

Candidate's Name: Bob Skow

1. How long have you been a member of The Labrador Club, Inc.?

1999

2. What is your primary role vis-à-vis Labradors?

☐ Owner ☐ Handler ☒ Breeder

3. What is the primary area in which you participate?

☒ Conformation ☐ Performance ☐ Companion

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

Time – As a member of the LRC Board, I have spent many hours participating in club meetings and committee work. I served as Chair of the Finance Committee in 2025 and as a member of the Judges Selection Committee in 2026.

Financial Support – I have donated to the LRC for trophies and class sponsorships. In addition, I donated frozen semen from my dog, GCH Glacieridge Tabatha's Granite, to the LRC Stud Dog Auction.

Promoting Membership – I have encouraged and sponsored a number of new LRC members during the past year. I believe continued growth in membership is important to the club's ability to represent the many different interests and activities of our membership.

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

Donate – I am a member of the Labrador Retriever Club of the Potomac and support the club through financial donations, as well as sponsoring classes and trophies.

Work – During the spring show, I volunteer in whatever capacity is needed to assist with the manpower required to make the event successful. This past year, I worked at the raffle ticket sales table at the spring show.

Enter – A strong entry is essential to the success of any event. I make every effort to support both the spring and fall shows with a large entry, typically bringing 7-10 dogs.

6. 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 and what would be your focus?

During my working career, I owned and operated my own business, worked for several large companies, served in the Iowa Legislature, and served for 17 years as CEO of a large nonprofit organization. I also earned the CAE (Certified Association Executive) designation, which required completing coursework and passing a series of examinations focused on leading nonprofit organizations.

I believe I can bring strong organizational skills to the LRC, along with an understanding of how effective boards should function. Throughout my career, I have been extensively involved in organizational strategic planning, focusing on both immediate issues and the long-term goals and challenges facing an organization.

I would welcome the opportunity to assist the LRC in developing a viable five-year strategic plan that addresses both the immediate needs of the club and its long-term direction.

I also believe the LRC must continually listen to the people it represents. I regularly have private, informal conversations with both members and nonmembers to hear their opinions about what the LRC is doing well, where it can improve, and what today's Labrador community needs from its parent club.

The Labrador Retriever community is changing, and the LRC needs to change with it while remaining firmly committed to protecting the breed's history, purpose, and integrity. As the parent club, we should actively seek input from the broadest possible cross-section of Labrador owners and breeders—not simply rely on the voices of those already serving on the Board or committees. Listening to members and the larger Labrador community should be an ongoing part of effective leadership, not something done only when a major issue arises.

I also believe the LRC bylaws should be reviewed by a committee that includes more than just Board members. We should examine the governance, structure, and bylaws of other successful breed clubs and consider what practices might benefit the LRC. During my professional career, I have been extensively involved in bylaw review and development, and I believe that experience could be utilized to assist the LRC in this process. Membership representation and member input should be an important part of that review.

Finally, I would like to help create greater transparency and participation in LRC governance. I believe members should have the opportunity to listen to Board meetings through Zoom, with members participating in a listen-only, muted capacity. This would allow members to observe Board discussions while maintaining the Board's ability to conduct its business.

In addition, I believe the LRC should develop standing committees composed primarily of members who can focus on specific areas of the club's work and provide greater opportunities for membership input and participation. An engaged membership strengthens the club and helps the Board better understand and represent the interests of its members.