

GREAT LAKES IRISH WOLFHOUND ASSOCIATION

Midwest Wolfhound



Spring

A quarterly newsletter for Irish Wolfhounds & their people

*Volume LXVI
Spring 2023*

Secretary's Report

- Track progress of the club and view the official record of each board meeting
- February- Annual Members' Meeting Minutes

Calendar of Events

- Find locations, dates, & details of events GLIWA is participating in. Please join us!

Spotlight on Health

- The health & wellbeing of our hounds is our highest priority. Here you will find articles on health care, behavior, training and nutrition
 - [Predicting, Preventing, & Proactively Avoiding Dog Fights](#)
 - [5 Spring Flowers that are Poisonous to Dogs](#)

Giants in Body, but in Spirit too - by Philip Santilhano

A Letter from the GLIWA President – by Risha Berzins

Quarterly Photos & Brags

MIDWEST WOLFHOUND™

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PRESIDENT

Risha Cupit-Berzins

VICE-PRESIDENT

Chris Krowzack
Bernstein

TREASURER

Mark Bettin

SECRETARY

Michelle Whittenhall

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Bettin
Debbie Greene
Helen Philpott
Maria Lubera
Courtney Smith
Jen Van Order

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Cover photo credit:

Claude- Dave & Risha Berzins

Secretary's Report



Annual Members Meeting Agenda of February 25, 2023

The meeting was called to order at _____ pm by Risha Cupit-Berzins, President:

Board members Present: (tick the box if present)

Risha_x Chris_x Michelle_x Mark_x Debbie_x Maria_x Scott_x Helen_x Pam_x

Board members Absent: (tick the box if absent)

Risha____ Chris____ Michelle____ Mark____ Debbie____ Maria____ Scott____ Helen____ Pam____

Guests in attendance_____

Reading of the Minutes: Chris motioned the Board to approve the minutes as printed in the MWW. Michelle Seconded. Motion passed.

President-

I'd like to welcome all GLIWA Members to our Annual Members Meeting 2023. How nice that it is in person this year so that we were able to have dinner with a very interesting program by Mariellen Dentino!

"The slate of candidates to be elected by consensus as no nomination by petitions for any office or dictatorship was filed as per article VII, section 6 of the bylaws."

Report of the Nominating Committee Official Slate for Election 2023

Officers (1-year term)

- President (1-year term) Risha Cupit-Berzins
Vice President (1-year term) Chris Krowzack Bernstein
Secretary (1-year term) Michelle Whittenhall
Treasurer (1-year term) Mark Bettin

The following are completing their original 2-year terms, and are not up for re-election

- Director (2-year term) Debbie Greene
Director (2-year term) Maria Lubera
Director (2-year term) Helen Philpott

The following are beginning their 2-year term on the board

- Director (2-year term) Courtney Smith
Director (2-year term) Jen Van Order

Annual Meeting adjourned at: 9:48 pm
**Next Meeting to immediately follow

GREAT LAKES IRISH WOLFHOUND ASSOCIATION

Board Meeting of February 25, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 9:53 pm by Risha Cupit-Berzins, President:

Board members Present: *(tick the box if present)*

Risha Chris Michelle Mark Debbie Maria Helen Courtney Jen

Board members Absent: *(tick the box if absent)*

Risha Chris Michelle Mark Debbie Maria Helen Courtney Jen

Reading of Minutes: None to be read

Reports

President: We welcome all of you to this meeting, but please remember that only board members area allowed to speak during the meeting. If there are any questions, please hold them to be answered at the end of the meeting.

Vice President: none

Secretary / Membership: none

Treasurer: Report available upon request

- Activities:**
1. Parade Schedule will be posted on the website
 2. Insurance for Florrisant Parade- Mark will send to Courtney ASAP
 3. Irish American Picnic Alliance Aug 13 – Orland Park- updated on the website

Fun Match: We have our judge – Maura High of Coleraine Irish Wolfhounds! The Cudahy Kennel Club and Packing House have both been booked for 2023. Risha will be booking the hotel soon, and the pottery will be ordered from Don Goodrich this week. We will discuss at a later time possibly having a 50/50 raffle.

Hospitality: none

Publications: none

Rescue: Boone (Kat Hansen’s boy who was in MN while she moved to London) is now reunited with her in London, UK and both are well.

Policy: none

Ways and Means: none

Old Business: Bylaws- Birgitta is working on this.

New Business: Helen motioned for GLIWA to put together a basket for the National Specialty in TX. Helen will coordinate and bring it with. Michelle seconded. Motion passed.

Next Board Meeting to be at the Annual Picnic on May 13th.
Board Meeting adjourned at: 9:57 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Michelle Whittenhall- Secretary



GLIWA Calendar 2023

Come join us and enjoy the day with your wolfhounds!



GLIWA Annual Picnic & Board Meeting Saturday May 13th

Picnic begins 1:00, Board Meeting 1:15

Pilcher Park Nature Center

2501 Highland Park Dr, Joliet, IL 60432

<https://jolietpark.org/pilcher-park-nature-center>

Pilcher Park is a beautiful 700-acre park with great walking trails and a fantastic Nature Center as well as formal gardens at Bird Haven Greenhouse. It is the perfect spot for our Great Lakes Irish Wolfhound Annual Picnic and a great way to meet fellow Wolfhound owners.

GLIWA will supply the main course. We ask that you supply a small side as follows:

- Last names starting with A-M please bring a side .
- Last names starting with N-Z please bring dessert.

*This event is **open** to both members & non-members & is a great way to get to know the club!

Please RSVP [here](#).

Come join us for our fabulous annual fun match!

SAVE the DATE October 21-22, 2023

great lakes irish wolfhound association


conformation fun match

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023

◆ Judge, Maura High ◆

◆ Coleraine Irish Wolfhounds ◆

Fun Match, Auction, and Judge's Dinner

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2023

Seminars and EKG testing

CUDAHY KENNEL CLUB, ST. FRANCIS, WISCONSIN

for more information: www.gliwa.org



Spotlight on Health



Predicting, Preventing, & Proactively Avoiding Dog Fights



Honest-to-goodness dog fights that result in real damage are remarkably infrequent. This is mostly due to the ritualized body language dogs use to avoid conflict. Conflict is expensive, evolutionarily speaking. Why waste precious energy reserves on actions that can result in injuries, possibly death? Scuffles among dogs, however, are common. Scuffles are the less-serious spats and conflicts that might result in minor injuries like lost fur (and dignity), scrapes, or even a small puncture wound.

Ideally, you want to avoid both serious fights and scuffles. And being able to predict and prevent conflict is the best course of action; it's a lot less stressful to prevent fights than to break them up. Prevention starts with understanding the things that generally lead to conflict, then knowing how to prevent those situations by being proactive. Here are some tips, along with what to do should a fight break out despite your care to avoid them.

Predicting Dog Fights

Fortunately, you don't need a crystal ball to predict a dog fight. Here's a list of things that often lead to spats between dogs:

- Rough play, particularly when it continues uninterrupted for more than a minute or two.
- Targeting behavior, in which a dog incessantly targets another dog for play even when that dog isn't showing any interest or reciprocating the play behavior.
- Herding behavior.
- Stalking behavior.
- Excessive barking. Some dogs attempt to use barking to engage other dogs in play, but this behavior is often not appreciated.
- Failure to read another dog's cut-off or fear signals.
- Stiff body posture.
- Humping.
- Locked gaze or holding eye contact for long periods of time.
- Growling, especially with escalation. Meaning a growl that starts quietly and builds into a louder and louder growl.

- Baring of teeth.
- The presence of coveted resources, particularly among resource guarders. The desirable objects can be anything from toys and tennis balls to food.
- These are things you should keep your eyes peeled for. If you do, you'll be more able to prevent fights from happening in the first place.

Preventing Dog Fights

Here are a number of things professional dog walkers can do to minimize the likelihood of conflict among dogs.

Careful screening and pack composition. One key way to prevent dog fights is to carefully choose the dogs you're going to take out into public situations. This is particularly important when walking dogs in groups, especially if the dogs will be off leash and have the opportunity to interact with unknown dogs. Suffice it to say you shouldn't be shy about reorganizing groups that have a poor dynamic. Separate resource guarders and dogs whose mismatched play styles make walks more difficult. You may even need to fire dogs who are causing more than their fair share of trouble. While it never feels good in the moment to do so, letting difficult dogs go ultimately makes your job more enjoyable and the daily routine less stressful on the remaining dogs.

Situational awareness. Being aware of the surrounding environment, including teaching yourself to scan for approaching dogs and potential resources (chicken bones, garbage, tennis balls, sticks, drinking puddles, etc.) will help you prevent scuffles among your canine charges.

Avoiding interactions with unknown dogs. The only way to be sure two dogs aren't going to get into a fight is to not allow them to interact. And so even if the dogs you're walking are approaching another dog giving all the right body language signals and the unknown dog looks downright friendly and receptive, you're better off calling your dogs cheerfully to you and moving on. In most cases, the dogs would have greeted each other appropriately and would possibly even have had a nice play session. But the more conservative you are, the fewer scuffles you'll see.

Remember you're walking other people's dogs and your job is to keep them safe, not provide them with scores of new canine friends. So whether you're walking a group of dogs off leash or a single dog on leash, keep interactions limited to those between you and the dog(s) or between the dogs in the group.

Proactively Avoiding Dog Fights

Active management means you, the dog pro, being in the game, focused on the dogs in your care and managing the environment to the best of your ability to set your dogs up for success and keep them safe.

Establish the tone. By asking for some simple obedience behaviors at the outset of the walk to focus the dogs on you and requiring them to calm down and pay attention, you set the tone for the walk.

Build strong recalls. Strong recalls allow you to call dogs away from unknown dogs, potentially desirable resources, and out of amped up play before it tips over into argument.

Reward off-leash dogs for checking in. The closer your dogs are to you, the easier it is to monitor their behavior and keep them out of trouble.

Take frequent obedience breaks. Stop now and then to practice sits or touches or recalls so you can use these exercises to interrupt play sessions. Dogs are like kids in this respect. The longer the play continues, the more likely it is an argument breaks out. By calling dogs out of play every one to two minutes to practice a couple of obedience behaviors, give them a treat, and let them return to play, you keep the game from becoming too intense. Over time this routine teaches the dogs to self-regulate – dog walkers who consistently apply obedience breaks will notice the dogs begin to take play breaks on their own to check in with their walker for treats.

Apply time-outs for bullying, repeated harassment, excessive chasing, excessive barking, and humping. These behaviors often lead to scuffles, and consistent use of time-outs helps dogs learn more appropriate ways of playing with their buddies. Off leash dogs can be timed out by being put on leash. Already leashed dogs can be timed out by a moment or two of boring time standing still in one place.

Redirect dogs with difficult play styles to toys, more appropriate playmates, or other pursuits.

Interrupt stalking and herding behaviors by calling dogs to you and rewarding them for walking alongside you.

Interrupt before fights happen. Anytime you see anything you recognize as a predictor of a fight, whether it's excessive chasing, two dogs circling each other with stiff body posture, or two dogs staring each other down, don't wait to see if a conflict erupts. Proactively step in by cheerfully calling the dogs to you and redirecting their attention onto something else.

Breaking up fights

Again, prevention is always better. But when the worst happens, the first thing to remember is: Never grab a dog's collar. You are likely to make the situation worse by heightening the tension and removing flight from the fight-or-flight menu. It's also an excellent way to get bitten, as it's common for dogs in the midst of a fight to turn and redirect their bite onto the person who grabbed their collar.

Instead of touching either dog, attempt to break up the fight by startling the dogs. By far the best way to do this is using a startling sound. A sharp hand clap can work in small scuffles. For more serious dog fights, you'll need something much louder, like a shrill whistle or air horn. You can buy air horns at party stores. If you carry an air horn, remember it will be of more use to you if it's attached to your belt or in another easy and quick-to-grab location. An air horn at the bottom of a backpack does you no good when fur is flying.

Another option is spraying the dogs with water, such as squirting them in the face with your water bottle. If you have neither noise nor water, you can try tossing an article of clothing like your jacket over their heads or using citronella or pepper spray. We don't generally recommend the latter as a first recourse, as these irritants can get in the eyes of both the aggressor and the aggressed-upon, as well as the eyes of other dogs in the area and yours.

If it's absolutely necessary to remove the dogs from each other with physical force, your best option is to grab the dog who appears to be the aggressor by the tail or hind legs and lift swiftly backward and up into the air. But please note that you do risk being bitten by taking this course of action.

Fortunately, the vast majority of dog fights are easily broken up with a loud noise.

After a fight

Once the dogs are separated, immediately step in to keep them apart and occupy them with other things. Don't let them interact again that day. Put the aggressor on leash if he isn't already, and if it was more than a mild scuffle, take the dogs home.

Adrenaline continues to be produced in a dog's body for 10 to 15 minutes after a fight is over and it can take the body three to six days to reabsorb these stress hormones, depending on how agitated the dog was. For this reason, it's best to leave dogs who have been in a fight home for a day or two, as they will be more likely than usual to get into new scuffles until their adrenaline levels drop again.

Source: <https://dogbizsuccess.com/predicting-preventing-proactively-avoiding-dog-fights/>



5 Spring Flowers that are Poisonous to Dogs



Heading out on a woodland walk? You'll want to give this a read.

Every gardener dreams of [spring](#) colours in abundance, but the toxicity in many common flowers found across the UK [and US] could make your dog ill. From sunshine-yellow daffodils to beautiful bluebells, ensure you keep your pups from nibbling on these spring [flowers](#) and their bulbs.

'It's important to be aware of the flowers and bulbs which could prove to be poisonous or toxic to dogs in order to keep them safe in the garden, or on walks, especially now that spring is upon us,' Shannon Keary, Digital PR Manager at [Canine Cottages](#), says.



Do remember that if your pet does manage to eat a plant or flower that is known to be toxic, call your vet while getting ready to take your dog directly to them. If you are too far from your local vet, look one up located close to where you are and let them know you're on your way.

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Take a look at the popular spring flowers that are poisonous to dogs:

1- TULIPS

Tulips are a sure sign of spring, but did you know that these beautiful blooms are extremely poisonous to pets – especially the bulb. Pet parents should keep their furry friends away from tulips (and their flowerpot water), as it could lead to vomiting, drooling and diarrhoea.



2- DAFFODILS

Daffodils, with their beautiful uplifting yellow flowers, bloom year after year with little attention. They might be one of spring's little joys, but make sure to keep these firmly away from your four-legged friends. Dog trainer Joe Nutkins adds: 'Daffodils can prove dangerous, with vomiting, salivating and cardiac arrhythmia among the worst symptoms. If you have a dog, it would be wise to keep these plants in a secure location where the dog cannot reach them.'



3- SNOWDROPS



These pretty bell-shaped flowers can cause quite a bit of damage to your pooch, with symptoms including vomiting and diarrhoea. When heading out on a spring walk, be careful if your inquisitive pup wanders off: both the bulb and the main flower can cause dogs to become poorly.

4- BLUEBELLS

All parts of the bluebell pose a risk to dogs, so watch out when out on a woodland walk.

Growing close to the ground, these blooms are easy for dogs to bite.

'Symptoms of ingesting this plant are very similar to previous plants, so make sure to note the flowers you see in case you need to reiterate what your pooch has eaten to your vet,' adds Joe.



5- CROCUS

The spring crocus, much like its autumn relative, can be severely toxic for pets. According to Joe, the flower can, in worst cases, cause organ failure if ingested, with other symptoms including vomiting, bloody diarrhoea and salivating.



Credit: [Lisa Joyner- www.housebeautiful.com](http://www.housebeautiful.com)



Giants in Body, but in Spirit too



Author: Phillip Santilhano, Posted by [Bob McMillan](#) [The Wild Stare](#)

We often think of the intelligence, and the fierce protectiveness, and the love, and the humour that our Irish Wolfhounds bring into our lives, but do we always see the single most important element that they bring, the one that sets these magnificent dogs apart from all other dogs, their humanity?

We do therapy dog work with our Irish Wolfhounds, and Chelsea the Dane, and it opens one's eyes to just how incredible and strong the bond is between humans and dogs, and how much positive energy dogs bring into these interactions.

Forget about the clinical studies that prove that patients interacting with dogs have higher levels of feel-good hormones in their systems after the interaction. Forget about the studies that show that people who interact with animals, most particularly dogs, feel better and heal more rapidly. Forget, for a while, all the scientific data that shows how beneficial this interaction can be and look at the participants. It will only take you a few seconds to realize that dogs bring so much love into these interactions that the patients cannot help but feel a bit better.

And while there are many other dog breeds that are more suitable for therapy work due to their size and other factors, none of them, not even the Great Danes, have that soul to soul contact that the wolfhounds can establish, and none engender the feelings of love and awe that a wolfhound regularly elicits.

But, ultimately, all of this too is unimportant next to the single characteristic that all wolfhounds seem to possess, the ability to support a soul in desperate need, an almost superhuman knowledge of what to do to help, and a soul so big and bright and intense that they are able to help in even the most heart wrenching situations. Wolfhounds are not just big dogs. They are true giants. And they possess the hearts and souls of giants. It is sometimes humbling to watch them at work.

Now I am not talking metaphysics here, or I might be talking about that as well, but even if one has no belief in religion whatsoever, looking into a wolfhound's eyes will give you a glimpse of that fiery, fierce, wild and compassionate soul at the core of each of these giant hounds. This is not just intelligence and courage and love and all the other characteristics that these great hounds possess. This is a core as bright and fierce as the sun.

And when they shine their light, people feel the warmth.

A case in point was on a hospital visit some time back. As our group was forming up outside the hospital, waiting for visiting hours to start so that we might go in, a large, multi generation family walked past us, obviously on their way to visit a sick relative. I particularly noticed an elderly man, slender and slightly bowed, who deliberately avoided the dogs on the way past. He was wearing good clothes, and I thought at the time that he was making sure that they stayed clean and neat. I was also struck by the look of sadness and worry on his face.

Neither Dougal or Reilly paid much attention to the passing family. Once we had our instructions, our group split up into smaller groups and we started our visit.

Since very small children in hospital often (although not always) react poorly to giant breed dogs, Dougal and I are often given the Oncology ward as our first destination, and then we typically move on to one of the other wards. That evening was no exception.

We always ask of the nursing sisters on duty which of the rooms in the ward we should avoid, for whatever reason, and we were told to give a particular room a miss as the patient was dying, and the family members were with her. I looked across the ward to the room, and saw some of the members of the same family that had passed us at the entrance were now standing outside the room.

We started our visit, and when we got to the room with the family and the dying patient, we started to walk past, but were called on by several family members who wanted to talk to Dougal and his partner of the evening, Suzie, the "almost" miniature dachshund who had been Wallace's biggest friend. As we were talking to the various family members, the elderly man came out of the room, and again avoided the dogs.

We moved on, finished our visit in the Oncology ward, and visited one of the surgical wards. At the end of the visit, on our way out, we ran into the family again. They were standing just outside the Oncology ward, obviously grief stricken. The elderly man looked as though he was about to pass out, and my heart went out to him, but remembering how he had avoided the dogs earlier, I tried to steer Dougal clear of the group.

Dougal was having none of it. He almost dislocated my shoulder, so hard did he jerk on the lead, and once he had me off balance, he made a bee line for the elderly gentleman. I tried to stop him, but he was in four-wheel drive mode, and not stopping for anything I could come up with. He went straight to the elderly man, pushing past other family members, turned side on and leaned ever so gently against the gentleman's legs. I was about to apologize and try to take Dougal away when the elderly gentleman burst into tears, and leaned on Dougal's shoulders, sobbing wretchedly. We stood there for a good few minutes, while the gentleman sobbed his heart out. When he was finally finished, he took out a handkerchief, something I have not seen in a while, blotted his eyes, blew his nose, and nodded to me.

Without me having to say a word, Dougal moved off and we left the hospital. I have seen many acts of compassion from dogs, but this one stands out. Dougal knew what to do, even when I did not, and he had the tools to do what needed to be done. He made a difference that even the gentleman's family could not.

I have never doubted their intelligence and their hearts, but on that day, I learned that they have a soul as great as their bodies.





A Letter from the GLIWA President



The GLIWA Annual Dinner and Members' Meeting was held February 25, 2023 at Weber Grill in Lombard, IL. Many thanks to Diane Palumbo and Maria Lubera who worked hard to make the event perfect for us all this year. Fifty people registered and it was lovely to see the array of familiar faces and many new members, also!

As our guest speaker we were fortunate to have Dr. Mariellen Dentino talking with us about *Giant Breed Health and the Future of Our Breed*.

At the dinner we welcomed two board members, Courtney Smith and Jen Van Order, to the 2023 GLIWA Board, both as Directors. We also graciously thanked Scott Mortenson and Pam McNeil for their time and selfless service to the GLIWA Board.

With the weather looking nicer, I am anticipating a lovely spring and summer, fun events with our hounds, and hope to see those who can attend at our GLIWA Picnic, May 13, in Pilcher Park. It's also not too early to block off the dates of October 21-22 for our GLIWA Fun Match!

Respectfully,

Risha Cupit-Berzins
President

Quarterly Photos & Brags



See what GLIWA has been up to!

GLIWA'S ANNUAL DINNER



GREAT LAKES IRISH WOLFHOUND ASSOCIATION



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Thank YOU so much to those who joined us this year for the Annual Dinner and Member's Meeting! Because of YOU we had very close quarters. Next year will be bigger and better. Hopefully we will be able to bring back the slide show. We loved hearing your stories so start rehearsing your 30 second elevator speech about how you came to the Wolfhound World!

Thank you to Risha Cupit-Berzins, our President, Diane Palumbo and Maria Lubera, our Dinner Organizers and Planners and our fabulous speaker, Mariellen Dentino for making the evening a great success!

Wolfhound Walks



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AOH Dogtown
St. Patrick's
Day Parade
St. Louis



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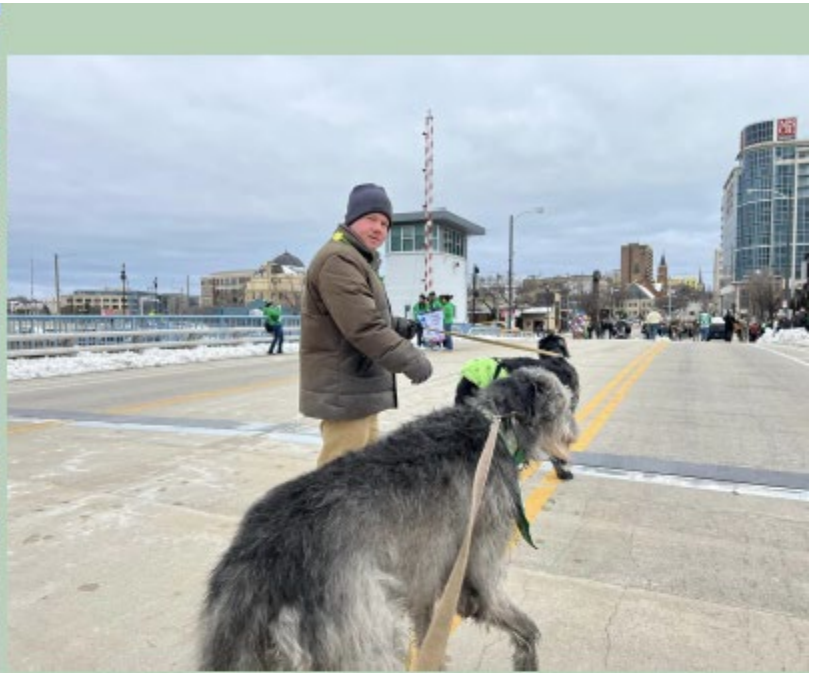
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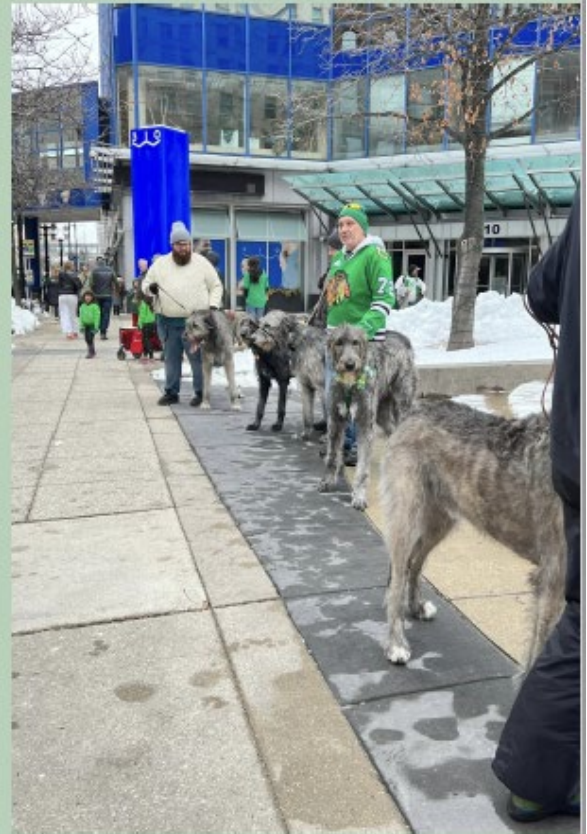
Downtown Milwaukee St. Patrick's Day Parade 2023



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Chicago Southside

St. Patrick's Day Parade 2023



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Seen Along the
Parade Route



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GLIWA was invited to speak to the
Joliet Rotary Club in March

About Irish Wolfhounds. Mark Bettin and Robert Greene
did a presentation at the Jacob Henry Mansion in Joliet.
Bo and Flannery were the Wolfhounds present.



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Pam Heavens was Mark
Bettin's sister's college
Roommate! Small World!



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Florissant Irish Festival & St. Patrick's Day Parade 2023



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THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN CLUB EVENTS SO FAR THIS YEAR!