

2026 LRC BOD Election

Candidate Bio - Full Readable Copy

Candidate Name: Tammy Jo Boudreau

1. Primary role in relation to Labradors: Breeder

2. Areas in which you currently participate: Conformation; Companion; Other (Scent Work, Family Dog, CGC, Fetch, Dock Dogs, Service Dogs, Therapy Dogs)

3. Please share three ways you have supported The Labrador Club, Inc. in the past year.

Over the past year, I have supported the Labrador Club, Inc. in three main ways: through fundraising and hands-on volunteer service, through communications, newsletter and technical support for members, and through member engagement and outreach. Each of these has involved many individual projects and a significant personal commitment of time.

1. Fundraising and Hands-On Volunteer Service

This is my second consecutive year leading fundraising for the LRC, and together those efforts have generated more than \$10,000 for Club activities and programs. Part of that total came from securing two major destination prizes - a guided duck hunting excursion and a Yellowstone trip - with a combined value of over \$8,000. Landing prizes at that level took real networking: identifying the right contacts, building relationships, and making the case for why a partnership with the LRC was worth their support.

Fundraising is more than securing prizes or asking for contributions - it means developing ideas, creating materials, organizing details, following up, and adapting when something doesn't work. I've approached it with the belief that members and partners give more readily when they understand exactly where their support goes.

Beyond fundraising, I've contributed hundreds of volunteer hours this year. Some produced visible results - campaigns, National Specialty promotions, event materials. Much more was invisible: gathering information, correcting details, preparing materials, troubleshooting, and the countless small tasks that turn an idea into a finished project. To me, volunteer service means doing the work whether or not anyone notices who did it.

2. Communications, Newsletter and Technical Support

As Newsletter Editor, my goal has been to make the newsletter something members look forward to, not just a record of Club business. That has meant actively seeking out stories: member accomplishments, field and performance stories, conformation milestones, service and therapy dog features, health and research updates, and stories that reflect the full versatility of the Labrador Retriever - across exhibitors, field competitors, performance enthusiasts, judges, volunteers and owners alike.

This work has extended into creating graphics for the National Specialty, website icons, QR codes, promotional materials and social media content, and promoting resources like the LRC Member Map, health clinics and educational opportunities. I'm also the person many members turn to for help with graphics or technical questions, and I'm comfortable saying yes and getting it done quickly rather than passing the request along.

Good communication builds trust, encourages participation, and reminds members they're part of something larger than their own kennel or region.

3. Member Engagement and Outreach

A third focus has been strengthening the connection between the LRC and its members - recognizing accomplishments, welcoming new members, encouraging participation, and creating space for members to see themselves reflected in their national Club. That has meant making room for the people behind the dogs: the breeder who planned the litter, the

volunteer standing in the rain at a Working Certificate, the member whose Lab is working as a therapy or service dog, the person organizing an event.

I believe the Club is strongest when members feel informed, welcomed and valued, and believe there's a place for them to participate.

These three areas share one purpose: supporting the Club, serving its members, and helping preserve and promote the breed we all care about so deeply. If elected, I hope to keep building on this work - stronger outreach, clearer communication, and a Club where every member, however they're involved with their Labradors, feels genuinely included.

I'm grateful for the chance to have contributed this past year, and I've genuinely loved every bit of it. I don't think service to the LRC is about holding a title - it's about showing up, doing what needs doing, and caring about the people alongside the dogs. That's what I hope to keep offering, in whatever way I'm able to help.

4. Please share three ways you have supported your local club(s) in the past year.

Our local club is not truly "local" to us, we are members of the Miami Valley Labrador Retriever Club, so participating requires a meaningful commitment of travel, time, and resources. Even with the distance, we have made it a priority to support the Club in very hands-on ways.

1. Financial and In-Kind Support of the Specialty

For the third consecutive year, we have purchased and provided the food for the second evening of the Club's specialty. This is a substantial in-kind contribution, both financially and logistically, and one we are proud to make because it directly supports the event and the people who attend it. Providing a meal for exhibitors, judges, volunteers, and members may seem simple on the surface, but it is an important part of creating a welcoming specialty atmosphere and giving everyone an opportunity to come together after a long day.

2. Significant Hands-On Event Support

We do not simply supply the food - we handle the entire process. We transport our large smokers, coolers, cooking equipment, and supplies to the specialty and spend the day preparing, marinating, smoking, cooking, serving, and cleaning up. This work happens alongside showing our own dogs and helping with the many other tasks that are part of a busy specialty weekend. It is a significant commitment of time and labor, but we believe that supporting a club means being willing to do the work behind the scenes, not just participate in the parts that are visible.

3. Building Fellowship and Coordinating the Member Experience

One of the most important things a breed club can offer is a sense of community, and we see the evening meal as part of that mission. For the past three years, we have not only provided the main meal, but also reached out to other members to coordinate side dishes, desserts, and additional contributions, creating a large, family-style gathering for everyone attending the specialty.

That coordination takes advance planning and communication, but the result is worth it. After a long day in the ring, members, exhibitors, judges, and volunteers are able to sit down together, share a meal, reconnect with old friends, meet newer members, and enjoy the fellowship that makes a specialty feel like more than just a competition.

We also try to be the kind of members who will step in wherever needed throughout the weekend - helping with logistics, lending a hand, answering questions, or simply doing what needs to be done. For us, supporting a club means more than paying dues or entering dogs. It means contributing time, resources, labor, organization, and hospitality to help make the specialty successful and enjoyable for everyone involved.

5. If you are elected a Director of The Labrador Club, Inc., what are the areas in which you would like to take a leadership role, what would be your focus and how would you work toward achieving those goals?

If elected to the Board of The Labrador Club, Inc., the areas where I believe I could contribute most immediately are communications and transparency, member engagement and value, technology and organizational efficiency, and education surrounding preservation of the Labrador Retriever. I would also come to the Board without the expectation that a particular committee or title belongs to me. A Director is elected to serve the Club, and I would be willing to take on the work where my experience and skills are most useful.

1. Communications, Transparency and Accessibility

Communication would be one of my highest priorities. Serving as Newsletter Editor and working on a variety of LRC communications projects has shown me both how much information our Club has to share and how easily members can miss it. With members across the country and involved in many different areas of Labradors, information needs to be timely, understandable and easy to find.

I would like to help create a more consistent communications structure across the newsletter, website, email and social media so members know where to look for information without having to search multiple places.

I also believe members should have reasonable access to the work being done on their behalf. Board minutes, important decisions, committee updates and major initiatives should be communicated as promptly and clearly as practical. Transparency does not mean every Board discussion needs to take place publicly, but once decisions are made, members should understand what was decided, why it matters and what comes next.

My focus would be on practical communication timelines, better coordination among committees and making stronger use of the tools we already have.

2. Member Engagement and Stronger Membership Value

I believe one of the most important questions we should continually ask is very simple: Why should someone want to become - and remain - a member of the LRC?

Membership should feel useful, relevant and valuable, not simply like having your name on a roster. The LRC represents people from many different areas of the breed: conformation, field, obedience, rally, agility, scent work, service and therapy work, responsible breeding and companion ownership. I want members from all of those areas to feel there is a place for them in their national Club.

I would like to strengthen our new-member experience so someone joining the LRC immediately understands what the Club offers, where to find resources, what events are available, how to become involved and how to connect with other members.

I would also like to explore a stronger member benefit package that could include educational webinars, a searchable resource library, mentorship opportunities, expanded use of the Member Map and Directory, and appropriate partnerships that might provide meaningful member benefits or discounts.

We should also regularly ask members what they want from their Club. A simple annual survey could help identify what members value, what they cannot find, what they would like to see improved and what would make membership more meaningful.

I want someone considering membership to think: "That is where I go for Labrador information. That is where I find my community. That is an organization I want to be part of."

3. Technology, Organization and a One-Stop Source for Information

My professional background is administrative, and I naturally look at processes and ask whether there is a simpler or more efficient way to accomplish the same goal. Technology should make volunteer service easier, not harder.

I would like to help examine internal workflows - forms, document storage, committee communications, website processes, membership information and project tracking - and identify ways to reduce duplication, simplify tasks and preserve institutional knowledge. This is especially important in a volunteer organization. We should not have to reinvent a process every time a committee chair changes.

For members, I would particularly like to explore a one-stop LRC Member Hub where important information is easy to find. A central national Labrador calendar could include regional specialties, Working Certificates, health clinics, educational seminars, National Specialty information, deadlines and other events submitted by regional clubs.

Members should not have to search through old emails, multiple website pages and social media posts to answer a simple question like, "What Labrador events are happening near me this fall?"

My goal would not be technology for the sake of technology. It would be practical tools that make Club business easier for volunteers and Club information more accessible to members.

4. Education and Preservation of the Labrador Retriever

Ultimately, everything the LRC does comes back to the Labrador Retriever. I care deeply about protecting breed type, temperament, health and the working heritage that makes a Labrador a Labrador.

I would support continued education for breeders, judges, owners and the public regarding the Breed Standard, health testing, responsible breeding, our retrieving heritage and issues that affect breed integrity.

I also believe the LRC should remain a clear and credible voice when important issues affecting Labradors arise. That means working constructively with AKC, regional clubs, breeders, researchers and other parent clubs when appropriate, while keeping our own members informed and giving them meaningful ways to participate.

How I Would Lead

My leadership style is hands-on. I am not someone who wants to suggest an idea and hand it to someone else. If I advocate for a project, I am prepared to help build it, communicate it, troubleshoot it and see it through.

I also believe leadership requires listening. I will not always have the best answer in the room, and I do not expect everyone to agree with me. A healthy Board should include different experiences and perspectives and still be able to work together respectfully toward a common goal.

If elected, my focus would be straightforward: communicate clearly, listen to members, strengthen the value of membership, improve the systems that support our volunteers, encourage participation and keep the preservation and future of the Labrador Retriever at the center of our decisions.

I would bring energy, administrative experience, a willingness to learn and, most importantly, a willingness to work. I believe a Board position is not simply an honor to hold; it is a responsibility to the members who elected you, and I would approach it that way.