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Adopt a Greyhound!

Run With It! February 2010

RETIREMENT



In our newsletters, we usually talk about retired racing greyhounds. In this issue, it's not the greyhounds who are front and center. It's Ms. Vicki.

Vicki Cohen, Executive Director, has announced her decision to retire from MSGAO in March 2020. "This was a long, difficult decision made before Southland Casino Racing's announcement about closing the racetrack," said Vicki. However, after devoting 55 years, 24/7 to greyhounds (as a trainer and with MSGAO), she has decided that now it's time for her

and her husband, Paul, to spend time with each other, their own greyhounds, Ace and Trev, and her mother, Elizabeth.

Vicki became the Executive Director of MSGAO in January 2006. For most of us, she is the only director that we have known. Her greyhound knowledge and experience (and her love for putting on a terrific reunion!) is something we have all come to rely on.

We are sad to see you leave, but we wish you the best in your own retirement, Vicki!



Vicki Cohen at the Southern Women's Show Meet and Greet in 2019 with her greyhounds, Trev (fawn) and Ace (black).

Q&A with Vicki Cohen (pictured below holding a 2-month old blue greyhound puppy at Darren Henry Kennels):

When did you become Director of MSGAO?

Fourteen years ago, on January 21, 2006

Why did you take this job? (Weren't you a trainer before this?)

I grew up with dogs, my stepfather was a greyhound trainer. After working as a trainer myself, I knew that I wanted to continue working with greyhounds, but not as a trainer. I was looking for a physically less demanding job that still involved greyhounds, and MSGAO offered benefits that are not usually offered to trainers.



What changes did you introduce to the program?

I changed our "open to the public" hours and days to make it easier for the public to have access. I also changed our

boarding policy to take on more greyhound board dogs, which had been limited in the past. Now, boarding is a great fund raising source for MSGAO. Over this past Christmas, we had 28 greyhounds as our guests!

How many reunions have you hosted?

I have been involved with 14 Annual Reunions, which have been a wonderful time for greyhound owners and their hounds to come back to the track. Each year has been fun trying to come up with something creative and new. However, I'm looking forward to coming to this year's Annual Reunion as a guest, so Paul and I can sit back and enjoy it for the first time!

What has been the most rewarding part of your job?

Seeing the greyhounds start their new life as a pet. And getting happy, fun pictures of them in their new homes. I also enjoy having new adopters come back to get another greyhound! So much fun to work with new "chippers."
(Editor: "Chippers" are adopters with more than one greyhound... like potato chips, you can't have just one!)

What will you miss the most?

Meeting the new dogs coming to Adoption. My whole life has been about greyhounds. I will miss learning each of their personalities!

What is your favorite memory?

Oh dear, there are too many! This is the longest I have ever lived in one place. All my new friends. This is my family!!

Why are you retiring now?

I have devoted 55 years to greyhounds. Paul and I have been married 37 years, and the greyhounds have always been the number one priority--24/7. We are going to put each other first. And Mom. I want to spend as much time as possible with Mom, who turns 87 this year.

Did the closing of the greyhound racetrack have anything to do with your decision?

My retirement decision was made *months* before the Southland announcement.

What are your plans after retiring?

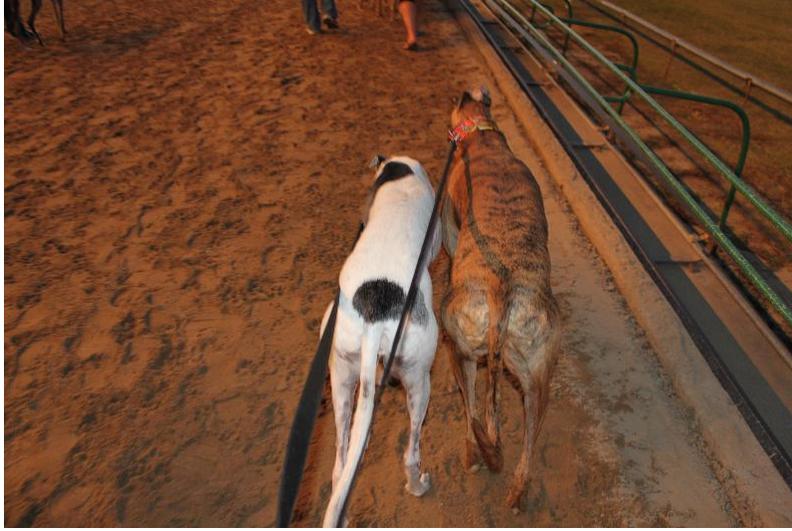
Paul and I want to travel. We already have a trip planned to my bucket list cities: Venice and Florence. We also want to spend more time with both of our families across the

country.

What will happen at MSGAO?

The Board of Directors has posted my position, and they are actively recruiting another Executive Director. I will be on hand to help train the new Executive Director, and to turn over responsibilities. Right now, we are also working to hire two new staff members to help with the newly retired racers. **AND...** I'm counting on our active volunteers and our greyhound family to make this transition easy for the new person!





The MSGAO Board of Directors wants to thank Vicki for her dedicated service to retired racing greyhounds, for her excellence of care, and her tireless work to support the breed in our community. Vicki has been the heart and soul of MSGAO. She is the only Director that most of us have worked with, and we thank her for helping to transition with a new director. Vicki, we will miss you after you cross the finish line of your years of service!

Mid South Greyhound Adoption Option has posted a job description with necessary qualifications for the Executive Director position on Indeed.com ([Job Posting](#)). We have some *VERY* big shoes to fill after the excellence Vicki has brought to the position and to this non-profit program. High on our list of qualifications is someone who is very knowledgeable about greyhounds and their health, past experience in a kennel atmosphere (or with an adoption group), and the ability to manage staff. An additional qualification is that the new Executive Director must live in the West Memphis/Marion, Arkansas area, or be willing to relocate.

If you know of someone who is qualified and may be interested, please let him or her know of the position opening and posting.

MSGAO Board of Directors



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