

**Keli Gaunt**

Candidate for ASCNE President

November 15, 2017

I have been involved with Australian Shepherds since 1987. I started training in agility and obedience in 2000, but then switched to the conformation ring in 2001. I spent many years showing, watching and learning as much as I could about pedigrees, health, temperaments, and what it takes to be a reputable breeder before putting my very first litter on the ground in 2009. I earned by judge's title in 2012 and am now 1/2 way through my requirements to be a Senior Breeder Judge.

I have been an ASCNE member since 2002, a board member and consistent volunteer at many ASCNE conformation shows. Including Chair Person for Colors Of Summer from it's birth in 2006 to 2015, and will I resume the position again in 2018. I was also conformation chair person for the May K'in It Happen show for 2 years. I have a Bachelors degree in Business, have spent 14 years in the pharmaceutical industry, have managed several top hunter/jumper barns as well as managed several restaurants and bars. I have a very diverse background in coordinating with many different types of people and situations.

My goals for this club as President include first and foremost fostering a more cohesive working relationship between board and club members from ALL venues. I think we have lost sight of the fact that we are all in this for the betterment and enjoyment of this wonderful breed we all love so much, no matter what venue we compete in. One suggestion to achieve this would be to reward club members for volunteering at an event that is not their primary focus. A conformation person working at a stock or rally or obedience trial and vice versa. I think we can all get a better appreciation for what goes on at other venues this way. I would like to increase the percentage of membership who volunteer at any event. Yes, we all love to compete, but it can't be the same handful of people doing everything all the time. Perhaps a free or reduced price entry at your next event as incentive to volunteer. I would like to see more of the membership involved in club meetings. But how we conduct meetings HAS TO be more conducive to participation. We have a very large geographic area, driving to a meeting in NH from CT or RI is more than likely not going to happen. How do they hold USASA or ASCA board meetings? Teleconference or Skype. Let's make this happen. I would like to see this club put on a Regional Specialty Show which includes all venues including dock diving. I want to make this a club that other clubs want to emulate.

We can do all of this, but we have to work together!! I am looking forward to a very productive and cohesive next 2 years.