

# RESUMES OF CANDIDATES FOR 2009 ELECTION

## CANDIDATE – PRESIDENT

JOHN COTTER

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A few years ago, while doing some introspection, I concluded that one of my passions is Golden Retriever dogs – living with them, training together as a team, being received by them, etc., – you know what I mean. Although my wife and I always lived with dogs, we didn't get our first Golden, Annie, until rather late. Annie truly made an impact on us, our friends and many of the handicapped patients my wife treated. Her only title was "Honey Bunny," but she changed our lives. Through the years, we have shared our lives with nine wonderful Golden Retrievers, all different, but all wonderful.

About 20 years ago, we joined the GRCA and a few years later I was asked to help obtain items for a silent art auction to help rescued Golden Retrievers. I did help and that led to serving the GRCA in several different assignments as noted below:

### Eastern Director, GRCA; 2007 – 2009

Throughout my first term, I have tried to bring a fact-based, business approach to the issues presented to the Board. I am liaison to the Golden Retriever Foundation and the National Rescue Committee. A few significant accomplishments are the good working relationships with my liaisons, the successful resolution of a member club dispute and an improved format for the GRCA annual meeting.

### President and Director, Golden Retriever Foundation; 1997 – 2005

Along with fellow directors Steve Bolton, Judy Rasmuson and later Barbara Zelechowski and Mike Lappin and Director of Development Joy Viola, created the GRF from concept to a major sponsor of veterinary health studies, supporter of Golden Retriever rescue organizations and educator of responsible dog ownership.

### Member, Rescue Study Task Force; 1999

Served on five-member task force to review and improve Golden Retriever rescue organizations interactions and efficiencies. A key recommendation led to the establishment of the current National Rescue Committee.

### Assistant Chairman, 1996 GRCA National Specialty, Lums Pond, DE

Served with Melissa Goodman, Chairman, to organize and conduct a successful National Specialty. This event hosted the first agility trial and rescue parade at a National trial and held all field events within a few miles of the show site.

### Chairman, Silent Art Auction for Rescue; 1994 – 1995

Solicited artwork for auction at two National Specialties (OK and CA) to benefit the Committee to Assist Rescue, the precursor to the GRF.

During these assignments I had the opportunity to work with many talented and dedicated people on several diverse tasks. I believe these assignments were successfully completed and made the Golden Retriever world better. As a result, I gained a great deal of job satisfaction and would be willing to serve the GRCA as President.

I am committed to maintaining and/or improving characteristics of the Golden Retriever, namely beauty and structure; performance, drive and stamina; temperament and solving health issues. A dream of mine is to eliminate puppy mills.

I enjoy and successfully compete in performance activities: obedience,

agility and field and have titled dogs in each of these areas. I am currently working with a six year old, with agility, hunt and WC titles, toward an OTCH (we have a UDX2). Our eleven-year-old rescued Golden recently went over the Rainbow Bridge and my wife has trained a Norwich Terrier to Novice titles in obedience and rally. I am currently a member of Potomac Valley GRC, Chesapeake GRC, Tail Blazers Agility Club and Del Bay Retriever Club.

I am a Midwesterner by birth (Chicago) and education (U of Iowa, mechanical engineering), but have lived most of my adult life in Delaware except for a four-year period in West Virginia.

I took early retirement from E.I. DuPont after a 35-year career. The first third of my career was in engineering and technical assignments while the last two thirds were spent in Human Resources consulting and management assignments. For the last few years I have been providing safety management consulting with a nationwide tree cutting company and the Washington DC transportation system.

I would consider it an honor and privilege to again serve the Golden Retriever Club of America.

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## CANDIDATE – TREASURER

ANN STRATHERN

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My husband, Jeff, and I acquired our first Golden Retriever in 1971. Over the past 38 years, we have owned 13 dogs, training and competing them in licensed field trials, obedience trials and hunting retriever tests. They have also been exhibited in Puppy, Novice and Field Trial conformation classes at local, regional and National Specialties. Five of these were (\*\*\*) Qualified All-Age and two earned JAMs at Licensed Field Trials (\*\*). One was the second Golden in the Nation to attain the title of Master Hunter in October 1986. Nine dogs are titled with eight WCX, ten WC, one UD, six CDX, four MH, three SH and eight JH. I currently have four Golden Retrievers in training and running field trials and hunt tests.

I have bred and raised 14 litters with puppy aptitude testing a standard part of placing puppies. OFA hips & elbows, CERF (and now prcd-PRA testing), SAS, and thyroid clearances are very important in planning my litters. The puppies are screened by a cardiologist at eight weeks prior to going to their new homes. My goal is to produce sound, good-looking dogs that maintain their enthusiasm and ability to play in the field, show/obedience ring or with their families, well past the age of 10 or 12 years. Genetics plays a very important role in maintaining a breed that has become almost exponentially popular. Not only are sound Golden Retrievers the ideal, but also those that possess the kind of easygoing, willing temperament that have made them such excellent obedience dogs and family companions.

During the years, I have been involved with dog clubs across the United States, from the Willamette Valley RC and Eugene Kennel Club in Eugene, OR, to the present day Potomac Valley GRC, Maryland RC and the Catoctin KC in Frederick, MD. I have served as President, Vice President, Secretary and board member in all of these clubs as well as chairing committees ranging from Education, eye & VWD screening, tracking and agility trials to Match, Specialty and Regional/National Specialty Shows.

Educating new "dog" people in whatever area they are interested in has always been a joy to me. This ranges from neophytes who have never owned a dog before to old-timers who decide they want to try working their dogs in the field or in obedience. I love to problem solve and try to attend as many seminars as possible from basic obedience training to fine tuning the field trial dog, homeopathic techniques to wild animal trainers. I have attended Senior Conformation Judge's seminars and the work sessions on Sporting, Herding and Non-Sporting

breeds. My curiosity about dogs in general, and the Golden in particular, has never been appeased. I love to sit ringside and listen to the comments on the dogs, as well as the judging to further my knowledge.

As a hunt test and field trial "eight point" judge, I have been honored to have been asked to evaluate dogs across the United States, including judging a Master National in Reno, NV, in 1994. I have also judged obedience match shows and have taught Open and Utility levels for our local all breed club.

Elected to the Master National RC board of directors in 1991, we formulated the bylaws and set up the foundation for the fledgling organization. As a member of the AKC Hunting Test Advisory Committee in 1991, we reviewed the AKC Hunting Test Regulations and recommended changes. In 1993, I assisted in the production of the AKC Video: Field Testing Your Retriever.

The AKC hunt test magazine requested I write an article on obedience as an integral part of hunt test participant training, and I have contributed articles to the *GRNews* on field training at the WC/WCX level as well as being field co-editor for two years. For my local PVGRC, I have contributed articles on breeding ethics and field work.

As a GRCA Board member and President from 1984-1990, I enjoyed working to make the GRCA the most progressive breed club in the AKC, concentrating on member club communication, the burgeoning problem of overpopulation and rescue, educating potential new Golden owners, lowering obedience jump heights and addressing concerns of the membership.

Most currently I am the GRCA Eastern Vice President, I have been the GRCA Yearbook Editor from 1990 to 2000, and was the Trophy Curator from 1984 to 2005.

I have been employed as a veterinary assistant for 28 years; however, my original training and Bachelors degree was in molecular biology. My husband is the Deputy Director of the NCI, Frederick, and has a research lab at the National Institute of Health, Frederick Cancer Research Facility, Advanced Biological Laboratory. My two children are grown and still share my love of, and for, the Golden Retriever.

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**CANDIDATE – VICE PRESIDENT CENTRAL REGION**

DANA OAKS

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**EDUCATION**

Illinois Central College, East Peoria, IL  
Associates of Applied Science – Architectural Construction  
Certificate – Architectural CAD Drafting  
Associates of Applied Science – Law Enforcement  
Associates of Applied Science – General Education

**EMPLOYMENT**

Executive Director, Greater Peoria Contractors and Suppliers  
Assoc.; 2007 – present  
Branch Manager of Allied Construction; 2000 – 2007  
Chief Estimator/Project Manager, Allied Construction; 1994 – 2000  
Chief Estimator, Prairie Construction; 1984 – 1994  
Union Heavy Equipment Operator; 1974 – 1984  
I currently serve on several Industry Boards.  
Since 1996, I have chaired and served on the Contract Negotiating  
Committees for several Building Trades.

**CLUB EXPERIENCE**

Board Member GRCA.; 2007 – present  
Member of GRCA; 1987 – present

President of Town and Country KC (Bloomington, IL); 2005 – 2007  
Member of Town and Country KC; 2003 – present  
President of Peoria OTC (Peoria, IL); 2000 – 2002  
Board Member, Peoria OTC (Peoria, IL); 1999  
Member Peoria OTC; 1997- 2003  
Vice President, Illinois River HRC; 2005 – present  
Chairman, Illinois River HRC Hunt Test; 2006  
Hunt Test Committee Member; 2004 – present  
Obedience Trials Ring Steward ; 1999 – present  
Obedience/Rally Class Instructor ; 1999 – present

My dogs participate in breed, obedience, rally & hunt tests.

**PERSONAL**

I have been married to my lovely wife, Diana for 25 years. We currently share our home with four Golden Retrievers.

We have titled several of them in both UKC and AKC venues, including hunt tests, rally and obedience. Our one boy is one leg shy of his CDX, which will also give him his VCX. Hopefully by the time this is published, that will have occurred. I am, however, most proud of the fact that he is my personal companion "hunting dog." During the quest for his AKC breed Championship, it was not uncommon for him to hunt and retrieve pheasant, ducks and geese in the same week he was shown in the breed ring. Diana and I have become experts in removing burrs from a Golden's coat. We now have added a new Golden pup to our household and I am looking forward to our first hunting trip.

My other hobbies include photography and reading, and of course, hunting.

**REASON FOR APPLICATION**

I have enjoyed my time on the board and am delighted with the opportunity to run for the position of VP of the Central region.

This past year I have assumed the role of Field Education Committee Chairman and am also acting as the board's liaison for the Golden National Specialty Task Force. Both positions have given me the additional opportunity to work with very talented and dedicated GRCA members. My goal serving on the board has been and will continue to be keeping the retriever in the Golden, and helping the GRCA to stay the top breed club in the world well into the future.

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**CANDIDATE – DIRECTOR EASTERN REGION**

KAREN S. BRADY

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I am most interested and believe I am well qualified for the position of GRCA Eastern Regional Director. Before addressing the requirements and experience for this position, I would like to give a brief overview of my background.

**EDUCATION:**

Brown University '76 B.A.

As a freshman, started and organized Women's Soccer at Brown and founded the first intercollegiate Women's Soccer Program in the United States.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

- Proctor & Gamble Distributing Co., Sales Management Top Sales Representative;  
Initial participant in the pioneering of the Professional Career Woman in the business work place
- AMF Head Sportswear Co., Sales Representative
- Firemen's Fund Insurance Co., Paralegal; participated in initial

## Resumes of Candidates, *Brady continued*

- research/findings on asbestos litigation
- California Laboratories, Sales Representative
- Century 21 Real Estate Agency, Realtor, California

### GOLDEN EXPERIENCE:

In 1987, we purchased our first Golden Retriever, Shane, from respected breeders, Ed & Edwina Ryska, Emberain Golden Retrievers, CA. My initial interest in the sport of showing dogs had been in the venues of obedience and field. In 1991, we purchased our next Golden, "Tyme"; pursued competition in the Breed ring

Under the kennel name, KaraGold Goldens produced 50 Champions, that of which 47 were bred by me. I have always kept the Breed Standard first and foremost, maintaining the multi-purpose of our Breed. Primarily hunting dogs, our Goldens are sound, self confident, eager to please, intelligent and most importantly, they represent the very essence of our Breed having friendly, reliable, trustworthy temperaments.

KaraGold has produced several OTCH's, MH, SH's, UDX's, Therapy Dogs, and many other multi-purpose Goldens. My mentors, thirst for knowledge, education, and protection of our wonderful Breed have been the motivating elements in my breeding, showing program.

Below are some of the highlights of KaraGold Goldens' journey:  
Best In Show – CH KaraGold's Canterburry Tails

(Breeder/ Owner)

'05 GRCA National Specialty, WD Am-Can CH. KaraGold's  
Kruz'n Coast T'Coast, OS, BISS (Breeder/Owner/Handler)

'05 GRCA National Specialty, Brood Bitch Winner CH.

KaraGold's Best Kept Secret, OD (Breeder/Owner/Handler)  
Breeder/Owner/Handler multi Champions

Produced 10 Outstanding Dams, an Outstanding Sire, and  
SDHF

### CLUB MEMBERSHIP AND EXPERIENCE:

GRCA 1987 to present

Mid-FL GRC

Everglades GRC

Nor-Cal GRC (1991 to 1994)

### CLUB EXPERIENCE:

GRCA – Business Card Advertising Coordinator, *GRNews*

Sweepstakes Task Force Member; initiated need for GRCA to clarify and define the intent of original Sweepstakes program and rules.

Mid-FL GRC–Puppy Referral Coordinator

Sarasota KC Judges' Education Symposium (Golden Retriever) Co-coordinator with Mrs. Jean Baird Crowley

Co-Chairman MFGRC first back-to-back Independent Specialties

Coordinator of successful MFGRC Agility Trial Breast Cancer Raffles, 2005 to 2008

Judges Selection Committee, 2010 GRCA Eastern Regional Specialty, MFGRC and EVGRC Independent Specialties

### RELATED EXPERIENCE:

Sweepstakes Judge, 2007 Gr. St. Louis GRC Specialty

Attended numerous Golden Retriever breed-related seminars

2007 Invited and attended Royal Canin's Golden Retriever Breeder Symposium, Chicago, IL

### PERSONAL:

I grew up in a very athletic family who also, had a passion for dogs and all animals. Married to my supportive husband, Pat. Mother to two great kids.

Kristen – University of Southern Florida '07 Graduate, professional career MetLife Insurance Co., and Sean – Senior, University of Florida, pre-Veterinarian program

### SUMMARY:

It is my belief that the future of our Breed lies with education not only to the public, but also, to those who participate in the Breed. Education hopefully will facilitate more active participation against anti-breed legislation and more action in our lobbying efforts. In summary, I believe my integrity, unabated enthusiasm, self-motivation and desire to promote/protect our Breed are some of my greatest assets. I love our Goldens and will be forever dedicated to our Breed. It would be an honor to serve our membership as the GRCA Eastern Regional Director.

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### CANDIDATE – DIRECTOR EASTERN REGION

JULIE KIELTS

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### OBJECTIVE:

To fill the current opening within the GRCA for the Eastern Regional Director.

### RELATED EXPERIENCE:

Past Board Member (two years) for Mid-Florida GRC. Implemented bylaw changes to better serve the needs of our club, revamped the puppy referral program as well as acted as puppy referral coordinator for two years. Founding member and President of newly formed GRCA Provisional Club, Florida Gulf Coast GRC. Did the vast majority of all things required to start a specialty club as required by AKC.

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

I am a Special Projects Manager for Bright Now Dental, Inc., ([www.BrightNow.com](http://www.BrightNow.com)) and have been employed there for six years. I oversee projects of many different types, including building new dental offices from the ground up, going into offices that are struggling financially and "fixing them" by either training, hiring/firing staff as needed, making marketing decisions, evaluating the Doctors, etc., and my newest assignment is to create a "training center" for new hires and struggling employees since my success is directly measurable by the increases in revenues in offices I have evaluated. I have been in the dental field for 17 years and have done some surgical assisting, although most of that time has been in management. Prior to working for Bright Now Dental, I was employed by Coast Dental Services, Inc., (another large dental management company) where I was on the Development Team. I was a part of taking that company from a small, three-dental office group to a group of well over 100 dental practices.

### IN CLOSING:

I feel that my experience, albeit limited, with the operations of Golden Retriever Specialty Clubs, in combination with my professional abilities to prioritize duties and follow through with projects (even very difficult and sensitive ones) makes me a strong candidate for the opening for a Director's position. I am excited about the possibility of learning from our parent club and I believe that would help make FGCGRC a better club from the "ground phase" up.

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**CANDIDATE – DIRECTOR CENTRAL REGION**

CINDY COLLINS

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**ASPIRATION:**

After many years of enjoying local dog club participation and leadership, I would like to expand my activity at the national level. I have a strong work ethic and desire to serve others. With my upcoming retirement from my career as a public school teacher, I will have the time to devote to this position.

**GRCA PARTICIPATION:**

Membership for more than 20 continuous years (see also surname of Verrell)  
Chairperson of the 2006 Central Regional Specialty  
Member of Regional Specialty Advisory Committee  
Member of GRCA Member Education Subcommittee  
Attendance at 11 National Specialties. At the 1985 event in Michigan, I stewarded in obedience and participated in an all-Golden flyball team demonstration

**LOCAL CLUB PARTICIPATION:**

Life member of Fort Detroit GRC, having just finished four years as president. Also I've served eight years as treasurer.  
Chairperson of many FDGRC specialties from the early 1990s to now  
Chairperson of several recent AKC hunt tests, CCA, CGC, WC/WCX test, matches, educational seminars and more.  
Board member of Genesee County KC for more than 20 years, I currently serve as secretary.

**DOGS:**

I participate mainly in two venues: field and conformation. I enjoy showing my dogs in breed and going pheasant/grouse hunting with my husband.  
I have trained and handled my dogs to a few breed championships and minor field titles  
I have owned 10 Goldens during the past 25 years.  
I do not derive income from dogs and have only bred three litters for a total of 12 puppies.

**SUMMARY:**

I'm not well known around the country, I've never had a famous dog, and I don't produce many puppies, but instead I am an enthusiastic worker looking to contribute and advocate for our breed. I have no hidden agenda, and I'm thoroughly devoted to Goldens. I am educated, organized, energetic, and willing to serve.

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**CANDIDATE – DIRECTOR WESTERN REGION**

BEV BROWN

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The world of purebred dogs continues to evolve and present new challenges to dog fanciers. GRCA has been a role model among parent clubs in meeting these challenges, and I would like to contribute to furthering that endeavor.

My professional life has involved a variety of fields, including accounting, veterinary technician, government document preparation, and office management. Now that I'm "retired," I enjoy creating digital artwork.

My life with Golden Retrievers began in 1970, and we bred our first litter in

1976. Our breeding activities have been limited, breeding six litters and co-breeding three others. I've been active in dog clubs since 1974, and am still active in the Evergreen GRC. My husband and I currently share our home with four Goldens. My biggest concerns about purebred dogs are health and behavior issues. I enjoy participating in conformation, obedience, and field training. A list of my dog club experience follows.

**DOG CLUB SERVICE:**

Golden Retriever Club of America (member 1974 – present)  
President (1990 - 1992)  
Secretary (1987 - 1988)  
Western Region Director (1982 - 1987)  
GRCA/AKC Breed Video Committee  
GRCA/AKC Breed Slide Show Committee  
Breed Standard Committee (Chairman)  
Nominating Committee (Chairman)  
Executive Committee (Chairman)  
Judges Education Committee  
Education Committee  
Public Education Coordinator  
Task Force to Revise Nominating Committee Procedures  
Task Force to Revise Educational Programs Committee  
Delegate Chairman

Evergreen GRC (member 1974 – 1979 and 1995 – present)  
National Specialty Committees (1998 and 2007)  
Independent Specialty Chair (2003)  
Independent Specialty Committees (1995 – 2006)  
Recording Secretary (2006)  
Newsletter Editor  
Board Member  
WC Test Committees  
GRCA Delegate

Richland Kennel Club (member 1979 to 1995)  
Vice President (1981-82)  
Chairman, Spring All-Breed Shows (1983 & 1989)  
Chairman, Spring Show Hospitality  
Chief Ring Steward (multiple shows)  
Chairman, multiple Eye & Blood Clinics  
Novice Obedience Instructor  
Tracking Test Secretary  
Ring Steward

Columbia Basin Dog Training Club (member 1982 to 1990)  
President (1987)  
Recording Secretary (1985, 1986)  
Newsletter Editor (1982 - 1985)  
Novice Obedience Instructor  
Chairman, Obedience Trial Judge Selection  
Chairman, two Behavior Seminars

**RECOGNITION & AWARDS**

Golden Retriever Club of America:  
Service Award – 1988  
Elected to Life Membership – 1989

**Richland Kennel Club:**

President's Award for Outstanding Service – 1984 ❖