

MILWAUKEE DOG TRAINING CLUB  
Membership Meeting Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Meeting called to order by President Erin Ruppel at 8:10pm

Minutes were approved as distributed by automatic consent.

OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Secretary

Starting this month, the meeting minutes will be sent separately from the newsletter. Please be sure to read both.

President

Thank you to everyone who helped with the holiday party, donated raffle items, and to everyone who came to the party. Congratulations to Wille, our 2025 Instructor of the Year.

Treasurer

We will be presenting quarterly reports going forward.

Previous quarter (2025)

Beginning Balances January 2026:

-Checking: \$8,534.91

-Money Market: \$72,216.29

Previous Quarter Snapshot from Statement of Activity (October 1 - December 31, 2025)

Income: \$26,342.98

Expenses: \$10,896

Top 3 income = obedience dues (\$12.5k), puppy class registration (\$3k) and donations (\$2.5k)

Top 3 expenses = Utilities[water, energy] (\$3k), facilities and equipment [included new vacuums, and janitorial services] (\$1.5k), office expense (quickbooks, etc) \$1k

Worth mentioning:

Donations account for over 15% of total income for the period. That's incredible and we thank all of those who donated.

Upcoming large expense: Property tax was paid in January and was about \$9k.

### Training Committee

Thank you to everyone who participated in tonight's first Workshop Wednesday. We will be doing it again next month and in March on meeting nights. We are planning to have a Trick testing season on May 3 where members can earn a Trick Dog title using the tricks we are learning on Workshop Wednesdays.

The Scentwork class started on January 26 and is full.

The Pet First Aid class (March 15) is available to sign up for on the website.

The Achievement trial is scheduled for Sunday, March 22. There will still be Basic class that day, but no other classes. There will be a "Know Before You Show" seminar on Saturday, February 21 after Agility. Lory Valley will host and Chris Stephens will do a demonstration with his dog Lacis. "Know Before You Show" is for humans only; please leave your dogs at home.

Agility-Nothing to report

Flyball-Nothing to report

Puppy Class-Nothing to report

AKC Show (June 6 & 7) -We are working on getting the premiums ready. Sign up early for the trial if you are interested in competing as we have filled up in the past. Premiums will also be on the AKC website. We will need raffle item donations and volunteers for both days. Daryl Stuppan still needs someone to come to Pet Expo and help collect raffle item donations. We are trying something different this year by doing Obedience only on Saturday the 6th and Rally only on Sunday the 7th.

### Membership and Sales

The February class is full. We have people signed up for April and May already.

The Wednesday night desk hours have shifted to 6:30-7:30 to align with the 6:30 start time of session one. This is to allow for the MAST team to support Kim (DOT) with attendance. Desk hours will shift back to 7-8pm on Wednesdays when training goes outdoors.

Members can sign in for class from home up to 3 hours before the start of their class. Kim is coaching members who didn't sign in before class to sign in after class. The check in will be available for an hour after class ends.

We are now putting the announcements on the member portal. It shows up below the membership status on the dashboard.

We have a new google form to use if you are planning an event that you want to be put on the website. Once the event is approved by the board, the NEON team will use the info to create the event in Neon and update the announcement section of the member portal (as needed). Kris (Member Engagement) will use the information to promote the event appropriately (Facebook, posters, etc). See Lisa Fohey for more information.

### Member Engagement Committee

The next Social Sunday is Feb 15.

We are thinking about doing a neighborhood cleanup event for Earth Day.

We are also looking for volunteers to take photos during classes. See Kris Connell if you are interested.

When you log in to your account on the website, the weekly announcements will be posted under your member status.

Good and Welfare-

Marion Artner lost her dog Sam.

Mary Parker lost her dog Rose.

Tracy McCarty lost her dog Wikki.

Leigh Anne Gerard's mom passed away.

### Facilities Committee

We are looking for people to help shovel the sidewalks on days that we have snow at the Cornell building. We are starting a "Snow Crew" group text to let people know if shoveling is needed, and people in the group can respond if they are able to help and when they plan to come. Let Alex Christoperson or Sue Steinbach know if you are interested in joining the "Snow Crew."

Thank you to everyone who has helped with shoveling so far this winter.

The MAST area is cold, even after adjusting the heat to 58 degrees when the building is unoccupied. MAST members would like someone to look at this or get some space heaters. It was warmer outside last winter than this year, and this is the first year we have been in this building for the full winter. Sue Bronson has a space heater to bring that we can use in the meantime while we wait for HVAC to fix.

We did have preventative maintenance for the furnace in the fall. Sue Steinbach will have someone come to look at the HVAC system again.

The dog wash is up and running in the basement. You need to make an appointment with Sue Steinbach or Ellen Mack for your first appointment. See the posters around the club for more information.

#### Revenue and Finance Committee

We are doing quarterly profit & loss statements.  
We have to start charging sales tax on leashes/collars, and potentially on other things. We are working with our accountant to determine what needs to be taxed.

#### Community Engagement Committee

Exhibitions: Saturday, Feb 7th is the Pet Expo at the State Fair grounds. We have a booth and will do a demonstration at 3pm. The board approved giving away a free 6 month membership as a raffle prize. We don't need any more volunteers to run the booth, but Daryl Stuppan is looking for someone to come to the Pet Expo with her to ask for raffle donations for the AKC trial. Let her know if you are interested. Feel free to stop by the booth to say hi! There is a VIP hour from 9-10am, where you can come when it is less crowded. General admission starts at 10am. Don't bring your dog as this event is for people only.

The Journal Sentinel Sports Show is March 6-8 at State Fair Park. The sign up binder will be in the big crate room. There is a description of requirements in the front of the binder. We ask that you wear the blue club polo if you volunteer. See Mari Pavleje for questions. We also need people on Thursday, March 5 to help during the day for set up, and we will need minivans/trucks to transport everything before and after the event. We will also need help with returning things to the club after the Sports Show. Please fill in all of the information and use a pencil (not pen).

#### Nominating Committee

Kris Connell is the chair Nominating Committee this year. Amelia Harsh is also a member. Officer terms are one year and board positions terms are three years. All officer positions and 2 board positions are up for election. Talk with Kris or Amelia if you are interested in running or have questions. You can run for a position even if someone else is also running for the same position. You have to have been a member for a minimum of one year and dues must be up to date to run for any position. At the March meeting, nominees from the board will be announced, and we take nominations from the floor in April. The election is in May.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business

#### NEW BUSINESS

We are a few years away from our 100 year anniversary. We want to start working on a history of the club to celebrate. We will be collecting pictures and stories to celebrate the history of the

club. Erin Ruppel has some old aerial photos of our new building over past years, and we will have some before/after pictures of the Cornell building. Talk to Erin Ruppel or Daryl Stuppan if you are interested in helping. We are not sure exactly what we want to do yet, so if you want to contribute or have ideas please let us know!

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.

We have pictures in the outdoor club with photos of UDX title holders. We also have a board for Agility and Flyball titles. If you have earned titles in other activities, let Mari Pavleje know.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43pm.

Submitted by Katie Schmidt, Club Secretary