

MILWAUKEE DOG TRAINING CLUB
Membership Meeting Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Meeting called to order by President Erin Ruppel at 8:06pm

Minutes were approved as distributed by automatic consent.

OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Secretary

There are updates to the AKC Agility regulations effective June 1, 2026. Please go to <https://akceventoperations.wordpress.com/> for more details.

May 8th is National Pet Disaster Preparedness Day, which was created by FEMA to encourage pet owners to create a plan for their pets in case of a natural disaster, such as ensuring pets are microchipped and have up-to-date tags, creating a pet emergency kit, and creating an evacuation plan.

President

Please be sure to attend the membership meeting at the outdoor club on May 27th at 8 pm. We have our annual election and need a quorum of 15%, which is over 40 members.

We're holding a neighborhood cleanup around the indoor club on Saturday, May 16th at 12 PM. Gloves, trash bags, grabber sticks, etc. will be provided. Please join us if you're able!

Now that training is outside for the summer, I'm looking forward to enjoying nicer weather and watching members and their dogs show off their obedience skills in our club Heel Downs. Looking forward to seeing you all on the field!

Treasurer

Beginning Balance as of 4/1/2026

Checking: \$11,092.49

Money Market: \$67,710.27

Previous Quarter Snapshot (January 1 - March 31, 2026)

Income \$26,555.65

Expense \$26,732.36

Net Revenue -\$176.71

Top 3

Income: Obedience dues (\$12,700), Donation (\$3,286), Holiday Party (\$2734)

Expenses: Property tax (\$9500), Utilities (\$7,143), Holiday Party (\$2900)

We did apply to be exempt from property taxes next year (we applied last year and were denied), and are still waiting to hear back.

Training Committee

Welcome to the start of the outdoor season! Thank you to everyone who came tonight.

We will be holding tricks testing this Sunday, May 3rd. We will offer testing for the novice, intermediate, and advanced levels. The cost is \$10 per level. No prong collars are allowed. You can sign up on the website. There will be a list of provided equipment. You do have to test in order of level (have to complete novice prior to intermediate, etc).

Agility-Basic class is done. Agility classes switch to the summer schedule starting this week, but will stay indoors until June.

Flyball-Nothing to report.

Puppy Class-The last session has started for this season. There will not be puppy class over the summer (due to instructor availability).

Scentwork class is wrapping up.

AKC Show (June 6 & 7) -We need 30 volunteers each day. Please sign up if you are able to help out. If you are interested in competing, sign up early as we often fill up. Premiums are in the large crate room or on AKC website. You can volunteer even if you are trialing. No special training is needed to volunteer. Talk to Daryl Stuppan if you have questions about volunteering. We are collecting AKC sponsorships again this year to help pay for the cost of running the trial. Forms are available in the large crate room. You can also pay through Neon, but please still fill out the paper form so we have your name. Kate Murphy is in charge of sponsorships this year. See her for questions.

We are also collecting items for raffle baskets. Items should be brought by June 4. On June 4, we will be putting the baskets together. There will be a sign up to help with this.

Membership and Sales

The May 31 class is full. (filled 10 weeks early).

The July 19 class is about 1/3 full. Kim Rinzel is working on a packet of things that people can work on at home prior to starting their first class.

We need to do a refresher on slip lead training for instructors and MAST members.

Lisa Fohey is looking for at least 2 more volunteers for the MAST team. Reach out to her if you are interested or need more information.

Member Engagement Committee

The next Social Sunday is May 17.

Saturday, May 16 is our MDTC neighborhood clean up. We will be working on Cornell Street starting at 12 pm. Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful will provide supplies and arrange trash pickup, You do not need to sign up ahead of time. Please come and bring a friend!

Good and Welfare:

- Holly Numan had a baby
- Anna and Vincent Hallmann had a baby boy
- Ellen Mack became a scentwork judge
- Peggy Brunner lost her dog Max

Facilities Committee

We had some flooding by door 3 and water coming in through the ceiling heaters with all of the rain last week. There will always be some leaking around the heaters when it rains because of the vents.

The gutter on the salt barn leaks, which can overwhelm the drain which isn't meant to handle large amounts of water. We will be looking into repairing the gutter.

We are planning on fencing in the back area at the Cornell building. We found someone who was willing to take on the project for his Eagle Scout project.

Revenue and Finance Committee

We have a lawyer (Foley & Lardner LLP) to look into our sales tax questions pro bono. This is a one-time consultation that will deliver us a detailed sales tax matrix that we can point to as a reference going forward.

The Revenue and Finance Committee is working on creating a budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Community Engagement Committee

We have West Allis Ala Cart June 6 & 7. This is the same weekend as our AKC show. The Rinzels will run the booth.

We have the West Allis 4th of July Parade on Thursday, July 2.

Bark after Dark in Konkel Park with booth and agility demos on July 10.

We have a demo at the Hales Corners Library July 22.

We will be at the State Fair both Fridays again this year (August 7 & 14), with the Agility Demo in the coliseum on the 14th.

We did the Grilling with Sendik's fundraiser last year. This year, we will be doing it on June 28, July 5 (no class that day), and July 26. We will need volunteers. Please stop by for food even if you can't volunteer. This has been a great way for the club to make money.

We have Kids in Community coming in to watch obedience demos and learn about dog safety.

Nominating Committee

Elections are at the next meeting. We need a quorum (42 members) to vote.

Running for president- Erin Ruppel

Running for vice president- Mari Pavleje

Running for secretary-Katie Schmidt

Running for treasurer-Lenore Lenten

Running for board positions-Daryl Stuppan and Yaakov Cohen

We will be taking nominations from the floor today.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

We are a few years away from our 100 year anniversary (2029). We are the oldest dog club in the midwest. We want to start working on the history of the club to celebrate. We will be collecting pictures and stories to celebrate the history of the club. Talk to Erin Ruppel or Daryl Stuppan if you are interested in helping with this.

In the past, we had a club historian. If you would be interested in taking on this role, let Erin Ruppel know.

NEW BUSINESS

We have officer and board member elections next month. We are taking nominations from the floor for all positions.

President: No nominations. Nominations closed.

Vice President: No nominations. Nominations closed.

Secretary: No nominations. Nominations closed.

Treasurer: No nominations. Nominations closed.

Board: No nominations. Nominations closed.

Elections in May will be voice vote because all positions are unopposed, but we still need a quorum. If we don't have a quorum, we cannot have the election until the next meeting where we have a quorum. We need over 40 people to have a quorum.

The Liver Lady is coming May 31. Orders are due the Friday before. There is more information in the newsletter and on Facebook. Put MDTC in the "notes to seller" and she will be here after class for order pickup.

Logowear-we are looking into options for print-on-demand t-shirts and sweatshirts with different designs. Talk to Erin Ruppel if you have recommendations for websites we could use.

Blue club polo shirts are available for purchase at the MAST desk. We will look into ordering more shirts if needed.

The names of the new Basic class members were read by Mari Pavleje.

Show wins: Lots of great wins, titles, and qualifying scores! Be sure to submit your wins to the newsletter by filling out the form under the member resources tab on the website.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36pm.

Submitted by Katie Schmidt, Club Secretary