

**Greyhound Pets of America – Central Texas
Chapter Board Meeting
September 19, 2006**

Tim Define, President, called the meeting to order at 7:13 pm at Mangia's Pizza in Austin, Texas. All board members except for Ryan Barden, Lana Henley and Pam Cook were in attendance. Holly Waldon, Tami Wooliver and C.J. Washington were guests.

OLD BUSINESS

1. ACT! database

Board members present at the Aug. 27 workday at Lana's report a productive but frustrating experience attempting to create the new membership database. Tim is actively working on the software on one of his local computers. Importing the membership database went well, but getting the data to do what is needed is taking more time than expected.

2. Report from 2006 North America Greyhound Adoption Conference

a. President Tim Define, Board Member Jennifer Define, Foster Coordinator Bob Trapp, Executive Secretary Lana Henley, and Placement Coordinator Sally Rau McIntosh attended the Sept. 8-10 conference in San Diego, Calif.

b. GPA business meeting report from Tim: Attendance was down this year with only 26 delegates available for the meeting. (Delegates are not proxies.) This was enough for a quorum, but barely.

Chapter dues are based on first-time adoptions of which there were 3,493 "loosely defined" first-time adoptions in 2005. [More on this in new business.]

GPA National paid out \$16,000 in 2005 for track closure grants.

The Emily Griffin Fund injury fund paid out \$19,500 to chapters in 2005. (Note: Money distributed through this fund is expected to be repaid.) GPA National would like chapters who have received money through this fund to submit stories on the dogs that this fund has helped. Billy is the only dog GPA-CT has helped using this fund.

GPA National paid out \$7,000+ in emergency relief grants.

GPA National distributed \$1,999 to subchapters for startup costs.

GPA National net loss \$10K for 2005; operating income loss; still plenty of \$\$\$ in bank

Not a single GPA chapter provided complete tax information to GPA National for 2005, resulting in a \$6,000 tax accounting bill. Tax returns won't be completed until next year because of all the errors.

GPA chapters not using QuickBooks Pro will not be allowed to file their tax returns through GPA National. It was recommended that chapters need to learn accounting best practices.

c. Second Chance at Life Greyhound Prison Program

Currently in Ohio, Michigan and Indiana prisons, the Second Chance at Life (SCL) program matches a greyhound with an offender. The dog lives full-time with the offender, who teaches the greyhound basic obedience during the 8-10 week program. The offender earns a licensed dog trainer certification

simultaneously. Once the dogs graduate the program, they have to leave the prison to go into foster or adoptive homes.

SCL sets up the program with the prison systems; the individual adoption groups are responsible for food and vet care and weekly monitoring of the offenders/trainers and dogs. They must also find a local vet who is willing to be on call 24 hours for visits to the prison.

Sally finds two things that are appealing about the program – (1) feeling good about helping both the prisoners and dogs; and (2) people want a trained dog, whether adopters or fosters. Mike is concerned about the time commitment, but feels the program is worth investigating.

Some other questions/concerns: There is no way of knowing if the dogs are cat- or small-dog friendly based on their training; not sure about up-front costs associated with the program coordinator.

Tim will call for more information and will report back at a later date.

d. T-shirts

Pat at GPA-Minnesota offered GPA-CT burnt orange T-shirts at a reduced cost on an order up to 75 shirts. T-shirts have only the GPA logo without a chapter name. Everyone anticipates they will sell well because of the burnt orange color.

Tim ordered 50 shirts at a cost of approx. \$6 per shirt. This includes the order for the Board and enough additional shirts to offer for sale on Web store.

e. Trip to Caliente Race Track, Tijuana, Mexico

Caliente houses 1,600 dogs in racing kennels owned by U.S. owners/breeders. The pet kennel dogs seemed in good shape; however, GPA-OC/LA is responsible for taking food and vet care to these dogs awaiting adoption.

Caliente also features races where monkeys ride the greyhounds. Sometimes the hounds receive monkey bites. The track also races Italian greyhounds.

f. Q&A with Executive Director of NGA, Gary Guccione

GPA-CT's representatives at the Q&A session asked Guccione about the shelter dogs and what he intends to do about it. Other chapters present expressed the same problem. Guccione's answers centered around educating breeders about how they're supposed to deal with dogs no longer racing; letting him know when chapters are having those problems and he will address it with the breeders. GPA-CT will send letters to Guccione, GPA Nat'l distribution, Diane Whiteley at TGA, as well as the breeder when the chapter takes in greyhounds from shelters.

Jen reports that the group gathered good fund-raising ideas at the national convention, including small framed note cards offered on eBay.

(3) Web site

The Web site is still lacking a few descriptions and photos of newer foster dogs. Donna will make the new online store live later tonight.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Tim will start addressing some chapter issues through email updates.

2. Meetings

The quarterly planning meeting on Oct. 15 is canceled; the board meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 17, will be a combined board meeting and quarterly planning meeting.

3. Newsletter

The current (fall) issue in production still needs photos of special needs dogs. Tim will also send a president's column. The next issue (winter) will hopefully be produced by someone other than Donna.

4. Events Coordinator report

Greyhound Planet Day, Sept. 23: The UT Orangejackets will help if we can let them know how many volunteers are needed by their Sept. 20 meeting. The Defines need help setting up fencing Sat. morning. Other volunteers and details were worked out

Barktober Fest, Oct. 14: Tentative until Jen meets with the Round Rock Parks Dept. representative and demonstrates that the fencing stakes won't destroy the ground. If they don't agree, we won't do this event.

Red Barn Garden Center's Fall Festival, Oct. 7 and Oct. 14-15: Barbara Clark will be the lead on the special Meet & Greet opportunity.

Pet Fest, San Marcos, Oct. 21: Tim and Jen will be out of town and can't set up Speed Alley at this event unless someone else wants to do it. Jen suggests scouting the event this year or setting up a Meet & Greet table.

Chuy's Parade, Nov. 25: Tami Wooliver gave a report on the float redesign. Bobbie Wier had suggested a Hawaiian Christmas theme. Tami's estimated cost for supplies is approx. \$150 (leis \$17.95 per dozen; hula skirts \$55.95 per dozen; hibiscus hair clips \$4.95 per dozen). Tami will check with Wal-Mart about donations of several gallons of paint. Tami suggests that people wear Hawaiian shirts or skirts, and the dogs can wear shorter skirts or leis. Mike suggested that folks dress up their own dogs and the chapter can have a few leis available for the dogs, just in case.

5. Summary of GPA National treasurer's report

- a. GPA National dues are based on the number of first-time adoptions by a chapter. National wants to raise the charge from \$1 per dog to \$2 per dog and also wants this to apply to any dog that a chapter "touches," even ones transported to other chapters or groups. This issue is still being discussed and will be sent as a motion on the e-list.
- b. Oversight for non-profits: Board of Directors' info and financial info needs to be listed on Web site. GPA-CT will need to add some sort of income/expense report on the Web site.
- c. All financial decisions must be approved by the Board of Directors and listed in the chapter minutes.
- d. Chapters should provide quarterly financial info to GPA National.
- e. National hopes to provide guidance to smaller chapters re: grants.
- f. Since we file our chapter income taxes through GPA National, we do not have to have an official audit, but we should have a CPA review of books. This won't be free, but is less expensive than an audit.

6. Treasurer's Report

Barbara has finished QuickBooks Pro classes and is now moving data from the past two years' worth of spreadsheets into QuickBooks Pro.

7. Angie volunteers to write grant requests from Spring Break until May, during her slow time. Jen requests that we all keep track of available grants so that when we have time we can act on them.

8. Placement/Foster Report

We need foster homes sans cats for Rufus, Harley, Doogie and Sweetie Pie. (Rufus is comfortable at Dog Camp because he feels it is his home; Sweetie Pie and Doogie need to be moved out of their current foster homes.) There is a desperate need for a minimum of four foster homes; we need solutions.

The heartworm positive dogs Ollie and Olivia are going to Barbara's and Emily's for foster care.

9. Jen will obtain a portable phone number for GPA-CT this week.

Emily moved that the meeting be adjourned; Sally seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Donna Seago
Corresponding Secretary

E-votes to approve:

Donna Seago
Angie Smith
Jen Define
Sally Rau McIntosh
Mike Waldon
Emily Hutson