

# Paws to Dance

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The Newsletter of the Canine Freestyle Federation, Inc.

February 2024

## President's Report

By Leila Widgren

A huge thank you to Betty Swenson for serving on the CFF board as President. Also, a continued thanks to Brenda Jameson as she continues to serve as Webmaster. An enormous thank you to Carl Tennille as he has graciously agreed to continue to serve as Treasurer while we look to fill his position and other positions he holds. Betty, Brenda, and Carl, your service is very much appreciated.

Your New Board for this year is:

President: Leila Widgren  
Vice President/Events: Sarah Jinnah  
Treasurer: Carl Tennille  
Recording Secretary: Shari Bryant  
Membership Secretary: Diana Simpson  
Judges Chair: Janet Dayton  
Education: Julia Gregory  
Communications: Donna Kesten  
Guilds: Kathy Noble

Your CFF Board is working hard for you! We are working hard to focus on revitalization of CFF and the ability to keep and take it into the future. Last month, prior to a special planning session, board members submitted their top concerns, CFF's greatest strengths and weaknesses, and their top 3 priorities for CFF

## Table of Contents

<b><i>President's Report.....</i></b>	<b><i>1</i></b>
<b><i>Mark Your Calendars – Upcoming Events.....</i></b>	<b><i>2</i></b>
<b><i>North Coast Canine Freestylers Guild.....</i></b>	<b><i>3</i></b>
<b><i>Sirius Guild.....</i></b>	<b><i>4</i></b>
<b><i>Carolina Canine Freestyle Guild .....</i></b>	<b><i>4</i></b>
<b><i>2024 CFF Annual Dues Notice .....</i></b>	<b><i>5</i></b>

for 2024. All of the information was assembled and during an over 3-hour planning session, the board members discussed and added more ideas to the extensive list. Ideas were categorized and votes were tallied leaving us with our priority list.

1. Replace Carl Tennille as Treasurer on the Board (per his request) and find people to handle all of the tasks he currently handles for CFF:
  - Awards
  - Historian
  - Legal
  - Maintain CFF Event Manual, Judges Manual, Rule book. Sound system for events
  - Merchandise for sale
  - Scoring
  - Treasury functions

2. Complete Online Beginners Class
3. Investigate Virtual Awards Inclusion in the Sport
4. Support Distance Coaching
5. Improve Online Presence
6. Create Marketing Plan
7. Actively Support Current and Past Guilds
8. Enhance Instructor Support
9. Attract / Keep / Train Quality Judges
10. Resolve Titling Event Administration Being Done by Hosting Guild

There are many details behind the priority list, but it gives you a picture of where we are heading. I encourage everyone to email the board with your ideas, concerns, and questions.

<https://canine-freestyle.org/contact>

If you would like to volunteer to take over some items that Carl currently does or want more details about them, please contact Carl or Leila. The list is broken up so that several people can take over what Carl currently does all by himself. **Please consider helping** so that Carl can transition off of the board and fully engage in his retirement.

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## Mark Your Calendars – Upcoming Events

June 1 & 2, 2024

### **North Coast Canine Freestylers Guild**

The guild plans to host a two-day trial at the Canine Affair Center in Chesterland, Ohio.

November 2 & 3, 2024

### **Carolina Canine Freestyle Guild & Sirius Guild**

The guilds tentatively plan to host a two-day trial at the Winston-Salem Dog Training Club in Winston-Salem, NC.



# North Coast Canine Freestylers Guild

By Karen Grettler

North Coast Canine Freestylers six-week introductory class for new students culminated in an inspiring “Afternoon of Sharing” on December 17, 2023. The new students each have experience in agility, obedience, or rally so they bring a lot to freestyle.



Throughout the winter months, we have been meeting every other Sunday to select music for the new students and work on routines. In addition, students were asked to take turns teaching a lesson! Each of us fully embraced the challenge and came up with some interesting lessons. Janet and Leila were supportive, making each experience a positive one for the “student instructor” and everyone else.

In early February, we had to give up on the lessons because we have eleven (11) potential exhibitors that need floor time to come up with music and routines for our titling event on June 1 and 2, 2024. What a “problem” to have! Potentially, we will have four Level 2A exhibitors and dogs in June. Seasoned CFF exhibitors and new students are learning a great deal from each other. The comradery is heartwarming.



From Janet Dayton:

Leila had a lesson about choreography and music. She gave each student a different piece of music to choreograph. These are some of the students trying to figure out what they are going to do. It was a good lesson.

## Sirius Guild

By Kathy Noble

Capital Dog Training Club in Silver Spring, MD, is where Sirius Guild members from the D.C. area train in freestyle. A new ten-week Beginners Freestyle class, offered to Maryland, Virginia and D.C. students, is well on its way. The instructors are Kathy Noble and Nan Marks. It's great to see some new canine and human faces, and wonderful to watch them begin to develop some freestyle skills and learn some new vocabulary (Opening Shape, Tugger, Intent and more!). Best of all is seeing the smiles on both dog and handler when they discover what music can do for them. The youngest "student", a five-month-old German Shepherd Dog, is loving the music and shows it when his stride alters and he almost literally dances across the Presentation Space. The oldest canine student, another German Shepherd Dog who is five, has, according to her human teammate, "finally found something she LOVES to do!" (this was said with tears in her eyes). Then there is the herding/hound mix who bounces across the Presentation Space with a huge smile on his face, which he occasionally flashes at his audience, just to make sure everyone is watching. The other class members have already been doing Freestyle, and are bringing on a youngster or beginner dog. The class began in January, and will be ten weeks long. We hope these new folks will continue their Freestyle journey with us and that we will eventually see them at a future trial.



In other news, we are all working on the choreography for our next routines, with plans to enter either in June in Ohio or November in Winston Salem, and the perennial search for interesting and suitable music has turned up what promises to be some entertaining listening and fabulous performances.

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## Carolina Canine Freestyle Guild

By Shari Bryant

The Carolina Canine Freestyle Guild and Sirius Guild are tentatively planning to host a two-day titling event on November 2 & 3 at the Winston-Salem Dog Training Club in Winston-Salem, NC. Mark your calendars!



Also, freestyle classes will be starting at the Winston-Salem Dog Training Club in April. Sarah Jinnah will be the instructor. If you are interested, please contact Sarah. Registration starts March 11, 2024. To register, go to [WSDTC.org](http://WSDTC.org). The registrar is Sharon Stogner and she can provide help with signing up, if needed. The session will be held on Saturday mornings from 10 am to 1 pm (this includes setup). The dates for the classes are:

- April 20
- May 11
- May 18
- May 25

## 2024 CFF Annual Dues Notice

Dues are \$25.00. Please renew today! (Your membership expires on March 31, 2024 unless you joined since October 1, 2023 or have a life membership.)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to CFF, Inc. and mail to Carl Tennille, Treasurer CFF 14430 Overlook Ridge Lane Beaverdam, VA 23015 or go to CFF website, login to your account, and pay via PayPal (This is the fastest method.). Instructions to pay through your member account at <https://bit.ly/2GBB0yB> or you can pay via the store.

In May 1998, CFF filed an Application for Recognition of Exemption under 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code with the IRS. The IRS granted CFF's request in 1999 as exempt from federal income taxes. CFF dues are not deductible for federal income tax purposes as a charitable contribution.

Also, when renewing your membership, please confirm that your contact information (i.e., mailing address, phone number, and email address) is correct. Your contact information can be updated on the website if you renew membership online through your member account or by sending an email with the updated information to the Diana Simpson, Membership Director, at [Disi74@roadrunner.com](mailto:Disi74@roadrunner.com).



Paws to Dance  
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## FIRST CLASS MAIL

### Upcoming Events

North Coast Canine Freestylers Guild Titling Event, Chesterland, OH, June 1 & 2, 2024  
Carolina Canine Freestyle Guild/Sirius Guild Titling Event, Winston-Salem, NC, November 2 & 3, 2024

### Canine Freestyle Federation Board of Directors

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