

Resume

Leah Swatko
771 Hwy. 17 West,
Massey, Ontario Canada P0P 1P0
P: 705-677-5628
E: ministik@xplor.net.com

I am running for a position on the ASCA Board of Director. I am semi retired and have put my self forward to run in the 2018 election. Some may know me from the decades I have been involved with Australian Shepherd and ASCA, others from competing in my rings either in obedience, rally, or conformation; still others may know me from my electronic persona on ASCA-L, Facebook, and in my short stories in the Aussie Times. I have had Aussies since 1983, am now a life member of ASCA joining in 1992. Yes there will be more stories to tell to my extended family which is how I feel about ASCA.

I have held so many jobs over my working life, raised two daughters as a single Mother for much of their early years, cook, to farmer, breeding dairy goats, training horses, installing furnaces, welding, operating heavy equipment, weather observer and part time airport manager, home renovations, plumbing and electrical, security guard at a uranium mine. Held many licenses too Oil Burner Mech. III, Gas Fitter II, Trade certificates in welding (gas, arc, mig) Licensed Lumber grader, Certified Heavy Equipment Operator, Shop Steward, Strike Captain, Joint Health and Safety Chair, Chief Steward, many safety courses about accident prevention. I hold a college Diploma in Graphic Design 2005 plus 6 University of Guelph general agriculture credits, Let me just say I can do most things that need doing.

I am always willing to face new challenges. This past year I overcame my fear and picked up a chain saw, felled big trees and cut to stove length. I am not a political animal; I take people at face value, but never forget a transgression or unfair treatment of anyone. No I don't hold grudges; life is too valuable to waste time on personal agendas. I prefer to facilitate learning and educating people about the options and engage others in open dialogue. Goal setting that is realistic and for the betterment of those involved. For example I took on the Chair of the All Breed CKC club Obedience section. It had been traditionally in the red for over a decade. The first goal was to break even, next year to also pay the sections share of the administrative costs. Then we rented a space to hold classes. When I retired from the position the Obedience section was holding 6 Obedience, 6 Agility, and 4 Rally trials pre year. The bottom line when I retired from the Chair position, the Obedience section was grossing over \$130,000 per year had over \$60,000 in the bank for the purchase of a club owned facility. No I didn't do this alone; there were 8 founding people who worked as a harmonious group.

I have watched for and spoken out against changes to animal bylaws, animal rights agendas, and see this as one of the biggest challenges faced by dog breeders, livestock farmers and ranchers, trappers, hunter, and traditional use of the lands. Animal Rights has invaded my own remote part of the world under the guise of Animal Welfare. ASCA needs to take this assault seriously. There is a choice to be made by ASCA to help our breeder members in all parts of the world. To find ways to allow inclusion of those in countries and regions with docking bans, establish open communication with these breeders who may face charges for docking their puppies. Our bylaws clearly state that a person found guilty of animal cruelty will be barred from ASCA, how will the next quality breeder who has their veterinarian turn them in to the SPCA be helped. What will happen if they are found guilty of the vague "causing distress to an animal" this is happening right now in several provinces in Canada; most notably a quality breeder of CKC boxers in Nova Scotia?

In closing I hope I have given the members of ASCA some important issues to think about. I don't have the answers, but I hope to be able to work within the ASCA Board of Directors to continue to build the future of the versatile Australian Shepherd.

Yours in Dogs
Leah Swatko

