

## Biographies of the Nominees for the RRCUS 2020/2021 Slate of Officers and Directors

### **PRESIDENT**

#### **Anne Jones**

I purchased my first Ridgeback in 1990, my plan was to show her in Obedience. We finished a UD together and she was the first Ridgeback to earn an MX in agility. I fell head over heels in love with the breed and with the entire dog show world. Performance is my first love and over the last 25 years I have had two MACH Ridgebacks, several in top ten obedience and agility, two BIF coursing dogs and two Triathlon Winners. I've won three AOM's at National Specialties with my own dogs, from Veteran's classes and Field Dog. With my first conformation dog I stood in the BIS ring twice, a thrill I will never forget.

RRCUS provides education, ethical guidance, health testing recommendations and National Specialties that bring so many of our club members together. RRCUS is the foundation that helps our members produce healthy, versatile, beautiful Ridgebacks. I love our club and have given back by volunteering as Agility, Obedience and Triathlon Chair, 12 years as Director, and 1 year as 1<sup>st</sup> VP.

I was a retail manager for 20 years and finished my career with ToysRus as a Store Director before starting my own business as a Dog Trainer in 1996, a career I still love 23 years later. I have been President and VP of the 4 Paw Agility Club of North GA, Chair for its agility trials, and Treasurer and Obedience Chair for the Atlanta Kennel Club. Education - BA English Literature SUNY Stonybrook.

My goal as President is to help the RRCUS BOD run smoothly so that along with meeting our yearly deadlines, the Officers and Directors will have the opportunity to put into place new systems and programs that will benefit RRCUS members, future BOD's and of course, our Rhodesian Ridgebacks.

#### **John Wyzsynski**

I was encouraged to run for President of RRCUS by members who felt that I would lead the club in a fair and forward-looking manner. I believe that in order to continue to advance both RRCUS and the breed, we need a focus on a future that acknowledges and respects our past, a willing to appreciate the opinions of others, and a reliance on the expertise of our loyal and diverse membership.

Our club's articles of incorporation set out its purpose. This document includes some basic goals, such as establishing local Ridgeback clubs, promoting the AKC standard, holding sanctioned specialty shows and encouraging good sportsmanship.

But the first objective listed for the club is this one:

“To encourage and promote the breeding of purebred Rhodesian Ridgebacks and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection.”

As any Ridgeback owner or breeder knows, there is no perfect Ridgeback. And, by extension, there is no perfect club. But what the club can be is an organization in which striving for excellence is balanced with respect for each other and our inevitable differences.

During my time on the board, I have observed that much of the good work that *all* board members have tried to achieve in this last term has been often lost as the discussion deteriorated into bitter divisions. Good governance requires that leaders respect all members, act with civility, and strive for consistency. Sadly, this crucial ability to compromise and hear each other's varying perspectives – even when we don't share them – seems to have gone by the wayside.

I am an owner-handler of Ridgebacks since 1999. With me on the other end of the lead, my dogs have earned championships in conformation and lure-coursing, and even a CD in obedience. I was president of the Colorado Rhodesian Ridgeback Club for more than 15 years, and many of you have met me at previous National Specialties, where I have served as Over 50 Handler chair, grounds crew and Best Ridge Chair and judge.

I have a BS in Business from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and an MBA from the University of Chicago. But diplomas don't count for much if you don't know how to apply them in life. In my “real” job, I am president of a real-estate company. In real estate, good transactions happen when parties of conflicting interests come together in the spirit of compromise and – most important – when they are willing to give each other the benefit of the doubt. I will bring this management skill to a board of directors that is in dire need of it.

Words, however, are just words. What matters most to members is transparency. In the spirit of sunlight being the best disinfectant, these will be my pledges to you as your incoming RRCUS president:

- (1) All board meetings will be announced in advance to the membership. Members will be encouraged to listen to the debate.
- (2) Minutes will be reported as recorded by the Recording Secretary. Only typographical errors will be corrected.
- (3) Executive sessions will be conducted only during special board meetings called to discuss matters that could subject RRCUS to litigation.
- (4) RRCUS donations will be determined by the membership. Donations will be made in a leveraged manner – i.e., with RRCUS matching member donations. This approach succeeded very well in the matching gift drive to honor our late member Dudley Hackney.

In our club, charting a course forward is a challenging task. Like our dogs themselves, RRCUS is healthy and vibrant, but we need focus and forward thinking to stay that course. We are fortunate to still have many of our founding club members who are still active in the breed and the sport, and their input is valuable and needs to be heeded. At the same time, RRCUS needs to evolve with the times, but with clarity, civility and compromise. I am not a “disrupter”; I am a consensus builder. I don’t believe we have to tear everything down in order to secure our club’s future; I believe we have to build on an already strong legacy to engage the next generation of breeders and owners, and to ensure our breed remains on solid footing.

Please be assured that I will always be open to your suggestions and, yes, your criticisms. I look forward to participating in the RRCUS leadership, and in doing so I will scrupulously honor the RRCUS Code of Conduct: “Members shall do all within their power to uphold, promote and protect the interests of the breed by conducting themselves in a manner reflecting credit on the Club, its members, their dogs, and the dog world in general.”

Thanks for reading, and for considering my candidacy for President of RRCUS.

## **1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

### **Erin Coogan**

Albuquerque, NM

My adventure in RRCUS National Specialty responsibilities started with a request, from the 2005 1st VP, to pull together the 2006 National at a completely new location, with an entirely new team, and within a six month window. Knowing that I had already spent the previous ten years orchestrating, stewarding and judging at most of our local Utah club matches and licensed shows, I immediately accepted the challenge. We relied heavily on our local Ridgeback community and quickly delegated jobs to optimize the time we were given; my connections with other local clubs proved extremely valuable. Ruling as a team leader brought volunteers out of the woodwork. Clubs from different breeds were excited to jump in and run areas of the National that get little to no support (because we are all busy with our competing dogs!). We inexpensively (if not for free), secured rings, mats and agility equipment. This National was a tremendous success and no one walked away as enemies.

Since this amazing experience, I have found myself involved in nearly every single National in some capacity. I may live 800 miles or 2500 miles away from the location, but I have been easily able to coordinate with the show committees to do the part assigned to me (i.e. CGC coordinator and evaluator several years, Best Ridge judge and coordinator, Rescue Parade M.C., Presenter, Merchandise sales, etc.).

My career outside of Rhodesian Ridgebacks has prepared me the most for the potential position of 1st Vice President of RRCUS. Besides business and employee management (9 years), I have spent the last 18 years in education. Secondary Education involves coordinating and working with upwards of 200 young people, their parents/guardians, social workers, upper administration and, of course, colleagues on a daily basis. I have been voted department head, teacher union liaison, and Professional Learning Community director by my peers. I was awarded Educator of the Year 2019 by our local Kiwanis Club. I ran a very successful Community Education Program for my former school district, again relying heavily on my positive interaction within many facets of the community in order to bring in top notch presenters, instructors and leaders; all the while maintaining a positive rapport, complete honesty, full transparency and a “can do” attitude. I understand the responsibility and depth of knowledge needed to be successful in this important position and I’m poised to take on the challenges as well.

### **Nancy Faville**

I am a native of the San Francisco Bay Area and currently live in Pleasanton, California. Charlie and I have a good-sized, blended family with 5 children and 10 grandchildren to date. We live a full and happy life, much of it devoted to our dogs. We have owned Ridgebacks since 1997, showing them in conformation since 2001. We started breeding Ridgebacks in 2005, and have whelped on average, two litters a year since that time. As Diablo Rhodesian Ridgebacks, we have owned and bred a good number of successful dogs, with a keen awareness of the need for genetic diversity and the benefit of selective line breeding.

I joined RRCUS in 2002 and started attending National Specialties in 2004. I, also, attended the RR World Congress in 2004 and realized that personal club support was a necessary and meaningful component of the dog fancy equation. I became active in RRCUS specialties when I served as the Ways and Means Chair for the 2010 RRCUS Specialty, establishing a new bar for raffle proceeds at more than \$8000. I have chaired two national specialties: 2017, and 2018.

My goal in becoming RRCUS’ 1<sup>st</sup> VP is to: effectively mentor and assist show chairs who have accepted the responsibility of running a National Specialty, assure those contemplating the challenge that they will have guidance and help, poll the membership about which aspects of the National Specialty are most important to them and why, and work with the Board of Directors to progressively shape club policy to support member expectations in all aspects of club business.

## **2ND VICE PRESIDENT**

### **MaryLynne Elliot**

My name is MaryLynne Elliott, and I am running for 2nd Vice President of RRCUS, which includes the position of Education Committee Chair.

I have been a member of RRCUS for more than 30 years. In those three-plus decades, I have served on the club's board as a Director, Vice President and twice as President – from 1994 to 2004, and again from 2014 to 2016.

I am a team player who believes in building consensus and emphasizing our many shared priorities as club members rather than our differences.

I can honestly say that I consider Rhodesian Ridgeback education to be one of the most rewarding and important jobs I have had in our club. I have been a RRCUS mentor and a very active member of the Education Committee for 13 years, including in the capacity of Judges Education Coordinator.

I feel strongly that judges aren't the only people who benefit from a comprehensive understanding of our breed. Over the past five years, I have traveled around the United States with other members of the education team to present the RRCUS Boot Camp – an intensive, day-long introduction to the breed that covers everything from anatomy to temperament. The Boot Camps are very popular and have been attended by a wide range of people interested in Ridgebacks, from new breeders to aspiring judges to first-time owners; for many newcomers to the breed, these events are a welcoming and useful springboard to RRCUS membership.

While I have formally presented dozens of RRCUS Boot Camps and Judges Seminars over the years, I have also devoted hundreds of hours to one-on-one mentoring of new and prospective judges – at ringside, over the phone or spur of the moment at shows. To me, education is a full-time job, and one that I take on enthusiastically, no matter where or when. I currently judge 11 Hounds and one Terrier breed. Actively studying other breeds has given me a clear understanding of what is useful and necessary in our own Judge's Education.

Earlier this year, I was honored to be named the 2021 RRCUS National Specialty judge. I am humbled by that vote of confidence from the RRCUS membership, and I promise to continue my pursuit of excellence for the breed not just in my judging, but also in my educational efforts outside the ring.

Education, of course, is a team effort, and the group of individuals who make up RRCUS's committee of mentors and advisors represents a valuable and diverse range of perspectives and experiences. I am pleased that all five of my required sponsors for candidacy are well-regarded, active members of the Education Committee – including three past and present committee chairs – and I pledge to continue the pursuit of civility and excellence that has defined the committee under Barbara Rupert's long and respected tenure.

I firmly believe that my deep experience and knowledge of the breed standard, along with my proven leadership, will be an asset to the RRCUS board as 2nd Vice President. And now – as a newly minted retiree after 20 years serving as an investigator for the Colorado Supreme Court – I have ample time to devote to this demanding position.

I thank you for considering my credentials and passion for our breed, and I respectfully ask for your vote.

### **Glenn Hoffman**

I am honored to accept the nomination for 2nd Vice President from the RRCUS Nominating Committee. This is a very important position in our club and for our breed.

My wife Celia and I have been breeding and showing Rhodesian Ridgebacks for 25 years. In that time, we have bred multiple group winning, group placing and specialty winning and placing dogs. We are particularly proud of the numerous dogs we bred that have been used in therapy work.

I am a past President of the Greater Valley Forge Rhodesian Ridgeback Club, a past Board member of RRCUS and I am currently on the Board of Directors of the Plainfield Kennel Club. I am a current member of the RRCUS Education Committee. As an Education Committee Mentor I have worked Judges Education workshops, seminars and provided ringside mentoring. I am an AKC approved Judge for Rhodesian Ridgebacks and Juniors, and I am applying for several other hound and sporting breeds. I was also the co-chair of the 77th National Specialty in Gettysburg, PA.

I am excited by the challenge being the 2nd Vice President would pose and if elected, look forward to working with the entire Education committee to not only maintain but advance the good work already achieved.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Glenn R. Hoffman

## **RECORDING SECRETARY**

### **Marie Glodowski**

For the past 25 years I have been involved in our breed; I couldn't imagine it any other way. Starting as a Junior Handler and now a Breeder-Owner-Handler under the Zareba kennel name, the involvement has taught me so much. The journey, comradery, and the learning that the breed has brought me continue to feed my passion and love for our remarkable breed.

I am humbled and honored to be nominated as an officer of RRCUS and I will take responsibility for this position with thoughtfulness and consideration of the important duties to be performed. I've been a RRCUS member for many years I have been the Recording Secretary for the past 2 years. Over the past 2 years on the Board, I have worked for transparency to the membership, supported all motions which benefit Rescue, the breed, RRCUS policy and general membership interest.

Professionally, I am a Quality Assurance Auditor and believe my skills of organization, compliance and attention to detail will be an asset to this position. My profession gives me the opportunity to interact with people and issues from various positions or departments and resolve problems daily as well as work together to build consensus and ensure objectives and requirements are met. I look forward to working with the RRCUS BOD to continue to strengthen the club and work for the breed we all love.

### **Jennifer Gysler**

Jennifer Gysler, 2749 Ophelia Court, Simi Valley, CA 93063, [jennifergysler@gmail.com](mailto:jennifergysler@gmail.com)

Background: When I got my first Ridgeback in 2005, it forever changed my life for the better. He was a handsome and amazing liver nosed boy, Paladin, who taught me about RRs and everything they could do, including humbling their owners! My first introduction to the dog show world was conformation. I soon began training and having fun with agility, obedience, rally, lure coursing, and meeting wonderful RR folks from whom I've learned so much and made great and long-lasting friendships. I've become a lure coursing judge (AKC and Asfa) and CGC evaluator – and love every minute of it.

Skills: I excel at bringing people together to find common ground and work well with others even when we may disagree. I'm a good problem solver and a good listener. I am easy to work with. I believe in the importance of treating each other with respect. I have been the president of my breed club, Orange Coast Rhodesian Ridgeback Club, for four years (2014-2017, 2019) and was the recording secretary from 2009-2013. I have also been the trial chair for OCRRC's annual regional specialty for the past several years. I love to organize and host dog events. It really does take a group of passionate people to make these things happen – it's not just one person. We all bring something to the table including different ideas. Everyone has something to offer.

Goals: If elected as the recording secretary for RRCUS, I will follow the club's policies and procedures, prepare the minutes in a timely manner, and include all material information in the minutes, to ensure members are provided with complete information regarding club business. When it comes to voting on club business, I will analyze the issues thoughtfully and will have the membership in mind. I humbly ask for the opportunity to help out at the national level, as your recording secretary.

## **CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

### **Megan Sexton Brendel**

I am a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation legacy owner of RR's, having them in my life for over 50 years. I currently have a 7 yr old male and a 5 month old female that both go back to my parents first dog, CH Walgroh's Lady Tanga. When she was bred in 1968, my parents chose "Rifrug" (Ridgeback in Afrikaans) as our kennel name. My father, George, was on the BOD as Secretary and then Delegate to the AKC for about 30 years. My mother, Rosann, was also on the BOD for 6 years. I share their love of the breed and willingness to step into a leadership position with RRCUS to ensure the longevity, strength and integrity of the breed.

Showing my older Ridgeback for a limited time, he achieved his CH and GCH. I compete now in AKC Scentwork and Performance Scent Dogs. He was one of the first RR's to receive his Novice title in AKC and PSD. He is also a TDI Therapy Dog! My female, Nia, will compete in Conformation and possibly Agility and Scentwork.

As the current Corresponding Secretary, I have been told by many that I perform my job very well. I feel strongly that the future of the club needs someone like me on the Board: Level-headed, forward thinking yet respectful of the past, a team player and a dedicated, hard worker.

My goals as Corresponding Secretary are to work on streamlining the communication process with you, the members, through the website and the database. With almost 1000 voting members, E balloting will be coming soon! The implementation and use of this service will greatly enhance the voting process.

My goals for the board are to continue to look for ways to improve the member experience and the true value of your membership. As well, conduct Club business according to our By Laws and Policy & Procedures, work with complete transparency and fair and open communication.

I ask for your vote for Corresponding Secretary so I can continue to work on these goals! Please contact me if you have any questions!

Sincerely,  
Megan Sexton Brendel  
[meganbrendel@gmail.com](mailto:meganbrendel@gmail.com)  
802-296-1110

### **Christine Kitsch**

I met my first Ridgeback about 30 years ago while I was working for a Bouvier breeder with a boarding facility. I knew at that point that one day a Ridgeback would be in my future. After my husband and I bought our property, we started to connect with local breeders and found Jen Lazowski. We "only wanted a pet"; but given my competitive streak and passion for showing (I've handled and shown livestock from poultry to llamas to sheep and horses) it didn't take much for my interest to peak into the dog realm.

I have been breeding and showing with Whirlaway for the last 16 or so years. We've had a BIF runner, Top 20, AOM and National Specialty winning dogs that we are very proud of.

I still have kids at home, work for a small optometrist, and have a budding pet care business, so time is precious. However, I have been passionate about this breed for so long and I will continue to offer what I can to benefit the club and our loved hounds.

I am a member of our local kennel club and spent 6 years as the newsletter editor. Whirlaway spearheaded the RRIVA project and continues to lead the breed in data collection and Holter monitoring results. I spent several years as the RRCUS Store manager, and Ways and Means Chair for the 2013 National. I was elected RRCUS Corresponding Secretary for 2016/17, so the position is well-understood. Currently, I am serving as Vendor Chair for 2019.

I value the depth, passion and support that RRCUS offers, and will be happy to serve our club again if the membership so desires. Regardless of results, (knowing that there are many highly capable members) I will continue to look for ways to add value and give back to this breed that we all love so much.

Respectfully,  
Christine Kitsch

## **TREASURER**

### **Doug Berlin**

I have been a member of RRCUS for close to 20 years, and have loved Ridgebacks my entire life. I was born into a home with a Ridgeback, and over the past two decades my wife, Julie Cramer, and I have loved and lived with nine more. I've worked alongside her as she bred three litters, and together we have enjoyed our involvement with the breed, particularly in performance events. We are enthusiastic about lure coursing our Ridgebacks and I have been a licensed lure coursing judge for the AKC and ASFA for the past 10 years.

I have a Bachelor's degree in Physics from Haverford College, and Master's degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Physics from Penn State and the Georgia Institute of Technology, respectively.

For the past 23 years I have worked with Morgan Stanley as a financial advisor helping individuals, families and businesses manage their investments. More than 15 of those years were also spent in branch management, including 10 years managing a branch with over \$10 million dollars in revenue and \$1 billion in assets under management. In that role I was responsible for monitoring expenses and revenues, maximizing branch profitability, managing both internal and external audits, and ensuring branch and employee compliance with financial industry regulations.

I am proud of my service as Treasurer for RRCUS for the past 2 years. I initiated the formation of a Finance Committee, corrected RRCUS's balance sheet, and have increased financial transparency by providing an updated monthly Income Statement, Balance Sheet, and list of all checks written. I have significantly improved the club's accounting and ensured that RRCUS's 2018 Tax Return was corrected for errors made in prior years. I reinstated RRCUS's Directors, Officers and Employment Practices Liability Policy, which had lapsed, and I also drafted the recently adopted Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy. Additionally, I have implemented practices regarding expense approvals that exceed the requirements of our Bylaws and Policies and Procedures. These are all critical components to safeguarding the financial integrity of the club.

I am always happy to answer questions and discuss any club issues with members, and I encourage anyone to be in touch with me with questions they have regarding RRCUS, its finances, and my candidacy for this position.

I take my role as a fiduciary for RRCUS seriously, and am committed to being a guardian for the financial well-being of the club. The privilege of serving as the RRCUS Treasurer is an opportunity to ensure that our club is on sound financial footing for years to come in order to serve our wonderful breed.

### **Loretta Martin**

My name is Loretta Martin, and I'll bet my Ridgeback story is a lot like yours: I got one Ridgeback – just one! – and then I was hooked.

I acquired that first Ridgeback in 1991, and my love for the breed has only skyrocketed from there. Today, we and our seven Ridgebacks live in the Santa Fe, New Mexico, area, where we breed under the Crossed Pines prefix. I am a Breeder of Merit, and we can be found most weekends at either a conformation show or lure-coursing event. We are members of our local kennel club and our local straight-racing club. Over the years we have been lucky to develop friendships and receive guidance from many long-time Ridgebackers who have been breeding for decades.

In 2016, I jumped in to help RRCUS when a previous treasurer resigned unexpectedly. I helped arrange information, reconciled bank accounts and produced a number of reports. With that experience came a wealth of understanding of the RRCUS financials. At the time I was a full-time master's student and did not have the availability to take on the RRCUS Treasurer role. But this November, I will earn my Masters degree in Professional Accounting. And with that impending graduation, I can now look forward to working to help make RRCUS the best it can be.

I have a bachelor's degree in Information Technology. After twenty years in the technology field, I moved into accounting. I own my own bookkeeping and computer consulting business in the northern New Mexico area. I have been focusing my educational career on accounting to enable me to work with non-profits to establish better procedures and checks and balance to adhere to the generally accepted accounting practices (GAAP) of the profession.

I am currently the Treasurer of Ridgeback Trust Inc. This non-profit organization works to reduce the unethical breeding of Rhodesian Ridgebacks by getting intact animals out of at-risk situations.

I am running for RRCUS Treasurer because I can't think of a better way to help the breed I love than by contributing my professional skills to benefit it.

Some people think of accountants as number crunchers who don't have to have good people skills. But if there is one thing I have learned in my professional life as a bookkeeper and consultant, it is that people are at the core of everything we do, whether in business, in dogs or anywhere, for that matter. I believe in treating others as I want to be treated, in listening to concerns, and striving for consensus wherever and whenever possible.

In asking for your vote as RRCUS Treasurer, I promise you accountability, transparency and cordiality. This membership deserves nothing less. Thank you for reading.

## **DIRECTORS**

### **Amy Balthrop**

As a 24 year Ridgeback enthusiast and on again/off again RRCUS member, I'm distressed at what I have seen happening with the BOD again and again over the years.

The only way to make change is from within, which is why I renewed my membership several years ago after many years of being away from the club.

I tend to support our breed behind the scenes, including: having been a regional rescue coordinator for six states; having been the sole editor of The Ridgeback magazine for a specialty issue (editor/ad designer/copy writer/layout designer); sponsoring all the CGC rosettes as well as many lure coursing and veteran sweeps rosettes and rosette upgrades at several National specialties; and having sponsoring many supported regional shows. I was also asked to be parliamentarian at an annual meeting (which I respectfully turned down).

I am running for a seat on the BOD of RRCUS in hopes of being a voice of reason with long-term goals in mind, as I believe that it's vital to put the breed and the club before personal issues or egos. Those who know me personally, know that I am forthright and honest almost to a fault and that I put the breed/club before my ego when voting on issues. I cannot be bullied (which makes me disliked by some) and have a background in the sciences which means I want things to be well researched and well written before being passed on for voting within a club.

On a personal note: I have been involved in Rhodesian Ridgebacks since rescuing my first one in 1995. She went on to be a spectacular performance dog (MBIF Phaedra SC LCM CGC) but was an even better ambassador for the breed, causing me to attend my first National Specialty (Long Beach) and to seek out my first show ridgeback to add to my home.

I have bred infrequently over my 24 years in the breed, as I have two breeds and believe that I always must have room in my home for any of my dogs who need to land back with me for any reason. Our dogs have had some impressive and quiet successes including: a girl going WB/BOW/BOS the day after the Utah National, and a girl with more than 6 Best in Fields (both AKC and ASFA), over nationally ranked dogs. I belong to other national breed clubs, some regional breed clubs, and several coursing clubs.

I believe that forever homes with happy, healthy and sound temperament dogs are more important than conformation rankings for our dogs, but I show and finish the best from my litters. I also think that the welfare of the breed over-all is always more important than individual ego and as such didn't breed one of my best bitches because she was equivocal in her thyroid testing.

Again, I am asking your consideration in running for a seat on the BOD of RRCUS in hopes of being a voice of reason with long-term goals in mind for the club and our breed.

Thank you for your time,  
Amy Balthrop  
Akanni Rhodesian Ridgebacks and Borzoi  
since 1995  
[abalthrop@gmail.com](mailto:abalthrop@gmail.com)  
313.283.0634

### **Cynthia (Cindy) Cartwright**

I would be honored to continue serving on the RRCUS Board in the position of Director. I have taken my role on the board very seriously. I have attended every board meeting and participated in every motion vote. Doing what is right for ridgebacks and the Club is very important to me. I would be happy to discuss my voting decisions with any RRCUS member. My professional and Ridgeback club experiences have given me a background that serve me well in this position.

I purchased my first Ridgeback in 2001, and since that time I have bred 3 litters under the Roxridge kennel name. I have exhibited my dogs in AKC conformation, lure coursing and rally obedience. I live in San Diego County, California with my three ridgebacks Dillon (9), Emma (4 3/4) and Joy (6 months).

I have a lot of experience organizing events and activities for regional Ridgeback clubs in my area. These experiences have given me some perspective on working with fanciers from other regions as well as broadening the appeal of our regional clubs for both conformation and non-conformation oriented Ridgeback owners.

In addition to being a RRCUS member for 15 years, I was a board member of the Orange Coast Rhodesian Ridgeback Club. I am a past President, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer of the San Diego Rhodesian Ridgeback Club. I was their Specialty Show Chair in 2007, 2008, 2012, 2013, and 2014. In 2006 I facilitated the San Diego Rhodesian Ridgeback Club's paperwork to qualify to hold AKC agility trials and have served as a volunteer at past agility trials. I have had experience volunteering at the national level. I was the Assistant Show Chair for the National Specialty in 2010 in Ventura, CA and served on the advisory committee for the 2017 RRCUS National Specialty in Portland.

My professional life also has provided me with valuable experience. I am a retired educator, having been a high school science teacher, high school guidance counselor, high school assistant principal, middle school principal and high school principal. As a principal, I have written budget plans, and worked with budgets given to me. I have planned large events, worked on committees, and have communicated with and worked well with a diverse group of people of all ages.

I currently volunteer at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park as an Interpretive Ambassador at the tiger, gorilla, and Australia Outback exhibits. This means I have been trained to speak to park guests about the characteristics, habits, history, and other facts about these magnificent animals. This isn't that different from the enjoyment I get from speaking to people about my ridgebacks. I am very proud to be part of the ridgeback community. I am looking forward to the possibility of continuing my service to the RRCUS and RR community.

### **Frank De Paulo**

I got my first show dog, a Doberman, in 1975. Shortly thereafter, in 1979 I purchased my first Rhodesian Ridgeback. Since that time, I have bred and finished many champion Rhodesian Ridgebacks. I have been a voting member of RRCUS since 1980. I have served the club in several capacities, such as Board of Directors, Vice President, President and multiple committees over the years. I am currently a member of the Education Committee and serve as a mentor.

In 1993 I got my first Pointer and have been successfully breeding and showing Best in Show dogs since then. I am still very active breeding, training and showing both breeds. I was approved to judge both breeds in 2003 and have enjoyed judging Westminster, Morris and Essex, both breed club's National Specialties as well as Ridgeback Specialties in Europe.

I am a Lifetime Member of the Lehigh Valley Kennel Club, serving on many committees, and former Show Chair, a member of The American Pointer Club having served on the Board of Directors, as well as President, a member of The Morris and Essex Kennel Club, and The Kennel Club of Philadelphia where I am in my fifth year as Show Chairman for the National Dog Show which is televised on Thanksgiving Day.

I am very concerned with the direction the Parent Club has gone in recent years. I think with my past experience I can help channel the direction of this club to a brighter future for this breed that I love.

### **Jane Gentzen**

I am running for RRCUS Board member because I want to contribute my skills and perspective to an organization I have been a member of since 1989. Professionally, I have been a teacher, accountant, realtor, business owner and financial planner. I presently serve as treasurer of my local all breed club, and have served in all breed clubs for over 10 years in many positions. I pledge to be an open ear to all members concerns and always keep the breed integrity my first concern. Ridgebacks have been a part of my life for over 30 years now, and hopefully will be for another 30 years.

Sincerely,  
Jane Gentzen  
Courage Rhodesian Ridgebacks

### **Theresa Lyons**

I have been involved in the sport of dogs for three decades. While I have owned and titled other breeds, I found my true passion, in 1990, when introduced to the Rhodesian Ridgeback. Since then, I have owned, co-bred and co-owned multiple Ridgebacks, including Top Ten, Group Placing, National and Regional Winners. I have competed in conformation,

coursing, dock diving, agility and obedience/rally. Currently I co-breed and own under the Lyonnese prefix.

I am a member of RRCUS, American Pointer Club, Plainfield KC, Western Hound Assoc. of So. Ca, and the Princeton Dog Training Club. I have attended Hound, Sporting and Working dog seminars and National Specialties of many different breeds. I especially enjoy researching pedigrees, health and breed cultures. I have judged multiple Sweepstakes, including regional specialties and am currently applying for Ridgeback judging status.

I am a professional graphic artist and photographer by trade. I founded the award-winning *Ridgeback Register* magazine (1995-2018), and made it synonymous with eye-catching design, stunning photography and quality journalism. I am the creator and volunteer designer of the 365-day Ridgeback Rescue Calendar, which has been a yearly fundraiser since 2000. I have also been on multiple National Specialty committees as well as donated my design services for specialty promotion and catalogs. I am the Art Director for *Sighthound Review*, *Whippet Review* and past Editor/Art Director for *Pointer Points* magazine.

Proudly serving four-years active duty in the U.S. Marine Corps, I pride myself on integrity, fairness and following rules. I believe this has been an asset to RRCUS during my term as a current Board of Director. I have attended every board meeting, conference call as well as been a part of discussion and voting on all issues via email. I am an active participant on social media groups and participate respectfully in discussions. I am very open-minded and approachable. I believe that as a board member it is my duty to listen to and represent the membership.

Before voting on this slate, I only ask that members take the time to read their minutes. I am happy to answer any questions regarding my voting decisions. I wish to thank the membership for electing me last year and would be proud to be elected for another term.

Theresa M. Lyons  
Bridgewater, NJ

<b>Elizabeth Mask</b>
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It is my distinct honor to accept the petition by fellow RRCUS members for the position of "RRCUS Board of Directors" for the term January 2020 to December 2021.

I have owned and stewarded Ridgeback companions since 1985. For many years I read the literature on our Breed, studied the breeding practices and followed the development of lines that I respect. I selected three bitches from preservation kennels I admired and spent the next five years proving them in the conformation ring and on the field. All three are Grand Champions, Coursing Hounds and Tracking Dogs who have executed the search and recovery of many lost dogs. "Ridgebacks of the Highland Rim" is the realization of a long-held dream.

Since 2013, through careful breeding, our foundation bitches have produced 23 champions, including multiple Grand Champions and several in the Bronze, Silver and Gold categories. Selena was awarded "Brood Bitch of the Year" in 2016, which led to my recognition as "Breeder of the Year". Additional recognition: 2016 RRCUS National Specialty BOS, 2017 RRCUS National Specialty Select Bitch, 2018 RRCUS National Specialty Select Dog. Sugar Man and Duke each received AOMs at Westminster and were both RRCUS and AKC Top 25 Ridgebacks in 2018.

In 2017 I was recruited to join the volunteer staff of *The Ridgeback* as Regional News Coordinator. I am currently in my second year as Editor, a challenge that has dramatically expanded my exposure to the greater Ridgeback community and helped me identify ways in which I may refine my service to our club. It has been my mission to showcase as many of our members and their hounds as possible and through the voices of our members share the breadth and depth of the Rhodesian Ridgeback. I have been joined by a group of skilled and creative member volunteers and through our partnership, we have steadily increased the ad revenue and by so doing have been able to increase the editorial content of our archive. We are planning to launch a Membership Drive through the magazine next year and will be reaching out to our Breeders to assist them in attracting new members into the fold. I see a great opportunity for both board and member partnerships in this endeavor.

I am a creative artist by both vocation and avocation. I am a Professional Artist and Chair Emeritus of an awarding winning Visual Arts program. I have served on Museum, School and Professional Boards. I love building things: the

tangible and the intangible. I enjoy working in concert with others, am known for having a measured voice and will put the interests of RRCUS before my own. I am available to serve if chosen by our members.

### **Edith Mrak**

My name is Edith Mrak and our first Ridgeback joined the family in 1998. Sampson was bred by Betty and Jim Scattini (Triggerhill) and was followed two years later by Sophie, co-bred by Dudley Hackney (Rakiara). I began my foray into the show ring when Sophie became part of our family and have thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of being an owner handler in the heavily competitive ridgeback ring. I competed in the RRCUS Owner Handler Program twice, finishing #9 (2004) and #4 (2014). These ribbons are displayed proudly showing you CAN teach an old dog new tricks!

Everything ridgeback is my passion, second only to my family. I've attended numerous seminars, read countless books and spoken with a wide variety of dog and ridgeback experts. Form, function, how to be a better handler, nutrition, health and genetics, behavior, breeding....every single aspect fascinates me and there always seems to be something new to learn.

We whelped our first litter in 2003 and have had nine litters with the Keniba prefix. While breeding for conformation is the number one goal, it cannot be attained without equal concern for health and temperament. Our puppies have gone on to not only be wonderful family companions but also have competed in a wide variety of venues.

I've also been given the privilege to judge our breed. I have been honored to judge three Regional Specialty Puppy and Veteran Sweeps: Bay Area Rhodesian Ridgeback Club (BARRC) 2014, Trinity Valley Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of Texas (TVRRCOT) 2017 and New England Rhodesian Ridgeback Club (NERRC)2019. Each were very exciting and gave me new perspective as both judge and handler.

In my non-dog life, I have spent the last twenty something years in a very busy home raising four children and being a USMC spouse. As a military family, we were afforded many opportunities to move and explore new places and people. I've held many volunteer positions ranging from room/team mom to Treasurer/ VP/ Director in various organizations.

I served on the RRCUS Ethics Committee from February 2015- December 2017. I accepted a Director position on the RRCUS Board in 2018 and have actively and attentively participated in all board meetings, conference calls and email exchanges promptly. While on the BOD I was the Liaison to the Ethics Committee for the Code of Ethics revision and am currently the Liaison to the Health and Genetics Committee.

I continue to have the time and willingness to continue my commitment as a Director on the RRCUS Board. I am open-minded, understanding that even divergent opinions may offer valid points on a given topic, and therefore always try to approach issues from a balanced perspective. With that said, however, I also have the ability to be decisive, knowing "why" and "how" I came to my own conclusion. I am willing to discuss any of my votes and welcome constructive conversation on how to improve our club. I believe transparency and confidence in those running our club partner to make an inclusive and improved organization. I love the Rhodesian Ridgeback Breed and wish to do my part to protect and preserve it to the best of my ability should the membership wish me to continue to serve in this position.

### **Becky Nelson**

I am honored to have been nominated to appear on the ballot for a Board of Directors position.

We have had Ridgebacks in our family for almost 20 years, but my first experience in competing was in 2011. Since then, in addition to conformation, I have enjoyed learning with my pups and earning titles in rally, obedience, agility, and lure coursing, as well as earning a RRCUS versatility certificate. Recently, David and I whelped our first litter -- an experience we found to be one of the significant joys of our lives.

My professional life has been varied. I have worked in industries from professional baseball to humanitarian aid, however, I have spent my most recent decade-plus in education. I am currently an administrator for our school district's Adult Education and Literacy where I design and coordinate academic programs, as well as develop and present trainings to my professional peers.

My philosophy of volunteering is that there are two benefitting parties – the organization and the volunteer. I would hope that I could make a positive impact with a solid work ethic, an ability to problem solve, good communication and

organizational skills, and a background in business and education. In addition, I know that I would personally benefit from the experience, just as I have benefitted from many other volunteer positions, including my time as Content Editor of *The Ridgeback Magazine*.

I look forward to the possibility of contributing to RRCUS as a member of the Board.

Becky Nelson