

Candidate for President of the Collie Club of America

Candy Tehon Ardizzone

Thank you for your consideration. There are many Qualified and caring members running for offices this year and your votes will steer the future for the Collie Club of America.

I have been a CCA member for over 40 years and have participated with the Collie World since 1968. We currently have approximately 1500 people who all love our Collies. We do not fit typical business structures. There is no denying that we are a non-profit organization, there is no denying that we are Incorporated in New York State, and there is no denying that we are a business in many of our activities... However, the CCA is not a large corporation with thousands of stockholders. As officials, we represent a tight knit family of fanciers. It is important to keep our members' interests utmost in our minds when we make our club decisions.

Over two years ago, a new CCA Constitution and By Laws was voted in because of changes in New York State law. Much work went into the new document. When members expressed concern, transparency was promised during discussions and the approval processes. Apparently, the idea of transparency was different between the Board and the members. At the time of the vote I was a member, and my expectations of transparency were very different from what I have experienced as a District Director.

Most progressive businesses in the United States profess strength in open discussions and diverse views, I believe that welcomed participation from interested members will make our club stronger. I was often concerned that member perceptions of Board actions were not good. I expressed concern that we were not drawing enough from the experience of our membership. I want to see membership communications and participation improved. The last two years have been a big learning experience about what the club can be and what the club wants to be. How our members vote will determine what the club can be and will be in the future.

My goals include setting up strong internal club resources to review the activities for constitutional “Can We” and “Should We” situations. Often this year, I heard that the Board could do things, and not much discussion about should we and how our members felt about certain actions. Since not many of our Board members have legal recognitions in New York State, nor much Not for Profit experience, I will set up an oversight committee to help keep us within the guidelines of our statutes.

It is my goal to set up strong committees with experienced members educating newer committee members so that we have greater depth of skills and fresh ideas within our organization. We must remember the CCA is made of volunteers and there are times when other personal responsibilities must take precedence for an important volunteer. It will be important for our committees to have individuals who can cover their work for an absent leader.

I will keep our committees on task and budget, and will link committees that have shared interests. My experience is that Collie People are some of the most giving and supportive fanciers of any breed and I look forward to rebuilding that reputation.

Bio/Experience to Consider:

Junior Activities:

- First show Collie 1968.
- Onondaga Junior Kennel Club: Secretary, Board member
 - This club was formed and practiced handling, put on matches and often worked jobs at the parent club’s events.
- Junior Collie Fanciers of America: Editor of Jive Magazine, Fundraising chair
 - Collected reports, contacted authors and received articles. Typed, copied, assembled in a booklet format and mailed. Ran a stud dog raffle (popular in the 1970s)
- Junior Collie Club of Central New York: Multiple offices including President, Match Chair
 - Ran matches, worked parent club events.

Adult Clubs:

Collie Club of Central New York: (incorporated in NY)

President, Vice President, Secretary, Board, Education Chair, Match Chair, Show Chair, Symposium Chair

- Chaired many specialty shows, arranged for education at meetings, oversaw committees to move the club forward. Currently, building membership after waning interests about 20 years ago. The club today is growing and expanding interests to maintain membership. It is moving forward towards recognition again with the AKC. We are still incorporated in NY.

Collie Club of America (incorporated in NY):

District Director (80s and current); National Symposium Chair; National Show committee member (2-invitationals and facility chair for 2020); Past Junior Committee Chair

- In the 1980s, contact between District Directors was done by postal mailed communiques, then we had to contact our CCA members by writing our own messages and mailing them, calling members and often my method was to meet people at events and just talk to them. Obviously, it was a much slower process than today's online world. As National Symposium chair, I selected a venue, arranged speakers and educational events, and I also planned meals, with the assistance of my husband who worked in Audio-Visual needs for event presentation at multiple venues in Central New York. I have worked on multiple National Specialty shows, chairing the invitational in 2009 and 2014. I was facility chair for the cancelled 2020 and am now thrilled to be in the same position for 2025 in Syracuse.

Syracuse Obedience Training Club (\$500K club - 200 +members at Presidency; currently over \$1.5 M - 300 members) (incorporated in

NY) President, Board member, Conformation Instructor, Assistant Obedience Instructor, Facility Coordinator, Junior/4H Coordinator, Awards Dinner Coordinator

- I have been involved with SOTC since the 1970s. At that time, the club would rent a place one night per week for training classes. I became very active again in 2000. I had been teaching conformation

classes and assisting with beginner obedience classes. We grew into a closed store facility that we were allowed to rent for training 5 days per week and weekend events. The facility allowed obedience 3 nights per week, and agility 2 nights per week. I maintained the event calendar, and regularly opened the building, closed the building and was the contact for building repairs and needs. When I became President, the club had been working hard for 20 years to build the treasury to over \$200,000 so that they could purchase a building. \$200,000 was not enough at that time. I worked with a committee who found facilities in all but abandoned warehouses. We were able to obtain a low rent due to our not-for-profit status. We were able to better equip this larger facility and extend our classes schedules over 5 days per week, expended are ability to host weekend educational events, and allow other dog clubs to rent the facilities for agility, obedience, rally and specialty shows. This more than doubled our treasury and increased the membership by over 100 members. It even reached a point where the club could not maintain a quorum attendance at the meetings. The constitution was adjusted to adjust attendance guidelines to get the club back on track. Non-voting associate memberships were encouraged for those people who wished to support the club without bogging down our ability to do business. The club was able to offer additional obedience trials, rally trials, and agility trials at the building so expenses were greatly reduced. This club is supported by a wide range of fanciers, and we have committees devoted to the activities of the club and the interests of dog fanciers in general. With the increase of use and income, new treasury systems were developed with good cross checks in place. The membership became more involved with dog legislation and awareness with our Legislation committee. This is the tip of the iceberg on how much growth happened and I was pleased to name and work with excellent committees, many who were new committees due to the expanse of what services were available through the club.

Central New York Shetland Sheepdog Club

Founding Member

Herding Association of Central New York

Founding Member