

2019 GPCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Name:** Maria Church Davis      **City/State:** Littleton, MA      **Member of GPCA since:** 1996

**Nominated by:** Patricia Court, Christine Palmer-Persen, Judy Skorup, Jan Waitz, Peggy Watson

**Biographical Summary:**

I was born into Pyrs in the late 60s and have been honored to call them family ever since. In addition to my [human] family breeding and raising Pyrs, we all participated in conformation, obedience, and rescue. We moved several times during my childhood, which allowed me the benefit of observing regional variations and accumulating a wide variety of knowledge from other Pyr fanciers. After receiving my BS and MS degrees in the early 90s, where I studied physiology and embryology, I took over the kennel from my parents who wished to retire and travel. While I may not have always been directly active in GPCA, I have been steadfast in my love of Pyrs through rescue, therapy work, AKC events, offering owner education via personal means, and in founding the Enchantment Great Pyrenees Club. I generally prefer to work behind the scenes, making and donating trophies or auction items to regional and national specialties, helping members with catalog ads, assisting new owners with training, etc. Most everyone in the GPCA knows me best for my many years as a Bulletin co-editor where I increased membership participation in the magazine through soliciting stories, articles, and photos. OTHER 501c3 BOARD EXPERIENCE: Hawks Aloft, Inc and Littleton Country Gardeners (Treasurer)

**Why I want to serve on the Board:**

There appears to be a huge divide in our club, which I believe we can heal through conscientious representation and both increased transparency and communication. All members in the GPCA should be allowed to, among other things, join committees so long as they cooperatively participate and contribute, make motions at the annual meeting for the membership to vote on, have the courtesy of communication prior to changes, etc. In my view, the Club belongs to the members, not the Board. I would like to see increased representation on the Board, reconstructing it to have members from all regions. Likewise, the Const. and Bylaws Review Committee should have included at least one or two members from each region. Our club has many talented and experienced individuals, however, there seems to be a stronghold on Board positions and committees by a select few, which has remained fairly consistent over the last 20 years. My limitless passion for this breed and compassion for those wanting to participate actively in our club, but never being given the chance, are two additional reasons for my wishing to serve on the Board.

**Prior experiences- Offices/Chairmanships/Committees served on:**

**GPCA:** Bulletin Co-Editor, NS Advertising Coordinator (2), Health Committee

Regional Pyr club: Founding Member Enchantment Great Pyrenees Club, prior member of PFNE and Penn Dutch All – Breed: NNNC – Show Hospitality, Breeders Book, President.

I believe that the 3 areas of greatest concern to the GPCA should be:

1. Increase participation by members; create a welcoming, non-judgmental environment where all may participate.
2. Install a system of checks and balances, including increasing communication and transparency.
3. Increase membership, especially among LGD breeders, and education for owners and breeders alike.

**I will attend the Annual Meeting, wherever it may be held in the US (barring a personal emergency), and will support my own travel expenses. Yes  No**

**Of the last 5 Annual Meetings, I have attended 2.**

**Of the last 5 National Specialties, I have attended 2.**

**I certify that to the best of my knowledge, the above is true and correct.**

**Signed:** Maria J Church Davis