



Annual Meeting Agenda January 12, 2021

Call to Order and Welcome

Intro to TCOTC, Anne Schenk

Introduction of current Board members

Minutes of January 14, 2020 Annual Meeting, Karen Radford Page 2

Nominations, Anne Schenk

Introduction of candidates

Officers & Staff Reports

Vice President, Karen Radford	Page 3
Executive Director Report, Anne Schenk	Page 3
Financial Officer, Mary Steinbauer	Separate document
Rental Administrator, Mary Steinbauer	Page 4
Member Services Report, Corrie Barrows	Page 5

Department Head Reports

Agility, Chris Mosley	Page 6
Obedience, Jane Jacobson	Page 7
Flyball, Jane Jacobson	Page 8
Therapy Dogs, Carol Ouhl	Page 9
Tracking, Vicky Hagens and Anne Schenk	Page 9
Conformation, Anne Schenk	Page 10

Committee Reports

Marketing Committee, Joyce Carlson-Rioux	Page 10
Achievements, Katie Brittan	Page 10
Agility Trial, Chris Mosley	Page 10
Flyball Team and Tournament, Karen Radford	Page 10

Announcement of new Board members

Old Business

New Business

Adjourn

Please Note:

- Only members who are current with their membership dues are eligible to vote at this meeting.
- After the nominating committee makes nominations, nominations will be opened to the floor. At this time any member in good standing (as defined in the by-laws) may nominate any other member in good standing as long as s/he has consent from the nominees to do so. If any member so nominated is not present at the meeting, his/her consent must be in writing and presented to the recording secretary at the time of nomination.
- All committee reports should be limited to ten minutes in length. This includes discussion of the report. Individual comments will be limited to two minutes per person for each topic.

TCOTC Annual Meeting of Members, January 14, 2020

Meeting called to order at: 7:06pm by Lindy Luopa

Minutes of January 8, 2019 Annual Meeting:

Mary Verness moved and John Sokolski seconded. Motion carries unanimously

Board nominations:

Nominees are Joyce Carlson-Rioux, Melissa J. Dargay, Susanne Jones, Vanessa Niemi, Karen Radford, and Marsha LeDuc

Kate Anders moves to approve the candidate by acclamation, Kendra Garrett seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

Officers and Staff Reports

President's Report – Lindy Luopa

Managing Director Report – Anne Schenk

Membership Coordinator Report – Corrie Barrows

Treasurer's Report – Mary Steinbauer

John Sokolski moves to approve 2019 Treasurer's Report. Mary Verness seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

Rental Administrator – Mary Steinbauer.

We will likely be down one UKC agility trial (GSD trial).

Facilities Manager – Julia Torgerson

Department Head Reports

Flyball – Jane Jacobson

Comments on problems with putting equipment back in ring room after a flyball trials

Agility – Anne Bentley/Anne Schenk

Taylor Davis is no longer going to be managing the set-up crew

Obedience – Jane Jacobson

Therapy Dogs – Carol Ouhl

Tracking – Anne Schenk

Comment to find judges for the 2021 trials now. TDX judges are booking out two years in advance

Conformation – Anne Schenk

Committee Reports

Achievements – Katie Brittan

We need to find a person or a committee to organize the banquet

Agility Trial – Anne Bentley

Flyball Team and Tournament – Karen Radford

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Kudos to the new parking lot, retaining wall and stairs.

There will be new improvements to the handicap ramp and accessibility next year

Door Prizes were handed out by lottery

Anitra Francis will be an alternate

John Sokolski moves to adjourn. Meeting adjourns at 7:42pm

2020 President's Report

How do we begin to talk about 2020? In many ways it has been a year we'd all like to forget. It has been a year of uncertainty, isolation, sacrifice, apprehension, unwelcome change and financial challenge. It has also been a year that has driven us to show who we are and what we are made of, and I can only say I am impressed. We have shown that we are flexible, resilient and committed. We have shown that despite the obstacles, we will find a way.

In the face of shutdowns, we came up with ways to stay connected and stay engaged with our members. Online options like Puppy Power Hour, Book Club and Ask a Trainer were immediately established by 100% volunteer staff and communications with our member base increased. Our training staff worked at finding ways to help our members continue training and building relationships with their dogs by developing online orientation and basic class options, plus trying out livestreaming for upper level classes. As we began to re-open, options like Saturday classes and the new Competition Bedrock emerged. I am confident our fabulous department heads and instructors will continue to find ways to carry on teaching our members to train their dogs.

Board and staff members stepped up to the challenge of finding ways to respond to the crisis. We met weekly to define our response to the crisis and identify actions. We brainstormed, weighed options, and made difficult decisions. Sub-committees formed to define protocols and procedures, develop marketing strategies and review financial options. I can safely say not one Board or staff member signed up for this kind of commitment, but this dedicated team stepped up and worked together to find a way to keep the organization moving forward.

Making our building a safe space to train became a pressing priority this year and with the help of our fabulous member/volunteer epidemiologist Jayne, the Board and staff set to work. In addition to a thorough cleaning, we used the shutdown as an opportunity to complete much-needed repairs and improvements. We added plexiglass barriers, sanitizer stations and air filters. The Board created closure documents, operating plans and protocols, staff worked to lay out plans for social distancing and equipment use, volunteers evaluated agility trial and event safety, and touch-free shopping was established. These weren't the goals we created at the beginning of the year, but they quickly took precedence. We will continue to seek and find ways to maintain and improve COVID safety in our building.

We accomplished a lot together in 2020 and I have been so deeply impressed by the Board, staff and volunteers who have kept this organization running. They are inspiring and I am proud to have had the opportunity to work with them and serve this organization as president. I am hoping that 2021 will eventually bring a return to more mundane activities. Never has budget creation and strategic planning sounded so appealing. While we are still facing significant challenges and uncertainty in the immediate future, I also believe good things are coming. I would like to express my deep appreciation to the Board members and staff of TCOTC and I am confident that we will find a way to move forward in 2021. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication.

Submitted By: **Karen Radford**, President

2020 Executive Director Report

Plans for 2020 were pretty much thrown out the window in March when the coronavirus crisis hit. Since then, I have spent the majority of the year working with board and staff to respond to the crisis in a variety of ways, from developing safety and sanitation protocols, to communicating with staff and members, to assisting with transitioning some of our classes and member education and engagement to online platforms, and more.

Coronavirus Crisis Response

With safety of our members and staff as our highest priority, I worked with the board and lead staff to develop and implement our coronavirus response, which included reworking class schedules, adding multiple hand-sanitizer stations, improving air circulation and filtration, adopting additional cleaning and sanitizing procedures, and more. We also developed procedures for dealing with potential exposures at the club, which we had to implement several times. I am pleased to report that, to our knowledge, no one contracted the coronavirus due to exposure at TCOTC in 2020. We have also received a lot of positive feedback from members and friends for our efforts.

Marketing and Community Outreach:

Communication ramped up significantly once COVID hit. We increased the frequency of our member e-newsletter from monthly to weekly so we could keep our members and others informed of schedule and programming changes, as well as what measures we were instituting to protect members and visitors from the virus. We created special content for our Web

site related to our COVID mitigation protocols and produced a short, humorous video using staff and their dogs to explain to members what we were doing to prevent COVID spread at the club.

TCOTC's online engagement held relatively steady in 2020. The club now has 3,230 Facebook followers, up from 2,891 at the beginning of the year. Our Facebook engagements dipped slightly with 4,616 post engagements in 2020 compared to 4,800 in 2019, after having climbed from 2,400 in 2018. Our Twitter following has held steady with 200 followers, with 13,496 total impressions in 2020, compared to 13,399 in 2019. Instagram has grown from 353 to 422 followers.

Moving to Virtual:

We also launched weekly free Zoom sessions to help people with training issues while we were closed. Ask the Trainer was a weekly session that focused on specific issues and took questions from participants on a range of training issues, from barking to walking politely, to impulse control. Puppy Power Hour was specifically for those with new puppies at home who would normally participate in Puppy Socialization or Tweener classes. One of our board members, Vanessa Niemi, started a virtual Book Club that still meets weekly via Zoom. More than 382 people participated in at least one of these sessions, which were a great way to keep in touch with our members and to make new friends during the closure.

The coronavirus crisis led to a surge in puppy and dog adoptions, which in turn led to a significant demand for puppy and basic training classes. To meet the demand, we recorded our Basic Training class to offer 100% virtually. My role was to make sure we had the technology and systems in place to do so. Once we began holding classes again, we continued offering online Basic Training, and began live streaming some Tier 2 classes when the fall COVID surge hit. We also offered several online seminars that are scheduled for this January.

Our COVID closure and subsequent reduced class schedule hit our retail sales, too, which were down to \$10,811 compared to \$20,585 in 2019. We did begin selling products online to help with sales and to reduce personal interaction at the club. We held a 15%-off sale in December, which helped with sales, though they still fell far short of last year.

Facility Report:

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, we made some facility changes and implemented new cleaning protocols to keep members safe and healthy. We installed a number of hand-sanitizing stations throughout the club as well as hands-free soap dispensers in the restrooms. We implemented a daily cleaning and sanitizing routine of all high-touch surfaces and installed plexiglass sneeze-guards at the front desk.

Our long-time custodian, Gary Waryan, had to cut back his hours significantly, so we hired two new part-time cleaning staff, Mollie Nunn and Oliver McDowell, to take over his duties as well as the increased cleaning and sanitation required under our coronavirus protocols. Both are working out very well. Gary has helped to train Mollie and Oliver and continues to do some tasks on an as-needed basis, though his time amounts to about 1-2 hours per week at most. Due to budget constraints, we eliminated the Facility Manager position, though Julia Torgersen, who was in that role, continues to volunteer with facility tasks when she is able. We are very grateful to her for her support of the club.

We also continued to make some general facility improvements, much of it done during the club's closure. We transformed the staff office, which was underutilized as an office, to equipment storage and added new shelving. We also reconfigured the crate room to allow for more efficient storage. Board member Karen Radford painted the Meeting Room and the west stairwell, and installed some adorable, dog-themed wallpaper in the restrooms, in addition to other improvements. Finally, we replaced the annex lobby mats and a number of the ring room mats in rings 3 and 4 and cleaned the remaining mats. We bought a commercial carpet extractor so that we can clean the ring room mats more frequently. Our thanks to the members and staff who assisted with all the facility improvements over the past year.

Submitted by: **Anne Schenk**, Executive Director

2020 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report can be found as a separate document.

2020 Rental Administrator Report

As we all know 2020 was not a typical year. All rentals were suspended in March. Some smaller rentals, including flyball practices, resumed in June. Rental income for 2020 was \$10,862.75 compared to \$26,390 in 2019. As of this meeting, larger event rentals have still not resumed and it's uncertain when they will.

Submitted by **Mary Steinbauer**, Financial Officer

2020 Member Services Report

Membership Breakdown

Pricing Option	2018		2019		2020	
	Household	Single	Household	Single	Household	Single
Membership	182	278	171	271	167	243
Staff Membership			7	18	5	26
Puppy/Tweener + Membership	338	144	318	139	259	169
Puppy Basic + Membership	94	50	100	48	109	50
Basic + Membership	219	167	202	177	159	120
Changing Attitudes + Membership	9	11	9	11	7	11
Visiting Dog + Membership	4	16	7	8	2	4
Tracking + Membership	1	5	2	2	1	4
	847	671	816	674	709	627
Total	1518		1490		1336	

2020 Top Dog Breeds (designated as active)

<u>Breed</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>
Lab Mix	588	7.80%
Golden Retriever	499	6.60%
Labrador Retriever	429	5.70%
Golden/Poodle Mix	309	4.10%
Shepherd Mix	279	3.70%
German Shepherd Dog	246	3.20%
Australian Shepherd	218	2.90%
Border Collie	176	2.30%
Terrier Mix	146	1.90%
Border Collie Mix	137	1.80%
Pit Bull Mix	131	1.70%
Poodle, Standard	127	1.70%
Shetland Sheepdog	123	1.60%
Boxer	108	1.40%
Aussie Mix	97	1.30%
Beagle Mix	97	1.30%
Pembroke Welsh Corgi	92	1.20%
Husky Mix	78	1%
Golden Retriever Mix	76	1%
English Springer Spaniel	74	1%

This is my second year in the role of Member Services Manager for TCOTC and, as you can guess, it was quite different from the year prior.

COVID-19 Closure

Last year we had a record number of closings due to poor weather conditions and I thought that was a headache. I even typed in last year's report, "*We can only hope the new year will be kinder.*" We all know that did not happen. The club was closed due to COVID-19 restrictions from 3/16/20 – 6/14/20. During that time, I worked with the Board of Directors, Department Heads and other staff members on the development of reopening strategies and COVID related policies and procedures. The health and safety of our members and staff was always the top priority. The reopening meant sending

notifications, editing class schedules, rescheduling students, issuing refunds, communicating new policies, etc. I'll risk the jinx and say it again, we can only hope the new year will be kinder.

Online Meetings and Classes

I was happy to assist members of the obedience staff with the weekly zoom sessions they offered during the closure. These hour-long free zoom meetings were well received. The attendees were grateful to get training advice and answers to their questions even though the club was closed. We also recruited several new club members because of these meetings.

The first ever, completely online TCOTC Virtual Basic Training classes started in July and continue to be offered regularly. Members with new dogs and new members alike have appreciated the ability to train their dogs at home without the worry of being in a group setting during COVID times. I have received plenty of positive feedback from our members who have taken these classes.

The spike in COVID cases the state saw in December forced the decision to move the majority of obedience classes online. We were able to continue with agility, puppy and Changing Attitudes classes in-person since there were so few people coming to the building. Some of our members opted to reschedule to later sessions as online learning was not what they had planned for, but many did take advantage of the virtual classes.

Desk Volunteers

Our desk volunteers proved to be flexible and accommodating with the challenges we faced this year. They were willing to come in, learn new things and continue to support the staff and members. Sarah J. made the decision to retire from the desk after many years so that she could have more time to take classes with her dog. She was generous enough to keep on working until we recruited another volunteer whom she also assisted in training. We welcomed Kim B. to the crew in August and she has proven to be an excellent fit.

Class Demand

The class size limits combined with the increase in dog ownership have created a huge demand for the Puppy, Tweener and Basic Training classes. They are frequently filling 6-8 weeks in advance and I take waiting list requests daily. The demand for Foundation Agility classes as well as the new Competition Bedrock class is also consistently high. The good news is that members new and old really want to train at our club. We will need to continue to find ways to safely meet our members needs while managing the limitations we have with ring space and staffing.

This year was challenging in ways I did not expect. I can't help but feel a bit victorious even though I know the club suffered financially and it was so very stressful. That feeling comes from debating, creating and collaborating with the excellent group of people we have leading our club. I look forward to happily continue doing my part to support the members of TCOTC.

Submitted by **Corrie Barrows**, Member Services Manager

2020 Agility Department Report

I started my position as the Agility Department Head on February 1, 2020. We were able to have one in person staff meeting in 2020, the week I started. I hadn't even had time to sit in on all agility classes before we shut down for three-plus months. It has been a challenging year to be sure.

During this time, we mourned the sudden passing of Robin Kilbury, a member, instructor, and good friend. We miss her every day.

Much time was spent during our shutdown, deep cleaning everything from walls and floors to agility equipment. A big thank you to everyone who made sure that when we reopened, we would have a safe environment in which to instruct and be instructed. New protocols were discussed in an online staff meeting.

When we re-opened for classes, the new challenge was to respect the caution expressed by a few instructors, who decided to wait before coming back. Students were surveyed as well, and we reopened with fewer people in classes and in the instructor corps. Right now, we are still a bit short-handed, but in time we hope to be back at full strength. This affected the overall plan for the agility program, which is a work in progress.

Staff and Classes:

We are pleased to have promoted LaDonna Kool to the role of instructor from assistant.

We are also developing a terrific group of assistants and if a member is interested in that "career path" I am happy to discuss details.

We will lose Saige Bell as an instructor shortly. Saige has been a most valuable member of the staff, and I hope this is a sabbatical rather than a permanent leave-taking.

We have juggled classes a bit, to accommodate a lack of “late night” instructors (8:15 pm), a previously promised time change, and to allow for Foundations classes to begin. We welcome the return of Laura Breckheimer back to TCOTC to head up the Foundations Level 1 and 2 classes. Like other facilities, the Foundations classes filled immediately, and we have wait lists.

I plan to recruit other instructors as needed. We have simplified the class names: Foundations (Level 1 and 2), Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced; we’ve developed a list of skills required for each. We’re currently in the process of making sure our students are in the right classes, without too much disruption. We’re flexible, and the goal is in sight.

One change about which I am very excited is the addition of our new BEDROCK class. Jane Jacobsen, Corrie Barrows and I met and discussed a class for any student (who’s passed the requirements) to start a “pre-foundations” class, whether the team is interested in any of the various competitive sports. We agree that people may not have decided where their interests lie, but they all need proficiency—a list of skills was assembled jointly, and we have launched this new class. I have no doubt that Jane will supply more details, as we have “housed” this class on the obedience side.

Equipment:

We are about to inventory out equipment again and as a result there will be some items to be raffled to members. Details will be forthcoming. It will be online and pickup at the club.

We purchased three new tunnels, jump bumps, and several more wingless jumps.

Seminars and events:

Kory Kaye squeezed in a terrific “Ring Stress” themed seminar in March that got great compliments. We hosted one ACT test and are about to host another (adding ACT 2 to the day) this coming weekend. I’ll be hosting a virtual seminar “Getting Ready to Trial” right before that. As of this writing we have a great turnout for both.

We did have to cancel our November and January trials, but are proceeding with plans to have our March 5-7 trial. Jean Munger is returning to the center of the ring to judge three days. Work will proceed on future trials. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

I admit this report is rather lengthy, but it’s a chance to review our progress and envision what’s to come.

Other:

We’ve added some structure (rules!) to bi-weekly course set up, open ring time, and staff ring time, so that we can ensure COVID mitigation best practices. It isn’t a perfect world, but it’s the way to make progress against the virus while allowing our valued people the benefits that come from volunteering.

Submitted by **Chris Mosley**, Agility Department Head

2020 TCOTC Obedience Department Report

As with the rest of our lives, the obedience program has made many changes due to covid-19. The year began with our usual classes being offered 3 nights and one morning per week, but that quickly changed in March with the statewide shut down. All our classes stopped meeting and by April it became very clear that we would not be going back to “the usual” any time soon. With the help and dedication of several staff members, we rose to the challenge and adapted our offerings so we could continue to offer quality dog training and meet our members needs by using a variety of different approaches.

Early during the shut-down we started offering Zoom meetings to answer members questions and offer training advice. These Zoom meetings were held weekly, and each night covered a different aspect of dog training – puppy socialization, “Ask the Trainer”, and a virtual book club. Club members, both continuing and new, appreciated getting information and advice on training and socializing their puppy or dog. We had people from around the country participating in our meetings.

In April we started videotaping so we could offer an on-line Basic class. Each exercise was described, then demonstrated with a dog. Three instructors, Katina Stamp, Scott McKenzie, and Vanessa Niemi, each did the taping of two weeks of Basic exercises. We had professional help from Sydney Peterson in editing and finalizing the videos for each week. The first classes were offered starting in June. Students receive a link to the video for the week along with their homework sheet. 2 – 3 days after receiving the link students can participate in a Zoom meeting with an instructor to ask questions and review the exercises. Students that complete the virtual Basic class and want to move into live Tier 2 classes at TCOTC must complete a self-assessment to ensure their knowledge of the skills covered in Basic Training.

Also, in April, staff videoed and produced a series of YouTube videos on skills for training puppies and dogs. These videos included bucket training for husbandry, impulse control, spitting out unwanted items, recall games, brain games,

desensitizing to touch and household items, and introduction to mat training among many activities. We continue to refer students to these videos to refresh skills.

In June we started back to in-person classes with many modifications for maintaining the safety of our students. Classes were limited to 8 handlers and dogs (some classes, like Basic Training, had been 12 pairs) with everyone assigned a chair in the ring to maintain social distance of at least 6', the use of biothane demonstration leashes that can be sanitized after each use, sanitizing each chair between classes, and limiting the people in the building to only the handler of the dog or puppy, or the youth handler and their supervising adult. Staff was surveyed prior to the start of classes to determine who was willing and comfortable teaching classes again. Instructors unable or uncomfortable with in-person classes were able to start teaching on-line classes.

Puppy and Tweener classes also began again in June with similar modifications. Perhaps the biggest change for these classes was the elimination of the drop-in system for students. Each puppy or Tweener class has a start and end date (4-week class) and is limited to 8 pairs (puppy and handler). Staff is preferring this system as it eliminates the repetition inherent with new students each week and allows for better development of skills following a curriculum and it will probably be continued going forward.

Then, again in November, we were forced to modify how we ran our classes when another roll back of activities occurred. At that time, all Basic Training classes moved to being held on-line, and Tier 2 classes moved to live streaming with an instructor describing and demonstrating activities with a dog. Many thanks to Anne Schenk for her setting up and running our live streamed classes. Although not an ideal situation, it allows students to continue training and they can get advice from the instructor.

With all these changes, a small group of instructors have been meeting to review, revise, and develop classes. The first class reviewed and revised was Loose Leash Walking. New curriculum was written including expanded exercises, and, for the first time, homework was created. Next, we are tackling a new class to replace Intermediate. This new class is tentatively called K9 Companion and will be a series of classes with the aim of developing a companion for our lives. Other classes will be revised and reviewed in the future.

Also developed during the shutdown is a new class that will be the prerequisite for Foundation Agility, Advanced Obedience, and Flyball 1. This class, called Competition Bedrock, has skills to develop body awareness, handler focus, impulse control, and training skills. Students must have completed Basic Training or been approved via the self-assessment tool to be eligible for this class. Dogs and handlers must complete all the skills in Competition Bedrock to move into any of the sports offered at TCOTC.

The good news throughout this past year is that classes are filling, and many have a wait list. Many people rescued a dog or got a puppy during the shutdown and are desirous of training classes. Puppy, Tweener, and Basic classes fill within a couple of days of being listed on our web site, and Tier 2 classes are filling before the start week. In an effort to meet the needs of our members with new dogs and puppies we have been offering Saturday classes since September. These classes will continue as long as weekend events are cancelled (at least through March).

Many thanks to all the obedience staff, instructors and assistants, for all you do in supporting the obedience classes. You are wonderful!

Submitted by **Jane L. Jacobson**, Obedience Department Head

2020 TCOTC Flyball Department Report

Flyball is a sport of a team of 4 dogs running over jumps and retrieving balls, to beat the other team in a fast paced, exciting relay race. TCOTC Flyball classes continue to teach dogs and humans how to play the sport with joy and safety. Flyball I introduces dogs and handlers to the sport and skills of flyball. Flyball II refines and improves the skills learned in Flyball I, and Flyball III strives to prepare the dog and handler to join a team and participate in a tournament.

Many thanks to instructor Chris Schultz and assistants Sage Van Voorhis and Trisha Hetue for their dedication to educating dogs and handlers.

Flyball classes have had a series of starts and stops over the past year. We began the year with two classes – a level 1 and 2. However, those classes were cancelled when the state shutdown occurred. Then, we started again in September with both the level 1 and 2 classes, but those, too, went into a hiatus with the recent roll back starting in December. At this point the hope is to start a level 2 class later in January and a level 1 class in April.

Submitted by **Jane L. Jacobson**, Flyball Department Head

PRESENTATIONS

- Due to COVID, there were none of the “Ask the Trainer” promotions for TCOTC at various events as in previous years.
- Land O’Lakes KC show at the River Center January 4 and 5, 2020. My 4 dogs and I gave demonstrations on positive reinforcement training to promote TCOTC. My 6-month-old Schip puppy was a huge hit as he demonstrated recalls with distractions and how to learn new behaviors in a matter of minutes.

OVERVIEW / INFO SEMINARS

- An Overview / Info Seminar is always given prior to a block of classes. Seminars were given on Dec 3, 2019 and Feb 18, 2020
- April 7 Info Seminar was cancelled due to the pandemic. People who registered for that seminar received a PowerPoint (PP) I quickly created covering most of the information in the seminar.
- I had planned to revise the PP by adding pictures and video similar to the demonstrations given in the seminar. My plan was to put that PP on the Club’s website for the same cost as the in-person Seminar - \$10. A copy or link of the PP would be sent to those who registered online for a seminar. People could then take the Info Seminar whenever they choose.

CLASSES

In late 2019 I instituted using my phone to video students while working with their dogs and other people. It’s easier and faster for a student to understand what they are being instructed to do and / or what they’re doing incorrectly. That approach was well received and appreciated by students and continued in 2020.

- Class Jan 7 thru Feb 11 was completed.
- Class beginning Feb 25 thru Mar 31 was suspended March 16 (week 3 of a 6-week course) due to the pandemic. Those students were told we would restart that class for free when COVID was no longer an issue. To date that repeat class has not begun as it is impossible to social distance teaching a close contact therapy dog class.
- Before the PP Seminar mentioned above was posted to our website for general use, I wanted to have created a new Level 1 Prep class covering half of the in-person Level 1 class using lecture and demonstrations.
- I planned to also create a second Level 1 Prep course to cover the second half of the Level 1 in-person class. This class would be handled either by Zoom, Skype or video submitted of the student and dog performing the exercises demonstrated in the first Prep class. That would give some experience working with people they knew.
- The critical Missing Piece is the close contact of unfamiliar people with the dog/handler team. Because each dog reacts differently to unfamiliar people, having the dogs approaching familiar people would not help much. This training can’t continue until COVID social distancing is not a factor.

THERAPY DOG EVALUATIONS and VISITS

- The national therapy animal organizations have allowed their evaluators to make their own decision on whether to perform evaluations during the pandemic due to the inability to social distance during a test. I have only heard of a couple evaluations having been done in the last 6 months.
- I have a couple of students who have been waiting 8 months to get evaluated.
- The national therapy animal organizations have also left it to the registered teams to decide whether or not they want to visit as long they are complying with local and state COVID requirements.
- I have not heard of any local facility that is allowing visits except for previously visiting teams now visiting outside thru a window

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- All of the plans above have not started. Since May, I have been dealing with several surgeries on my dogs and myself. Full recovery is not expected until spring.

Submitted by **Carol Ouhl**, Therapy Department Head

2020 Tracking Department Report

In Spring 2020 we offered two beginner tracking classes that nearly filled before we had to postpone them due to COVID. Nine remaining students completed Tracking 1 when classes resumed in May. We did not hold a level 2 class. Thanks to our instructors Jane Jacobson (and assistant Rhonda Noetzelman) and Ted Jewel (and Ted’s assistant Beth).

The fall test on Oct. 25 was a TD (tracking dog) test at Kinnickinnic State Park in River Falls, WI. The tracking conditions were great for the dogs (fields damp with snow), but a bit cold for the humans! Of the 9 entrants, we had 8 teams pass

and earn their TD titles. This year's dogs included some breeds we typically don't see in tracking, which was fun. We had a Miniature Schnauzer, 2 Beagles, a Bichon Frise, 2 Pembroke Welsh Corgis, 2 Springer Spaniels (one English, one Welsh), and a Belgian Tervuren. Entrants came from as far away as Iowa and southern Wisconsin.

We're grateful to our tracking committee, which consisted of Katina Stamp (chair), Vicky Hagens (secretary), Kate Heezen (head tracklayer), Rhonda Noetzelman (hospitality), Jane Jacobson, and Anne Schenk. We also thank our tracklayers: Steve Kath, Kati Green, Nan Cochrane, Rhonda Noetzelman, Jane Jacobson, Becky Johnson, and Anne Schenk. Our judges were Joan Telfer and Ted Jewell (in one of his first assignments as a provisional judge). Our next test is October 30 & 31 and will be a TDX. Mark your calendars as many volunteers are needed, from track layers to hospitality.

Submitted by **Vicky Hagens** and **Anne Schenk**, Executive Director

2020 Conformation Report

Like everything, the Conformation program was affected by COVID. With a 3-month closure and subsequent reduced schedule, overall attendance dropped from 690 visits last year to 311 and revenue dropped from \$6,508 to \$2,936. Instructor Jim Shea took a temporary medical leave in the spring, with the very capable Wendy Olson filling in. She continued Thursday classes and added a Wednesday evening class, which was starting to gain regular attendees. Wendy had to cease teaching in the early fall, however, due to increased COVID risk. We hope to resume conformation on a pre-registration basis as soon as either Wendy or Jim are ready to return.

Submitted by **Anne Schenk**, Executive Director

2020 Marketing Committee

In April the Board of Directors created a Marketing Subcommittee to develop strategies to retain members during the shutdown and subsequent reopening, to minimize the impact of the pandemic on the fiscal situation at the club, and to assure all members of their safety when attending classes. This committee met 12 times from April through December. Subcommittee members included: Melissa Dargay, Vanessa Niemi, Anne Schenk and Joyce Carlson-Rioux. The group brainstormed many ideas for achieving the objectives above. Some ideas that were implemented include:

- Suggestion to create a fun video to highlight the COVID safety measures
- Revising the club boilerplate statement to clarify the club founding date
- Starting initial steps toward celebration of the club's 75th anniversary (to happen post pandemic)
- Changing the Friends of TCOTC donation page to invite smaller increment donation options
- Offering online opportunities for member engagement such as virtual book club and seminars on topics such as hot weather safety from UMN vet Kristi Flynn
- Reviving conformation classes with help from substitute instructor Wendy Olson while Jim Shea is on medical leave
- Offering a holiday store sale

Submitted by **Joyce Carlson-Rioux**, TCOTC Marketing Subcommittee Chair

2020 Achievements Report

The Achievement report will be delayed due to COVID related cancellation of most competitions.

2020 Agility Trial Report

We did have to cancel our November and January trials, but are proceeding with plans to have our March 5-7 trial. Jean Munger is returning to the center of the ring to judge three days. Work will proceed on future trials. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Submitted by **Chris Mosley**, Agility Department Head

2020 Flyball Team Report

The year started out well and we were able to participate in tournaments during January and February. As with other dog sports, all competitions were cancelled in March and tournaments were suspended until further notice, including our Club sponsored tournament in September. We are looking forward to better circumstances in 2021.

Submitted by **Karen Radford**