

Although I've been in purebred dogs for 50 years and put myself through college working for veterinarians, I've only been in Minis since I acquired my lovely Ember from Sandy Lindstedt in March 2018, so introductions are in order! I'm Kathy Graber, and I'm running for Treasurer. I've put conformation and obedience titles on Danes, Dobies, Weims and three Minis; I've bred two litters and three champion Minis, and I'm training Ember in Nosework, Dock Diving, and Barn Hunt.

I belong to three Mini Bull clubs: Miniature Bull Terrier Club of Southern California (of which I'm Secretary), Nor Cal and Pacific Northwest.

What my husband Michael and I enjoy most about showing is traveling to new places and making new friends! We taught high school English for 30 years before retiring in June 2019, so weekend dog shows were a welcome break! Actually, we juggled dog shows and debate tournaments. I received numerous teaching awards over the years, but I'm proudest of the two teams I coached and continue to coach part-time: Speech & Debate and Mock Trial.

In the past two decades I've coached 10 California speech champions, and my Mock Trial team has won the Los Angeles County Championship twice. So, what I bring to the table from my profession is my nerves of steel!

From 2003 to my 2019 retirement, I served in several elected board positions on our regional Tri-County Forensics League, comprised of 33 high schools—one of the largest speech leagues in California. First as Treasurer, then VP, and for the last dozen years as President. In 2013, we hosted the State Tournament at one of our member schools, which was quite the challenge.

As TCFL president, I sat on the governing board of the State organization (CHSSA). I became chair of my assigned committee, and was recruited to run for the office of Area 3 Chair. California is divided into four areas, and Area 3 is the state's largest geographical area. Area Chairs have huge responsibilities, especially in running the annual Championship tournament. I won that election, and I served as Chair for three years until my retirement. In 2016, CHSSA inducted me into its Hall of Fame.

So, I have experience serving on volunteer boards. And people on boards are passionate and opinionated! Democracy is time consuming, tempers can flare, and compromises must be reached. It's like my favorite Winston Churchill misquote: "Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others."

I'm no pushover; I'll speak my mind as respectfully as possible, but I'm open to alternatives. In education, teachers are often on the receiving end of decisions made without consulting those of us in the trenches. That kind of policy-making breeds resentment. That kind of policy-making doesn't belong in the MBTCA either.

The Treasurer's job is supremely detail-oriented and no position demands higher accountability. If elected, I'll give the MBTCA all I have to offer, both in BOD meetings representing our members and on the job. Thank you!