

MILWAUKEE DOG TRAINING CLUB  
Membership Meeting Wednesday, March 25, 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

Nothing to report.

President

I have a couple notes about dog safety before I get to the fun stuff:

First, kennel cough is going around. Please keep some distance between dogs in your classes, and keep any dog showing signs of illness (e.g., coughing, sneezing, runny nose or eye discharge) at home.

Second, dogs should be on leash at all times in the parking lot, when entering and exiting the building, and when moving through the building. Off-leash dogs should be confined to the same room as their handler (e.g., during off-leash exercises in class) and may not have free range of the building at any time. Off-leash dogs running up on or surprising other dogs is a recipe for dog-on-dog incidents, which I know nobody wants to happen.

Now to the fun stuff!

Lifetime Member John Pittman and his Standard Poodle Gerard won the 24" class of the Westminster Masters Agility Championship. The Westminster Kennel Club makes a donation of \$1,000 in the names of first place dogs in their height classes, and John generously made the donation to MDTC. Thank you, John!!!

We had a great time at the Sports Show, as usual! Thank you to Mari Pavleje for coordinating the booth and the obedience demonstration, Tracy McCarty for coordinating the agility demonstration, and everyone who volunteered at the booth or demonstrations.

We had another excellent Achievement Trial thanks to our judge Lory Valley, Director of Training and Coordinator-of-a-Trillion-Things Extraordinaire Kim Rinzel, trial secretary Martha Ryan, and

everyone else who pitched in. Congratulations to everyone who placed and/or received a qualifying score!

We also held a very well attended Dog and Cat First Aid/CPR workshop, where we spent 3 hours learning about first aid and practicing CPR on dog manikins. I feel much more prepared to handle different kinds of medical emergencies after attending the workshop. Thank you to Kim Rinzel and Sue Steinbach for coordinating with the instructor, and to Peggy Brunner for connecting the club with the instructor!

I am often reminded of how cool our new building is. Someone visiting the club from a different metropolitan area remarked on how lucky we are to have such a great training space. There's nothing like it where they live. I was also recently out of town and looked up training clubs in the area (please tell me I'm not the only one who does this!). There weren't any clubs with a dedicated space, and none of the clubs offered rally, agility, or flyball. What we have is truly special, and it's thanks to the hard work and dedication of many committed club members. I hope you all feel as fortunate as I do!

#### Treasurer

Beginning Balances

Savings - \$13,062.96

Money Market - \$62,685.38

Utilities were the biggest expense last month. (\$2429)

Obedience dues were the biggest income revenue. (\$2383.60) Holiday party donations hit in February for \$2419.

#### Training Committee

The Achievement Trial was last Sunday. Congratulations to everyone who qualified and placed!

If you are moving from Advanced Novice to Open, move up day will be on April 12.

Kennel cough is going around. If your dog is showing any symptoms of illness, please keep them at home.

Please remember that all dogs need to be on leash when entering and exiting the building.

Agility-Nothing to report

Flyball-Flyball will be at trials April 12 & 26. There will be no flyball practice on those dates.

Puppy Class-Nothing to report

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 coming out soon.

### Membership and Sales

April 12 basic class is full.

May 31 class is almost full.

### Member Engagement Committee

Next Social Sunday is March 29.

We are looking at dates at the end of April for a neighborhood clean up to celebrate Earth day. More details to come.

Good and Welfare-Nothing to report

### Facilities Committee

We have new thermostats in room 1 and are looking to get them in room 2. Please remember to turn down thermostats if you are the last class leaving for the day.

We are looking for volunteers to help with washing towels/rags that are used at the club. Talk with Darryl Stuppan or Sue Steinbach if you are able to help out.

### Revenue and Finance Committee

We are continuing to work on a budget and understanding of our cash flow. We haven't raised dues in a few years, but if we need to, we want to know by how much to cover our operating expenses.

### Community Engagement Committee

Exhibitions: The Sports Show went well. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and who helped set up and tear down. Thank you to Claude Szpot for helping with booth repairs. The

Sports Show has gotten smaller over the years, but it looks like they are planning to hold it again next year.

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.

#### Nominating Committee

We have our elections in May. The four officer positions (1 year terms) are up for reelection, and 2 board positions (3 year terms) are up for reelection. Reach out to Kris Connell or Amelia Harsch if you are interested in running for a position. At the April meeting, the nominating committee will have a slate of candidates to announce, and then we will take nominations from the floor.

All officers planning to run for reelection. 2 board positions-Daryl running for reelection. Yak Cohen running for the other board position. We will take nominations from the floor at the April meeting.

Elections will be at the May meeting and we will need a quorum (15% or 35-40 members) to hold the election.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

We are a few years away from our 100 year anniversary. 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

The Liver Lady is coming in May. Lory Valley will send out more information when available.

There will be some utility work on Cornell Street coming up in the next few months, which may impact access to the building.

We will be holding tricks testing on Sunday, May 3rd. We will offer testing for novice, intermediate, and advanced levels. The cost is \$10 per level. Sign up will be available on Neon. There will also be a list of provided equipment. You do have to test in order of level (have to complete novice prior to intermediate, etc).

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 8:40pm.

Submitted by Katie Schmidt, Club Secretary