

November 2023



# THE RRSSC BOARD WISHES YOU A



Happy  
Thanksgiving

# President's Message



Well, once again, there's a lot to cover! As members during our club's continued growth toward maturity, we're not merely onlookers in this whirlwind time of building and establishing a solid foundation for the future. We're all active participants in shaping our club's identity, setting up a robust and efficient governance structure, and creating an environment in which everyone feels welcome and included.

On one hand, the excitement and energy are palpable. There's a genuine sense of camaraderie when we meet and as we work together to turn our shared vision into reality. However, amongst the fun times we share, it also comes with its own set of challenges. There's a ton of work to do! From bylaws revisions to nominations and elections, planning and coordinating events, and ensuring we meet our financial goals, the responsibilities carry the weight of shaping the club's future direction.

Moreover, being part of a diverse community means also dealing with diverse perspectives. While this diversity is undoubtedly one of our strengths – bringing in fresh ideas along with time-tested solutions – it can also lead to disagreements and conflicts. Decisions that seem straightforward initially may turn out to be complex. Deciding how to allocate resources can be a contentious issue. After all, when you're running on a shoestring budget, every penny counts! So it's about making smart investments that align with our club's mission and will ensure continuity and growth in the long run.

There's also an element of uncertainty involved. Despite our best efforts in planning and strategizing, sometimes things don't go exactly as expected. In such cases flexibility is key – being able to adapt quickly and course-correct based on new information or changes in circumstances is vital. You'll see an example of this when you read the update about our 2023 specialty show and how it impacts decisions about 2024.

Despite the challenges, you should feel an undeniable sense of accomplishment and pride in what we do. We're building something special! This is not just any club, it's a community where every member is considered a part of its identity. We believe in uplifting each other during challenging times because this is how bonds are strengthened and true teamwork is fostered. Every step forward, every meeting held, every event organized represents our commitment to bringing people together for friendships and building on our shared love of dogs – and especially our fantastic Standard Schnauzers.

We've all worked hard this year! Know that I am thankful to each and every one of you. Not only have we met all AKC requirements for maintaining our status as a club, but we've far exceeded them. As a new club with a relatively inexperienced board, we're still on the learning curve, but we draw upon our shared passion for what we're doing, lean on each other for support and encouragement, and keep our eyes focused on our ultimate goal.

*Darcy Morgan*  
PRESIDENT



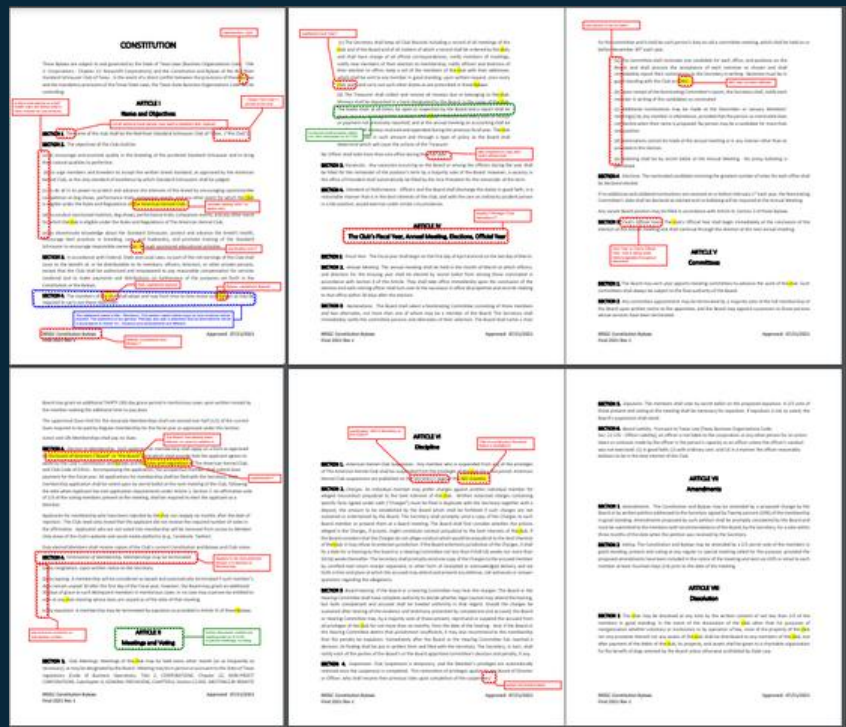
# BYLAWS REVISIONS

## STILL SO MUCH TO DO!



The Bylaws Review Committee concluded their work and submitted suggestions. Some of the revisions are grammar, punctuation or clarifications, while others are key changes expected to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of our club. Given the significance of these proposed changes, it is crucial for the board to thoroughly review each suggestion to ensure that any edits made align with our club's mission and vision while also complying with AKC and legal standards.

The committee dedicated half a year for document evaluation prior to proposing their recommendations, and the board expects that it will take equally as long to edit and revise a draft of changes. Once completed, the board will provide the draft to the members along with details about how the proposed amendments could impact our club's operations both now and in the future. Members will then be invited to vote on the proposed revisions, and if a majority approves, the revised bylaws will be submitted to AKC and implemented immediately upon their acceptance.



The success of our club depends on active participation from every member – your input truly matters! We're striving for excellence in how we operate as a club and as representatives of dog ownership, particularly for the Standard Schnauzer breed. Our ultimate goal is not just about improving our club's performance but also building a community where everyone knows they matter.

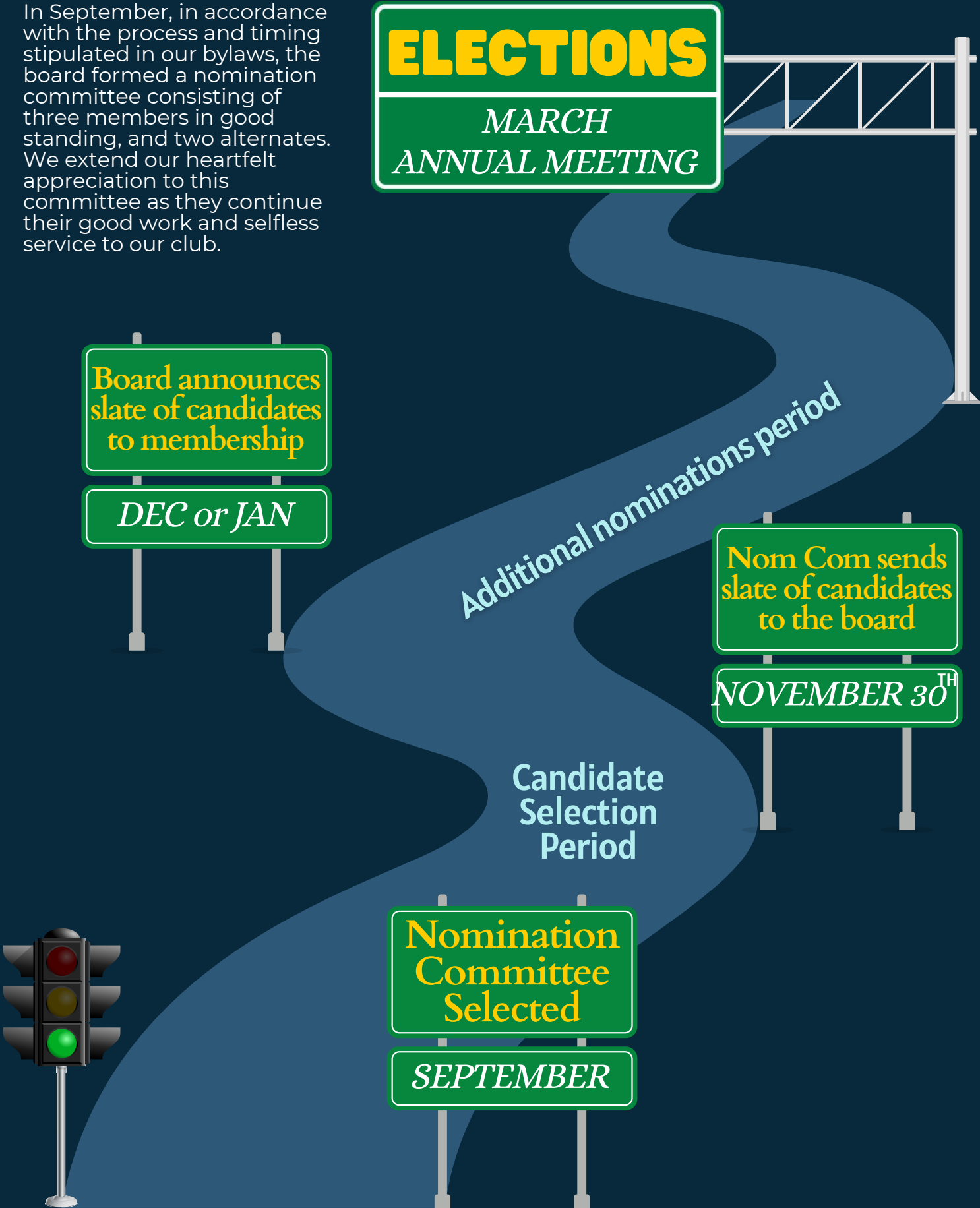
**The Constitution & Bylaws are easier to navigate on our website!**  
**Just mouse-click the Table Of Contents to go to your area of interest.**

[click here](#)  
[to go there](#)

# IN PROGRESS!

# ***NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS***

In September, in accordance with the process and timing stipulated in our bylaws, the board formed a nomination committee consisting of three members in good standing, and two alternates. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to this committee as they continue their good work and selfless service to our club.





# ***2023 RRSSC SPECIALTY***

Wow, what a show! A huge shout-out goes to every single one of you who took part in the six shows over four jam-packed days at Belton! From the chatter amongst club members post-event, everyone was completely wiped out. We had some real superstars in our midst, who not only showcased their amazing dogs but also went above and beyond by helping set up prize



tables, filling in as ring stewards, catering to our club members' food needs, and ensuring everything ran as smoothly as possible even amongst a handful of hiccups. We can't express enough how thankful we are for everybody's involvement - especially those that wore multiple hats.

Despite the exhaustion, all agreed it was a worthwhile event. As a club, we continue to learn the many facets of running a dog show. There's a great deal of "how to" in documented guidelines, yet so much of our learning comes from hands-on experience and tribal knowledge imparted by others. The proficiency we gain from managing such events plays a crucial role in planning future shows.

We had a good number of attendees considering this was our first specialty held in our home territory. Feedback gathered from social media during and post-event suggested that participants were pleased with operations, results, and prizes. We witnessed camaraderie and laughter shared amongst old friends and new acquaintances.



Yet, all was not perfect. There were complaints about the rings being on dirt, the on-site catering food, the grooming spaces not being arranged so club members could easily interact, and several big problems that could be traced back to the show superintendent.

It's also disheartening to acknowledge that the RRSSC local Specialty didn't meet its primary objective of being self-sustaining, let alone profitable.

# 2024 AND BEYOND



The initial financial analysis reveals that without the generous sponsorships from our members, the 2023 Belton show would have been a financial deficit on our treasury. We are currently scrutinizing the financial report, but it was immediately clear to us that we need to revamp our strategies if we want to see any profits (or at least break-even) with our 2024 show.

The show committee has expressed a desire to promptly begin preparations for another RRSSC specialty event at Belton in the fall of 2024. However, considering that a specialty show is already scheduled for 2024 in Fort Worth, along with the less-than-ideal conditions experienced at Belton and insufficient financial gains, the board is of the opinion that conducting two shows next year might not be a wise decision.

The board feels it would be more sensible to focus on making the Fort Worth show a success, rather than dividing our attention and resources. It was also agreed upon that expecting the same degree of support from our club members for two shows in the upcoming year, as they generously provided this year, is not a practical expectation.

The board recognized the committee's desire to plan for another Belton show, and proposed instead to start planning ahead for 2025. This would provide ample time for members to vote on locations and judges, and collaborate with other clubs to guarantee ideal circumstances for our shows. The show committee has additional ideas they'll present at an upcoming meeting.

Congratulations to the winners and their humans! And thank you to everyone that participated, sponsored, or volunteered.





# In Search Of

## ACHIEVEMENT & AWARDS CHAIR

Cindy Cuff has served the club as Awards and Achievements Chair for the past few years, and was the catalyst that got us started. Thank you, Cindy! Unfortunately, Cindy has stepped down from the position to prioritize other endeavors.

Want to get involved? Help us maintain our Achievements & Awards program! We need volunteers that can serve as chair or help on this committee.

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Let your creativity go wild while you contribute to the Club by keeping everyone informed of ongoing/upcoming events. Publish the President's message, membership information, and reach out to others and have them submit articles, photographs, drawings, ads or brags. Contact Darcy Morgan for more details.

## CLUB EVENTS PLANNING

Planning almost any kind of dog event has to be done months in advance. We always in need of volunteers that can help ensure we get our events planned, on calendars, and listed in premiums in a timely manner. Help us set the Club's year over year activities calendar so our community knows they can count on us to consistently host or attend specific events. Work with the board and other committees to generate ideas, publicize events, design event logos, and arrange for best in class experience for dog and human attendees alike.

## New Member Applicant Alert

Welcome, Renee and Jim Pope!

Rene's name is synonymous with quality-bred Standard Schnauzers and over 50 years of experience and knowledge. The Geistvoll kennel has produced over 110 champions, and Rene is a platinum level Breeder Of Merit! Renee and Jim recently moved to Kerrville, TX , and we eagerly look forward to their participation in our club.



## Board Of Directors

<b>President</b>	<b>Darcy Morgan</b>	<b><a href="mailto:president@rrssc.org">president@rrssc.org</a></b>
<b>1ST Vice President</b>	<b>Maxine Petteway-Gray</b>	<b><a href="mailto:vpl@rrssc.org">vpl@rrssc.org</a></b>
<b>2ND Vice President</b>	<b>(vacant)</b>	<b><a href="mailto:vp2@rrssc.org">vp2@rrssc.org</a></b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Brian Kramer</b>	<b><a href="mailto:treasurer@rrssc.org">treasurer@rrssc.org</a></b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Rochelle Lee</b>	<b><a href="mailto:secretary@rrssc.org">secretary@rrssc.org</a></b>

## Want To Contribute Content?

CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER WITH YOUR SUGGESTIONS