

Candidate Name: Sally Bell

1. What is your primary role in relation to Labradors? (Choose one)

☐ Owner ☐ Handler ☒ Breeder

2. What are the areas in which you **currently participate**?

☒ Conformation

☐ Performance (Field Trials, Hunt Tests)

☐ Companion (Obedience, Agility, Rally, Tracking)

☐ 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.

(up to 1000 words)

During the past year, I have supported the Labrador Retriever Club through my continued involvement in the breed and through my willingness to share the knowledge and experience I have gained over a lifetime with Labradors.

Judges Education has always been important to me. With nearly 30 years of experience judging Labradors, I believe it is essential that those entrusted with judging the breed understand not only the words of the Breed Standard, but the history, purpose, and function behind it.

I have also continued to support the preservation and promotion of the Labrador as a true working retriever. My involvement with working certificates and my personal experiences with dogs earning those titles have reinforced my belief that preserving the Labrador's working instinct is inseparable from preserving the breed itself.

Finally, I have remained engaged in the issues affecting the future of the Labrador Retriever and the LRC. I believe those of us with long experience in the breed have a responsibility to share what we have learned and to participate when important decisions affecting the future of the breed are being considered.

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

(up to 1000 words)

Club work has been an important part of my life in Labradors. I have been privileged to serve in leadership roles in more than one Labrador Retriever club, including as Past President of the Miami Valley Labrador Retriever Club and as a founding member and longtime President of the Central Ohio Labrador Retriever Club.

Through those clubs, I have worked to support activities that promote the complete Labrador Retriever. During years of strong participation, the Central Ohio Labrador Retriever Club hosted multiple Working Certificate training sessions, helping members appreciate and preserve the Labrador's natural retrieving ability and its identity as a true dual-purpose breed.

My support of local clubs has always extended beyond holding an office. Strong clubs require people willing to organize, volunteer, encourage participation, and share their knowledge with others. I believe local breed clubs are where many people first develop friendships, find mentors, learn about responsible breeding and ownership, and become actively involved in protecting the future of the breed.

I have also valued the opportunity to support and encourage newer generations of Labrador enthusiasts. Throughout my years in dogs, I have benefited enormously from the generosity of mentors, and I believe passing knowledge and experience forward is one of the most important responsibilities of longtime participants in our sport.

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 and what would be your focus?

(up to 1000 words)

If elected, my primary focus would be the preservation of the Labrador Retriever—its breed type, purpose, working ability, temperament, and essential characteristics.

I have spent 53 years in the Labrador Retriever breed, bred more than 170 champions, and judged Labradors for nearly 30 years. Those experiences have given me not only a deep appreciation for the breed as it exists today, but also a perspective on the history behind many of the decisions that have shaped the Breed Standard.

I believe the Breed Standard deserves thoughtful refinement where appropriate, but any discussion of change must begin with a clear understanding of what makes a Labrador Retriever a Labrador Retriever. The breed was developed as a capable, willing, and sound working retriever, and its physical and mental characteristics must always be considered in that context.

I would also take a strong leadership role in protecting the integrity of the breed. I believe unequivocally that placing silver on AKC registrations, regardless of disclaimers or terminology, would be a serious mistake with lasting consequences for the Labrador Retriever.

I would like to see the LRC become a stronger organization for the entire Labrador community. The breed is represented in many different areas—conformation, field work, performance events, service work, and as a beloved family companion. The LRC must never lose sight of the fact that its responsibility is to protect and promote the future of the Labrador Retriever in all of these areas.

I also believe members deserve to be better informed about the work of their Board and to have meaningful opportunities to share their perspectives. The experience and knowledge found throughout the membership are

among the Club's greatest assets. Directors should remain connected to members and understand the concerns and ideas coming from the many different parts of our Labrador community.

Finally, I believe the LRC should welcome the next generation of members and leaders while respecting the knowledge gained by those who have spent decades devoted to the breed. The future of the Labrador Retriever will be strongest when experience is shared, new people are encouraged to participate, and decisions are guided first and foremost by what is best for the breed.

I am not seeking a position on the Board because I want more politics in my life. I am willing to serve because I care deeply about the future of the Labrador Retriever. At this point in my life, my concern is not popularity. My concern is the breed—and I am willing to stand up for it.