

Letter from your NBS President,

Hello members your board has been very busy planning our 2025 show located in Knoxville, TN. At the March board meeting we defined our goals for this year's show and reviewed your input from last year.

First, I would like to introduce the newly elected National Bird Show Executive Board. Debbie Eaton, Treasurer (Texas) and Robert Wild, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (Illinois) are returning to the executive board elected to another one year term. Wendy Edwards, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (North Carolina), Nancy Wilson, Secretary (Texas), and Laura Bewley, President (Oklahoma) are all new members of the executive board elected for one year. Nancy is a 2024 Higgins winner, long term exhibitor, breeder, local club officer and new NBS board member. Wendy, Debbie, Robert and Laura have served on the NBS board for some time, are National Panel Judges, long term exhibitors and breeders. Wendy, Debbie, and Robert are also past Higgins winners. This new executive board has been all business since their election, planning for the 2025 National Show in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Three new members were elected to the NBS Board of Directors in 2025. Nancy Wilson, Vicki Meyer, and Jacob Fipps joined the board and are working on task to support our show. These new board members are not new to volunteering at our National Show or their local shows. They will and have proven to be a great asset to our organization. Serving on the board requires a great deal of personal time and personal expense, requiring a dedication to our hobby and a desire to support our show. I urge each of you to back the board members, assist this organization where you can and encourage our hobby.

Concerns from the membership expressed to board were discussed at the March board meeting. First, parking at the 2024 show was not good. In addressing this issue we will be having our show at the Jacob Building on the grounds of Chilhowee Park. This location is surrounded by free parking, several handicapped spots, all with easy access to the building. We will have more information in later newsletters about drop off and pick up procedures of your birds, but this location has great parking. An area is also available for RV parking overnight or camping for our hardy members. Secondly, the Jacob Building will have the concession area open for Breakfast and Lunch so you will have easy access to refreshments throughout the entire event. Another item we have addressed is locations for Saturday Specialty Club meetings. Each club is invited to have their meeting in their division's gallery. This will enable your club to attract interested public to your meeting and give your group easy access to a discussion of exhibits, no confusion on location and greater flexibility in meeting schedules. Club meeting times will be posted/advertised in the show catalog and if more than one specialty club supports a division time will be scheduled for each club.

The board took action to approve updates to the Parrot division classifications submitted by North American Parrot Society Specialty Club. Section additions were made to Division 3 Type Canary. A section for Japanese Hoso and a section for Raza Espanola were approved. Classes for Llarguet and Portuguese Harlequin were added to the Other Type Canary Section. Please check the 2025 show catalog for current classification information. The catalog will be posted in August on our website.

Two NBS By-Law changes were approved to clarify information. Amendment to Article IX Sec 9.02 of the By-Laws added: "The definition of a specialty club shall be defined as an organization or club with an elected board of officials whose mission is in alignment with that of NCBS". Article VII Sec 8.0 1d was amended to read "Any single Judge can judge 2 consecutive years providing it is for separate divisions". Some typos have also been corrected. The By-Laws can be found on our website: [ncbs.org](http://ncbs.org)

Other changes to the National's operation were made to enable the show to continue. NBS is raising the minimum support cost for affiliated clubs to \$250.00. Each club at affiliation, in January/February, notifies the board of changes they need to their division, judges selected, and pay an affiliation fee. Several clubs are supporting YOUR National at well over the minimum amount and we are very thankful for their support. You can see a list of the affiliated clubs and their level of support in the Show Catalog.

During the board meeting Robert Wild presented the statistics on the past year division participation numbers. NBS has a requirement that divisions keep an average of 90 birds over a 5 to 10 year span. Several divisions are in danger and I ask you to make an effort to support our hobby and be generous to the Specialty Clubs working to keep exhibiting birds fun. If you would like more information on the numbers please contact your Specialty Club or the board for specific information.

The 2025 National Bird Show Judges have been selected and approved. They are a very experienced group and should provide an educational experience to the judging of your birds. The National commits \$600.00 for each judge's expenses and has voted to increase our commitment to \$750.00 per judge for the 2026 show. Expenses are going up for all of us and we thank our Affiliated Specialty Clubs for their support. You can find the list of judges for the 2025 show on our website.

The Jacob Building in Knoxville has a wonderful upper floor. This year your board is working hard to invite vendors to sell their bird related products. Many of you remember how going to the National was a time where you could shop for the hard to find bird products, toys, birds, and cages. This year we are making an effort to fill the space with vendors. If you or a business you support would like a space at the event please contact board member Nancy Wilson.

A goal of the NBS Board for 2025 is to have more fun and spread more hospitality. We have a unique hobby, with great challenges, that together sharing our trials, experience, and successes we can help each other. I challenge each member to remember exhibiting birds is not for garnering profits, but to better our breed, to focus on the future of the breed, to share ideas and encourage others in this special hobby. Aviculture in AMERICA is looking for you to grow our hobby and this is a place to learn about breeding the best and show off your successes.

I personally invite each of you to attend **your** show, November 21<sup>st</sup> in Knoxville Tennessee, bring your best birds and enjoy showing. Your old and new friends all want to see you there.

Your 2025 NBS Board members invite you to team up with them. If you are interested in working on a project for the show please contact our board. We would love your support.

Inviting you on this adventure,

Laura Bewley  
2025 NBS President