

# MENTOR. *musings*



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***Fall 2025***

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Doberman Pinscher Club of America  
Judges Education Committee  
**Judges Mentoring Program**

*Artwork Courtesy of Leslie Hall....Thank you, Leslie!*

## **DPCA JUDGES EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

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### **Judges Education Committee Members:**

Vicki Seiler-Cushman, Faye Strauss, Lita Milstead-Brannan, Adrian Woodfork & George Marquis

### **JEC Sub-Committee Members:**

Elizabeth Barrett, Mona Fasth, Linda George, Colleen Nicholson & Linda Whitney

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## **DPCA MENTOR MUSINGS**

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### **DPCA Judges Education Mentor Committee Mission Statement:**

“To provide a superior, best-in-class education to AKC judges, both new and licensed. To prepare future judges by teaching the AKC Doberman Pinscher standard to advance their knowledge on judging the Doberman. To promote an intellectual environment built on past knowledge and a commitment of non-bias opinions on education and feedback. To commit to life-long learning using the power of information provided by the DPCA and other educational opportunities on the breed. By pursuing these objectives with vision and integrity, the DPCA Mentors seek to engage and stimulate the best effort to all whom they are teaching.”

## ***Message from Vicki Seiler-Cushman, JEC Committee Chair***

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Wow! What a year, what a National, what fun we have had this year!

The DPCA Judges Education committee once again held their Bubbles, Boots and Bling Wine Tasting Event. We cannot thank everyone enough for all of their volunteer work. Aside from the JEC committee we had help from our models in the Doberman Wears Prada Fashion show: Diego Garcia, Steve Fox, Hernan Pacheco, Rick George, Trevor Gerardi Miller; our Ranch Hands: Sharon Sikorski, Jacque Pomper, Dylan Keith, Ariella Harris and Ashlee Claggett (who went above and beyond in bringing all of our items!!!) It was quite an undertaking, and we appreciate everyone who came to help and also donated!! Our incredible Master of Ceremonies, Elizabeth Salewski was the hit of the night!

Our mentor meeting on Wednesday night was good, not as well attended as we had hoped as the judging went a little late.

Our judge's education seminar was fantastic on Friday. All of the feedback forms mentioned it was excellent with most noting it was the best they had ever attended! We appreciate all of the volunteers who helped bring dogs (this was what the judges liked the most) and also the Top 20 dogs that came to celebrate and show off!

Our Pop-Up hands-on process summary has been finalized and will be posted on the DPCA Mentor Website. Thank you to our Mentor Committee led by Karin Fox, who helped drive this to life. It really is a dream come true for me!!

We truly have the best mentors and education committee. We will continue to work on driving education to aspiring judges!

Vicki

Vicki Seiler Cushman  
JEC Committee Chair



## **Message from Faye Strauss, Mentor Committee & JEC Advisor**

I hope everyone had a wonderful National event. Unfortunately, due to an injury, I had to miss it. I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Fran Sparagna, Vicky Cushman, and Doug Jensen for coming to my rescue and putting on the Tuesday morning seminar for the membership. I heard you all did a fantastic job, and thanks for saving the day. It is crucial that we share with the breeders and the exhibitors what we are teaching the judges.

I also heard that the wine tasting celebration on Tuesday night was a fabulous event. Vicki and Leta are amazing party planners! A big round of applause for making it such a memorable evening.

Our mentor committee is doing an outstanding job. Chair Karin Fox and members Elizabeth Barrett, Mona Fash, Linda George, Linda Whitney, and Colleen Nicholson have put together the 7 Key Characteristics to consider in the Doberman and the Pop-Up Hands-On. Erin Cody needs to be credited for being such a major help in assisting us in getting the idea of a procedure turned into a reality. I hope everyone will consider leading a Pop-Up-Hands-On event. They have everything you need to use and do to put on one of these events. Soon we will be sending information to all the chapter clubs inviting them to host this event. Hopefully, you will volunteer to lead one in your area.

We are the gatekeepers and ambassadors of our breed. You are showing the future of our breed. You are mentoring the future adjudicators. Your actions can encourage new people at every show you attend. With entries going down, it's important for us to promote good judging and bring new people into our breed.

Thank you all for your dedication and support.

Faye Strauss  
Mentor Committee & JEC Advisor



## **Message from Karin Fox, Handler/Breeder Subcommittee Chair**

### End of Year JEC Sub-Committee Report

The JEC Sub-Committee along with Erin Cody worked diligently to complete the Pop-Up Procedure to aide the clubs who want to offer a Pop-Up Seminar at their show as well as guidance to the Mentor/Mentors who would be putting on the Pop-Up. Upon completion, the procedure was passed from the Sub-Committee to the JEC for their approval. It should be a new part of the Judges' Education portion of the DPCA website in the next few weeks.

The Mentor Meeting had a sizable attendance considering that judging was just wrapping up at the same time as the meeting. Linda Whitney and Linda George assisted me with the PowerPoint presentation of the Pop-Up Procedure that will be made available to all mentors, clubs and members to give guidelines of the nuts and bolts of how to put on a Pop-Up at any Doberman Specialty show. At the end of the meeting we asked fun Doberman Standard questions. The attendees who gave the correct answers received a gift card for the Starbucks at the hotel. Wine and goodies were served and we all had a good time.

I wanted to remind everyone that in order to maintain your Mentor status you must attend one Mentor Meeting or Mid-year Mentor Meeting via Zoom every two years. In addition, you must either give an oral or written critique of a judge OR participate in any official DPCA Judges Education Seminar including a Pop-Up!

To give a critique orally, the hotline is 937-971-2133. A written critique can be found at [dPCA.org/members/judge-mentor-feedback-forms](http://dPCA.org/members/judge-mentor-feedback-forms).

I'd like to acknowledge my invaluable team members of the JEC Sub-Committee: Elizabeth Barrett, Mona Fasth, Linda George, Colleen Nicholson and Linda Whitney. I'd also like to again thank Erin Cody for her expertise in putting our ideas together into a curriculum that makes sense. The Pop-Up Procedure will be a crucial tool for all of us in helping new judges to understand and apply our AKC Doberman Standard.

Karin Fox  
JEC Sub-Committee Chair





**Reminder to everyone regarding Judge Mentor Feedback:  
No need to fill out the Mentor Feed Back form!**

**Mentor Feedback Hotline – 937-971-2133**

**Just call the phone number and leave a voice message. Please be sure to include the date of the show and the judge's name.**

If you prefer to use the Mentor Feedback form, you can go to [DPCA.org](http://DPCA.org) to the Members Only section to print the Judge Mentor Feedback Forms to carry with you to the shows. Complete the forms as needed and send to any of us on the JEC Committee for review.

Our goal is to give compliments as deserved as well as assisting any Judges our mentors feel may need some clarification on our breed. Ultimately the quality of judging does rely on the participation of our mentors in the educational process.

**Thank you for everything you all do for our breed!**