

CCA 2025 VOLUNTEER LIST

*****HOST SHOW CHAIR - Dr. Laura J. C. LaBounty, PhD**

Education: B.S. Accounting, M.B.A., Doctorate – Leadership Theory

Occupation: Over 35 years accounting experience. Taught college-level Accounting and Management Information Systems courses for 20 years. Current position - Director of Finance at a large anti-poverty social services agency in MA.

Collies: Purchased first Collie in 1991, finished first champion 1993. Finished 100+ champions including several National Specialty winners. Bred a few ROM, including the only white Rough male ROM. The only AKC Collie breeder to finish champions in all 4 recognized colors in both coat varieties. Currently approved to judge 24 AKC breeds.

Volunteerism – Dog Clubs:

- CHF – Past treasurer, auctions manager, incorporator – volunteer at auctions every year
- CC New England – Secretary, work on our annual point shows doing trophies, auction, education, etc.
- American Smooth Collie Association – past President
- Cheshire Kennel Club - Member

Show Chair Experience: Elected Host Chair for the 2014 (Springfield, MA) and 2020 (Syracuse, NY) CCA National Specialty shows.

****FACILITIES CHAIR – Candy Ardizzone**

I have been showing dogs since I was 8 years old, attending my first Collie National Specialty show in 1974. I chaired many Collie specialties in the 1980s and 1990s. I have chaired committees for the Collie Club of America and served as District Director in the past. Since then, I have been involved in training and as an officer for multiple terms at the Syracuse Obedience Training Club and pitching in for whatever club needs help. Now in 2020, I was co-chair for the 2020 CCA, and have continued to be involved with final activities beyond the cancellation. I would like to see many of the plans for 2020 come to fruition in 2025.

****TREASURER – Mike Esch**

I have been a Collie Club of America member since 1978. I was President for the CCA from 2000-2004 and have been the CCA Treasurer for the last nineteen (19) years. I have been the show chair for three CCA Nationals and show treasurer for twelve other CCA Nationals. I was on the team to rewrite the Club's bylaws to make them compliant with New York State and AKC.

I worked for a large-cap consumer product company until my retirement in October 2021. I was responsible for the world-wide supply chain and managed a \$2.4 billion dollar annual budget with a headcount of 4,590 people across 106 manufacturing plants and 51 countries.

I live in Tennessee and am our HOA Board as the community's Treasurer for 2 years serving 1,029 homeowners.

I would love to be the Show Treasurer for the 2025 CCA National.

****HERDING CHAIR – Becky Tehon and Co-chair, Leslie White Butler**

Chair – Becky Tehon

Over the years, we've done a lot of Herding Instinct testing, but there was never time to fit anything further than that into our schedules, when training centers were 3-4 hours away and had no weekend openings, anyway. But when I retired about 6 years ago, Central Bark opened 11 minutes from me. They wanted to specialize in some of the more unusual dogs sports, including Barn Hunt, Earth Dog, and Herding. Because I no longer was working during the day, I was able to sign up for lessons. So over the last few years, 1 of my dogs has earned her Herding Started title, two others their PT titles. While I don't do much of the handling, I have become a member of the Herding Association of Central New York. I've also served as Trial Secretary for 5 trials. So I've learned a lot about the Herding Rules and Regulations.

and

****Herding Co-chair - Leslie White Butler**

I have been in Collies since 2000 with my first conformation dog. I started in performance in 2008 with herding and then added agility. I was the herding co-chair for the Virginia Beach National. I also assisted with the Eastern Regional herding trials that were held at Keepstone Farm in Berryville.

****OBED/RALLY CO-CHAIRS – Shelley Bergstrasser and Joni Primas**

Chair - Shelley Bergstrasser, Wild Wind Collies

I began showing Collies in 1985. In these 38 years I have bred 100 homebred Collie Champions and have trained and trialed many top performance Collies in many venues, titles my dogs have achieved are countless CD's and CDX's (at least I've lost count), 3 UD's one of them a UDX2 and 2 with several OTCH points. I have 2 smooth Collies currently competing in Open and Utility classes. I bred, owned and trialed Dual Champion/Grand Versatility Wild Wind's Deuces Are Wild
UD,GO,HXAsd,HIBd,HIDs,AX,NAJ,RAE,VX.

Until I retired as a business owner I owned the largest competition obedience training center in Southern Colorado, I was also the head trainer teaching everything from puppy kindergarten, basic obedience through the most advanced levels of competition obedience classes. I have not only had many successes with my own dogs but have helped many students to achieve all levels of obedience through OTCH's as well as helping many problem dogs to stay in their homes through balanced training.

I have served as the Obedience Trial Chairperson for our Colorado Collie Club for at least 8-10 years. I encouraged and have helped our club host many all-breed obedience trials (A GREAT way for specialty clubs to become more financially secure) and have chaired all our all-breed trials-often 2 x's a year. I have recently accepted the position of Obedience Trial chair for our local all-breed dog club as well- Colorado Springs Kennel Club and have chaired 2 successful Obedience/Rally trials. I have worked in almost all areas of hosting small to large, all breed, obedience trials.

and

Co-chair - Joni Primas

I have had a love of Collies since I was a small child because we lived across the street from a well-known Collie breeder (Dr. McCain of Cainbrook Collies), and I got to play with fuzzy puppies. Fast forward a few decades and I got my first Collie puppy when I was a senior in college. At that time, I did not know much about breeding dogs. As a result, Lady was a puppy mill Collie, with a detached retina and not at all suitable for conformation. Then I learned of the world of dog obedience. I attended my first

obedience trial and was enthralled by what those dogs could do. I found and joined an obedience training club and proceeded, over the years, to develop my dog training and competing skills. Since then, I have learned a great deal more about dogs in general and Collies in particular. My many Collies have all earned advanced obedience titles. I do not limit myself to obedience; I also compete (and title my dogs) in many dog sports: Rally, Agility, Dock Diving, and conformation. I also train one of my dogs in field work with the retrievers, but due to AKC limitations, Collies cannot compete in that venue. I have to admit, however, that my heart will always be with obedience.

Since I retired, in 2016, as the Accounting and Systems Manager for the largest group insurance contract at Prudential Financial, my dog activities have increased exponentially. In my current role in the K-9 Obedience Training Club of Essex County, NJ Inc, in addition to being the Training Director, I am the Chief Prize Steward and procurer of judges for our annual obedience and rally trial in January. We work very effectively as a committee, as this is a very large trial. When the club decided that they wanted to hold additional obedience and rally trials in June, I took a much larger role. As trial chair/secretary, I had the responsibility for all aspects of the trial: procuring a site, procuring judges, arranging for stewards and volunteers, creating the premium list, accepting and recording entries, creating the judging schedule and catalog, and reporting everything necessary to AKC on a timely basis. Some tasks were delegated, like arranging for stewards and volunteers, and food for the judge and workers, but the overall responsibility remained mine. I am also a CGC and Trick Dog Evaluator and have been the evaluator at the Gathering for several years.

I love the world of dog sports, the versatility of my Collies and plan to continue for many years. As I have often said "If I ever get to the point where I can't have my Collies, just put me down."

****AGILITY CHAIR - Douglas Vohnoutka**

I received my first Smooth Collie from Jennifer Hammond of StoneyAcre collies in 2017. Callie was almost entirely owner handled finished in just a few short shows. She earned her AKC and UKC championships in the same weekend. Since then, I married her breeder and we have been breeding smooth collies since. I am heavily involved in Agility and will shortly have my AKC Agility Judges license. I have been a trial chair for multiple events for several clubs and I look forward to assisting CCA in having an exceptional 'Take 2' for 2025 in Syracuse.

Douglas Vohnoutka
Adiame Shetland Sheepdogs

****MERCHANDISE CHAIR – Julie Lutz**

Julie Lutz. BA in English Creative Writing, minor in American Studies.

Works at Trader Joe's.

My Collies are titled in multi-levels of citizen canine, tricks, rally, fitdog, fastcat, agility and conformation. Active participant in AKC activities for several years.

Active member of Collie Club of New England.

****JUDGE'S HOSPITALITY – Debbie Wyman**

I am a passionate and knowledgeable Sheltie owner and breeder for over four decades beginning in 1973 with my first high-in-trial dog. Throughout the years. I have found that my dedication to Shelties lies in their intelligence and fierce loyalty and have continued to grow my passion and expertise.

My foundation bitch was a Banchory Reflection Daughter from Bob and Gale Carpenter and Woodbridge Shelties and the dawn of County Lane Shelties. In my time, I have prided myself on my small, intimate, kennel, only ever keeping less than ten Shelties at a time. My beloved dogs, many of whom are champions, have always lived out their entire lives with my family and me.

Through the course of my time in the breed, I was instrumental in the Shetland Sheepdog Club of Western New York as a founding charter member and as the current president for over five years. I am proud to say we will be hosting our 50th Independent Specialty in 2024.

Over the years, I have actively stayed involved with the ever-changing growth of the breed by making an effort to attend as many Nationals as possible beginning with my first in 1981. In 2012, I reached a lifetime goal of becoming an AKC judge and have spent the last decade traveling the country, judging over 21 specialties in places such as Hawaii, Texas, and California. Through my time with Shelties, I have cultivated wonderful friendships and mentorships and look forward to my ongoing journey.

****TROPHIES – Annette Rawlings and Kathy Drabik**

Annette Rawlings - I am currently the President of the Collie Club of America serving my second term, Show Chair for Collie Club of New England for over a decade, Agility Trial Chair for CCNE for over a decade, and a member of the Board for the CCNE. I am looking forward to working with Kathy Drabik while we take on the task of obtaining and funding trophies for the 2025 National Specialty. Winning a trophy at the National is an honor and I would like to help make it memorable, affordable, and commemorative.

and

Kathy Drabik - I am asking for consideration of Co-Chairing with Annette Rawlings for the 2025 CCA National to be held in Syracuse, NY as Trophy co-chair for the Collie Club of America.

I previously served as Trophy Chair for the CCA in 2018 at the National which was held in Virginia Beach, VA.

I started in this wonderful breed, showing collies in the mid 1980's and became a CCA member in 1987. I am a member of the Quarter Century Club and currently serving on the Executive Board as Vice President for the CCA.

I am the current Chair for CCA show permissions and loving cup trophies.

I am a past District Director for the State of Virginia.

I have attended many Nationals over the years and have the time to volunteer for this job as trophy co-chair at the 2025 CCA National.

Thank You,
Kathy Drabik, Westwood Collies

*****TOP TEN INVITATIONAL – Jerry Sulewski and Kelly Reppert**

Jerry Sulewski – Jereco Collies

I started showing collies in 2004 where I was competing in Junior Showmanship and Obedience. I joined the Collie Club of America the next year and have been involved ever since. My family has finished over 30 collies under the Jereco prefix and several others as handlers. I have been involved in several

clubs since then. We have had several top 10 dogs, including GCHG Jereco's Simply Irresistible, who was number 1 for the 2018 show year.

I am a very active member of several breed and all-breed clubs. I am the current president of the Packerland Kennel Club and the Northern Wisconsin Collie Club and a previous show chair for the Paper Cities Kennel Club. As a CCA member, I was a previous DD for the state of Wisconsin and have been on several committees for previous nationals such as reserved seating, welcome party, and hotels. My fiancé and I are also the reserved grooming chairs for the 2024 national specialty. I work with the Junior Showmanship program with our after-show events. I am also involved with the Tuff Quest organization.

and

Kelly Reppert - I have been involved in the breed of Collies for 16 years. My love for this breed began with my Juniors dog Sally. We traveled the east coast competing in Juniors for several years. Throughout this time, we made many achievements together in both the breed and Junior Showmanship ring. I earned a place in the top ten standings for Collie Juniors several times. One of my dearest memories from this time is presenting Sally in the Top Ten Invitational my final year in Juniors.

My time with collies did not end after my Juniors career. I have continued on to show both my own collies and handle for others. I have handled many collies to their championship title. I have had the privilege of being able to present GCHG Travler's Book of Shadows PT throughout her specials career. She has earned a place in the top ten standings for Smooth Collies for the past three years. Getting to present Catarina in the Invitational in 2021 and 2022 was an honor that I will not forget.

Professionally, I am the Youth Development Director at our Local YMCA in Norwich, NY. In this position, I oversee four after school program locations, along with our Early Morning Program, School Age Childcare Program, and Child Watch Program. I also plan our community family events. This entails everything from planning the activities to advertising and making sure that all of the pieces are in place for a successful event. We have several events throughout the year such as our Pumpkin Splash Family Fun Night where the children get to swim in a floating pumpkin patch. I have found that the key to a successful event is careful planning and collaboration. My favorite aspect of our community events is being able to provide a safe place for friends and family to come together for a day of fun and festivity.