

# Australian Terrier Club of America

## *Board Slate 2021/2022*

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The 2020 ATCA Nominating Committee, Sherrill Yates, Chair; Sue Bachman and Marilyn Harban offer the following Slate for 2021/2022. Resumes are attached.

### SLATE

<b>President:</b>	Grace Massey, VA
<b>Vice President:</b>	Teresa Schreeder, CA
<b>Recording Secretary:</b>	Celeste Platte FL
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Darlene Evans, CA
<b>Directors:</b>	Teresa Cleland, CA Susan Mason, AL Kim Occhiuti, MA Alexa Samarotto, NY
<b>Director (2021 only)</b>	Jennifer Sousa, IL

Note: Jennifer was approved by the board in January 2020 to fill a vacancy. Per our Bylaw Article III, Section 6, vacancies occurring on the Board shall be filled *until the next annual election* by a majority vote of the board.

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### BOARD MEMBERS RETURNING (2020/2021)

<b>Corresponding Secretary:</b>	Kerrie Bryan, CO
<b>Directors:</b>	Rita Farmer, TN Barbel Post, MI Pat Zupan, NJ
<b>AKC Delegate:</b>	William Christensen, CA

**By-Laws – Article IV, Section 4(b):** Additional nominations of eligible members may be made by written petition addressed to and received at the Recording Secretary’s regular address on or before October 31<sup>st</sup>. Such petitions must be signed by five (5) members and accompanied by the written acceptance of each such additional nominee signifying his/her willingness to be a candidate and a brief resume of his/her qualifications for the office. Except for the position of Delegate, no person shall be a candidate for more than one position.

**Article IV, Section 4, (c):** If no valid additional nominations are received by the Recording Secretary on or before October 31st, the Nomination Committee’s slate shall be declared elected.

## **PRESIDENT:**

### **Dr. Grace Massey, VA, 2005**

I am honored to have been nominated to serve as president of the ATCA. If elected, I would continue to work with the Board of Directors and our members toward the preservation of the Australian Terrier breed and to protect the integrity of its parent club. During my 15 years as a member of ATCA, I have had many experiences that would serve me well as president of ATCA. I have bred 10 litters as Firewalker Australian Terriers, and I am an AKC preservation breeder of merit, registering 100% of my puppies and performing recommended CHIC health tests on each of my breeding stock. I have shown 8 Aussies to their Championship and campaigned one of my first Aussies to a top ten breed ranking. While I prefer to show as an owner/handler in the classes, I understand and appreciate the time, effort, and expense it takes to campaign an Aussie. I have also trained and participated with a prior breed (Australian Shepherds) in obedience, rally, agility, and herding. While I have not shown an Australian Terrier to a performance title (although I have bred several that have earned one or more), I know the many hours of time and dedication needed in obtaining one.

On and off over the years, I have served several terms on the ATCA Board of Directors. While serving as vice president (2016-2020), I led the efforts to complete updates to the by-laws to improve the decision process for new member applications, modernize our communication process to allow for club business to be conducted via email, and enable electronic voting by our membership. I also led the efforts to establish a Conflict of Interest policy to protect the integrity of the ATCA's non-profit status. This policy requires a member that is handling money or merchandise for club business, and profiting personally while doing it, to declare to the Board that they may have a potential conflict. It then spells out how the Board must proceed to determine if it is indeed a conflict, or if the work being done with a profit being made is actually in the club's best interest.

I currently serve on the Sustainability Committee, led by Vicki McKee, and I worked on a global statistic study of the population of the Aussie over a 10-year period (2008-2017). The committee is now conducting a breeder's survey (the first of four) in an effort to evaluate the breeding practices of the Australian Terrier worldwide. I also serve on the Branding Committee, led by Kerrie Bryan, working to create a uniform presence for the Australian Terrier Club of America in social media. In addition, I participated in the efforts, led by Kim Occhuiti, to update the Code of Ethics.

I have served on the Calendar Committee, as chairman since 2014 (2015 calendar). This has proven to be an excellent source of revenue for ATCA, bringing in \$2000-\$3000 each year. I have also served as the Australian Terrier Breed columnist for the AKC Gazette since 2007, writing or organizing guest columnists for 4 columns each year. A column of mine was recognized as One of Top 5 Gazette Breed Articles of 2018 out of the hundreds of quarterly AKC breed articles published that year, bringing positive press to Australian Terriers across the AKC as a whole.

Outside of dogs, I completed my Masters (2000) and PhD (2013) in Marine Science from William & Mary while working full time and raising my daughter, Rose. I am a Senior Research Scientist at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), where I have worked for 32 years, and am currently the Director of the Coastal Hydrodynamics and Sediment Dynamics program. I am also the Program Coordinator for the Research Experiences for Undergraduates intern program at VIMS. In addition, I serve as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at North Carolina State University. On weekends since 2007 (when COVID allows and I am not at a dog show), I have worked as a Motorcycle Safety Foundation Ridercoach and teach people how to ride motorcycles at Thomas Nelson Community College.

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

**Teresa (Pete) Schreeder, CA, 1998**

I am honored to accept the nomination for Vice President. I have been a member of the Australian Terrier Club of America since 1998. I have held many positions in the Australian Terrier Club and currently am an active member of the Board of Directors.

For many years, I have been honored to act as the ATCA Health Chair. During the time as Health Chair, we have implemented CHIC for breeding stock, run 2 Health Surveys including the current survey at ([www.ofa.org](http://www.ofa.org)). I have invited health speakers during National Specialty weekends including Dr. Graves who spoke on Diabetes, and Dr. Bell whose presentation is featured on the Trust Page. I am also a Trustee of the AusTTrust and serve as Health Chair supporting health testing at nationals, as well as obtaining speakers for Education Day. I have the help of Susan Saulvester who supplies the health articles for the Talkabout. I also list the longevity and health incident reports in the Talkabout as well as the health survey results, so all members can be aware of the general health of the Australian Terrier.

I look forward to continue working for the ATCA as Vice President.

**RECORDING SECRETARY:  
Celeste A Platte, FL, 2011**

Thank you for the opportunity to present my qualifications to serve on the Board of Directors as Recording Secretary. I have been a member of the Australian Terrier Club of America since 2011 when I got my first Australian Terrier from Blue Moon Kennels. However, I have been a member of the Obedience Training Club of Palm Beach County for almost 30 years. During that time, I have served on the Board of Directors as Recording Secretary many times. At present, I am entering my fourth year as their Recording Secretary.

Prior to acquiring my first Aussie, I showed Brittanys for over 20 years in Obedience and Rally events. Although these venues are my love and passion, three of my four Brittanys completed their bench championships. One of my Brittanys holds the AKC Title of Record for the first Brittany to earn a RAE (Rally Advance Excellent).

Although I loved my Brittanys, I wanted a smaller dog I could travel more with. When I saw my first Australian Terrier, it was love at first sight. Phoenix is my only Aussie currently, but I am anxiously awaiting a puppy from Australia in the fall. Phoenix finished his Championship before 10 months of age and then went on to earn his RAE in Rally. We are currently working on his Obedience Utility Title. Training him has made me a better trainer. These little dogs keep you on your toes and challenge you to come up with innovative ways to keep them interested in the task at hand.

As to my qualifications to be Recording Secretary for ATCA, my last 10 years of working were spent as the Office Manager for the Traffic Division of the Palm Beach County Engineering Department. I had five support staff that reported directly to me as well as 55 people in the Traffic Division that I made sure had all the necessary tools to efficiently do their jobs. I feel my 25 years with Palm Beach County and another 10 in the private sector as a legal secretary gives me the qualifications to serve the Australian Terrier Club of America.

**TREASURER:****Darlene Evans, CA, 1989**

I strongly believe that the ATCA club is for the members and as such the Officers and Board are responsible and accountable to the ATCA members. I would be pleased to serve as your Treasurer. I have been an active ATCA member since 1989. I have finished 11 champions and have bred 6 litters. Chelsey was my first Aussie, first champion, and first CD. Harry not only won the Henderson Award but also a Versatility Award. I have supported all health studies. My only dog that is intact is CHIC certified. I have been the President of the Northern California Terrier Association since 2001. I have been a member, recording secretary and treasurer of Coyote Hills Kennel Club for over 5 years.

Sue Bachman and I are once again Co-Chairs for the 2021 National Specialty.

2020 – ATCA Treasurer – stepped in and completed the term of resigning Treasurer Kevin Cahill. Established an automatic scanning and posting of checks that one no longer has to go to the bank and deposits can be made in a timely manner.

2017-2018 – ATCA Treasurer – During this time established debit cards for those officers or committee heads that have on-going charges.

2015-2016 – Vice President – Stepped down to replace Eileen Cummings as Acting Treasurer

2013-2014 – Recording Secretary

Over the course of my membership I have several accomplishments of which I am proud and would like to list a few.

1. I converted the calendar from monotone to color. Also started the memorial page and the cover photo contest. I continue to support Grace Massey (who is doing an outstanding job) in the preparation of the calendar date pages.
2. I was the Talkabout Editor for approximately 6 years and converted it from monotone to color as well as made internet distribution possible. Julie Seaton excelled at turning it into a magazine.
3. Set up archives and made them available to all ATCA members. But have discovered over the years we need to expand and with the aid of Julie Seaton we are preparing a website whereby any ATCA member will have easy access to data through searches. All pedigrees listed in the AKC Studbook have been inputted into a program for access.
4. Have been an original coordinator and President of Rescue for over 16 plus years. Currently resigned in 2020 as I felt that it was time for more innovative ideas to allow Rescue to move forward.
5. Involved in helping to create and a member of the Achievement Recognition Committee which is charged with recognizing all the unique and outstanding achievements of the Aussie.
6. Was very instrumental in establishing the Title Bar Awards which recognizes achievements of an ATCA member.
7. I am part of the Futurity Committee and enjoy putting the catalog together.

**DIRECTOR:**  
**Teresa Cleland, CA, 2008**

My name is Teresa Cleland and I have loved animals my entire life. For a child that was only allowed to have a pet rat or hamster, I always preferred dogs and horses and have had them most of my adult life.

My first dog was a rescue Lab mix. From there, I got my first Borzoi in 1978. She was my first pure bred dog and first dog that I showed. Purchased as a pet, I became involved in obedience competition and finished a CDX on her, as well as a couple of coursing titles. I had Borzoi for many years afterward, including another CDX dog. I finished Championships on each of the subsequent Borzoi, as well as two home-bred Champions.

I always worked with pets – worked for three different veterinarians over a total of 11 years, and then moved into sales for a pet distribution company. It was during a cold call to Postmore Kennels that I met Susan Bachman and Robbie Ryse who I found bred Australian Terriers. This was my first introduction to the breed and although I had always considered myself a ‘large breed’ person, I found their looks and temperament to be captivating! Sue and Robbie happened to have a litter at the time, and my roommate had been looking for a small dog. I suggested she take a look, so we both went to the house and picked out ‘Lucy’, who was a wonderful companion for Carolyn, and of course I helped raise her into a frisbee loving adult.

In 1991, Nedra Adams was up at Postmore to test a litter of pups she had. I was invited over to visit and there happened to be a male available. I was not really in the market, but Nedra and Robbie shared his virtues and wanted him to be shown. I was not in the market, but I did end up with that puppy. He was a one in a million ‘heart’ dog and I miss him to this day. He turned out to be Ch. Jana’s Low Commotion C.D. He did everything with heart and soul. One of the most intuitive and incredible dogs I will ever have had the pleasure of sharing space with. I’ve since had three more Aussies and currently have two retired champions (one home-bred). My boy completed his C.D and Rally Excellent titles.

Somewhere around 2002, I acquired an Australian Shepherd, who I also put a C.D. on. I’ve currently got a blue merle male whom I’ve been competing in agility with and also plan to do Rally and obedience.

I have been a member of the Borzoi Club of America, the Borzoi Club of Northern CA, the Australian Terrier Club of America, the Northern California Terrier Association, the Australian Shepherd Club of America, and the California Horseman’s Association.

I have always loved ‘playing’ with my dogs in various performance venues. As long as I can remain sound and healthy, I’ll continue to run that agility field or get into the ring with them.

Thank you for your consideration to be a member of the Board.

**DIRECTOR:**  
**Susan Mason, AL, 2015**

Thank you to the nominating committee for their humbling vote of confidence by endorsing me for an ATCA Board position. I have been so blessed by Australian Terriers and the dedicated members of the ATCA that I want to serve the organization and help further the quality of the breed and to help educate the public about our incredible breed.

During the last 24 years, other than a brief period after the death of Bailey, my first Aussie, my house and heart have been filled with this amazingly smart, wise and curious “Big” dog in a little package. I cannot imagine a day without at least one Aussie in my life.

I have always had the love of a dog of one kind or another. Each of my Aussies has had lessons to teach both me and my family. Zebedee taught me how to lose and how to do it over and over again. Sophia taught me that not all Aussies are a handful. Shooter saved my life when my husband passed away and fulfilled so many of my doggie dreams: going to Orlando and Westminster and most of all, he healed my broken heart. Then there was Sarge; that is a whole separate book of lessons. He was beautiful and strong both in will and determination. I learned more from him than I probably will ever realize. That brings me to Tina and my amazing Fire, who are the foundation of my breeding program. I am excited about the many changes I see in myself through dogs and the vast amount I am learning as I develop my own Dragonfly Kennel characteristics. I health test my dogs and have bred 3 litters and Co-Bred 1 litter. I am working to achieve my Breeder of Merit in the next 2 years.

It is important that as ATCA members, we always strive to advance the breed through the mentoring of new members and breeders and to be transparent regarding any health or temperament issues we encounter with our Aussies. We are the guardians of this breed and should do whatever we can to assure that it is preserved for generations to come.

As the “Talkabout” editor, I have had the privilege to attend the board meetings in a non-voting capacity only and have knowledge of the important work that the board is striving to accomplish and will represent the membership in an inclusive and positive manner.

My work and volunteer history is varied from being a piano teacher, needlework instructor and salesperson, secretary, newsletter editor and typesetter, fundraiser, event planner and caterer. It is important to give back to the organizations that you are passionate about. Some of my volunteer activities have been: District Officer of the United Methodist Women and Newsletter Editor, Lay Speaker of the United Methodist Church, President of the Symphony Volunteer Council, Board Member of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, Decorators’ ShowHouse Co-Chairman (3 times and helped raise over \$400,000), Board Member of the American Cancer Society-Mid South Division, Board Member of the Birmingham Aids Outreach (BAO), Honorary Chairman of “Arty Party” (fundraiser for BAO) and have served in many hospitality and membership roles in every organization in which I have participated.

My membership in the ATCA began in 2015 and soon after I became part of the committee that was responsible for the Chattanooga National Specialty. It was an experience that I was lucky to have had so early in my membership. I learned so much about the breed and met so many knowledgeable people that I now rely on to help me with breeding and puppy selection. These people have become an amazing support group for me. As in any organization, members only receive benefits if they are willing to give of themselves. Over my 5+ years as a member, I have attended 4 Nationals and was a committee member on 2 of them. My plans are to attend the Sacramento National this spring.

Again, thank you for the nomination and opportunity to serve an organization that is very important to our breed.

**DIRECTOR:**  
**Kim Occhiuti, MA, 1993**

Hi, my name is Kim Occhiuti (pronounced OQT, yep, just say the letters), and I am asking that you reelect me to your board of directors. First of all, I'd like to speak to the passion which I have for this breed. I take all aspects of owning, showing and breeding Australian Terriers very seriously. I sincerely try my best to always put the breed before my needs. My way of doing this may not always be in the public eye and when it is public it may at times appear adversarial, but I do feel that I have strong, ethical values about protecting the breed and our parent club. I feel that the strength of our club comes with members that have taken this attitude year in and year out and I am proud to work and have friends with many like-minded individuals.

My first Aussie was more or less from a high volume breeder; Tugger entered my life in 1989. I have no idea why we thought a second Aussie was a good idea as Tugger was a most destructive dog and cost us hundreds to repair damages to our carpet (chewing & bleach incident), car headliner, aquarium, etc. Our second Aussie, ZuZu, was purchased for show in 1992 and she became the foundation bitch for Aka Inu. She was a perfect example of the adage, "Don't judge a book by its cover". I bred my first litter in 1994 and that produced a National Specialty winner, so I had some good advice/luck early on. I've continued with the breed ever since, starting out somewhat maniacal in the early years and moving into a more hands off attitude with the showing and now breeding more in partnership with others instead of for myself. In general, I am not the greatest about advertising my success, but I can honestly say that I am proud of the accomplishments of my own breeding program, but more proud of any good effect my dogs have had on others. I do consider myself blessed with the lifetime relationships that I maintain as a result in working together to create the "perfect" Aussie and most of all great pets.

I've served this club as an officer, director or delegate on and off for almost 25 years. I most recently came back on board in 2018 after a number of years off. I also have served and chaired on many committees, most importantly health and code of ethics. It is a great opportunity to shape the welfare of our breed and our club and I really appreciate getting to know our members who are able to contribute through their service. When we are all trying to accomplish what is best, we can put the competition aside and do good things well.

I thank you for your time and consideration and hope you will grant me the opportunity of serving you and the club for another two years.

**DIRECTOR:**  
**Alexa Samarotto, NY, 1968**

First, I would like to thank the Nominating Committee for nominating me to continue serving in the position of Board of Directors of the ATCA. These have been exceptional times with heartache and hardships for so many. Despite all that is going on, we are fortunate to have our wonderful dogs to carry us through with their never-ending cheer and optimism. For this reason, the preservation of our breed is such a worthy goal that we all need to keep. I will endeavor to reach our goals and keep the welfare of Australian Terrier and our Club foremost.

I continue to be heartened by the passion, commitment and camaraderie I see around me in our breed which makes me hopeful. My goals for the breed were and remain the preservation of the true and correct type and function. I am happy to have chaired the Standard Revision Committee, a project still ongoing to rephrase the Sections needing to be more inclusive in these times.

To re-cap my experience: my undying passion for Australian Terriers, the sport of purebred dogs, dogs in general started early. I acquired my first Australian Terrier in 1963, set foot in the conformation show ring for the first time in 1965. My membership in ATCA dates from 1968, and I have served the ATCA in various capacities: Board member, Specialty Show Chair, Trophy Chair, Match Chair, worked on the Standard revision, Breed video, Standard Clarification, Judges Education presenter, judged Sweepstakes both nationally and regionally, to name some highlights that spring to my mind. I am also a charter member of the Raritan Valley Australian Terrier Club, served as Board member, Treasurer and am currently the Vice President. I am the Secretary for Bronx County Kennel Club, as well as the AKC Delegate and have many years of membership there as well. I am also a long-time member and current Board Member of Staten Island Kennel Club. My other dog club memberships include the Irish Terrier Club of America, where I have also served on the Board.

I have bred, owned and handled Champions in both breeds and have enjoyed judging national and local Sweepstakes and matches over the years. I have attended almost every National Specialty for quite a number of years and hope to do so for many more years. I so look forward to seeing everyone again as soon as we can safely do so. The sport of purebred dogs, Australian Terriers, and the friends made there from have been a major and very rewarding part of my life for many years.

**DIRECTOR: 2021**  
**Jennifer Sousa, IL, 2018**

First, it is an honor to be nominated again to serve the ATCA board. I look forward to serving the ATCA and hope to contribute in a way that best meets the needs of our club.

Our first Australian Terrier, Koda, was the king of our household and lived to be 14 years of age. His engaging personality and unprecedented gift of his heart bonded us to this breed. A few years ago, when we were researching breeders to add to our Aussie family, we discovered that our beloved breed was in serious danger. Koda had enriched our lives in such a way that we felt compelled to get involved and make a positive impact on Australian Terrier preservation so others may experience ATs in the future.

I acquired my first show quality Australian Terrier in 2017 and actively started showing dogs. It's been a whirlwind adventure since and has led to a partnership with Temora Australian Terriers. Along the way, I became a breeder. I was a Director on the ATCA board in 2020, Director on the Australian Terrier Rescue board since 2019, an active member of the Little Fort Kennel Club of Waukegan and was a member of the ATCA National Specialty Committee for the 2020 show in Grayslake, IL.

Becoming an Australian Terrier breeder, getting involved in the dog show and performance arenas and joining the ATCA have enriched and changed my life in ways I never thought imaginable. I have met so many wonderful people who have shared a wealth of knowledge. I am truly looking forward to continuing my work with the board members to promote our breed and positively impact member engagement.