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## *Kathy Spears*

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Thank you for taking the time to read my bio and considering me for your Vice President. My name is Kathy Spears, and I currently serve as the Secretary for the CCAA. I am the founder of Fireside Cane Corso, a small-scale breeding program in Florida that shows, health tests, and serves as a resource for puppy families for the life of each puppy that leaves our home. I also actively assist with foster and rescue. I have been a member of the CCAA since January 2012.

My first experience with the Cane Corso breed was around 2008 when I took one into my rescue. At the time, I ran a rescue that specialized in large breed rehabilitation. I fell in love with the breed and brought home “my own” first Cane Corso in 2011. Back then, I lived in California and formed strong bonds with many people in the west coast states. A move to Florida allowed me to build new relationships on the other side of the country. I enjoy healthy dialogue with people in our breed, and I believe positive communication will strengthen our community. I am willing to put in the work to help it grow in a constructive direction.

As Vice President, I will reach out and build positive relationships with members in all our regions. This is something I have worked hard to establish in the last 12 years. The center of the VP’s job is organizing and encouraging the regional VPs, helping them represent the breed and working with the members in their region. This position has suffered from a lack of constructive activity. I want to change that. The person serving as VP should be welcoming and embrace the exchange of ideas without judgment. I can be that person.

During my time as Secretary, I have represented the membership in a fair and impartial manner, even in the face of negativity, hostility and a fractured board. I have a zero-tolerance policy for bullying and do not support public displays of negativity and drama. Instead, I firmly believe our club should take a positive, vigorous approach to relations with our regions and encourage more active participation from our regional VPs. I enjoy interacting with people and mentoring fellow Cane Corso lovers. It has been a long time since there has been an open communication line between a VP and CCAA members, and I intend to change this. My goal is to present positives and constructive solutions, bringing our breed community together without the interference of negative politics and personal agendas. Thank you for all the wonderful relationships over the years and for considering me for the Vice President of the CCAA. I appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve you.