

Next Deadline:

**OFFICERS**  
**President**

**Richella Veatch**  
hollicovecollies@aol.com

**1st Vice President**

Tracy Jones  
oakridgekcVP1@gmail.com

**2nd Vice President**

Cheryl Bingham  
wildrosegoldens@gmail.com

**Secretary**

Nancy Andrews  
Weethree05@aol.com

**Treasurer**

Susan Varrasso  
svarrasso@charter.net

**Training Director**

**Board of Directors**

**Taylor Ault Seay**

Taylorbault1@gmail.com

**Barbara Byrum**

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**Carol Jeffery**

creeksidef@aol.com

**Gail Schroth**

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**Becky Malivuk**

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**Training Committee**

Bonnie Hornfisher

Becky Malivuk

Sharon Zickler

**Woofers**

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# The WOOFER

**Special Edition**  
Oak Ridge Kennel Club, Inc.

*Est. 1944*

[www.orkc.org](http://www.orkc.org)

**Join Us on Thursday June 1st  
Club Pot Luck Dinner  
Annual Meeting and Election of Officers and Board  
Members**

**ORKC Membership in person only, *no Zoom*, meeting  
at the Club,**

**June 1st at 6pm.**

**You MUST be PRESENT to VOTE!**



**All Members are encouraged to attend!**

The voting will take place at the June 1st meeting which is also our annual meeting. Please plan to join us for a pot luck dinner before the meeting. This is an in-person meeting only, due to it being the annual meeting and to conduct the election.

The election will be by secret ballot vote and the results counted by the Nomination Committee. Officers will take their offices at the meeting after the ballots are counted.

**We still need volunteers for:  
1st Vice President and a Secretary.**

If you would like to email a nomination please email it to  
[gailschroth72@gmail.com](mailto:gailschroth72@gmail.com)

Gail Schroth. Nominating Committee



**!!Share Your Time & Talents!! !! Volunteer Now !!  
Prepare to VOTE!**

**Get to know these members who have volunteered for  
position as Officers and Board Members.**

Current Volunteers

**Officers:**

President: Richella Veatch

1st vp **Volunteer Needed**

2nd vp: Cindi Chilbert

Treasurer: Susan Varrasso

Secretary: **Volunteer Needed**

**Board Members:**

Jeanne Ferguson

Barbara Byrum

Ashley Miller

Amy Hawes

Training Director: Bonnie  
Hornfisher



**OFFICERS**

**President: Richella Veatch**

In the first few months of 2022 I offered to help ORKC by filling the office of President. A club needs to have leadership to survive. I'm not saying I'm a leader, but I have belonged to several kennel clubs and do know some of the workings of them.

First of all, I've been a dog lover, breeder and shower since 1962. I've had several breeds and mixed breeds in my time but settled on collies in 1965. I've been active in most dog sports, trained many dogs and handlers, and enjoyed showing in conformation, obedience, rally, and CGC. I've finished 69 champions, 6 obedience titles, and many rally titles through RAE3.

I've chaired many obedience trials, rally trials and shows, including ORKC shows, TVKC trials, and collie specialties, including our national shows and trials.

I currently hold the office of President of ORKC, President of the East Tennessee Collie Club, and serve as AKC Delegate for TVKC.

I'll do my best for your kennel club in this coming year if elected. I'm open to new ideas and wishes of the membership as a whole. You'll find I'm a working president and try to be involved in the whole club.

**1st Vice President: Needed**  
Please Consider Volunteering

## **Cindi Chilbert 2nd Vice President**

I grew up training dogs as my father was a retriever trainer and I followed him everywhere. I have stewarded obedience and conformation since I was 8 at Manitowoc County Kennel Club (WI) events. I trained my first GSP through Utility in about 1980. I have trained and titled GSPs in Obedience, Scent work (AKC & C-Wags), CGC, ATT, JR, SR & Master Hunting Tests. I am a AKC Hunt Test Judge and a CGC Evaluator. I show GSPs and Fauves in conformation finishing many. I started instructing in Obedience in 1984 at Liberty Dog Training in Milwaukee, then the Western Waukesha County Dog Training Club in Waukesha, WI and for a time I taught privately. After moving to Tennessee I instructed at the Nashville Dog Training Club and the Murfreesboro Obedience Training Club where I was the Director of Training in 2021. I have been a member here at ORKC since early 2022. I have assisted in training here and I am currently teaching Beginner/CGC on Tuesdays. I have been a member of the: GSPC of Wisconsin, Secretary and Vice-President (the 80's & 90's), the GSPC of Ohio, Secretary and Newsletter editor there for many years. I have been the Secretary of the Oak Ridge Pointing Dog Club in PA and was a founding member of the Central Ohio Pointing Breeds Club. I currently belong to the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Middle Tennessee. I love dogs and I love teaching, training and watching dogs do their work and this love keeps me active wherever I have lived. I feel my experience can be a benefit to the ORKC and would look forward to serving.



## **Susan Varrasso Treasurer**



Treasurer. I joined the ORKC board in the spring of 2022 as Treasurer. I was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio, and lived there until moving to Maryville, TN, in 2000. I graduated from the Ohio State University with a degree in Business, major in Accounting. I spent my career working in various positions in corporate accounting management until retiring at the end of 2019. I have had Chesapeake Bay Retrievers for over 35 years. Currently I am working with my 2 year old, Gemma, in training and showing. We enjoy and have been successful at obedience, rally, tracking, barn hunt and scent work. I have been working diligently for this past year cleaning up the finances of the club and working to get our non profit status reinstated with the State and Federal government. I look forward to continuing my role as club treasurer.

**Secretary: Needed**  
Please Consider  
Volunteering

# Board Members

## Barbara Byrum

John and I have raised and shown French Bulldogs in Conformation since 2000. We showed Bull Terriers before that. In 2016-17 We had the #1 Owner Handled French Bulldog in America winning from the Royal Canin show in Orlando, Florida. We have many Champions, Grand Champion and Bronze Champions, CGC, CGCA and CGCU, Farm Dog and Trick Dog French Bulldogs. When I belonged to TVKC, I was the Publicity Chairman. I served as Vice President of the Southeast French Bulldog Club and helped plan Supported Entries for Dog Shows. Training is very important to us. I will commit to attend meetings and/or zoom calls plus respond to email votes in a timely manner. It will be a honor to serve on the Board for 2023-2024 if elected.



## Ashley Miller

I am a Bulldog owner, breeder and handler, and I am very passionate about the preservation of my beloved breed. We purchased our first Bulldog in 2004 as a pet, after having Boxers for many years, and he is the reason we fell in love with the breed. I am part of the Bulldog Club of America Breeder Referral program for Tennessee. I feel it is important to assist people in finding Bulldog breeders that health test and share a similar passion for breed preservation. Fast forward to today, I primarily compete in conformation, but have branched out with a very special bitch into rally, FastCAT, obedience and scent work. I currently have two girls that are in the H.A.B.I.T. program visiting several facilities in Blount County, which I absolutely love! I am a member of Smoky Mountains Bulldog Club, Music City Bulldog Club, TVKC and the Bulldog Club of America. I currently serve as the Treasurer for the Bulldog Club of America, Division VIII and held the position as the 2022 Bulldog Club of America National Specialty Co-Chair. I will do my best to serve the membership of ORKC and I look forward to getting to know the members.



# Board Members

## **Jeanelove Ferguson**

I have owned Labrador Retrievers for the last 25 years and Border Collies for 15 years. I am a native Knoxvilleian but have lived throughout the Southeast ( Florida, Georgia, Texas, South Carolina) for most of my adult life ( post college). I returned to Knoxville in 2019 after living in Charleston, SC for 20 years.

While in Charleston, I owned a premium pet food store for many years. I was an active Member of the Charleston Dog Training Club ( AKC Affiliate) & trained and participated in Rally, Obedience, & Flyball.

My recent Labrador Dixie Ann was a Therapy Dog with Alliance of Therapy Dogs & STAR ( Southeastern Therapy Animal Resources) . We helped with workshops, CGC testing , & community events.

We also trained and participated in Scent Work with National Canine Scent Work training and trials.

Dixie achieved her CGCA & was only a few hours away from receiving her Therapy Dog Title before she unexpectedly passed from a brain tumor in November 2021.

I was the Secretary for the Board of Directors for Lowcountry Lab Rescue as well as the Director of Foster Care for 8 years.

I also served as an advisor and key volunteer for Phoenix Rising Border Collie Rescue of South Carolina for 5 years.

I have taught basic /companion obedience in a variety of settings & recently received my CGC evaluator certification.

My current Labrador Retriever, Jusright Tenasi Carolina Dream TKN, is an 18 month old intact Black male and we are slowly working on our CGC ( teenage boy brain). I am due to receive a show quality Labrador Retriever ( Chocolate female) in Jan/February 2024 from a breeder who recently had a co-owned dog participate/attend Westminster Kennel Club ( SecretWinn Labrador Retrievers of Lexington, SC).

I also currently have a working line Border Collie ( ABCA) who has participated in Agility, herding, & goose dog training.

I was a volunteer and scribe for the USBCHA's National Sheep Dog Finals in 2021 at Historic Belle Grove Plantation located in Middletown, Virginia.

I am the Special Projects & Event Manager for the Knoxville Botanical Gardens & Arboretum.

I believe my experiences and knowledge will help build ORKC to be a better club.



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# Board Members

## Amy Hawes

I am a relatively new member of the ORKC, and this is my first kennel club membership. I have two Australian cattle dogs, one who competes in agility and a puppy who is training for agility.

In addition to agility, my canine training focus is in behavioral/reactivity issues and general obedience. I volunteer at the Young-Williams Shelter in Knoxville. I have just started a 501c3 non-profit for training and play trips for shelter dogs. I hope to bring a new and different perspective to the ORKC leadership and board.



## ORKC June Meeting and Cookout

We are planning hamburgers and hot dogs and are asking you to bring the appetizers, sides and desserts! Please take a moment and RSVP via the SignUp Genius link. Once you RSVP, you will be able to sign up to bring food, etc. The meeting will follow the cookout, so please bring your own chair! We kindly ask that you RSVP by May 29th. If you have specific questions, please contact the Hospitality Coordinator, Jamie Nye at [gracemountaincollies@gmail.com](mailto:gracemountaincollies@gmail.com).

RSVP and signup link - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4CAAAB2FA1FAC34-orkc1>

We look forward to see you all at the meeting/cookout!



# Training Director

## Bonnie Hornfisher

My dog journey started when I was 13 years old, I took the family dog to a community obedience class. That led to joining 4-H and earning my first AKC obedience title at age 15. I have titled dogs in obedience, rally, and agility, been active in several therapy dog groups and spent years instructing dog obedience.

In 2010 I became an AKC obedience judge and 2013 a rally judge

Initially we purchased golden retrievers from a well-respected AKC breeder. Since 1998, we have adopted and trained dogs that had been abandoned at shelters, rescue groups, or left on the street. Our current companions are a 'Toller' rescue and a Lab mix.

Over the years we have lived in four states (Michigan, Colorado, Iowa, and Tennessee). At each stop, we joined dog clubs and met wonderful people. Before our permanent move to Tennessee, I spent 12 years as an officer with Wolverine Dog Training Club in Farmington Hills, MI, serving as treasurer or training director during that time. I am a current instructor and member of the ORKC Training Committee.

Besides my dogs, I share my life with my husband, Russ, also an obedience and rally judge. I am a retired pharmacist, my career spanned pharmaceutical sales, hospital, and retail pharmacy.

### DOG TRAINING HAND SIGNALS:

### ICONS SET



**Must Be Present to VOTE!**

When: June 1st, 5:30pm

Where: ORKC

Come to **VOTE**

Enjoy some **FOOD**

Make some **FRIENDS**

Plan some dog **ACTIVITIES**

Share, Learn, Practice,  
Compete



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