



American Kennel Club Political Action Committee (AKC PAC) Board of Directors

Meet the AKC PAC Board of Directors! Our board is made up of four officers and nine members total.

Gail LaBerge, Chair

Gail LaBerge is the AKC Delegate for the Atlanta Obedience Club and Chair of the AKC Delegate Standing Committee for Companion Events. Gail is a founding member and Chair of the AKC Political Action Committee. Gail has been a registered lobbyist in the state of Georgia for over 20 years, representing the Georgia Canine Coalition of which she is President. In this capacity she has worked closely with AKC on legislative issues, been a presenter at several AKC Legislative events and has shared her program on forming a State Coalition with AKC and other special interest groups throughout Georgia and other states. Gail has served on the Georgia Department of Agriculture Animal Advisory Board and is currently Chair of the Gwinnett County Animal Advisory Board.

Gail and her husband breed and exhibit Cardigan Welsh Corgis and Wirehaired Dachshunds. Besides participating in Companion Events, Gail shows and works her dogs in Conformation and Performance Events, she also Judges Dachshund Field Trials, AKC Earthdog, and Farm Dog, as well as being a CGC Evaluator. Gail is a lifetime member of the Atlanta Kennel Club, the Atlanta Obedience Club and the Lawrenceville Kennel Club. She is the current President of the Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of American and Legislative Chair for the Dachshund Club of America.



Chris Sweetwood, Vice Chair

Christopher L. Sweetwood, is the delegate for the Trap Falls Kennel Club and a member of the AKC Board of Directors. Presently he is the Co-Chair of AKC Detection Dog Task Force, Vice Chair of the AKC PAC and serves as the Police K-9 Ambassador for AKC Reunite's Adopt a K-9 Cop Matching Grant program. He has been involved with purebred dogs since the age of eight with his father, who bred German Shorthair Pointers.

After completing a military/law enforcement career he discovered the Spinone Italiano in the 1990's. As an avid hunter, AKC pointing breed hunting test judge and CGC Evaluator/Temperament Tester he participates in AKC Conformation, Obedience, Rally, Hunting Tests (Pointing and Retriever) and Field Trials. Chris received the AKC Bailey Award for his work with Newtown Police Department in 2013 and the 2016 the AKC Visionary Award.

Chris Sweetwood, Vice Chair (continued)

He was a speaker/presenter at the 2016 and 2017(Washington DC) AKC GR Conference and the New England Conference. Chris is the co-owner of Ch Drago Castellano of Trollbo MH CD RE THDD JHR TKP CGCA (TDIG, TWT,) the AKC Award for Canine Excellence winner for therapy in 2013.

Chris founded the AKC Adopt a K-9 Cop Matching Grant Program that, in conjunction with AKC Reunite helps local police departments fund the purchase of police dogs. To date they have funded Police K-9's for numerous departments in the country.

Ted Phillips, Treasurer

Theodore "Ted" Phillips is a seasoned executive with over 30 years of experience in not for profit organizations, financial services, and organizational management. He obtained MBA and Bachelor of Science degrees from St. John's University and is a New York State CPA with CGMA credentials.

Prior to joining AKC, Ted served as the Director of Finance & Administration for the United Church Funds and as the CFO for Carnegie Hall, for several years.

In addition to his executive career, Ted serves on several advisory boards and boards of directors. He is currently the Audit Committee Chair of the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility, member of the New York State CPA Society Not for Profit Committee, Unit Commissioner and Assistant Scoutmaster for the Boy Scouts of America, Theodore Roosevelt Council. Ted has also served as Trustee to the Congregational Church of Huntington, as Vestry to local Episcopal Churches and helped establish the first Curling Club on Long Island.



Ted and his wife Zoe live in Commack, NY and are new grandparents to Aidan James born on May 10, 2020. They have three children, Stephanie, Victoria and Andrew. Finally, Ted and Zoe are the proud owners of "Brooke," a wonderful rescue dog.



Sheila Goffe, Secretary

Sheila leads the AKC's efforts in working to protect the rights of dog owners and promote responsible dog ownership. She oversees AKC legislative policy strategy and outreach at the federal, state and local levels; oversees outreach to AKC's network of more than 5,000 dog clubs around the country; works with legislators, regulators and thought leaders on issues in animal policy; and supervises the AKC Government Relation team. She also serves on several boards, including the board of the AKC Political Action Committee and the American Service Dog Access Coalition.

Prior to joining the AKC in 2006, she was Senior Legislative Analyst/Editor and Deputy Director of Editorial Product Development for *Congressional Quarterly* in Washington, DC. Previous experience included federal legislative staffing and advocacy, work as an editor and analyst for *The Economist Intelligence Unit*, and serving as an adjunct professor in Political Science/Comparative Politics at the State University of New York/Stony Brook.

Sheila breeds and shows Siberian Huskies. She is a member of the Siberian Husky Club of America, and several specialty and all-breed kennel clubs.



Wendy Jordan

Wendy Jordan is a member of the board of the AKC Political Action Committee. Her experience in dog sports began with training her family dogs at the local obedience club in Maine in the early 1970s. But she quickly learned she didn't have the nerves of steel required for obedience competitions. Her family always owned purebred dogs and she returned to dog sports, this time in conformation, in the early 2000s when she bought her first Welsh Springer Spaniel.

Wendy is an officer of the Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America and writes the WSS column for the AKC Gazette. She has worked in politics in Washington DC for close to four decades and is delighted to give back to the AKC by serving on the board of the PAC.

Bill Marlow

Mr. Marlow is a founding partner of Marlow & Wyatt, a Washington, DC/Maryland law firm. He is an active sportsman and is well-connected in political and sportsmen's circles. He is a breeder/owner of Wirehaired Pointing Griffons and currently serves as President of the Maryland Sporting Dog Association.



Karolynne McAteer

I am a 50- year breeder of Irish Setters, and my parents bred them before me (since 1940). I have never been without one or more at the foot of the bed. My dogs compete in conformation, field trial and hunting, and I know for certain that every one of them has read the phrase in the standard, rollicking personality!!

I went the regular route, of junior handler, exhibitor of the family dog, breeder, and received a judging license two decades ago. Truly life, family and friends all seem to surround my involvement with the fancy and what we call our "family."

It is my honor to serve on the AKC Board of Directors, on the Board of the AKC Canine Health Foundation, on our PAC and most recently to become a member of the Board of AKC Reunite. All these entities are so special in their particular areas of expertise. Inside my breed, I sit on the Board of the Irish Setter Club of America, and on their foundation board. I have judged our National twice, and chaired the breed national on several occasions, and am very proud to be their Delegate. I am a member of the Board of the Moore County Kennel Club (NC) and for the past decade have been their Show Chair.

Daniel Smyth

I am Daniel J. Smyth and have been a Delegate for 25 years, currently holding four chairmanships, serve on the AKC Board of Directors, as well on the AKC Political Action Committee Board. I'm also an AKC Group Judge, Cluster Chair, Exhibitor, Breeder of Merit, and 43-year Basset and PBGV Breeder. In my spare time, I am a trial attorney, proud husband, and love visiting my daughter's family including our beautiful granddaughter.





Michael Knight

I am Dr. Michael Knight. I am the Delegate and Show Chairman for the Texas Kennel Club and Second Vice-President of the Poodle Club of America. I have actively shown dogs for 42 years. I have served in numerous leadership positions within the Lone Star Poodle Club, the Texas Kennel Club, and the Poodle Club of America. I serve on the AKC Board of Directors as well as the AKC Political Action Committee Board.

Professionally, I own and manage a staffing firm. We are currently celebrating our 30th year in business. The staffing industry has evolved significantly, especially the last 10 years, teaching me the value and importance of complete transparency between our clients and applicants. This taught me how to manage growth and adapt to change in the current marketplace. In my personal life outside of dog sports, I endeavor to do considerable fundraising for local children's charities that provides necessary medical treatment.