



MSCA 2022 Nominating Committee Members

Elizabeth Brockman, Chair
Colby Brown, Director
Susan Sorg, Director

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Kathryn Flynn, MSCA Recording Secretary

Please share a brief biography. *Please share information about yourself, your family, lifestyle, farm, ranch, livestock, training, education, profession, honors, and awards.*

I am retired after 33 years in law enforcement, where I worked as a sergeant supervising both patrol and detective teams.

Throughout my life, I have had animals. I grew up riding, training, and showing horses, and continue to do so. I currently own two warmbloods and one Arabian who live on my small property. In addition, I have a motley collection of goats, mostly rescues, who are ably guarded from the local coyote and cougar population by my three Maremmas.

I have been a lifetime dog owner and enjoyed training my companion dogs. About fifteen years ago, I discovered positive reinforcement training and have taken many classes and seminars over the years to expand my education.

Maremmas came into my life a little over four years ago when I rescued my first goats. Like everyone else, it's hard to imagine life without them.

My partner and I have lived on our hobby farm of 7 1/2 acres for the past 25 years. I stay busy with my horses, training and being involved in our local horse shows and attending training with my dogs. I currently have two young dogs, one showing an ability at dock diving and the other for agility.

Why do you want to serve on the Maremma Sheepdog Club of America Board of Directors?

With the recent upheaval, I'd like to be a part of a stabilization along with the other capable board members. I believe I have the experience through my previous career to be impartial and act in the best interest of the club and its members. I am able to listen to people, learn about their needs, and change direction when necessary for the greater good.

Maremma Sheepdog Experience and Statement of Commitment to the Breed.

Please highlight your aspirations for the breed and your experience with the Maremma Sheepdog. How many years have you been involved with the breed?

I've been involved with Maremmas for just over four years. I unexpectedly found myself with one rescue goat, then more and more. Our coyote and cougar population made it clear I needed protection for them. After researching various breeds, it was clear that Maremmas were best suited to my property and situation. I purchased dogs from two different breeders, both located through MSCA. One of the breeders allowed me to work with her puppies, raising and training them over the past years. I learned from both breeders how to "read" Maremmas, how they differ from companion dogs, and how to manage them with livestock.

What business/administrative experience do you have that will be helpful for the board position you are applying for?

My career in law enforcement gave me a lot of experience in leadership, decision-making, accountability, and ethics. I often had to make difficult decisions and take responsibility for those decisions. I also interacted extensively with civilian agencies that often had different processes or needs. I learned to work together to see where we could help one another rather than being at odds.

I am the treasurer of our local chapter of Oregon Dressage Society. In that position, I am responsible for our chapter budget, finances, horse show reconciliation, and end-of-the-year reporting. ODS, like MSCA, is a non-profit.

Statement of Purpose.

What will you contribute to the organization, members, and Maremma Sheepdogs?

I realize that the organization serves a variety of members from different backgrounds, locations, situations, and approaches. I believe I can contribute by listening to the needs of the members while recognizing that preserving and improving this breed is of utmost importance. It is through the diversity of experience and perspective that the club is strong and can best serve its members. I can contribute thoughts and ideas to achieve while listening and learning from others. I can provide honest feedback and contribute to the teamwork necessary for the board to function at its highest level to provide pragmatic leadership.

What is your vision for the future of the MSCA?

My vision is for a cohesive board of directors to provide leadership, create committees that involve members, and provide education, resources, and support for Maremma owners.

Please list your top 3 priorities/achievements for the MSCA for your term in office.

- Provide transparency in the club operations through regular communications with membership.
- Prompt and accurate processing of registrations, memberships, breeder listings, etc.
- Provide education and resources to members regarding Maremma Sheepdogs.