

Members,

While we work on our communication and transparency as a Board, we are coming to the membership with another apology.

The Show Events Advisory Committee (SEAC) did not follow guidelines set up in the GWPCA National Events Manual (updated 10/2010) and the SEAC guidelines on several key points. While we are not able to correct all of the errors, a majority of the Board of Directors felt it was important to do what we could to get back on track now, and moving forward.

Moving forward for the 2026 and 2027 voting for National judges, please use the following guidelines:

-Judges and their bios are included to help inform your decision

-Please send your votes to the National Secretary, Eva Wiseman, at gwpca.mail@gmail.com by February 13, 2026.

-If you have already sent your votes to jmylesiii@gmail.com, your votes will still be counted by the secretary once they have been forwarded. If you would like to change your vote, please send updated votes to the Secretary's email above with a comment.

If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to a SEAC committee member:

Garnett Persinger: Committee Head / Del Valle representative

Lori Sargent: Ft. Detroit representative

Deanna Donohue: Suncoast representative

Kelton Hatton: Wisconsin representative

Riley Mars: Twin Cities representative

Joan Payton: California representative

Laura Myles: SeaTac representative

2026 Judges

1. **Beverly R. Andersen** is a prominent American Kennel Club (AKC) conformation judge based in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Judging Credentials

As of 2026, she is an established judge with a wide range of breed approvals. Her credentials include:

- Approved Breed Groups: She is fully approved to judge the Sporting Group and the Hound Group.
- Individual Breeds: In addition to the groups above, she is approved for several breeds in the Working and Toy groups, as well as Best in Show (BIS).
- Judging Style: She is known for her extensive experience in the show ring and is frequently invited to judge major competitions across the United States.

Background in the Sport

- Kennel Prefix: Historically, she has been associated with the breeding and showing of purebred dogs, particularly within the Hound or Sporting groups, which formed the foundation of her judging career.
- Professionalism: She is recognized for her adherence to AKC Rules, Policies, and Guidelines, focusing on breed standards and sound movement.

2. **Rick Gschwender** is a prominent American Kennel Club (AKC) judge and long-time preservation breeder based in Milford, Michigan.

Career & Expertise

Judging Career:

- He has been judging since 1982. Initially starting with a few breeds, he gradually expanded his expertise and is now licensed to judge the Herding and Working groups.
 - Major Assignments: He has judged at the prestigious Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show multiple times, including judging the Herding Group in 2006 and the Working Group in 2024.
 - Breeding: Gschwender began his journey in the dog world in 1973 with Old English Sheepdogs. He later became well-known for breeding Bouviers des Flandres under the "Rendezvous" kennel prefix with his wife, Debra.

Background

- Early Involvement: His interest in the Bouvier breed began in the late 1970s when he and his wife sought a protective, intelligent companion for their home.
- Philosophy: As a judge, Gschwender emphasizes structural integrity and movement, comparing each dog strictly to its official breed standard to find the specimen that best represents its type.

3. **Linda Hurlebaus** is a highly prominent figure in the American purebred dog community, recognized as a breeder, former professional handler, and elite American Kennel Club (AKC) judge.

Professional Career in Dog Sports

- Early Experience: She began her journey in the sport of purebred dogs in 1973 with Old English Sheepdogs.
- Breeding and Handling: Before moving into judging, she was a breeder of Golden Retrievers and Cavalier King Charles Spaniels. She also worked as an all-breed professional handler for 25 years.
- AKC Involvement: Hurlebaus has held several key staff positions at the AKC, including working in the Events Plans Department and serving as an Executive Field Representative for the Southeast United States.

4. **Gloria Kerr** is a prominent American Kennel Club (AKC) licensed judge and former professional handler based in Arizona. Her career in the dog show world spans over five decades, with a specialized focus on Golden Retrievers.

Professional Background

- Breeding: Under her Krishna Kennels prefix, she has bred and titled numerous champions across several breeds, including Golden Retrievers, Akitas, Pembroke Welsh Corgis, and Chinese Cresteds.
- Handling: She became an AKC licensed professional handler in 1974, finishing dogs in every AKC group.
- Judging: Licensed as an AKC judge in 2000, she is now approved to judge:
 - Sporting Group (All breeds)
 - Herding Group (All breeds)
 - Toy Group (All breeds)
 - Non-Sporting Group (All breeds)
 - Select breeds in the Working and Hound Groups
 - Junior Showmanship and Best In Show

Judging Achievements

Kerr has judged prestigious events globally, including assignments in Australia, Korea, China, Canada, Sweden, and Brazil. Notable honors include judging National Specialties in the U.S. for breeds such as:

- Golden Retrievers

- Chinese Cresteds
- Akitas
- Brittanys
- She is known for her philosophy that "movement is the final determination of the best conformation" and emphasizes the importance of a dog's original purpose.

5. **Richard Powell** is a highly respected American Kennel Club (AKC) judge based in Palmyra, Pennsylvania, originally from England. He is a prominent figure in the dog show community, known for his expertise in Terriers and his "artistic eye" for breed standards.

Career & Background

- **Early Life:** Powell began his involvement with show dogs in England, working with English Cockers and English Setters.
- **Move to U.S.:** He moved to California in 1976 to pursue a career with Terriers, apprenticing under world-renowned handlers like Ric Chashoudian and Wood Wornall.
- **Professional Handling:** Alongside his wife Sue, he operated a successful boarding and handling business on the East Coast.
- **Breeding:** He is notably recognized for breeding and showing Welsh Terriers(Happitails Welsh), Cairn, Norfolk, and Wire Fox Terriers.

Judging Profile

- **Qualifications:** Licensed to judge the Sporting, Terrier, and Toy groups, as well as various Working breeds (Giant and Standard Schnauzers), Poodles, and Dachshunds.
- **Major Assignments:** He has judged at prestigious international venues, including the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show(Terrier Group in 2022) and the Montgomery County Kennel Club (Best in Show and Best Brace in Show in 2025).
- **Philosophy:** Powell emphasizes balance, symmetry, and "the eye"—an artistic understanding of breed quality and movement.

Personal Life

He resides near Hershey, Pennsylvania, with his wife Sue. His interests outside of the show ring include collecting old cars, gardening, and raising show chickens.

6. **Harry "Butch" Schulman** is a prominent American Kennel Club (AKC) judge based in Louisville, Kentucky, with extensive experience as a breeder and professional in the dog sport.

Dog Sport Background

- **Breed Involvement:** He is a long-time breeder of Collies and has extensive experience with Doberman Pinschers. He is also a Golden Retriever owner.
- **Judging Qualifications:** Schulman is a licensed AKC judge approved for multiple groups, including:
- Herding Group (notably judged at the 2017 National Dog Show).
- Working Group.
- Sporting Group (portions).
- Terrier Breeds (selected).
- **Notable Assignments:** He has judged prestigious events such as the National Dog Show (televised on Thanksgiving) and various National Specialties, including the 2025 Bergamasco Sheepdog Club of America National Specialty.

Professional & Military Career

- **Academic Leadership:** He serves as the Executive Director (and formerly Vice Chairman) of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Louisville School of Medicine.
- **Military Service:** He is a retired Lieutenant Colonel from the United States Air Force, having served 23 years in hospital administration and facilities management.

Harry "Butch" Schulman

Education & Personal Life

- Education: He holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Louisville (where he was a scholarship swimmer) and a Master's degree from George Washington University. He is also a graduate of the USAF Air War College.
- Family: He and his wife, Robin, have four children and two granddaughters.
- Heritage: He is the son of Dorothy Schulman, a former AKC judge and renowned breeder of Collies and Lhasa Apsos.

• 7. **Nancy Talbott** is a prominent American Kennel Club (AKC) judge based in Riverside, California, recognized for her extensive expertise in Sporting dogs. As of 2026, she has over 30 years of judging experience and is a deeply respected figure in the Golden Retriever community.

Professional Background

- Career: She is a retired teacher and special education administrator.
- Kennel: She operates under the kennel name Belgold (originally associated with Golden Retrievers and later Labradors).
- Judging Specialties: Licensed to judge the Sporting Group, she began with Golden Retrievers in 1991 and Labrador Retrievers in 1993. She has judged internationally in countries including Canada, Sweden, Australia, South Korea, and Indonesia.

Notable Achievements & Leadership

- Westminster Kennel Club: Served as the Best of Breed judge for Golden Retrievers at the 2022 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show.
- Golden Retriever Foundation: She currently serves as President of this foundation, which focuses on health research and rescue for the breed.
- Golden Retriever Club of America (GRCA): She is a Life Member and has served as the 1st Vice President and a board member.
- National Specialties: She has judged the GRCA National Specialty multiple times (notably in 2001 and 2009) and served as the Chief Ring Steward for the 2024 National.

Judging Philosophy

- Talbott is an advocate for "dual-purpose" dogs, emphasizing that Golden Retrievers should maintain the balance between conformation (physical appearance) and their original field-work purpose. She prioritizes breed hallmarks such as temperament, balance, gait, and correct coat texture in her evaluations.

2027 Judges

1. **David Swartwood** is a highly experienced multi-group dog show judge from Canada who frequently accepts assignments for the American Kennel Club (AKC) and other international organizations.

Professional Background

- Breeding Expertise: He has been breeding and exhibiting English Springer Spaniels under the "Bryden" kennel name for over 40 years. He has also bred Miniature Wirehaired Dachshunds ("Prelude") for over 25 years and has experience with Boston Terriers, Lhasas Apsos, Pugs, and British Bulldogs.
- Judging Credentials: Licensed by the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC), he is authorized to judge various groups across Canada and internationally.
- International Experience: He has judged in numerous countries, including the USA, Australia, Argentina, China, Italy, Japan, South Africa, and New Zealand.

- **Leadership Roles:** He has served as the President of the Erie Kennel Club and as the Training Director for the Admiral Perry Obedience Training Club.

Competitive Achievements

Swartwood's dogs have achieved top honors across multiple disciplines, including:

- **Conformation:** National Specialty winners.
- **Performance:** High in Trials (Obedience), Master Agility Champions (MACH), Champion Trackers (CT), and various titles in tracking (VST, UDT) and coursing.
- **Therapy Work:** Several of his dogs have also served as certified therapy dogs.
- **For specific event details, including his scheduled assignments for 2026, you can consult the AKC Judge Directory or the Canadian Dog Judges Association (CDJA).**

2. Alessandra Folz is a prominent AKC judge, second-generation breeder, and former professional dog show handler based in Wilton, New Hampshire.

Professional Background

- **Breed Specialty:** She is a lifelong devotee of the Weimaraner, a breed she has owned since she was 17. She is the owner of Rissana Weimaraners, a kennel name formed from a combination of her sister's, mother's, and her own names.
- **Judging & Handling:** Beyond judging for the American Kennel Club, she had a distinguished career as a handler. One of her proudest moments was winning the Sporting Group at Westminster with her Weimaraner, "Marge," who competed despite an injury.
- **Leadership Roles:** She has served as a National Event Co-Chair for the Vizsla Club of America and is involved in various capacities with breed-specific organizations.

Personal and Education

- **Education:** She attended the Pomfret School and graduated from Mount Holyoke College.
- **Origins:** Originally from Landstuhl, Germany, she now resides in New Hampshire.
- **Interests:** Outside of the formal ring, she describes her involvement with her dogs as including activities like "hard core upside down couch surfing" and "tadpole hunting".

3. Dr. Donald Sturz is a prominent figure in the sport of purebred dogs, currently serving as the President of the Westminster Kennel Club. He is recognized as a multifaceted leader, having excelled as a junior handler, breeder, exhibitor, and judge for over 50 years.

Professional Roles & Leadership

- **Westminster Kennel Club President:** Appointed in 2022, he is the first openly gay president in the club's history.
- **AKC Judge:** Adjudicating since 1990, he has judged major shows worldwide, including ten assignments at Westminster.
- **Career:** Outside of the dog world, he is an educator and mental health expert who has served as a school superintendent with a doctorate in clinical psychology.

Judging & Show Career Highlights

- **Westminster Best in Show:** He served as the Best in Show judge for Westminster in 2022, where he made history by awarding the title to a Bloodhound for the first time.
- **Junior Showmanship:** Ranked as the #1 Junior Handler in the U.S. for three consecutive years (1974–1976).
- **Breeding & Ownership:** He has bred, owned, and handled Best in Show winners in breeds including Golden Retrievers, Miniature Poodles, and Pembroke Welsh Corgis.

Affiliations & Memberships

- AKC Delegate: Represents the Poodle Club of America at the American Kennel Club.
- Officer Roles: Serves as Vice-President of the Poodle Club of America.
- Club Memberships: Member of the Westchester Kennel Club, Bull Terrier Club of America, and the Pekingese Club of America.
- For a complete list of his judging assignments, you can search for "Donald Sturz" in the official AKC Judges Directory.

4. **Dr. Ronald Spritzer** is an American Kennel Club (AKC) licensed conformation judge based in Ohio, USA.

Judging Credentials and Background

- Affiliations: He is a member of the Basenji Club of America (BCOA) and the Seattle Kennel Club.
- Judging Specialty: He is primarily licensed for conformation shows. He has also been noted as being licensed to judge Basenjis.
- Location: His judging base is in the Ohio area.
- Further specific details regarding his personal kennel name or a complete list of all licensed breeds can be found through the AKC Judges Directory.

5. **Pamela (Pam) Lambie** is a prominent American Kennel Club (AKC) judge and retired professional handler with nearly five decades of experience in the dog sport.

Background and Professional Career

- Original Breed: Her foundation breed is the Mastiff, and she has bred numerous champions under the kennel name LamBay.
- Professional Handling: Before becoming a judge, Lambie had a successful career as a professional handler, often mentored by Tom Tobin. She retired from handling to transition into judging.
- Personal Life: She resides in Phoenix, Arizona, and formerly worked in the marketing department of Anheuser-Busch.

Judging Career

As of early 2026, Lambie has over 12 years of experience as an AKC judge.

- Specializations: She is primarily known for her expertise in the Hound Group but also judges various other breeds and groups.
- Notable Assignments:
 - Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show: Served as a breed judge in 2024.
 - AKC National Championship: Judged the Hound Group in 2024 and Miscellaneous classes in 2022.
 - National Dog Show: Judged the Miscellaneous Class in 2025.
- Upcoming Specialties: She is slated for various high-profile specialty assignments in 2026 and beyond.

Judging Philosophy

Lambie emphasizes the importance of a dog's ability to perform the function for which it was originally bred. She frequently advocates for continuous learning within the sport, advising both novices and veterans to "never stop listening".

6. **Honey A. Glendinning** is an esteemed All-Breed judge recognized by major kennel clubs including the American Kennel Club (AKC), Canadian Kennel Club (CKC), and FCI.

Professional Background

- Judging Tenure: She began judging in 1983 and obtained her CKC All-Breed and Best in Show (BIS) license in 1994.
- Breeding and Showing: Active in the sport since 1970, she and her husband, Rick, operate Fantail Kennels, which is recognized as one of the top English Setter kennels in Canadian history.
- Expertise: She has bred or exhibited English Setters, Irish Setters, Newfoundlands, Dachshunds, Dalmatians, Spaniels, and Whippets.

Judging Experience

- International Reach: Glendinning has judged in over 26 countries, including the United States, Australia, Brazil, England, Mexico, and New Zealand.
- Specialty Assignments: Notable assignments include the 2019 English Cocker Spaniel Club of America National Specialty and multiple English Cocker Spaniel specialties across Canada and the U.S..
- Recent Assignments: As of January 2026, she continues to judge high-level events, recently awarding Reserve Best in Show at a major competition in Minnesota.

Leadership and Recognition

- CKC Honors: In 2019, she received a 50-year membership award from the Canadian Kennel Club.
- Mentorship: She has served as the Examination Committee Chair and Junior Handling Representative for CKC Zone 11, focusing on welcoming and educating newcomers to the sport.

7. **Pluis Davern** is a highly distinguished American Kennel Club (AKC) judge and breeder, recognized for her extensive contributions to the sporting dog community and disaster search work. As of 2026, she holds the AKC Lifetime Achievement Award(2023) and was the 2011 AKC Breeder of the Year.

Judging and Handling Expertise

- Judging Status: She is an AKC-licensed judge approved for the entire Sporting Group, Junior Showmanship, and select Hounds.
- Notable Assignments: She has judged at prestigious venues, including the Westminster Kennel Club (multiple breeds in 2005) and various national specialties for breeds like English Cockers and Sussex Spaniels.
- Handling & Training: Davern began as a professional handler, titling breeds across conformation, obedience, and field work. She has been the obedience trainer for the Del Monte Kennel Club for over 30 years.

Breeding and Sporting Career

- Sundowner Sussex Spaniels: Under her Sundowner prefix, she bred the first Sussex Spaniel to win a Best in Show in the U.S. and place in the group at Westminster.
- Early Start: She entered the sport in 1967 with Golden Retrievers, eventually expanding her expertise to include Spaniels and Pointing breeds.
- Concept: Her work is rooted in the "form and function" philosophy, ensuring dogs maintain their working ability alongside show standards.

Service and Professional Contributions

- Search and Rescue: She co-founded the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation, training dog-and-handler teams for FEMA.
- Field Innovation: She was instrumental in the creation of the AKC Spaniel Hunt Test.
- Affiliations: Davern is an active member of numerous breed clubs, including the Sussex Spaniel Club of America (Board Member), Golden Retriever Club of America, and The Labrador Retriever Club Inc..