

2014 ASFA Officer Elections

Slate of Candidates

October 20, 2013

In accord with the ASFA Constitution and By-Laws, Article VI, Section 2, Officer Nominations (reprinted below), the ASFA Nominating Committee has officially submitted the following slate of candidates for the officer elections to be held at the 2014 Annual Convention of Delegates on March 22nd and 23rd, 2014.

The Candidates

- [President](#): Ping Pirrung, Pennsylvania
- [First Vice President](#): Tom Cigolle, West Virginia
- [Second Vice President](#): Gary Roush, Virginia
- [Recording Secretary](#): William Martin, Arizona
- [Corresponding Secretary](#): Bill Bowlus-Root, Washington
- [Chief Financial Officer](#): Jeff Lipps, Ohio

Statements about each candidate appear below.

Additional nominations can also be made:

- **By Member Clubs** – Member clubs now make additional nominations for the officer positions. To do so, the club must obtain the nominee's agreement and prepare a written notice endorsing the nomination and signed by the ASFA delegate or an officer of the club. The notice must be submitted to the Corresponding Secretary at:

Bill Bowlus-Root
ASFA Corresponding Secretary
7911 128th Pl. NE
Kirkland WA 98033

Mailed notices must be hand-delivered or postmarked no later than November 27th, 2013. Nominations received in email, FAX, scanned file, or other means will *not* be accepted.

Valid nominations will be circulated to all member clubs shortly after they are received.

- **From the Convention Floor** – Candidates for office may also be nominated from the floor at the ACoD. At the time of the election, the nominee must be a convention delegate in attendance.

If you have any questions, please contact the Corresponding Secretary (corressecy@asfa.org).

The 2014 Officer Candidates

President: Ping Pirrung

I am very honored to accept the nomination for a second term of President of ASFA. I view the position of ASFA President as one of honor and great responsibility. I have had a great group of people to work with over the past two years and together we are beginning to accomplish some of our goals. In the upcoming term I will endeavor to continue these and additional goals and look forward to contributing to the growth and expansion of the ASFA.

I have been involved with lure coursing and ASFA since I first learned of lure coursing around 1975. This is a sport dear to my heart for so many reasons. I meet amazing people and dogs and spend a weekend outside enjoying all of these.

One could easily say that my life has gone to the dogs – or has always been there.

At no time during my life have I been without a dog of some sort. My family always had at least two dogs and at times even got up to my Dad's imposed limit of 4. Even in college, my dog accompanied me to every class as well as up on stage to accept my diploma.

Borzoi were my beginning with purebred dogs. My husband, at the time, and I showed and bred Borzoi. Lure coursing was a natural fit, as my favorite place to be is outside and active. The athleticism along with the pure joy of watching the dogs do what they were bred to do is an indescribable thrill.

We had two daughters who also went with us to almost all field trials with my second daughter practically being born on a coursing field. At times I even ventured off with them by myself. There are some that remember me slipping dogs with a baby in a back pack and a camera in my other hand. After the girls were old enough that they could be on their own during a trial, I became a judge. This has afforded me the opportunity to see dogs lure course all over the county at the same time to experience some amazing runs.

Whippets came into my life when my daughters were young and since the late 1980's I have had only Whippets. I am now remarried to Dennis McCann who enjoys our growing family at Labyrinth Whippets. At this point we have 5 living at our house and enjoy every minute of it. During the spring and fall almost every weekend is taken up with lure coursing or open field coursing. During the week I spend a lot of time with the dogs either biking, walking or working on their skills.

I have been the Field Trial Secretary for several IIs, the first being in the early '80s. At most field trials I love to help out in whatever way I can; I would rather be doing something not just sitting around waiting for our dogs turn to run. I am a founding member of Tri-State Sighthound Club and have been President of the club for several years. I was elected as the Corresponding Secretary of the ASFA in 2008 and reelected in 2010 which was a joy as it put me in touch with so many of the fancy all over the country. I was elected President of ASFA in 2012 and I have embraced the challenges and enjoyed the work of maintaining ASFA as the premier lure coursing organization.

Every weekend we have many opportunities to attend a myriad of dog related activities. The challenge is to keep ASFA lure coursing a prominent choice. With your passion and contributions, together we can position and strengthen ASFA for the future.

First Vice President: Tom Cigolle

It was the summer of 1982, and I was attending the Michigan Gazehound Association's July 4th weekend trials in Lapeer MI (somewhere waaaaaaaaaaaay back in a farmer's field). It was in the upper 80s, raining, muddy, and it was my first ASFA field trial. Within an hour I was ready to pack up the car and go back home (did I mention I was camping?).

I decided to make the best of it and sat near the coursing field where others had taken up station. As the day went on, I started to notice that a good portion of the sighthounds ran with incredible passion. By the end of the day, the sighthounds that were competing in BIF were displaying the most amazing passion I had ever seen or witnessed. The intensity in their eyes and their overall drive/enthusiasm astounded me. As everyone walked off the field from the last BIF run, I learned that we were done for the day. All of the sudden the rain, the mud, and the mosquitoes did not matter. I just wanted to see more sighthounds run!

I would consider myself a Saluki person as I have owned and ran the breed almost from the start, but have also owned Afghan Hounds and Greyhounds. Now that my wife and I have found a wonderful little place in the mountains of WV, we are looking forward to getting some fencing put up so we can get a Saluki puppy, or two, or maybe an Afghan Hound.

I have been active in the sport from the start and continue to be very active. My accomplishments over these 30 some years include: Experienced Field Trial Chairman, Field Trial Secretary, Lure Operator (received the Lure Coursing Judges Association Lure Operator of the Year award in 2009), Huntmaster, Field Clerk, and Paddock Master. I have been an All-Breed Licensed Judge since 1985, and in 1988 I was the first judge to judge over 1000 hounds. I have served on the ASFA Board as 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, and Region 6 Regional Director, and have only missed approximately 5 ACoDs since my first one in 1984.

I have directly been a part of the planning for 4 ASFA International Invitationals (1986-FTS, 1992-FTS, 1996-CoFTS, 2011-CoFTC), along with numerous Regional Invitationals and local trials. I believe my most successful lure trial was the 2011 ASFA II. I felt that we had the best hounds in the country and, more importantly, everyone seemed to have fun and enjoy themselves.

In 2009, I decided to Chair the 2010 Saluki Club of America National Specialty. I learned a lot of valuable lessons through that experience, but I knew there was one thing that I had to make sure of – that everyone had a good time and enjoyed themselves. At the 2013 Saluki Club of America National Specialty, I was presented with the AKC Good Sportsmanship award for my hard work and dedication to the Saluki Club of America.

By day, I am the Quality Assurance Manager for a manufacturing company with 11 diverse product lines/divisions. In that line of work, I review past histories of product performance, perform investigations as to why an issue is occurring, and take the lead on ensuring that proper actions are implemented and effective. I work with all of the various functions in the facility, and lead the facility from the standpoint of quality.

Even though we have many challenges facing the ASFA, I believe our biggest challenge is reversing the trend of declining entries and people. We need to take initiatives that will spur the growth of both. Without “new blood” and sustainable entry levels, the ASFA will continue to decline in entry numbers and quality.

I believe I have gained enough knowledge, skill, and experience to be an effective First Vice President for the ASFA. I am honored to have been selected by the ASFA Nominating Committee for this important position.

Second Vice President: Gary Roush

I attended my first ASFA lure course in June 1974. Since that time, I have been very active in lure coursing serving often as a judge, field trial chairman and lure operator. During that time, I have served as treasurer for the Colorado Lure Coursing Association, the Afghan Hound Club of Greater Denver, and the Saluki Club of America. I have also been active in ASFA. I was the chairman of the Constitution Committee that rewrote ASFA’s constitution in 1978. I served on the Board of ASFA as First Vice-President from 1978 to 1980, President from 1980 to 1984, and Immediate Past President from 1984 to 1986. I served as ASFA Chief Financial Officer from 2008 to 2012. I am currently ASFA’s Regional Director for Region 8.

Recording Secretary: William Martin

When I was a kid, our family always had a dog. I used to watch the dog lay around day after day, year after year, and think to myself, “this dog needs a job.” But what would a dog love to do? When I saw my first lure trial, I had my answer.

My involvement with lure coursing goes back about 15 years, when my youngest son left home. My wife Cynthia bought a Pharaoh Hound, and I bought a tuba. For a couple of years, I was her unpaid kennel help, but once I learned about lure coursing I got busy with the dogs and have not looked back. I became a lure operator about 10 years ago, learning my way with my friend Nick Pias and the Chintimini Kennel Club in Corvallis Oregon. I have operated for hundreds of trials in 12 different states.

Six years ago I retired from my career in architecture, and have since divided much of my time between my dogs and my art studio. Two years ago we moved to Phoenix Arizona; after spending 35 years in Eugene, Oregon; to advance Cynthia’s career in organizational management. We had to say goodbye to our friends and colleagues in the northwest, and are making new friends in the southwest. We have a wonderful house on 3 acres, a huge art studio in the back, and finally enough room for our Pharaoh Hounds to run and play. We currently have 6 dogs; 2 veterans, two tweeners and two puppies.

Upon settling into the Arizona scene, I learned that the ASFA regional director was having health problems, and not able to do the job. I was able to step in and complete her term, thus began my short time in ASFA management. (She is now fully recovered, by the way, and recently adopted a rescue whippet.) I spent some of that time as the chair of the Public Relations Committee. I found that I was not suited to the job for a variety of reasons, but while I was there we were able to establish and approve a working set of guidelines for future committees, and I’m proud of that singular accomplishment. I am still a member of the committee, as well as the judge’s committee.

I was asked if I would consider taking on the position of ASFA Recording Secretary, and, after being assured that the job was one at which I could be an asset, agreed.

Lure coursing in general and ASFA in particular have been very good for us. Our dogs have won 15 Best in Field ribbons over the years, and have had a number of other big wins. Our dogs have been the #1 coursing Pharaoh Hound many times. We have made great friends and seen quite a bit of the country. We completely enjoy the activity, and I am happy to contribute what time and talent I have to advance the sport. And I still have the tuba.

Corresponding Secretary: Bill Bowlus-Root

It's been my pleasure to serve as Corresponding Secretary for ASFA in the current term and I look forward to continuing in that role. I established processes and procedures to help the Board in its deliberations and voting on motions, kept communications channels open with committee chairs and club delegates, coordinated reporting by committees and officers, and assisted with preparations for the annual meeting of the Board of Directors and the ACoD. The Corresponding Secretary is in a unique position to further the goals of the organization and maintain the fine traditions of the sport.

Coursing is a sport I truly love and actively promote. I have been involved with coursing and ASFA since 2002, as soon as my own Basenjis were ready to participate. Except for Lure Operator and Judge, I've served in every capacity on the field for my home club, the Evergreen Basenji Club, and other coursing clubs in the area. I also serve as Treasurer and Lure Coordinator for the club, which boasts some of the finest coursing Basenjis in Region 1 and in the country. I'm proud of the assistance I have provided to get newcomers interested and involved in the sport. As the ASFA delegate for EBC, I attended the ACoDs from 2010 through 2012.

My husband Paul Bowlus-Root and I founded our kennel, Baraka Basenji, in 2001. Since then, our kennel has produced numerous coursing champions in ASFA, AKC, and CKC as well as racing champions in LGRA and NOTRA. In 2007, our dog Cairo was the #1 Basenji and #5 Other Breed in NOTRA. Several of our dogs have earned multiple Best in Field awards. We are active members of the Basenji Club of America and the Basenji Club of Canada. Our guiding principle has always been that a Basenji should be a well-rounded hound, equally successful on the field as in the show ring. We're proud our dogs demonstrate that versatility.

When not on the coursing field, I am an independent Software Design Engineer working at Microsoft and have certifications in software design and SQL database development and administration. I retired in 2004 after 10 years as a regular employee at Microsoft where I was in Developer Support, a Team Manager in that group, and later served as Developer Training Manager responsible for providing technical training for developers across the company. My skills and talents draw upon a wide range of occupations including financial planning, teaching, banking, and restaurant management, and from my two degrees from the University of Iowa in Psychology and Education.

Chief Financial Officer: Jeff Lipps

Some twenty years ago, Kathy and I decided we wanted to become a dog household. After visiting a local Saluki breeder, we fell in love with the breed. While we started our adventure in Salukis as the classic "pet home," that seemed to be short lived. Our Saluki Family is now at seventeen. Typically, seven to ten of our Salukis run regularly in lure coursing events. The top three lifetime ASFA Salukis are from our Kennel, Windrush Salukis. Windrush Salukis has had two BII winners.

One of our objectives in starting our kennel was to breed dual champions. We wanted Salukis that not only exemplify the breed standard, but also perform on the field with the strength, agility and athleticism the Saluki hunters were expected to possess. Windrush Salukis produced its first litter in

1999. Since then, four litters have been whelped. Many of those Salukis have remained with us. They have gone on to excel in both the conformation ring and on the lure coursing field. Windrush Salukis has had 30 AKC Conformation Champions, 18 of whom were dual champions.

One of my favorite activities with my Salukis is lure coursing. My love of lure coursing quickly drove me to give what I could to the sport. I have been active in the formation of two lure coursing clubs in the Columbus, Ohio area. In 2000, I received my All Breed ASFA Judging License. Since then I have been privileged to be asked by many lure coursing clubs to come out and judge for them.

In addition, I have dedicated a portion of my life when I am not practicing law in my own law firm, to volunteering in various capacities in lure coursing and Saluki related activities. For ASFA, I was its first Chief Financial Officer, a position I held from 2004-2008. I was President of ASFA from 2008-2012. I am currently in my second year as ASFA's Chief Financial Officer.

I am honored to have been nominated to serve another term as Chief Financial Officer of ASFA. If elected, I pledge to monitor ASFA's spending activities, ensure that its capital investments are beneficial to the organization, and provide strong financial oversight as ASFA moves into a more robust web-based information system. I would appreciate your support of my candidacy for ASFA Chief Financial Officer.

The Constitution

Here is the section of the ASFA Constitution that relates to the process of nominating candidates for officer positions.

Article VI THE ASSOCIATION YEAR, NOMINATIONS, and ELECTIONS

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Section 2. Officer Nominations.

- (a) The Board of Directors shall appoint a Nominating Committee at the time of each Annual Convention of Delegates held in an odd numbered year. The committee shall include one (1) member of the Board of Directors and two (2) representatives from member clubs. The committee shall submit a list of nominees for officers to be published in the Field Advisory News at least 150 days prior to the next Annual Convention of Delegates. Each member club shall have forty-five (45) days following such publication to submit additional nominees for officers which shall be circulated to each member club. Such nominations must be agreed to by the nominee and carry the endorsement of the nominating member club, written copies of both of which shall be submitted to the Corresponding Secretary.
- (b) Candidates for office may also be nominated from the floor at the Annual Convention of Delegates. At the time of the election each candidate for office must be a convention delegate in attendance at such Annual Convention of Delegates.
- (c) Nomination and election for each office shall be held in the order of the offices in Article V. Delegates may be nominated for more than one (1) office but may be elected to only one (1). No delegate may be nominated for an office who has been elected to that office in each of the preceding two (2) terms; nor may any delegate be nominated or accept a nomination who has, within the preceding year, accepted a fee, over and above expenses, for handling a hound at a sanctioned lure field trial, or for performing or assisting in the performance of the duties of the officials of a sanctioned lure field trial.
- (d) No further nominations for an office will be accepted once balloting for that office has begun.

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