

## SHINING STAR AWARD

The CCA is now accepting applications for the 2023 Shining Star Awards program. The Shining Star program is open to any purebred collie who works in any of the following five categories: 1) Service Dog; 2) Search and Rescue Dog; 3) Therapy and/or Comfort Dog; 4) Education/Library Dog; or has acted as a 5) Protector for his/her family or member of the community.

The CCA will recognize all collie/human teams meeting the Shining Star criteria with a frame-worthy certificate. The CCA will award the outstanding dog in each category with a medallion to recognize their accomplishments. One Collie-handler team that best represents the spirit of the Shining Star program will be chosen as the CCA Shining Star Ambassador.

Details can be found on the CCA website. The closing date for applications is [January 18, 2023](#).

Self-nominations are encouraged and welcomed. The award is open to all collie owners and the owner does not have to be a CCA member.

Click here for an Overview and Past Award Recipients  
(<https://www.collieclubofamerica.org/shining-star-award.html>)

The American Kennel Club (AKC) has become very interested in the Shining Star Program. The AKC wishes to support the CCA Shining Star program and will send out a notice of the program to all owners of AKC registered Collies. So you may receive a second notice of the program directly from the AKC.

Please do not hesitate to contact Corinne Boon and Deborah Gates if you have any questions or need additional information. They can be reached at [corinneboon79@gmail.com](mailto:corinneboon79@gmail.com) and [debgates@earthlink.net](mailto:debgates@earthlink.net).

Deb Gates, Co-Chair, CCA Shining Star Committee

**NEW MEMBERS BREED EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
**From Kelley Neeley, Chair of Breed Education Committee**

The committee met last week, and we are inviting Pati Merrill and Michelle Struble to join our committee. Their bios are below in their forwarded email for the next communique.

**PATI MERRILL:**

50-year member CCA  
Collie Judge  
2022-2023 Vice President CHF  
2012- Present Bulletin committee  
2022-2023 Sunnybank Gathering committee  
2023 CCA Trophy chair  
Past President CCA  
Past President CHF

**MICHELLE STRUBLE**

I have been involved with dogs all my life. I was hooked on obedience as a young teen with my GSD. In 1978 I got my first collie and started showing in conformation in the 1980's. I have bred or shown over 50 champions with most carrying the Valley Park prefix. I have also had 3 AOM recipients at our CCofA National.

I have been a CCofA member for 30+ years. I have served off and on as the DD of Iowa with my last term being the 4 years prior to the district revisions. I am a member of the Quarter Century Club and Collie Health Foundation. I am also a AKC judge of collies and shelties.

As a charter member of the Central Iowa Collie club (est. 2000), I have served as President, Vice President, Treasure, and board member over the years. I have served as Show Chair and trophy chair for our annual specialties. I served in many capacities with our club's planning and execution of various educational seminars. I am a member of the Cyclone Country Kennel Club and a past member of the Nebraska Collie Club and The Des Moines Obedience Club.

I look forward to working with the committee to promote breeder education for our collies.

Michelle Struble