

Candidate for President, Steven Buell:

I would like to officially announce my candidacy for President of the NYRCBA. I have been a member of the NY association for 17 years. Not only have I grown up in this hobby, it has also helped me to know and become who I am today. During that time I have held office positions in clubs as well as helped found an all breed club and specialty club. In 2018 I took on a role in the organizing of the national convention in Massachusetts. In 2020 I was able to bring a national breed show to NY. Over the last few years I have dedicated a lot of time and efforts into helping host shows for the members of the state and surrounding areas. These shows were also a great way for us to give back the youth of ARBA and NYS/district 7. I believe that supporting the future of our hobby is of utmost importance. Promoting the hobby, keeping the hobby moving forward and giving our friends and family a way to safely see each other has been very important to me. Some of my goals are to ensure that everyone has a voice, keep this hobby going strong in New York, ensure that exhibitors are able to have fun and enjoy shows and most importantly that new exhibitors feel welcomed in our extended family so that they stay in the hobby.

Voting is by club, not individual member. When your club brings to a member vote which candidate to cast the clubs vote for, I would appreciate your support! If your club does not reach out to its members then I urge you to ask them why. No matter which candidates that you support. Voting should be the voice of the members.



Candidate for President, Marty Earle:

DIVERSITY – UNITY – PROGRESS - STABILITY

As a candidate for President of the NYR&CBA, I'd like to share my dreams/goals for our Organization's future.

1. DIVERSITY: One of the greatest strengths of our organization is the DIVERSITY of its members. One way to Celebrate this diversity is to have every single NYR&CBA club represented on our committees. Just as there is diversity & beauty in the number of rabbit & cavies we love & show, our club/members have a wealth of diverse skill sets, opinions & talents and I believe that the expression of this diversity will serve to add color, texture, success and growth to our organization.

2. UNITY: The role of a President is not to dictate, but to facilitate the collective diversity of its members towards UNITY in one common goal. I believe one goal we all share is to see the growth & success of this hobby. A President should facilitate this by insuring that each member club be afforded the opportunity to not only have their voice heard but to play an active role in the structure and function of this organization. The multifaceted talents of the individuals in our organization NEED to be expressed, for the enrichment of our hobby.

3. PROGRESS: In 2005 our 3 boys started showing rabbits in 4H, and we were blessed to have some amazing breeders come alongside our kids to serve as mentors (a shout out to: John Stenson, Sue Sykes, Gail Kaiser, Charlie Gadd – to just name a few). It was immediately evident to us, as parents, what a true gift a mentor is and how important that role is in the lives of our Youth. My wife & I have had the privilege to pay back the gift our family received by supporting our youth as judges at local 4H shows and mentoring youth for more than 15 years. We not only believe that the Youth are the Future of our hobby, but that they are very much our Present. I would love to see the continuation and/or implementation of a state-wide Youth Mentorship program in each of our local clubs, to educate & strengthen our Youth Rabbit & Cavy breeders and encourage their continued success into adulthood.

4. STABILITY: A President should exhibit professionalism & stability and have a working knowledge of the organization's structure (Constitution & By-Laws). This type of stability is key to the successful Progression of an organization. This is where I will share a brief bio of my leadership experience:

(I) Multi-Term President of TARBA, OTC & TTRC All-Breed Clubs

(II) Multi-Term President of the Empire State Polish Specialty Club

(III) Prior Director & Current Vice-President of the national American Polish Rabbit Club

(IV) NYR&CBA Show Committee: Hiring of judges for Grand Finals

In addition to my leadership roles, I have enjoyed being an active member of local, regional and national clubs, as well as being an ambassador for our hobby at the NYS Fair. This experience has given me a broad understanding of the importance of effective & inclusive leadership.

The last couple of years have been difficult for many rabbit & cavy breeders and our hobby in general. The ability to work with local, state & national organizations in this ever changing landscape of our hobby & world is key. I look forward to seeing our membership come together to support one another, to support our local clubs, and to support our national organizations.

I would be honored to have your consideration and vote to be the next President of the NYR&CBA. Let your voice be heard!! Talk to your club about your choices for tomorrow's leadership.



Candidate for Vice-President, Logan Manning-Orvis:

NYRCBA ballots will be going out soon. Just wanted to hop on and let everyone know I turned in my petition for Vice President. A little about me, for those that may not know, I have been breeding and showing rabbits for almost a decade. I show all over the state of NY and the east coast. I've had Rhinelanders for my entire time I've been in rabbits. They are my heart breed. Over the years I have given quality animals to youth, I've supported our youth in many other ways. Whether it's free tattoos at shows (for their rabbits), advice on breeding/showing or a support person at the tables. I am also the secretary/treasurer for Lake Effect RCBA, I sanction Rhinelanders for almost every show I go to. Recently I started judging 4H shows at county fairs and I just took my ARBA Registrar's Exam last weekend. I am hoping to eventually become an ARBA judge. As VP for NYRCBA I will strive to keep communication open and friendly as well as support local clubs in anyway they may require it. I believe NY has the potential to be the greatest state of breeders and exhibitors and I want to help sustain that dream. I am honest (maybe a little too much), hard working and approachable. I never turn away from someone with questions or situations that require a more experienced input. I believe in honest and open communication regardless of the difficulty or the uncomfotability of it. If there is an elephant in the room you can rest assured I will be the first person to address it. I want the cavy breeders and exhibitors to feel as important and needed as the rabbit people. I don't have many horses in the race as I sit one the board of one club that I hold dear to my heart. I think openness and being as straight forward as possible while remaining polite is the best way to get a point across. I hope to have clubs' votes this summer to insure NY continues to progress.



Candidate for Vice-President, Ken Nesbitt:

I would like to officially announce my candidacy for Vice President of the NYRCBA. For my non-rabbit friends that stands for New York State Rabbit and Cavy Breeders Association.

How often as rabbit breeders do we get asked "what?" "Why?" "Rabbits?" "How many?!" LOL.

I got my first rabbit Louie, a French lop of course in 1983 when I was 13 years old. At that time I only showed with 4-H, I got out of rabbits in high school in time to attend college. Fast forward several years and thanks to the internet I was able to connect with the Edens and travel to Ohio to once again own my beloved French lops. Since that time I have worked tirelessly to create a herd that I am proud of. I had the honor of winning best of breed at the 2017 and 2018 conventions. Best opposite at the 2013 National and best at the 2018 National which was particularly special as it was the national in Syracuse that our state Club hosted. I am active on the state level in multiple clubs, I am currently the secretary/ treasurer of the New York State Lop Club. I have previously served on the national Lop clubs standards committee, I am currently the Zone one director and the chair of the convention judges selection committee for the Lop rabbit Club of America. I am on the current working COD for Otter French Lops. I am a member of the Empire polish Club and the American Polish rabbit Club. Most recently I have begun the process of obtaining my registrars credentials. I have judged Showmanship with the youth in Niagara, Steuben and Ontario counties multiple times. I love working with youth, as they say they are indeed our future. I have enjoyed the opportunity over the years of mentoring some and providing them with some tremendous stock to work with.

For those of us with the passion we know it is so much more than rabbits. Through this hobby I have met some of the most incredible people, I have made the best friends of my life. I have laughed, oh how I have laughed. I have traveled our country and made memories to last a lifetime. But most of all this hobby and it's members saved me. In my darkest time the need to care for the rabbits is what made me get up each day. Their quiet acceptance, need for head rubs and the near constant reaching out of my rabbit family carried me through. I could go on and on in regards to how incredible and Priceless this hobby and it's people are to me.

Covid was devastating to us as a nation.. to the world. And it had a huge impact on our hobby. From lost members to breeders deciding to get out for a multitude of reasons such as increased cost and cancellation of events. As a nurse I was up close and personal with it. Those years were the hardest in my 30 year career. We survived! We are here! It is time to rebuild our clubs, increase our membership, heal this division and come together with like minded individuals to celebrate in the best way we can...Successful shows reflective of friendly competition, good sportsmanship and comraderi. Most recently I have enjoyed getting to know more about the world of Cavy exhibitors and I look forward to getting to know and working with them. They are just as passionate and their numbers have declined as well. As VP of NYRCBA I will work closely with the President, board and ALL members to do all I can to support them. I don't believe in making a lot of promises, if my career has shown me nothing else it has shown me that life can change in a moment. For those that know me they know that I am a direct communicator, I believe that communication should be respectful. open and honest. I go into each interaction with the belief that both parties intent is a good one and comes from a place of caring. We are all different we all bring different outlooks and experiences to the table our commonality is our passion for this hobby. I love that there are multiple candidates this year for positions unlike many years in the past. I believe that my levelheadedness, professionalism, experience, maturity and empathy are qualities that will serve me and you well as your vice president. Respectfully submitted, Thank you



Candidate for Vice-President, Jean Smith:

I have had rabbits almost all of my life starting at age 8 with a few breaks here and there.

Around 1992 my oldest son began showing rabbits, how we all seem to start, in 4H. He raised and showed Netherland Dwarfs. He was the one who gathered information for and introduced me to ARBA. We didn't join ARBA until 2000 but once we did that it became a family affair it seems. Most of you only know Harold and Kaitlyn but there are three more! Four out of five showed rabbits, one stuck to Bovine. Each raised their own breed. Kaitlyn was only 5 when her eldest brother decided he was "too" old for rabbits and gave her his Netherland Dwarfs. We have raised Polish, Mini Rex, Californian, Dutch, Britannia Petite, New Zealand and Netherland Dwarfs. Sticking to and still raising Californians, Britannia Petite, Netherland Dwarfs, and of course Dutch.

I have always done this hobby for my children (and any other child that was interested). I am especially grateful for the wonderful family bond this hobby afforded me. We have traveled the country together showing our rabbits. This hobby has gifted me with a lifetime of treasured memories and friendships.

My name is Jean Smith. Most of you know me from being behind the Secretary's table helping one of those wonderful friends, Venita, but more so as your Vice President of NYRCBA for the past eight years. I am running again this year as it is my hope to be a steady support to our newly elected President. During the past eight years as your VP I have attended every meeting.

I am a huge supporter of youth and trying to get them interested and involved in our hobby by doing many outreach educations about rabbits in my local area. I am currently our local county fairs rabbit superintendent and have been for the past 19 years. I have been a 4H leader, evaluator, and Friend of 4H for 45 years. During my time as your Vice President, it was my goal to be available to anyone who reached out. I hope I fulfilled that goal. I will continue to be available when ever needed should I be elected.

Best wishes to all the candidates and thank you for considering me.

