescue, including Revenue, Expenses, Federal and State Taxes and Grant Certifications. The Rescue generated approximately \$120,000 in donations to fund the rescue, rehabilitation and re-homing of 122 dogs last year. QuickBooks for Charity was used to record all transactions and support all reporting. I am experienced in filing IRS Form 990's.

In July, I assumed the Treasurer role for GSCA. Prior to that, I assisted the Treasurer for the GSCA Nationals Committee in developing a QuickBooks model for their group.

Professionally, I work for HP, Inc. where I am responsible for the Planning and Fulfillment of the PC business in the Americas. I hold both Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Economics from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

### **Trudie Whitaker (CO) - Corresponding Secretary**

My name is Trudie Whitaker and I have been a member of GSCA since 1979. I currently live in Colorado Springs, Colorado and work for the Veteran's Affairs Department.

My previous qualifying activities are:

- Board member of Sioux Empire KC (all-breed club), Sioux Falls, SD
- Show chair Sioux Empire all-breed show
- Head Instructor Puppy Kindergarten
- Obedience Instructor
- President and Vice President TarTan Gordon Setter Club (multiple terms)
- Show Chair TarTan Gordon Setter Specialty (multiple times)
- GSCA Board member since January 2017

I belong to multiple local clubs:

- North Country
- TarTan
- High Plains

I currently own 2 Gordons and an English Pointer. I have owned six previous Gordons.

I have achieved:

- Multiple conformation titles
- Obedience title
- Rally Title
- Junior hunt title
- And lived with a special needs Gordon for 7-1/2 years (Harry!)

Please consider me for corresponding secretary on the GCSA board. My objectives are to promote health and genetics projects to improve our breed's vitality and robustness. I also want to promote the wide range of activities for our members including conformation, hunting, agility,

obedience through emerging sports such as Barn Hunt to ensure our members are as involved as possible.