

# 2006 ACBA Hall of Fame



## GENE GERGEN HASTINGS, MINNESOTA



Since joining the ACBA over fifteen years ago, Gene Gergen has worked tirelessly for the benefit of the club. Most of this work has been behind the scenes.

Gene originally became active in promoting the ACBA when he took over the inactive 'membership services' collection of musty, outdated t-shirts. One needs simply to look in the current JACBA to see how Gene has developed an amazing collection of merchandise of interest to cavy exhibitors.

Gene has also served as alternate district director whenever requested, as he has made it to every ARBA national and ACBA specialty since taking over the membership services (now more appropriately called merchandise services) position. He has worked behind the scenes at these events to ensure the ACBA has merchandise for sale, tended the club booth for countless hours, and actively solicited new product ideas such as the famous 'signature t-shirt' and cavy socks.

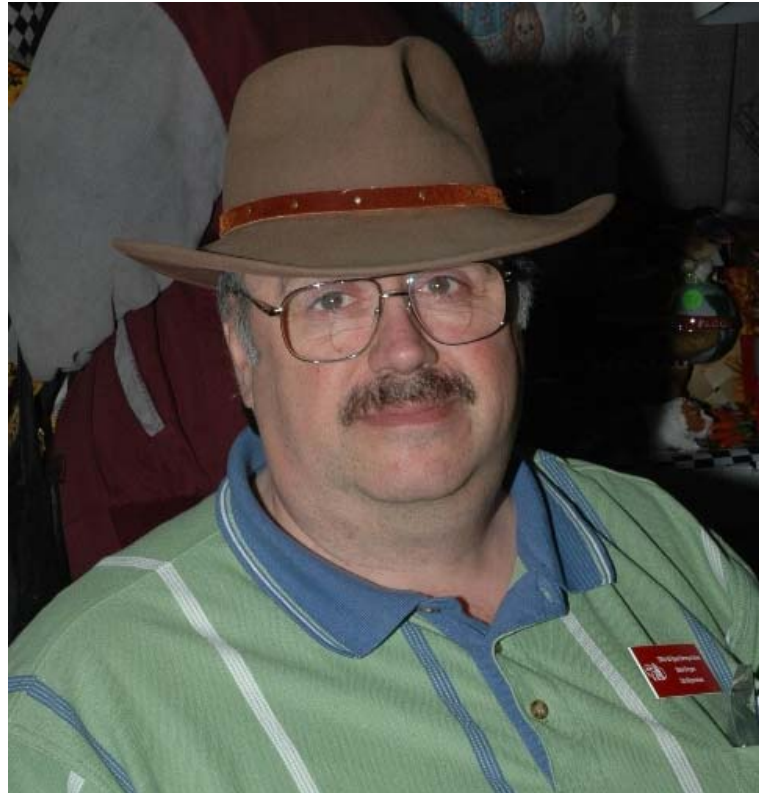
Gene has supported the youth programs at nationals by providing animals for judging contests, conducting royalty interviews, and ordering the awards. Further, Gene has always offered to help whenever possible, often chauffeuring other ACBA members around to hotels & meetings. He has sold animals to youth just starting out at reduced rates to encourage their participation.

At ACBA board meetings, Gene has been unofficial note-taker and recorder, supplementing the ACBA secretary as needed. He has even made sure there are refreshments available when needed. He has always done so with professionalism & never offered his own opinions on matters before the board, unless he has been the alternate district representative. He has also been an excellent district representative, gathering member input on issues before meetings.

Although Gene will never admit it, he has been a rock for the ACBA secretary. He has worked as the unofficial assistant ACBA secretary, helping proofread the yearbook, check labels for the JACBA, even stuff ballots for the elections. Without his help, the job would require many, many more hours.

Always a glutton for punishment, Gene has been very active on the local level. Aside from volunteering with Lenore to complete any show reports for any club in Minnesota, Gene has personally paid for countless cavy sanctions for local clubs. He writes or runs animals at all local shows. He is treasurer of both 'Are We There Yet?' Cavy & Rabbit club, and the River Valley Cavy Fanciers.

Gene is show superintendent for an annual double rabbit & cavy show held annually, with day-of-show entry. One would think he would be bald after that hair-pulling experience! Yet, he continues



this annual event, training new assistants and recruiting new members every year. This show is one of the best attended in Minnesota.

Finally, Gene has been responsible for putting on two ACBA specialty shows. The first was in Hastings, Minnesota, five years ago; the second was this past April in River Falls, Wisconsin. Without Gene's unflagging enthusiasm and leadership, neither show would have been possible. He is a great motivator and has excellent project management skills.

In summary, Gene Gergen is an excellent addition to the ACBA hall of fame, for several reasons:

1. Gene turned around the membership services function to a money-making venture.
2. Gene has volunteered at ACBA BOD meetings for countless hours.
3. Gene supports the youth programs, both ACBA and ARBA.
4. Gene is active in promoting the ACBA on the local level as well as the national level.
5. Gene recruits new members and helps other fanciers whenever possible.



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