

BSCA 2018 Nominations for the AKC Outstanding Good Sportsmanship Award

The following BSCA Members have been nominated for the 2018 AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award. For those of you on BSCANotice, a poll will be set up. To access the poll, when you log in to BSCA Notice - you should either see POLLS or More at the top of the page. Click on Polls and there is an open Poll. If you need to click on MORE - it will give you a drop down and then click on polls - go to the open polls and vote. For those who do not participate on the BSCANotice List, you can send your vote via USPS mail to Julie Fiechter; 7805 Shreve Rd., Falls Church, VA 22043. Voting closes on March 15, 2018.

Eileen Indorato

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD NOMINATION OF EILEEN INDORATO

When I first got involved with showing Belgian Sheepdogs, I knew nothing!! One of my mentors, who became a one of my very close friends and adopted “family” members was, and is Eileen Indorato. I knew nothing and Eileen showed me the ropes...we travelled to shows together and she offered me explanations of just what goes on in the ring at a dog show---how classes are judged, what the judge is looking at in the dog, the Breed Standard—everything that happens in those two minutes of glory. Then there was grooming; how to’s, do this, NEVER do that.....what supplies I would need....learning to show a dog is daunting! As our friendship progressed, Eileen then gave me handling tips, handled my dog, and always offered lots of encouragement not only to me, but to all the other Belgian exhibitors as well. I have NEVER been at a show where I don’t hear Eileen congratulating, offering support or just some helpful hints to an exhibitor—and not just in the Belgian ring.

As an Ambassador for the Belgian Breed, Eileen has had the good fortune to attain goals most of us just dream about---owning, loving, training, and showing her beloved dogs to become some of the top ranking Belgian Sheepdogs in the country—winning Best in Shows, Best in National Specialties, Best in Regional Specialties, as well Best of Breed at the Westminster Dog Show (and I’m sure I’ve missed a few big ones!!)

As a Club member, Eileen is very proactive. This past year, she volunteered to be the BSCA Coordinator for the Meet the Breeds Booth in Orlando, FL. This is a daunting task which takes many hours to create and design the booth layout, come up with creative ideas, and get it all executed and set up for thousands of people to see. Eileen’s determination and hard work paid off this year when the Belgian Sheepdog Booth was awarded a Group 3 in the Herding Group for Best Booth in Show!!!

Eileen is a vital member of the Belgian Sheepdog Club of the Blue Ridge and will also be one of the key people for the 2020 BSCA National, always there when needed and ready to help out.

For all these reasons, and many more, I am honored to nominate Eileen Indorato for the BSCA Outstanding Sportsmanship Award.

Carleen Wiles

Jim Reise

AKC Outstanding Sportsman Award

We would like to nominate Jim Reise for the AKC Outstanding Sportsman Award.

Jim has demonstrated tremendous loyalty and dedication to the Belgian Sheepdog breed through his outstanding support of the BSCA and his hard work to introduce the breed to the public. He encourages people whenever he can, especially people who are new to the world of dog sport. He consistently does what is best for our breed and is fair to everyone, without consideration of his own interests. Jim is gracious whether he wins or loses.

Jim and his wife Mary, have owned Belgian Sheepdogs and Collies since the 1980s. Jim's style is to work quietly behind the scenes supporting and promoting Belgians and Belgian-related events. He has earned Championships on a number of his dogs, as well as titles in tracking and herding. When it comes to Belgian Sheepdog or Collie rescue, Jim is always ready to step in. He recently took in a young Belgian whose owner had passed away.

Jim chaired the BSCA Nationals in 2007 and 2016. As President of the Potomac Valley Belgian Sheepdog Club, he has organized the BSCA Regional and PVBSC Specialties and Supported Entries. As Chair of the BSCA National Specialties he has forgone showing his own dogs in order to concentrate his full attention to provide the best experience for all participating. As anyone who put on a National knows, the work is time consuming and intense. Jim approaches the tasks with a cheerful attitude and pays attention to all the details. His congenial personality allows him to work well with others and he delegate tasks easily.

Jim and Mary organized a Belgian Sheepdog booth and gave performance demonstrations at a meet-the-breeds event sponsored by Warrenton Kennel Club in Virginia. He and his dogs have also represented the breed at the Old Dominion Kennel Club's meet-the-breeds booth.

Jim has taught conformation classes at the Carroll County, Maryland 4-H Club for a number of years. He also has judged the 4-H Junior Showmanship at the Howard County (Maryland) Fair since 2010. He serves as the Chief Ring Steward at the PVBSC All-Breed agility trials. An informal email message system was developed by Jim to promote a higher turn-out at shows to build majors.

Over the years, as President of the PVBSC, Jim has introduced and expanded dog-related experiences for local Belgian Sheepdog owners. He has arranged tracking, agility, rally and obedience "fun" days to encourage more people to get involved in performance events.

For the annual PVBSC Match, Jim identifies and reaches out to people to judge who he believes might be interested in becoming AKC judges for Belgian Sheepdogs. Similarly, for Sweeps at the local Specialties and Supported Entries, Jim makes a point of asking prospective judges of the breed to do the judging.

We don't think one could ask for a better sportsman and a more generous and dedicated person to champion the Belgian Sheepdog breed.

Sincerely,

Kim Matson

Sharon Phillips