



Josie Ottman

Candidate Bio

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.

LRC Secretary – Produce Board minutes and required Member Communications, respond to (or forward to others) hundreds of web, phone and text inquiries each month from Board members, Club members and the public about nearly every aspect of the LRC. It is a lot of work, but it has enabled me to meet a broad range of people who enjoy their dogs in a variety of ways, whether that is in competition or as part of their family, as well as learn a great deal about the operational history of the Club.

Communications Committee Chair – Led the expansion of the Club website, Facebook page, and electronic communications to better serve members by making information more readily available and to celebrate the successes enjoyed by our members' and their dogs. We've also successfully revived the Puppy Flyer included in AKC registration packets (something that has been missing for several years) and are about to start work on a more modern version that includes useful information on what the LRC can offer

new puppy buyers.

Field Trial Chair – In the spring of 2026, I chaired LRC's first-in-several-years Spring Field Trial. The trial, held in Lincolnton, Georgia, ran very smoothly, was financially successful and gave LRC an opportunity to award the Pete Simonds trophy (a previous LRC Vice President and founder of AKC's Canine Health Foundation) to the winner of the Open stake. This trophy was originally given to the LRC by Pete's widow, and Emeritus Director, Katharine Simonds, who was on hand to award it to the winner.

Website Co-Manager –Ron Morelos and I manage the LRC website. In the past year, a number of important areas have been improved: National Specialty, Breeder and the Membership Renewal process as well as kept other areas up to date such as Labradors of Distinction, the By-laws and Constitution, LRC Standing Committees, AKC Delegate Update, Local Clubs, Rescue, etc. We are hands-on for much of the work with programming assistance from a remote firm as needed to manage costs and be responsive to needs.

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

In the past year, I have chaired two field trials: Shrewsbury River Retriever Club (Hammonton, NJ) and Lake Champlain Retriever Club (Morrisville, VT) and mentored others who held their first-ever Derby/Qualifying in Copenhagen, New York. Competing in field trials for nearly 20 years, working at events as a club member and serving as a club officer, have given me the ability to put that experience to work whether as Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Stake Marshal or whatever is needed.

In addition, the Shrewsbury River Retriever Club recently lost its grounds (due to real estate development). I worked to locate others to take on this 70+ year old club and its rich history as one of the oldest field trial clubs in the country so it could continue to hold events.

Finally, I regularly judge field trials at all levels (Derby, Qualifying, Amateur, Open) in different parts of the country.

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?

I believe I can continue to make significant contributions to the Club's success. The very versatility of our breed and the venues in which we participate can make it a challenge to find common ground on which to grow a successful breed club. That said, I believe we

must focus on the success and health of the breed as a whole, regardless of the venues in which we compete.

- By focusing on and promoting the health of our breed whether that is by educating members and the public on what to value in a healthy dog including testing of sires, dams and puppies and by making contributions to AKC CHF studies that will benefit Labradors, the Club can have a significant, positive impact on the breed. (And yes, my dogs are tested based on LRC and CHIC recommendations and requirements.)
- By ensuring the Labrador Retriever breed standard continues to reflect the working nature of our breed. We must not lose sight of the fact that our dogs are athletes who can perform a wide variety of tasks.
- By serving members by continuing to expand the Club's website and communications by highlighting member achievements, helping them sell puppies and by educating members and the public about ways to ensure Labrador health.

The learning curve and time commitment that are part of being an LRC Director have been significant. That said, I have enjoyed contributing to the Club's activities, learning more about conformation, obedience, rally, and agility, serving the disparate interests of a breed club and sharing insights gained from my performance background. I believe I can build on the experience gained to make more significant contributions to the Club and the breed in the future.