Looking Back at 2017
by JoHannah Lawrie

Rescue had a busy year. Rescue chair, Ann Sury, reports social media, phone calls and direct contacts from individuals and local shelters gleaned a higher number of IW’s than normal needing our help. Follow up and research on each case has resulted in positive results and the knowledge that the Irish Wolfhound community continues to work tirelessly to protect and preserve this magnificent breed.

Working with limited funds in addition to the generosity of volunteers and most certainly Melanie Mercer DVM, our intake hounds were taken care of medically and loved by our foster and adoptive families.

Our main yearly fundraiser and educational program “North Texas Irish Fest” held in March, was once again a grand success. We were visited and interviewed not only by the local press and TV stations, Ireland’s consulate representative visited our booth both days for interviews and photos. Educational opportunities were expanded this year when our group was extended personal invitations to join other local and regional Celtic celebrations. A special thanks to Stacey and Preston Thompson who provided coordinating efforts for festivals in San Antonio, Austin & Sherman. We were well represented and well received in all events.

SCIWC hosted the newly formed Irish Wolfhound Educational Alliance Symposium held in the DFW area in March. The subject matter affects us all. “Better Breeder Symposium” had a full enrollment. Dr. Melanie Mercer and Gretchen Bernardi assembled the guest speakers. Dr. Dayna Dreger of the National Institute of Health, did a presentation on genome studies on K9’s worldwide captivated the audience and inspired good audience/presenter interaction. Dr. Melanie Mercer and Mariellen Dentino also made presentations. The afternoon panel discussion moderated by Gretchen Bernardi evoked personal breeder experience and opinions along with interesting questions from the attendees. Breeder panelists included: Brenda Fairbanks, Jonathan Harvey, Bev Stobart, Lloyd Simmons, Donna Brown.

This symposium was a grand success. I encourage other breeders, exhibitors & pet
owners to attend the upcoming educational events. You will come away with a better understanding of the hounds we all love.

A call for talent yielded a wonderful selection of artwork to grace the walls of “The Greater Good” organization who’s assistance with food during the TX-72 rescue was invaluable. Thank you to all who donated their talents to this effort.

SCIWC joined the DFW Saluki/Sighthound group in October for their annual picnic. Fabulous hounds, outstanding food, creative costumes, fun match and talented team events entertained us all.

In October, club members came out in support of a fundraiser for the Metroplex United Pipe Band at Jacob’s Reward Farm in Parker, TX. Live music, Highland dancing and our hounds were featured.

We are looking forward to 2018 for Irish Wolfhound Rescue and our Education and fundraising efforts, it will happen with your continued participation.

Remember, 2018 membership dues are due. Thank you for your continued support. Hope to see you at a future local show, fun gathering or event.

For those of you who exhibit and or breed your hounds, I congratulate your success’. Those who are just learning, I applaud your efforts…don’t give up, and those of you who are “owned” by an Irish Wolfhound in any capacity, you are blessed. We encourage you to continue to support our rescue and educational efforts in the future, you do make a difference.

A special “shout out” to: our members, partners, mentors, those who support our web page, monitor our FB page, keep an eye out for rescue postings, those who foster and those who transport rescue hounds, and those who post pertinent article links. The individuals who make generous donations to support rescue efforts have helped make these efforts happen. It indeed takes a village to support these efforts.

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