

2018 National Specialty Judges Selection

This is your chance to help select the judge for the 2018 National Specialty Show. Please vote: this is your opportunity to voice your opinion and be a further part of the selection process. Vote for 3 judges in your order of preference. All ballots must be received by the GWPCA Secretary by November 15, 2016. All email ballots must come individually (one email per member - if two members of a household are both members, the secretary must receive two separate emails). All email ballots must have the header "2018 Judges Selection Ballot" and each must include the members name and address in the body of the email. Please use the following example for correct setup.

To: gwpcmail@gmail.com

From: (members email address)

Header: 2018 Judges Selection Ballot

My choice for 2018 GWPCA National Specialty judges are:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Members Name

Members Address

If you prefer to snail mail your ballot, please contact the GWPCA Secretary at gwpcmail@gmail.com

Please select three of the following judges in your order of preference:

Karen Wilson, a native of San Diego, began in dogs in 1966 with an Irish Setter, showing in conformation and obedience. Karen and her husband were active breeder/owner-handlers with their Airedale Terriers and Cairn Terriers, while their two daughters participated in Junior Showmanship. Mrs. Wilson began judging in 1991 and is approved to judge all Sporting, Hound and Terrier breeds, Junior Showmanship and Best in Show. She has judged the National

Specialties for Irish Setters, Airedale Terriers and Cairn Terriers, as well as specialties for many of her other approved breeds. She has judged in Canada, China, Denmark, South America and Australia.

She is a past president and officer of the Cairn Terrier Club of America, secretary and board member of the Dog Judges Association of America, and a member of Charlottesville-Albemarle Kennel Club. This is Karen's fourth assignment at Westminster. Karen has 11 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Steve Keating has been involved in the Pekingese breed for over twenty-five years. He is the immediate past-president of the Pekingese Club of America, a long time, active member and current President of the Pekingese Club of Texas, and a founding member of the Dallas-Ft. Worth Toy Dog Club.

Over the past 20 plus years, Steve has been very fortunate to enjoy many successes in his life. One success which he has mutually shared with his partner, Don Sutton, included breeding and owning one of the most wonderful breeds of dogs - the PEKINGESE. Over the years while actively breeding, which was through 1992, they had the privilege of owning and handling to title 36 Pekingese champions, of which 24 of those were OWNER, BREEDER, and HANDLED to title. Of great, special joy and happiness has been the thrill and honor of owning and handling English, American, and International Champion Rosayleen "The Gaffer" at Sunsalve. The Gaffer was England's Number One Pekingese when he came to Sutton Place in February, 1988, from noted English breeder Eileen Newman and handler Terry Nethercott.

As an AKC approved judge for the Toy Group, several Sporting breeds, the Sporting Group, and BIS, Steve is involved in the Pekingese Club of America National Roving Specialty Series and Judges' Education committees, assisting with program and seminar presentation for approved judges, breeders and aspiring judges across America. Steve started in dogs in 1972 and has been a member of Texas Kennel Club since 1999. He is also a member of the Pekingese Club of Texas, Pekingese Club of America, Dallas-Fort Worth Toy Dog Club, and many regional Pekingese clubs across America.

Patricia W. Laurans, an active and enthusiastic member of the dog show world since 1963, began as an exhibitor of Doberman Pinschers and eventually became an All Breed Handler. At the same time she established her line of Laurwyn German Wirehaired Pointers, which produced four National Specialty winners, three Best in Show winners and many top producers.

Pat's service to the dog community extends beyond the show ring and whelping box. She has been the GWPCA's AKC Delegate for over 30 years. She was elected to AKC's Board of Directors in 1996. During her service on the Board, she proposed the concept of a breeder's education program and chaired The Breeder's Education Committee. She was also very involved with the Junior Scholarship program.

Upon retirement from the AKC Board in 2000 Pat was elected to the AKC Parent Club Committee, and still serves as its Chairman. She also chaired the first and second Parent Club Conferences. Pat is a Founding Director and a Vice Chair of Take the Lead, a charitable organization that assists individuals in the sport of pure bred dogs who are suffering with a terminal or life threatening illness.

A licensed judge since 1982, Pat is approved to judge Best in Show, the Sporting, Hound, Working and Herding Groups, some Toy and Non Sporting breeds and Junior Showmanship,. She has judged throughout the United States and Canada and in Australia, England, Ireland, Japan, Puerto Rico and Venezuela. She has also officiated at numerous National Specialties. At the Westminster Kennel Club show she has judged the Herding, Hound and Working Groups, many breeds and the Junior Showmanship Preliminaries and Finals. At the AKC National Championship shows, Pat has judged the Herding, and Hound Groups, Junior Showmanship Finals and Preliminaries and a great number of breeds.

Linda Robey acquired her first Belgian Sheepdog in 1979. She competed in conformation and obedience for many years. She is currently the Chairperson of the Belgian Sheepdog Judges Education and a member of the ABTC judges education committee. She has had the honor of

presiding as a judge at the American Belgian Tervuren Club National Specialty, the Belgian Sheepdog Club of America National Specialty and the American Belgian Malinois Club National Specialty.

Nikki Riggsbee grew up in New York and New Hampshire. Her family's dogs included a Collie, a Cocker Spaniel, and several mixed breeds. All were pets. Her family was not involved in dog shows or breeding. Her commitment to dogs can be summed up in Robert Mapplethorpe's quote: "I am obsessed with beauty. I want everything to be perfect, and of course it isn't. And that's a tough place to be because you're never satisfied." After attending high school in Chicago, she graduated from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and taught school in Ohio for several years. After marrying, she moved to Florida and changed careers to data processing.

When Nikki was able to afford a purebred dog, she opted for a Great Dane because of a photo of herself as a baby with a Great Dane that her parents owned. Her then-husband picked a Norwegian Elkhound for their second dog, and they kept both breeds. Their puppies' breeders introduced them to dog shows and they were fascinated. The same breeders introduced them to dog clubs, as well.

Over the years, Nikki has been active in numerous all-breed and specialty clubs, holding many offices and helping to put on dog shows. For several years, she organized a series of breed seminars during the Florida January circuit. She was a delegate to AKC for Manatee Kennel club for 10 years. Nikki showed both Great Danes and Norwegian Elkhounds, but only bred Danes.

In over 30 years in dogs, she has bred fawn and brindle Great Danes under the affix *McEmn*, averaging one litter per year. She has finished nearly 30 champions, with many more produced by others from her dogs. In addition to conformation, she has put obedience titles on several Danes and certified and worked with two of her girls as therapy dogs. In 1990, she applied to judge Great Danes. She is currently approved to judge the Sporting, Hound and Working Groups plus eight Non-Sporting breeds, Miniature Schnauzers, Cavaliers and Havanese.

Besides the United States, she has also judged in Norway, Australia, Colombia, New Zealand, Finland, Canada and the Dominican Republic.

Nikki has also written for print and online magazines on Great Danes and other breeds and on showing, judging and breeding. Her Breed Priorities series, begun in 2004, in Dogs In Review has won several awards from DWAA. She also produced a booklet Examples of Excellence that has been used in Great Dane breed education.

Dana Cline began breeding and exhibiting as a boy. He has bred champion Beagles, Borzoi, German Wirehaired Pointers, Great Danes, and Miniature Bull Terriers, including one of the few BIS-winning Mini Bulls in the breed's history.

An AKC judge since 1998, he includes among his career highlights judging at Westminster and at seven national specialties, including twice at Great Dane Club of America. This year is his second AKC/Eukanuba assignment.

Mr. Cline is corresponding secretary and a board member for the Lake Shore Great Dane Club, and has conducted seminars on various breeds. He enjoys gardening, antiques, and "working in and around" his koi ponds.

Jay Richardson is a second-generation fancier who has been involved in the sport since he was 10 years old. He feels grateful to have been a professional handler because he was able to "make a living doing something I enjoyed more than anything else. It was never work."

An AKC judge since 1996, Mr. Richardson is approved for all working and terrier breeds, several other breeds from the remaining groups and, "By the time of the AKC/Eukanuba show, I hope to be approved for the complete Sporting Group."

Mr. Richardson has been show chairman for the Wheaton Kennel Club for 16 years and has also served the club as secretary. Professionally, he is a manufacturing quality consultant.

Dr. Bob G. Smith has been involved with purebred dogs since the early 70s when he acquired his first Cocker Spaniel. He has been active in local, regional, and national specialty clubs having served as Show Chairman of the American Spaniel Club Specialty Show, President and Show Chairman of the Mobile Alabama Kennel Club, and as Board member and officer of the

Cocker Spaniel Specialty Club of Greater New Orleans.

Having judged at all-breed and specialty shows throughout the US, Mexico, China, and South America, he is eligible to judge all Sporting breeds and the Sporting Group as well as Junior Showmanship.. His assignment for the 2011 Westminster KC included all varieties of Cocker Spaniels and Junior Showmanship Preliminary I. At the 2012 Eukanuba Championship, Dr. Smith judged Cockers (all varieties), Irish Setters, and Golden Retrievers. He was elected by the American Spaniel Club membership to judge the Parti-Colored Variety of Cocker Spaniels at the Spaniel Club Specialty in January 2012.

Dr. Smith is a monthly columnist for The Dog Show Journal and formerly wrote for The Canine Chronicle authoring articles on a variety of canine-related topics including: Where Has All the Civility Gone?, Hallmarks of the Breed., What Do You Want From Me?, and How Do I Love Thee....Dog!

Ken Buxton of Kingwood, Texas, was the 2008 recipient of the AKC Companion Events Lifetime Achievement Award. He and his wife, Donna, began exhibiting Saint Bernards in conformation and obedience in 1966. They have since produced many champions in both venues, including High in Trial dogs at national specialties and all-breed shows, top-winning conformation champions, and top-producing breeding stock.

Mr. Buxton judges the Sporting, Working, Non-Sporting, and Herding groups, obedience, rally, and tracking. He has judged four Saint Bernard nationals and will do so again next year. He has also judged nationals for several other breeds at home and abroad.

He has served dog clubs in many leadership roles, is a lifetime member of the Clermont Kennel Club, and is a board member of American Dog Show Judges. Mr. Buxton is a retired financial manager.

Sam Houston MacDonald of Chester Springs, Pennsylvania, grew up among dogs of several

breeds but became enamored of Irish Setters after seeing the film Big Red. During his forty years in the breed, Mr. McDonald bred and owned several Best in Show dogs and once owned the nation's number-one Irish Setter. At various times, he has also been involved in Beagles, Cocker Spaniels, Dachshunds, Scottish Deerhounds, and Wirehaired Pointing Griffons. "I continue to breed and exhibit Irish Setters and Irish Wolfhounds left to me by the great breeder Samuel Evans Ewing III," he says.

Mr. McDonald has been an AKC judge since 1987, approved for the Sporting Group, Australian Shepherds, Junior Showmanship, and Best in Show. He is the AKC delegate and show chairman for the Bryn Mawr Kennel Club, a director of the Dog Judges Association of America, Irish Setter Club of America Foundation board member, and a member of the Chester Valley Kennel Club and the Kennel Club of Philadelphia. During his long association with the Irish Setter Club of America, he served as director and president, and was show chairman for three national specialties.

Mr. McDonald, a retired speech language pathologist, was instrumental in creating a standardized breed presentation for the Irish Setter and has had many articles published in the akc gazette.