

January 2024 finds the Sussex Spaniel Club of America entering a new era. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and each of our Officers and the Board of Directors. I think you will see the remarkable possibilities for these Officers and Board to lead this club into a challenging and exciting future in terms of health, education, marketing, and website development aimed at prospective Sussex owners and members.

I, President Barbara Ohmann, am a lifelong dog owner who retired from the American Kennel Club in 2019 after 25 years where I was the Director of Educational Services. My first Sussex joined my household in 2009 and, like all of my fellow club members, I will never be without a Sussex Spaniel. I currently have two Sussex, Thatcher at age 8 and my Bred By boy Brooks at age 8 months. I am active in all of the All-Breed and Breed clubs I currently am involved with. I am an officer and I have served on multiple committees in them as well. I hope we can bring members back into active roles aimed at preserving this wonderful breed.

Vice President Lee Silensky continues as our Vice President. Lee has led the club on a number of exciting projects but is most noted for his hard work on developing the SSCA website. We can be very proud of all that this website brings to the general public and to our members. Lee has a passion for the club to continue in our progress toward a healthy future of the Sussex Spaniel breed.

Treasurer Marcus Thomas continues as our Treasurer. Marcus has been a godsend to this club in his utmost dedication to fiscal responsibility. He also has taken the lead sharing very well received updates on the treasury as well as on activities of the previous SSCA Board. Knowledge of our goals is so important for us to exist as a viable club promoting the breed that Marcus is dedicated to.

Secretary Vince Scanlan joins us in his new role in 2024. His extensive experience in the banking industry enhancing compliance programs brings a spectacular understanding of communications, presentations and programming essential for a club secretary. A student of the breed he brings a dedication to preserve the Sussex Spaniel.

Board Member Jenni Toebben as a former Director rejoins the leadership of the club. Jenni has also served many years as our breeder referral contact. She brings an enthusiasm to get members involved with the club which is a priority for not only improving the club but also in our very important goal of preservation of the breed.

Board Member Tina Tarrant joins us in 2024 as a Director. Tina chaired our National in 2017 and brings her wide experiences as President of her Bassett Hound Club and as Show Chair of multiple Bassett Hound events. Sustaining and protecting the breed are major priorities for Tina. Tina will be leading the club into the future in an expanded positive environment.

Board Member Patricia Shaw also joins as a former Director of SSCA and is a Past President of the club. Pat chaired the SSCA Specialty in 1999, 2007, and 2022. She has extensive experience with multiple clubs and brings extensive knowledge of managing AKC events. We look forward to Pat's contributions to SSCA.

Board Member Georgia Perdue stays on as Director. Georgia is a lifelong participant in dog sports. Her dedication to the Sussex Spaniel breed is exceptional. Georgia is active in many clubs and she has chaired events not only for SSCA but also for her All-Breed Club. We can depend on Georgia to get the job done no matter what she takes on.

Board Member Janet Mitchell stays on as Director. Janet is a former Breeder of the Year for SSCA and also brings her legal expertise as an Attorney at Law. Her lengthy board experience will be helpful in terms of continuity of programs and also in improving the Board response to the needs of our members and Sussex owners.

AKC Delegate Bobby Lewis celebrated his 25<sup>th</sup> year as our AKC Delegate. Bobby has been active in the Sussex Spaniel Breed since he was a Junior. His knowledge of the breed and the pedigrees of our dogs makes him an essential resource. Bobby is also an Attorney at Law and contributes his knowledge and experience in law as needed.

Now LET THE FUN BEGIN – on January 27 and 28 a dedicated group of SSCA members and their wonderful Sussex will be staffing the Sussex Spaniel Meet the Breeds Booth at the NYC Jacob Javits Center. Photos will be shared on the website soon after! If you are nearby, please join us at the event!

Super Sussex Salutations,

President Barbara Ohmann