

<b>Name</b>	John Strassner
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<b>Email</b>	strazpdj@gmail.com
<b>How many years have you been a member?</b>	4
<b>Select your district</b>	District 13: California North, Nevada
<b>Requirement 1: Directors elected must live in the District Zone you will serve.</b>	I live in the District Zone I will serve
<b>Requirement 2: Directors elected must communicate with members of your District by sharing information, seeking input and answering inquiries as needed or requested.</b>	I will communicate with members of my District by sharing information, seeking input and answering inquiries as needed or requested.
<b>Requirement 3: Directors elected must have a working knowledge of the CCA Bylaws (2021), CCA Board of Director Code of Ethics, CCA Code of Conduct (formerly known as the Code of Ethics), CCA website, CCA Newsletter, Public Outreach, and other CCA documents as needed to participate in discussions and actions of the Board of Directors.</b>	I have a working knowledge of the CCA Bylaws (2021), CCA Board of Director Code of Ethics, CCA Code of Conduct (formerly known as the Code of Ethics), CCA website, CCA Newsletter, Public Outreach, and other CCA documents as needed to participate in discussions and actions of the Board of Directors.

**Requirement 4: Directors elected must be familiar with the organizational structure of the CCA and its Operations Manual (pending approval).**

I am familiar with the organizational structure of the CCA and its Operations Manual (pending approval).

**Requirement 5: Directors elected must have a basic understanding of Robert's Rules of Order (12th Edition) and why it is important.**

I have a basic understanding of Robert's Rules of Order (12th Edition) and why it is important.

**Requirement 6: Directors elected must be willing to commit to attending electronic or telephone meetings as scheduled on a regular basis (typically monthly).**

I am willing to commit to attending electronic or telephone meetings as scheduled on a regular basis (typically monthly).

**Requirement 7: Directors elected must have internet access to be able to actively participate in the Board Discussion Group, committee meetings, and Board meetings.**

I have internet access to be able to actively participate in the Board Discussion Group, committee meetings, and Board meetings.

**Requirement 8: Directors elected must have basic computer and word processing skills, including the ability to open and edit word processing documents and spreadsheets.**

I have basic computer and word processing skills, including the ability to open and edit word processing documents and spreadsheets.

**Requirement 9: Directors elected must agree to follow the District Director Guidelines, CCA Code of Conduct, Board of Director Code of Ethics, CCA Board Confidentiality Agreement, and disclose any conflicts of interest and sign the Pre-election and Annual Conflict of Interest form. Documents may be found at <https://www.colliclubofamerica.org>**

I agree to follow the District Director Guidelines, CCA Code of Conduct, Board of Director Code of Ethics, CCA Board Confidentiality Agreement, and disclose any conflicts of interest and sign the Pre-election and Annual Conflict of Interest form.

**Describe your qualifications and responsibilities relating to the role of District Director.**

I am the current District Director for District 13 (NorCal and Nevada). I am a tenured Professor in AI and Computer Science, which enables me to assist the Board as needed in electronic design and related projects (e.g., databases, web design). By day I am the Chief Technology Officer for an R&D company. I am one of three AKC Field Reps as well as an Expert Judge in AKC Scent Work. I crusaded for and helped institute the inaugural Scent Work trial to our 2024 Nationals. I have volunteered at the last 4 Nationals in performance sports and for the Collie Rescue Foundation. I am a past President of the Santa Clara Dog Training Club, a current member of the Shetland Sheepdog Club of Northern California (I wrote their bylaws), and an NACSW and AKC Scent Work Instructor. My two Shetland Sheepdogs are the #1 and #2 Shelties in AKC Scent Work with over 100 titles each, and I am the proud owner of a beautiful baby Collie.

**For your personal biography, in addition to the qualifications you have included above, please answer the following questions about the CCA District Director's role and responsibilities.**

**What is the District Director's role in relation to the CCA Board and club as a whole? Use the CCA Bylaws (2021), Director Code of Conduct, and Confidentiality Agreement in formulating your answer.**

Each District Director (currently there are 15) is a part of the CCA Board of Directors. A District Director represents the member of his or her (geographical) District. A director commits to honest and ethical Board service by adhering to the CCA Bylaws, Director Code of Conduct, and Director Confidentiality Agreement. Decisions made by a District Director should serve the interests of the CCA as a whole. While a District Director should do his or her best to represent the members in his or her District, the good of the CCA is most important. As such, a District Director should support and abide by all BoD decisions. A District Director shall never disclose unauthorized or confidential information (e.g., documents created for conducting Club business, or any information discussed or reviewed in a closed Executive Session).

**Given your understanding of the director role as developed in the previous question, how would you keep your CCA district membership informed of important information and seek member input and what tools would you use to do this?**

As a District Director, I have forwarded all non-confidential information to my members as soon as possible. I also solicited their opinions on important issues. I have done this by setting up appropriate email lists. For example, there is a general information list as well as some specific lists, such as for breeder referrals.

When discussing and voting on issues in the BoD, I have always represented the majority view of my members.

**What is the Director role in relationship to confidentiality? Use the principals outlined in the Board of Directors Confidentiality Statement when formulating your answer.**

First and foremost, a Director shall always be professional and demonstrate good judgment in making decisions. A Director should never share proprietary or confidential information unless it is approved to do so. This also includes information discussed or reviewed at a closed Executive Session.

**What is the Director's role and responsibility regarding new membership applications, member reinstatement, and dues renewals?**

The Director should serve as the link between the Board and the members of his or her District. As such, the Director should assist members with any problems or concerns, and help with membership applications and reinstatement. The Director should approve both new membership applications and member reinstatement applications. Finally, the Director should send out email reminders about renewing membership dues, and encourage members to renew their membership.

**Why is having a working knowledge of the CCA Bylaws important to your role?**

Having a working knowledge of the bylaws is crucial to my role as a board member for several reasons. First, Bylaws are used to guide all actions and decisions of the Board. They dictate protocols to follow, and are used to resolve conflicts and disagreements. Second, Bylaws define the appropriate level of accountability, transparency, and effectiveness, which fosters trust in the membership at large. Third, it defines a set of legally binding rules. Fourth, it defines fiduciary duties known as the "duty of care," "duty of loyalty," and "duty of obedience". Bylaws help board members fulfill these duties by ensuring prudent use of all assets, advancing the organization's mission, and adhering to applicable laws and regulations.

**Why is a basic understanding of Robert's Rules of Order (12th Edition) important for a Director?**

Understanding Robert's Rules of Order is important for several reasons. First, it defines a framework that helps groups hold orderly meetings, allowing the majority to rule while ensuring minority voices are heard. Second, it enables full participation of the membership and allow groups to maintain democratic rule, flexibility, and protect rights of both the minority and majority. Third, it provides a framework for keeping the discussion focused on the decision that needs to be made, and ensures a balance between the speed of decisions and the openness of discussion. Finally, its rules help organizations officially begin a meeting, make motions, pass rules and otherwise conduct meetings with a specific agenda, order of business and system to maintain an orderly and transparent meeting.

**Describe your understanding of the fiduciary responsibility a District Director holds as it relates to running the club including implications for costs in decision making, interpreting treasurer reports, national show bids, and any other financial matters of the CCA.**

A Director has five principal, you have several key fiduciary responsibilities. The first is to act in good faith and in the best interests of the CCA, ensuring that decisions will benefit the CCA and Collies. This implies that actions of a Director must align with the mission and purpose of the CCA. It is strictly forbidden for a Director to act when he or she has a conflict of interest. It is also strictly forbidden to misuse your position, or use information gained from that position, for personal gain or for harming the CCA in any way.

With respect to financial matters, it is imperative that Directors understand all costs associated with a decision and weigh them against the benefits derived. This ensures that decisions promote the mission of the club and provide the most gain, as opposed to merely being the "cheapest".

**What is the significance of the following statement regarding NY Not-for-profit board responsibility (501(c)(7)): Directors must vote and make decisions based on the best interest and benefit of the entire organization and not just a particular group of beneficiaries or other directors.**

This is an important point, and is how I have voted the past two years.


Any (geographical) District will have demographic characteristics. A Director must balance the desires and opinions of his or her District members with the good of the CCA as a whole.

**Why do you want to serve, or continue to serve, your District and the Collie Club of America?**

I have an insatiable love of dogs, and Collies in particular. I believe that I can best help represent my constituency as well as support the goals and mission of the CCA by continuing to serve as a District Director. I respect Conformation, but believe that working dogs like Collies are best expressed by Versatility titles.

**This nomination form must be complete and include a signed Pre-election and Annual Conflict of Interest Statement, Board of Directors Code of Conduct, and Confidentiality Agreement. An electronic Pre-election and Annual Conflict of Interest Statement, Board of Directors Code of Conduct, and Confidentiality Agreement are included at the end of this form for your signature.**

**Signature**



Part 1 of 2

## **Pre-election and Annual Conflict of Interest Statement**

I, the undersigned, am, or may become, a Director of Collie Club of America, Inc. (the "Club") and I hereby certify to the following:

**Part 1**

- I have received a copy of the Club's Conflict of Interest Policy, which is included in Article XIV of the Club's Bylaws.

I have read the Club's Conflict of Interest Policy and I understand it.

- I acknowledge that I receive information which must remain confidential.
- I agree to fully comply with the Club's Conflict of Interest Policy.
- I understand that the Club is a tax-exempt organization and that in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

**Part 2 of 2: To the best of your knowledge, are you an officer, director, trustee, member, owner, or employee of any entity with which the Club has a relationship?**

NO

**If yes, please identify the entity, your relationship to that entity, and the relationship that entity has to the Club. Please include information for all entities.**

Not Applicable

**Part 2 of 2 continued: Is there any transaction in which the Club is a participant and which you have or may have a conflict of interest?**

NO

**If yes, please identify the transaction with which you have or may have a conflict of interest. If you have or may have a conflict of interest with more than one transaction, please describe each conflict of interest below.**

Not Applicable

**Signature**



## Board of Directors Code of Conduct

Members of the Board of Directors for the Collie Club of America (hereafter referred to as "Club" in this document) serve in leadership positions and, therefore, are held to a higher standard of conduct than non-board Club members. By signing this Code of Conduct, each Board member demonstrates his/her commitment to honest and ethical Board service by agreeing to the following provisions.

**As a member of the Board of Directors for the Collie Club of America, I will**

Adhere to the Club's By-Laws and act within the boundaries of its authority as defined by New York State Non-Profit law.

**As a member of the Board of Directors for the Collie Club of America, I will**

Strive at all times to discharge my duties and serve the interests of the Club as a whole regardless of my personal interests. This includes being fully versed in the governing documents of the Club and Director Guidelines.

**As a member of the Board of Directors for the Collie Club of America, I will**

Use due diligence and sound judgment to make the best possible business decisions for the Club taking into consideration all available information, circumstances, and resources.

**As a member of the Board of Directors for the Collie Club of America, I will**

Immediately disclose to other Board members any conflict of interest as soon as I become aware of the potential conflict.

**As a member of the Board of Directors for the Collie Club of America, I will**

Treat other Directors and members of the Club with respect at all times and refrain from making personal attacks on, or inflammatory comments about, anyone.

**As a member of the Board of Directors for the Collie Club of America, I will**

Provide member feedback and participate in discussions on Club motions and actions, but support and abide by all duly adopted Board decisions once made.

**As a member of the Board of Directors for the Collie Club of America, I will**

Continue to remain a Club member in good standing for the duration of my term.

**As a member of the Board of Directors of the Collie Club of America, I will NOT**

Reveal any discussion or decisions made during any properly closed Executive session of the Board without prior approval of the Board.

**As a member of the Board of Directors of the Collie Club of America, I will NOT**

Use my position and/or decision-making authority for personal gain or to seek advantage over another Club member.

**As a member of the Board of Directors of the Collie Club of America, I will NOT**

Share specific comments or identifying information from the Board discussion group without permission.

**As a member of the Board of Directors of the Collie Club of America, I will NOT**

Divulge personal information about any Club member that was obtained in the performance of Board duties.

**As a member of the Board of Directors of the Collie Club of America, I will NOT**

Misrepresent known facts in any issue involving Club business.

**As a Board member, I have read the Board of Director Code of Conduct presented above. I agree to abide by the requirements of this policy and to inform the Board President immediately if I believe any violation (unintentional or otherwise) of the policy, has occurred.**

I agree

Signature



## Board of Directors Confidentiality Agreement

Confidentiality refers to the duty to preserve privileged information and to share entrusted information responsibly. Board of Director members are cautioned to demonstrate professionalism, good judgment, and care at all times in handling any information relating to the Collie Club of America (hereafter referred to as "Club" in this document) to avoid unauthorized or improper disclosures of confidential information.

Board members are expected and encouraged to discuss Club business with one another and with members. However, there are limits to what is shared and how it is shared as outlined below.

Therefore, the undersigned hereby acknowledges and agrees to the following:

**Any document or form created by conducting Club business is considered proprietary and all information contained therein shall be considered confidential and will not be discussed, duplicated, published or released in any format unless said document or form is originally intended to be non-confidential or until instructed to be disclosed or published by a majority vote of the CCA Board of Directors.**

I agree

**All information discussed or reviewed in a closed Executive Session meeting shall be interpreted as confidential and will not be discussed or released to anyone not in attendance at that meeting without prior Board approval.**

I agree

**Specific or identifying information shared or discussed on the Board discussion forum will not be shared outside the board without permission. General topics of discussion may be shared with members for feedback.**

I agree

**Any Club information, personal comments, or any member personal data collected by the Club will be considered confidential information and will not be discussed or released in any manner unless through an approved venue and/or for a clearly delineated specific purpose (such as the website, committee chairs, member and judge bios, election materials, etc.).**

I agree

**I agree with and shall abide by all provisions of this Confidentiality Agreement. I understand and agree that failure to abide with any and all provisions listed herein may result in immediate loss of access to information and potential disciplinary actions by the Club.**

I agree

**Signature**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. John Stong". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and "S".