



Rescuing, Rehabilitating, and Rehoming  
Golden Retrievers in Central Texas

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## Gold Ribbon Rescue Member News

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### Gold Ribbon Rescue Business Meeting Minutes

July 25th, 2020  
Meeting began at 10:00am  
Virtual Meeting Via Webex

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**Attendees:** Margo Biba, Julie Birkeneder, Suzette Coen, Barb and Dick Elliot, Paula Ellis, Michelle Goldberg, Dawn Hinckley, Augie Hirt, John Horne, Mary Johnston, Paulette Lance, Gail March, Jacki Mulkey, Dori Olsen, Amanda Price, Dawn Marie Rae, Lisa Savage, Donnie Smith, Tim Tierney, Judy Watson, Susan Wilson, Arlen Zander

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#### Agenda:

- Opening remarks YTD Review - Michelle Goldberg
  - Financial update YTD - Tim Tierney
  - Medical update YTD - Margo Biba
  - Proposed by-law changes / vote
  - Q and A
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#### Welcome / 2020 YTD Overview – Michelle Goldberg

**Inundation of adoption applications but are also seeing a trend of a lower number of incoming dogs than in prior years.**

- In late January GRR stopped accepting new adoption applications while still accepting foster applications.
- In mid-March, GRR stopped taking in all new applications due to Covid-19 (adoption and foster applications).
- In late May, GRR started accepting applications and over the course of just 21 days we received 65 new applications.
- In July, GRR closed applications again.
- GRR will likely have to open and close the application portal throughout the remainder to the year to accommodate supply and demand.

#### Adoption Application Activities YTD

- 134 new adoption applications
- 100 phone interviews
- 69 home visits

#### **Intake Activities YTD:**

- 46 new dogs
- 3 owner returns to GRR
- Comparisons: For this same period in 2019 GRR brought in 73 dogs and the same period in 2018, 80 dogs.
- We have seen an uptick with incoming dogs in the 2nd quarter of 2020 as compared to the 1st quarter.

#### **National Trends:**

- Significantly lower number of incoming dogs is a challenge other Golden rescues are facing.
- Increased use of social media which enables the ability for owners to have a broader reach to attempt to re-home their dogs on their own.
- Other rescue groups are doing things such as bringing in more international dogs from places like Turkey and Korea, taking in higher numbers of mixes, as well as, other non-Golden Retriever breeds and buying dogs from auction houses.

#### **Marketing Activities:**

- **Goal:** To educate more people about GRR and the value of rescue.
- New marketing campaign, "Get to Know GRR", is in progress as one way to help address the lower number of incoming dogs.
- New marketing campaign is designed to increase awareness with the use of social media, email and outreach to smaller vets and shelters in the area.
- Ensure all are aware that Gold Ribbon Rescue is the best option if there is a need to surrender a dog.
- Amanda Price and Chrissy Hammond spearheading this effort.

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## **Financial Review YTD - Tim Tierney**

### **Comparison from January to July 2019 to January to July 2020**

- Adoption fees are down 10% from last year
- Donations are down 20% from last year
- Expenses are down 44% from last year
- Overall net revenue is up 266% from last year.

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## **Medical Overview YTD – Margo Biba**

- Seeing a significant reduction of heartworm positive dogs – 7% versus 30% in prior years.
- No parvo or distemper positive dogs in 2020.
- Year-to-date vet expenses - \$47,000
- Spending roughly \$1000 per dog
- Due to higher vet costs, the ability to treat severe health issues to veterinary advances, as well as, behavioral training.
- GRR has not euthanized any dogs in 2020.

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## **Proposed By-law Changes and Additions**

Please find current [GRR by-laws](#) here. All changes and additions were voted on and approved.

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### **Article II, Section 1, b**

**Current:** *Voting membership is granted to individuals who have paid dues, are in good standing..., are at least eighteen years of age, **attend one meeting per year**, and who*

volunteer a minimum of 20 hours a year in accordance with GRR volunteer guidelines.

**Addition:** “and attend one meeting in the preceding 12 months of the October general meeting.”

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### **Article III, Section 1**

**Current:** Meetings of the organization shall be held **in the Greater Austin Area**, at such a date, time and place as may be designated by vote of the Board.

**Proposed:** Meetings shall be held **at such a date, time, place and means (to include virtual methods)** as may be designated by vote of the Board.

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### **Article IV, Section 1, g**

**Addition:** “At the discretion of the board, an executive committee may be implemented to manage the day to day business and affairs of this corporation.”

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### **Article VI, Section 3**

**Current:** Voting at regular meetings shall be limited to those members as prescribed in Article II, Section 1, who are present at the meeting.

**Proposed:** Voting at regular meetings shall be limited to those members as prescribed in Article II, Section 1, who are present at the meeting, **whether in person, telephone or online.**

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### **Article VI, section 2 add link**

**Addition:** “To be nominated to the board you must be a voting member and have an additional 40 hours a year of volunteer hours (for a total of 60 annual hours). You must also be able to perform the duties for the position nominated for as outlined in the [board member job descriptions](#)”.

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### **Article X, Section 2**

**Current:** The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided that the proposed amendments have been announced at the meeting preceding, or announced in the preceding newsletter.

**Proposed:** The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided that the proposed amendments have been announced at the meeting preceding, or announced in the preceding newsletter. **Voting may take place online if the meeting is virtual.**

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### **About GRR Membership**

The GRR By-laws allows two types of GRR membership: *General Membership* and *Voting Membership*. General Members have paid annual dues. Voting members have paid annual dues, are 18 years of age or older, are in good standing with local and federal laws pertaining to animals, attend at least one business meeting per year and volunteer 20+ hours per year.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.**

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For more information, please refer to the [GRR by-laws](#). If you require more information,

please contact the GRR Board of Directors at [grrboard@grr-tx.com](mailto:grrboard@grr-tx.com).

**Thank you**  
**Gold Ribbon Rescue**



Gold Ribbon Rescue, Inc. | 1101 W. 34th St. #336 Austin, Texas 78705-1907  
512.659.4653 (GOLD) | [GRR WEBSITE](#) | [CONTACT](#)