



2018 AKGA Nominee Questionnaire
Karen W. Severn



1. Why are you interested in committing your time & energy to the Association?

I have served on various boards most of my life. I am approaching retirement from my day job in a couple of years and have consequently left several board positions in my profession and at my university, so I now have time to concentrate on a new endeavor.

2. What do you think are the characteristics of a great board member?

A great board member always remembers that the board is a team of individuals who each have other responsibilities in their lives and consequently the member is respectful of their time and energy. Being a great team member requires that assignments and duties be performed in a timely manner. Should this not be possible, a good team member will immediately admit this to the president and request assistance. Conversely, a great board member also volunteers to help another member when asked.

3. Do you feel as a board of director you should be held to a higher standard of conduct than regular members and exercise due care and undivided loyalty for the interests of the association?

The Board of Directors is the public face of the organization. Members and outsiders will judge the organization by the behavior of the board. Therefore, board members must be above reproach and always be mindful of how his or her own behavior and words will impact both the organization and individual members. Lack of integrity in a board member is unacceptable.

4. Describe your past experiences as a volunteer or any experience with a nonprofit board.

I have been on numerous boards and have served in many capacities.

PreLaw Advisors National Council- Treasurer for ten years, board member for three years

SW Assn of Prelaw Advisors- President for three years, Treasurer for eight years. Caravan Chair for 15 years, and currently ex officio member of the board.

Women Former Student Network- Founding member of alumni association at Texas A&M and second Treasurer.

Citizens for Wellborn- Secretary for three years.

5. Are you willing to accept the responsibilities of an officer? If so, which office/s?

I will consider Secretary.

6. List 3 top goals that should be considered for the AKGA to accomplish during the next 2 years. Ensure the goals you list are measurable and attainable.

- Increase paid membership by thirty percent.
- Create a budget that includes savings for unexpected expenses.
- Include at least 15 members in active roles on useful committees, including a membership committee.

7.. What do you see as the biggest challenges to the continued success and growth of the AKGA as an association?

The biggest challenge in the growth of the AKGA is providing a service that is profitable and acceptable to the membership. If members find better service, quality or experience in other registry services, the AKGA will not be able to hold its membership. The AKGA will never be the favorite registry for every possible goat owner, but it should strive to provide the best value and the most confidence in animal pedigrees. Developing a better relationship with other registries is paramount to the success of the AKGA.

8. Are you comfortable and competent in the creation and use of email and their attachments?

Yes.

9. Please list any computer software programs have experience with (Word, Excel, Access).

Word, Excel, Access, QuickBooks, internet, photoshop, web page design, various proprietary databases and security systems. Oh! Goatzz too!

10. Describe the type of any experience in the following: accounting, tax preparation, legal matters, government regulations, or any other career experience that would be useful to the Association.

I was treasurer for two organizations with large budgets and reconciled all accounts in Quickbooks. I took two accounting courses in college and worked with the IRS and State of Texas to maintain tax exempt status.

I have expertise in event planning and conference budgeting. I helped organize four national conferences with over 600 participants and have organized "PreLaw Career Days" in the southwest for fifteen years. If there's a conference or event, I can help.

I am handy in deciphering regulations and rules. I am not a lawyer, but have a master of public administration degree.

11. If not elected to the Board, would you contribute to the Association by joining a Committee?

Absolutely