

# Volunteer Update



A registered  
non-profit 501 (c)(3)  
charitable  
organization

Published monthly by Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies

February 2019

## GRRR's New Development Director!

**H**i everyone! I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Francie Rakiec (pronounced Rock Edge). For the past 18 years I have worked as a criminal defense investigator for both the state and federal public defender offices. It was something that I truly enjoyed for many years. However, the reality of that job is that you begin to always see darkness, and this took a toll on me. I realized my legal career was no longer my passion. As luck would have it—or fate—a wonderful opportunity presented itself at GRRR, and with the support of my amazing husband, Wade, I was able to accept the position of Development Director.

Over the last handful of years, Wade and I have become quite involved with GRRR. We started out as VIP walkers and continue to do that. We then became involved with some fostering (and failing... and most recently not failing), as well as transport of dogs from South Dakota, from the Missouri auctions, and local transports. We have also attended and participated in the majority of the events that GRRR has put on, including almost all of the Turkey Dog arrivals. In January of 2018, I also became a member of GRRR's board.

Overall, I feel that I have a good understanding of the workings of GRRR. I have already learned so much during the time I have spent with Mary Kenton and Kevin Shipley as well as others affiliated with GRRR. However, I do realize there is so much more to learn. I look forward to this opportunity and for the chance to be able to tap into the vast resources that GRRR has available. I am not looking to reinvent the wheel because I think that GRRR is an amazing organization, but I am looking to come up with new ideas and expand on some of the things that have



Continued on page 2

already been done. I am honored to have been selected as the Development Director, and I hope to be able to build on the GRRReatness that is GRRR. I look forward to helping make 2019 the best year yet. Thank you to everyone for bringing me out of the darkness.

If any of you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at [francie.rakiec@goldenrescue.com](mailto:francie.rakiec@goldenrescue.com) or you can always stop in to the hut during the week to chat. My hours for the first quarter are 9 am to 2 pm Monday - Thursday.

## President's Letter *by Judi Servoss*

I recently watched Kevin and Francie do an interview on a local TV news program. Of course I was distracted by watching their adorable Golden companions Casey and Molly, but it was really interesting to listen to them talk about who we are and what we do. As “insiders” we’re often too close to GRRR to really appreciate how unique we are. Our ability to care for so many dogs (over 300 in 2018), regardless of the seriousness of their needs is a tribute to all of you volunteers who help out in many ways.

It makes me wonder what you hear from your friends, families and neighbors about GRRR. As volunteers and members, you are also ambassadors for GRRR. You can share your pride in our organization and let us know when you hear particularly meaningful

stories—or of issues we should know about.

I know I’m often stopped while walking my Golden and asked about him. People just love Golden Retrievers! I use the opportunity to tell them about his “back story” and a little about GRRR. Many people give him a pet and walk on, but others ask more and leave with the easy-to-remember website: [Goldenrescue.com](http://Goldenrescue.com).

And if you want to be sure you know the latest about what GRRR is up to, be sure to come to the Annual Meeting:

Sunday, March 3, 2019; 1-3 pm  
The “old” Arvada Library  
7525 W. 57th Avenue • Arvada



## VIP Update *Sukie McMaster*

The VIP Team continues to grow with wonderful new volunteers. The dogs love seeing new faces and spending time with loving humans. We appreciate the longtime volunteers as well as the newer ones. There is no such thing as “too many walks.” We want the dogs to get out at least three times per day. If the weather is bad you can always take a shorter walk or just spend time with them in their run.

I will start holding Training Sessions again in February and have them monthly through the fall. I will send out details as the dates are set up. New for 2019 will be a VIP Team get-together at Phoebe's Place in June. This will replace the annual dinner at The Morrison Inn. Well socialized dogs will be welcome. It will be a chance to get to know the other volunteers on the team and put a face to a name that we see on the weekly emails. More information will be sent out closer to the event.

# The Future is Bright *Kevin Shipley*

**A**s I type, it is snowing outside, but our future at GRRR is brighter than ever. With Francie joining the team, media folks contacting us for dog time on the airwaves, and the increase in dogs we are able to rescue right here in and around Colorado, the future is bright for humans and dogs.

On the horizon, we will be developing training to help inform people who might be interested in adopting a mill or hoarder dog. We will share this material so all rescues can help the dogs they save. We will continue on our consumer education quest to help puppy adopters to know how to find the right new youthful

family member; help people learn how to stay away from poor, unethical breeders; and teach people how to find a puppy with health guarantees and assurances of good genetics. This all adds up to rescuing more dogs, finding the perfect well-informed home for them, and stopping poorly bred puppies and illegitimate breeders from selling dogs online to uninformed consumers.

Yes, we are all about Rescue-Rehab-Rehome, but our other job, and part of our mission statement, is to advocate for the breed. Golden Retrievers are a sweet, happy breed, and all of us can help make sure they stay that way. Thank you for supporting GRRR.



## Guest speakers - Civic organizations *Kevin Shipley*

**E**very once in a while I get on this bandwagon, usually after someone has invited GRRR to speak to their group...

We have a great time when we have an opportunity to present to your pals at Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary, Optimists, etc. The best part is that the club members have a great time, too—especially if we are allowed to bring one or two happy, friendly Goldens with us.

We have a great, brief presentation that focuses on GRRR, but more generally focuses on rescues and

rescuing dogs. We have a PowerPoint presentation with fun photos of our place and, of course, lots of fun goofy dog photos.

It is tailored for community groups, like the one you may belong to. So, if you are part of an organization that invites program speakers in to talk to your group... invite us. I promise we won't embarrass you, and everyone will love a visit from the dogs.

Just email: [info@goldenrescue.com](mailto:info@goldenrescue.com)  
Thank you!

# 2019 - *The Year of the Volunteer*

Well, it's not official, but it is official here at GRRR. In the last newsletter I made sure to mention our drop off in the number of VIPs walking and hanging with the dogs. You guys really responded. I don't think I've seen happier dogs, and, coincidentally, the people seem happier, too. I wonder if there's a correlation—LOL.

Seriously, whether you respond to Urbo's weekly updates or not, if you have time, these dogs LOVE to see you. As we move toward colder times, even just sitting with them, brushing them, talking to them, it's all great in their book. It's also a heck of a lot cheaper than a therapist, and probably more effective too. Dogs lower stress levels. Who doesn't need less stress these days (rhetorical question)? And, while you're here at Phoebe's Place, introduce yourself to Francie. Francie started as a VIP walker and now she works for the dogs... well, you know what I mean.

Thank you for rising to the occasion again in 2018. With a 15% increase in our incoming dog count, especially from puppy mills, it is even more important that you help these furry humans socialize and learn how great real dog people can be. As they used to say on *The Price is Right*, "Come on down!"

~ Kevin Shipley





Save the Date

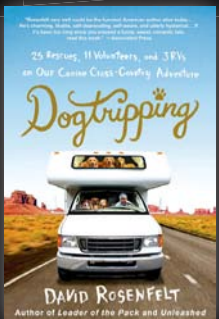
Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies

# 9th Annual Gala

Saturday, June 15, 2019 | Tivoli Denver

# Picture This

A look forward to the many happenings with GRRR



**Special Guest – Author David Rosenfelt**

- Special VIP cocktail event ticket to meet David (4:30-5:30pm) and get a personally signed book
- Bid on personally autographed books

Open Bar • Spirits Tasting Station (5:30 to 6:30 pm)  
Table Seating • Great Appetizers + Dinner • Silent Auction • Live Auction





# Welcome New Volunteers!

Wendy Armstrong • Steven Cochran • Jeff Davis • Jeanette DuBois • Minerva Plascencia Galvez  
Brianna Gardiner • Jennifer Gehring • Nancy Hamilton • Liz Hoerning  
Chrissy Lee • Julia McCleary • Keilidh McMath • Matt Miller-McLemore  
Richard T O'Day • Larry Plakcy • Lori Popovich • Marc Queneau  
Jenee Joelle Rick • Tiffani ten Bosch • Tara Thorn  
Beth Ann Valdez • Gregory Weiss • Kathy Weiss • Carrie Wheeler • Dana Wright

**Animal Care** Mary Kenton: [mary.kenton@goldenrescue.com](mailto:mary.kenton@goldenrescue.com)

**Golden Gowl Quarterly Newsletter** Debbie Stratton: [debbie.davis@goldenrescue.com](mailto:debbie.davis@goldenrescue.com)

**Volunteer Newsletter** Leigh Gannan: [leighlums@gmail.com](mailto:leighlums@gmail.com)

**Adoption Follow-up** Cathy Jones: [cathy.jones@goldenrescue.com](mailto:cathy.jones@goldenrescue.com)  
Stacy Springston: [stacy.stringston@goldenrescue.com](mailto:stacy.stringston@goldenrescue.com)

**Placement** Roberta Miller: [robertamiller70@yahoo.com](mailto:robertamiller70@yahoo.com)

**Application Advocate** Gloria LeFree: [gloria.lefree@goldenrescue.com](mailto:gloria.lefree@goldenrescue.com)

**Grant Writing** Judi Servoss: [judi.servoss@goldenrescue.com](mailto:judi.servoss@goldenrescue.com)  
Linda Pierrel: [linda.pierrel@goldenrescue.com](mailto:linda.pierrel@goldenrescue.com)  
Jeannie Miller: [jeanniebeer@gmail.com](mailto:jeanniebeer@gmail.com)

**Volunteer Coordinator** Cindee Moyer: [cindee.moyer@goldenrescue.com](mailto:cindee.moyer@goldenrescue.com)

**VIP - Volunteer Interaction Program Coordinator** Sukie McMaster:  
[sukie.mcmaster@goldenrescue.com](mailto:sukie.mcmaster@goldenrescue.com) 303-530-1655

**Executive Director** Kevin Shipley: [Kevin.shipley@goldenrescue.com](mailto:Kevin.shipley@goldenrescue.com)

# Team Leaders