

# NATIONAL MILL DOG RESCUE – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Dr. Chris Thornton** - Board Chairman

Retired Space Systems Engineer

Email: [christ@nmdr.org](mailto:christ@nmdr.org)

Elected 12/01/11, re-elected 12/01/14

**Richard Strader** – Treasurer, IT/Web Maintenance

Retired Postmaster/Business Owner

Email: [richs@nmdr.org](mailto:richs@nmdr.org)

Elected 10/01/07, re-elected 10/01/10, re-elected 10/01/13, re-elected 10/01/16

**Helen Freeman** – Board Secretary, Manager of Intake and Meds Delivery Teams

Master in Education of the Deaf

Email: [helenf@nmdr.org](mailto:helenf@nmdr.org)

Elected 10/01/07, re-elected 10/01/10, re-elected 10/01/13, re-elected 10/01/16

**Dee Ruppert** – Off-site Veterinary Care Coordinator

Retired Business Owner

Email: [deer@nmdr.org](mailto:deer@nmdr.org)

Elected 03/01/09, re-elected 03/01/12, re-elected 03/01/15

**Ron McClelland** – Insurance Management, Supervisor of Rescue Fleet Maintenance & Repair

US Air Force, Major (Retired) Systems Engineer

Email: [ronm@nmdr.org](mailto:ronm@nmdr.org)

Elected 03/10/15

**Charles (Chuck) Arnold** – Strategic Planning, Rescue and Rehab Team

US Air Force, Colonel, Active Duty

Email: [chucka@nmdr.org](mailto:chucka@nmdr.org)

Elected 11/01/16

**Jeffrey Detra** – Financial Oversight

Vice President – Commercial Lending, ANB Bank

Email: [jeffd@nmdr.org](mailto:jeffd@nmdr.org)

Elected 04/01/17

## Executive Staff

**Theresa Strader** – Founder/ Executive Director **Email:** [theresas@nmdr.org](mailto:theresas@nmdr.org)

**Kim Lehmann** – Director of Kennel Operations **Email:** [kiml@nmdr.org](mailto:kiml@nmdr.org)

**Jene Nelson** – Director of Marketing and Social Media **Email:** [jenen@nmdr.org](mailto:jenen@nmdr.org)

**Revised 4/24/2017**

## **Dr. Chris Thornton**

Dr. Chris Thornton received his Doctorate in Management from Colorado Technical University in 2005. Chris retired from Civil Service at the end of 2010, completing 28 years of Government service and 15 years in the electronic manufacturing industry.

Chris was introduced to National Mill Dog Rescue in 2009 through his wife, Ann, who is an active volunteer. Chris chaired the grant writing committee in 2011 and was part of the team that successfully acquired the NMDR Sprinter Van that was donated by the PETCO Corporation. Chris now serves as the Board Secretary, responsible for recording and distributing board minutes, policies, and other key documents. With extensive budgeting experience in the public sector, Chris is also instrumental in budget development at NMDR, and in overseeing the strategic plan monitoring and evaluation process. Chris helps clean the kennels each Thursday morning.

Chris also serves on the Colorado Springs Airport Advisory Commission as a Commission



## Dee Ruppert

After retiring from thirty-eight years in the cosmetology industry in 2006, I made it a priority to find an organization that could fulfill my life-long dream of helping animals. I knew National Mill Dog Rescue was my calling after learning about the puppy mill industry. I've had pets all my life, and worked as a wildlife rehabilitator for two years. I currently own 6 dogs, a dwarf miniature horse, and a goat. I'm a previous business owner/manager, served as decorating team leader for a three million dollar building, worked as a hair/makeup artist for a photographer, and a large show chorus. I've been married forty two years. We have two adult sons, and two grandchildren. I am currently a Volunteer Coordinator for the organization. I have the highest respect for anyone involved with protecting the lives of animals.

"Suffering at the hands of evil, was never God's intent when he created life. We still have many lessons to learn."



## Richard Strader

Rich Strader, Treasurer, Web Design/Maintenance – Rich graduated from Missouri State University in 1969 with a BA in Music Performance. He then served in the United States Air Force for four years during which time he played Tuba for the Lowry Air Force Base Band. After discharge, for nearly 20 years, Rich was Owner/Operator of Player Pianoworks, a business built solely on the restoration and repair of player pianos. In 2009, Rich retired from the United States Postal Service where he had served as Postmaster of Black Forest, CO for nearly 10 years.

Throughout all of his life, Rich had a huge heart for animals and had provided a loving home for many rescued animals over the years, both dogs and cats. After adopting Lily, his first dog rescued from a puppy mill, Rich made a commitment to educate as many people as possible about the plight of puppy mill dogs and to offer all his volunteer efforts to NMDR, in memory of Lily.

Rich resides on a small farm in Black Forest, Colorado with his wife, two daughters, 11 rescued dogs, 2 cats, and a variety of chickens. His hobbies include building high-powered computers, photography and caring for his many special needs rescued dogs. Rich is never seen without the company of one of his dogs in his arms.



## Helen Freeman

My name is Helen Freeman and I am a retired teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing by training and by love. I have taught students in GA and CO since 1976 (everyone can do the math – always a teacher). I have been lucky enough to teach all around the state of CO and even by using the internet to work with students in rural CO.

I have always been a volunteer at heart beginning when I was in high school working with children with physical disabilities.

I joined El Paso County Search and Rescue in my younger days and was a member for 17 years. I served in many capacities: new member coordinator, newsletter producer, and my favorite was being on the search dog team where my dog and I were trained and certified. Most of the years I was on the team, I served on the Board of Directors. I retired when I began traveling around the state with my job.

July 1<sup>st</sup> of 2007, I had just lost 3 of my precious canine family members from old age and cancer, when I met Theresa Strader on her first rescue following her discovery of Lily and the Puppy Mill industry. I became totally hooked that day and began working with Rich and Theresa to establish NMDR and was an original Board Member. I'm quite proud of how far we've come but it is totally due to NMDR's amazing group of volunteers.



## Ron McClelland

After receiving my Electrical Engineering degree from Kansas State University, I was in the U.S. Air Force from 1971 to 1991. I spent three years enlisted, as an airborne communications repairman. I received my commission and continued my career in communication and computer electronics, attaining the rank of Major. I also received a Master of Business Administration from Oklahoma City University in 1977. During the course of my career we came to Colorado Springs in December, 1984. We loved the area and vowed to retire here! In addition to the technical aspects of my duties, I had opportunity for management and leadership positions, from Detachment Commander of a remote overseas radio relay facility in Italy, to managing over \$250 million in North Atlantic Treaty Organization projects across central Europe.

After my retirement from the Air Force in 1991, we did return to Colorado Springs. I spent the next 15 years doing much the same as I did in the Air Force, working for Lockheed Martin as a Systems Engineer. I held technical and managerial positions, maintaining and modernizing command and control systems for Cheyenne Mountain and Air Force Space Command.

I retired from Lockheed Martin in 2008 and dedicated my energy toward volunteering. I volunteer at the Peterson Air and Space Museum, as a docent and as the Museum webmaster. Since September, 2008, when we attended a presentation by Theresa and Helen we fell in love with the mission of NMDR. From then on, both Nona and I have volunteered with NMDR.



## Charles "Chuck" F. Arnold, Jr.

Originally from Goffstown, New Hampshire, Chuck has spent the bulk of his adult life traveling the globe as a member of the United States Air Force. He has been stationed on the island of Crete, Greece, on the islands of Guam and Hawaii, and at eight additional locations in the Continental United States. He is a 1991 graduate of the University of New Hampshire and has graduate degrees from the Air Force Institute of Technology, National Defense University, and Hawaii Pacific University.

A life-long animal lover, Chuck has volunteered at numerous animal rescue facilities over the years. He was introduced to NMDR in mid-2015 and he actively volunteers at the kennels as part of the Dog Care Team and as a member of the Step Down team. Nothing makes him happier than seeing one of our NMDR dogs leave with a lucky family.

Chuck and his wife Franchon, also an NMDR volunteer, reside in Monument, Colorado. They have two daughters, Kendall, age 24, and Riley, age 19. They share their home with a pack of NMDR rescues and a cat. Chuck's hobbies include distance running, convincing his wife to adopt additional dogs, and spoiling his daughter

