

## **Intro to upcoming articles by Hoke Colburn aka THE Bill Jones, PhD.**

Greetings and salutations “My Little Chic a Dees”. For you young’uns, who have never heard that, you will need to find a movie from 1940 by the same name. And yes, they made movies in the ‘40’s. Just ask my wife Mary about them.

I am Bill Jones. Many of you know me as a judge, others as a contest rep, some as an organizer, newer judges as Oh Capt’n My Capt’n, Sir William, and some as Hoke Colburn.

Wearing so many hats and serving in so many capacities and committees, the former KCBS CEO, Emily Detwieller, called me her “unicorn”. Not for a lump on my head that Mary gave me, but because in her eyes I was unique, unusual, serving in so various capacities. There are others who may be an organizer and a judge or a judge and a cook team, but none she could think of that serve in so many different roles.

So, what difference does all that make? I can offer topics or information on many topics regarding BBQ contests, rules, policies, procedures, information many of you may have questions about but were afraid to ask or did not know who to ask. Hopefully these articles will answer many of them and the topics will be of interest to you, no matter what role or roles you serve in the BBQ competition world.

## **Chapter 1 – The Four-Legged Stool That Is KCBS**

When I began working on my thesis, yes, I had to look up what all went into a thesis. Chicken Noodle soup obviously has chicken and noodles in it but what else makes it so. For 2 ½ years I watched videos, read books, magazine articles, interviewed people, asked questions, all to prove my thesis title – “The Four-Legged Stool that is KCBS”. The committee to review my thesis and interview me, asked for several topics and a brief summary of each. They chose this one as well as another I had – “Organizers – The Make It or Break It Of KCBS Events”. They asked me to make the organizer idea a good portion of my paper which was easy to do. In essence, two papers became one.

In coming up with my title, I had seen numerous people quoted in old editions of the Bull Sheet listing 3 legs every time. Never 4. They might list teams, judges and organizers (Missing reps) or they would talk about cook teams, judges and KCBS office (Missing reps and organizers). I could never find anyone mentioning 4 legs or any article dealing with all 4 legs – Organizers, cook teams, judges and reps. For without any one of those, a KCBS contest cannot occur.

Writing a thesis, I learned that one needed to be able to present and defend an opening statement. This was mine –

**The Kansas City Barbeque Association (KCBS) is made up of 4 critical and intertwined parts to be what it is. Take any one part away and the organization is unstable and the ability to host events becomes suspect to even being unable to occur. The first leg, an Organizer, needs to be able to first host an event, but also be knowledgeable of the policies and procedures to follow, and able to produce a well-run contest for Judges, Teams and Representatives. Without this key leg, a contest can fail and, in many cases, not return for lack of teams and judges. Thus, in my mind, KCBS is a Four-Legged Stool where all four legs are needed to**

**support the organization as a whole. But that of an Organizer is the most critical leg and the one in which all contests begin with.**

I am sure this may tick off one or more groups who feel they are the most important aspect of a KCBS contest. Everyone can have their opinion. I can defend this statement, but can you? In Virginia we have cook teams. We have reps. And we have judges. But if no one raises their hand and says I want to host a contest, there is no contest. If the defense is what happens if there are no cook teams, judges or reps in Virginia? The contest can still occur from people – teams, judges and reps - willing to travel into Virginia. But first an organizer must agree to host. Be it an individual or an organization.

But before we get into the individual legs in future articles, let's take a walk back into history.

With some imaginations on my part but pretty much as it occurred –

In 1985, three people sat around a campfire one evening and their discussion turned to BBQ contests and how they varied from state to state, to town to town. Some contests scored 1- 10. Some 1 to 100. Some had rules, some had some rules, some had none. Meats varied as well as to what would be turned in.

They felt there needed to be a clearing house if you will where all contests could be conducted under one set of rules. And in 1986, here came the start of KCBS.

Over the years since, rules were established. Contests began to ask to be sanctioned by KCBS. As time went by more and more contests came into the KCBS fold. With growth, things were tried, adjusted, adapted, changed, fixed, and over the past few years a lot of changes. Some good, some questionable, some not so good and proven to be such.

As we progress in these articles you will learn a lot about each leg. Each leg needs to be strong and able to support the seat that is KCBS. My thesis covered a lot of the ills of KCBS from all four legs as well good points. No organization can last as long as KCBS has without growing pains. Even at the age of 40 years as KCBS will celebrate this year. The key is to learn from any mistakes and not compound things by repeating them.

In future articles I will go over each role the legs play in a successful contest. Other articles will get into what happens when you drop your entry off, how to question a score, things to have in your cook trailer and you may be surprised it's not what you think, superstitions, comment cards, how to review your scores for key information, etc. I hope you will look forward to them as they are shared.

Seize ya next time! Our topic will be – Organizers – The Make it or Break it of KCBS contests. If you ever considered hosting a contest or wonder what organizers have to go through to make a contest a success, you'll want to read the article.