



## Annual Meeting Agenda January 9, 2024

Call to Order and Welcome

Intro to TCOTC, Anne Schenk

Introduction of current Board members

Minutes of January 10, 2023 Annual Meeting, Meera Kannan      Page 2

Nominations, Anne Schenk

Introduction of candidates

### Officers & Staff Reports

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| President, Meera Kannan                | Page 4            |
| Executive Director Report, Anne Schenk | Page 4            |
| Financial Officer, Mary Steinbauer     | Separate document |
| Rental Administrator, Mary Steinbauer  | Page 5            |
| Member Services Report, Corrie Barrows | Page 5            |
| Events Coordinator, Scott McKenzie     | Page 7            |

### Department Head Reports

|                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Flyball, Anne Schenk      | Page 7  |
| Agility, Sara Zislin      | Page 7  |
| Obedience, Jane Jacobson  | Page 9  |
| Camp K9, Meg Beisner      | Page 9  |
| Therapy Dogs, Carol Ouhl  | Page 10 |
| Tracking, Anne Schenk     | Page 11 |
| Conformation, Anne Schenk | Page 11 |

### Committee Reports

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Safety, Joyce Carlson-Rioux                | Page 11 |
| Agility Trial, Sara Zislin                 | Page 12 |
| Obedience Trial, Jane Jacobson             | Page 12 |
| Flyball Team and Tournament, Karen Radford | Page 12 |

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 10, 2023**

Meeting called to order at: 7:06pm by Joyce Carlson-Rioux

### **Brief Welcome and Introductions**

43 online attendees; 13 in-person attendees

### **Minutes of January 11, 2022 Annual Meeting:**

*Meera Kannan moved and Marsha LeDuc seconded. Yes 51; No 0; Abstain 1. Motion passed.*

### **Board nominations:**

Nominees are Joyce Carlson-Rioux, Victoria Kucera, Gina Lloyd

*Liz Danielson moves to approve the candidate by acclamation, Jane Wagner seconds. Yes 54; No 1. Motion passed.*

## **Officers and Staff Reports**

### **President's Report – Joyce Carlson-Rioux**

### **Executive Director's Report – Anne Schenk**

### **Membership Coordinator Report – Corrie Barrows**

### **Treasurer's Report – Mary Steinbauer**

Financial statements presented. No motion to approve.

Rental Administrator Report – Mary Steinbauer

## **Department Head Reports**

Obedience – Jane Jacobson

Agility – Chris Mosley

Camp K9 – Anne Schenk

Behavior Consultant – Vanessa Niemi

Flyball Department – Anne Schenk

Therapy Dogs – Carol Ouhl

Tracking – Anne Schenk

Conformation – Anne Schenk

## **Committee Reports**

### **Achievements – Joyce Carlson-Rioux**

### **Agility Trial – Chris Mosley**

### **Obedience Trial – Jane Jacobson**

### **Flyball Team and Tournament – Karen Radford**

## **Unfinished Business**

None

## New Business

### **Volunteer of the Year:**

Lorrie O'Neal was presented with the Volunteer of the Year award.

### **Adjourn**

*Marsha LeDuc moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.*

## 2023 Annual Report

### Officers and Staff Reports

#### President's Report – Meera Kannan

Over the past year, the TCOTC Board of Directors has focused on various issues that impact the club and have made strides in improving the health and safety for both humans and dogs at the club. One of the most challenging obstacles in 2023 was having multiple board members vacate their positions for various personal reasons. However, we are grateful for the interim board members who were willing and able to step into those positions and who contributed greatly to the board and our work. I am happy to report that as we move into 2024, we have multiple candidates interested in joining the board to continue this work.

As I look back on the board's work in 2023, an area that required our focus greatly was health and safety. Canine influenza became a concern for all dog owners in the Twin Cities and impacted our classes as well. Our instructors and assistants were able to navigate the shift in teaching successfully, and while class fill rates dipped during the height of canine influenza, students are returning to classes - especially with the canine influenza vaccine being more readily available. The health and safety of humans in the club was also addressed by the board in 2023. The emergency plan presented by the safety committee was approved and meets the standards of the Red Cross Ready Rating program. In alignment with the emergency plan, the board also approved the purchase of an AED for the club, and we are grateful to every member who donated to the fund to purchase the AED. Having an AED on site meant that we also needed to have CPR/First AID trained staff, and many staff participated in a training held at the club. The board also approved a health policy for dogs to ensure that as a club, we prioritize the health and safety of our canine friends too.

In 2023, the board continued an exploration that started in 2022 - finding a potential new location for the club. After looking at potential spaces and the financial impact, the board recognized that the most responsible action for the club may be to work with our current space. The board will continue this work in 2024, which includes continuing to explore other facilities while also looking at different ways that our space can be utilized to meet our needs. Whatever the outcome, the final decision will be driven by the reality of what our club can afford.

Other highlights in 2023 include welcoming new trainers to Camp K9 and welcoming our new agility department head, Sara Zislin. We are grateful to have these incredible trainers at TCOTC and for our members to get to benefit from their skills and experience as well. We also continued to grow our community outreach efforts with a food and pet supply drive and holding a variety of seminars at the club. More information about these efforts and regarding specific departments are in the reports that follow.

The final important decision that the board made in 2023 was a change in the meeting schedule for 2024 for the TCOTC Board of Directors. Starting this year, the board will move to meeting quarterly instead of monthly. However, additional meetings will be scheduled as needed. This change in meeting cadence will help support the board to meet with other committees and expand work on those committees as well.

Thank you for your support of the TCOTC board this year. We are a club of volunteers and each of us is needed and appreciated. I also am grateful for all of our staff members as well, and their hard work to create a welcoming and educational environment for our members. Thank you to our 2023 board members: Anitra Francis, Charlie Leavitt, Joyce Carlson-Rioux, Julie Steenerson, June Mendoza, and Tonni-Sue Keinz. I hope 2024 continues to be a fun and productive year for the club. It's been an honor to serve as your board president this past year and on the board for the past three years. I will continue to see everyone around the club - happy training!

#### Executive Director Report – Anne Schenk

##### Strategic Planning Activities:

In 2023 I continued to support the strategic initiatives of the board of directors. One objective was to improve safety at the club. A safety committee was established that developed an emergency response plan to respond to natural and other disasters. I will be working with board and leadership to educate staff and volunteers on the plan over the next year. The committee also prioritized the purchase and installation of an Automated External Defibrillator at the club. To support this, I initiated a fund-raising effort that resulted in \$2,820 to purchase the AED and to train staff in its use. The AED was installed this fall and eight staff received AED/CPR training from the Red Cross in November. Thank you to all the members who contributed to this effort and to the staff who completed training.

Another key effort of the board was to create a communication tool to help members better understand how to progress through TCOTC's training offerings, based on their goals and interests as well as their dogs' skills and traits. This project is ongoing. My role has been to help craft language as well as working with our Web developer to create an online tool members can use as a guide in choosing classes.

### Marketing and Communication:

The weekly e-newsletter continues to be an important communication and marketing tool. We had a total of more than 413,000 individual sends in 2023, reaching all members and many who are non-members or past members. This compares to about 183,000 individual sends in 2022. The reason for the increase is that we moved from Constant Contact to MindBody for our email marketing, which has allowed us to more easily reach people who are in our MindBody database.

TCOTC's online engagement continued to grow in 2022. The club's Facebook followers increased from 3,876 to 4,040 and continues to be a key method of communicating with our audience. Our Instagram account has grown from 595 to 605 followers. Our YouTube channel went from 280 to 321 subscribers and is mostly used for live streaming agility trials. TCOTC participated in Linden Hills Woofstock in September. My thanks to Trisha Hetue for staffing our table and meeting and greeting event attendees. We also continued our participation at the State Fair, holding demonstrations in agility, obedience, and conformation. This was the first year in a number of years that we have done a full day of demos instead of a half day. This presented some organizing challenges that we hope to resolve in 2024. Still, it is one of our best public outreach opportunities of the year and we are grateful to the Minnesota Purebred Dog Breeders Association for allowing us to participate.

### Changes to Camp K9

The biggest change for me with regard to Camp K9 was to be able to train program staff to administer the program. Team Lead Meg Beisner now does most of the management of the program, with occasional support from me. Meg is well organized and a quick study, and the program has benefited from her leadership. Kree Saille also served in a leadership capacity for a good part of the year and I'm grateful to them for their enthusiasm, vision, and positive contributions to the program.

### Seminars and Events

I continue to work with the Event Coordinator, Scott McKenzie, to plan and organize events and seminars – one of the club's best opportunities for increasing revenue. See the Event Coordinator report for more details. We continue to search for volunteers who can help with an Awards Banquet, especially with the awards themselves. We would love to revive this annual tradition and celebrate our members' achievements but we need volunteers to make this happen.

### Facility Report:

I continue to work with our custodial staff and landlord to maintain a clean, safe and attractive facility for our members and guests.

### Rental Report – Mary Steinbauer

TCOTC continues to make its facility available to other clubs and groups for rent. While we have lost a few long-time renters due to their events being canceled for various reasons, we have managed to gain new renters and regularly receive inquiries about renting the facility.

### Membership Coordinator Report – Corrie Barrows

#### Membership Breakdown

The household and single membership options were merged in 2021 and the student membership was added.

| Service Category | Pricing Option        | 2020      |        | 2021   | 2022   | 2023   |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|                  |                       | Household | Single | Annual | Annual | Annual |
| Membership       | Membership            | 167       | 243    | 460    | 493    | 461    |
| Membership       | Student Membership    |           |        | 22     | 23     | 18     |
| Membership       | Staff Membership      | 5         | 26     | 35     | 40     | 39     |
| Puppy Classes    | Puppy/Tweener + Mbshp | 259       | 169    | 460    | 394    | 381    |

|              |                        |      |     |      |      |      |
|--------------|------------------------|------|-----|------|------|------|
| Obedience    | Puppy Basic + Mbshp    | 109  | 50  | 169  | 148  | 98   |
| Obedience    | Basic + Membership     | 159  | 120 | 292  | 302  | 252  |
| Behavior     | Changing Attds + Mbshp | 7    | 11  | 19   | 6    | 8    |
| Therapy      | Visiting Dog + Mbshp   | 2    | 4   | 0    | 4    | 18   |
| Tracking     | Tracking + Membership  | 1    | 4   | 6    | 5    | 6    |
|              |                        | 709  | 627 | 1463 | 1415 | 1281 |
| <b>Total</b> |                        | 1336 |     | 1463 | 1415 | 1281 |

### 2023 Top Dog Breeds (designated as active)

| <b>Breed</b>                  | <b>Number</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Golden Retriever              | 575           | 7.20%          |
| Lab Mix                       | 531           | 6.70%          |
| Labrador Retriever            | 444           | 5.60%          |
| Golden/Poodle Mix             | 304           | 3.80%          |
| Shepherd Mix                  | 283           | 3.60%          |
| German Shepherd Dog           | 229           | 2.90%          |
| Australian Shepherd           | 218           | 2.70%          |
| Border Collie                 | 177           | 2.20%          |
| Border Collie Mix             | 154           | 1.90%          |
| Poodle, Standard              | 137           | 1.70%          |
| Mix (26-50lbs)                | 134           | 1.70%          |
| Pit Bull Mix                  | 122           | 1.50%          |
| Shetland Sheepdog             | 121           | 1.50%          |
| Terrier Mix                   | 118           | 1.50%          |
| Beagle Mix                    | 104           | 1.30%          |
| Boxer                         | 103           | 1.30%          |
| Pembroke Welsh Corgi          | 102           | 1.30%          |
| Husky Mix                     | 92            | 1.20%          |
| Cattle Dog Mix                | 83            | 1.00%          |
| English Springer Spaniel      | 79            | 1.00%          |
| Bernese/Poodle Mix            | 75            | 0.90%          |
| Cavalier King Charles Spaniel | 75            | 0.90%          |

### Desk Volunteers

Amy Pirkel agreed to join our front desk team in February. It is her nature to help others so combining that with her computer talents made her a perfect fit. As always, we are very grateful to benefit from the talents of all our desk volunteers including Anitra, Dawn, Dan, Wendy, Cammy, Danielle, Nancy and Susanne.

### Class Demand

The Basic Training classes continued to fill about 4-6 weeks before the starting date all year and we always had waiting list requests. The Tweener classes filled approximately 2 or 3 weeks before the starting date. The Puppy Socialization classes (for pups 12 weeks of age and younger) filled for the first ten months of the year but saw a drop-off in the number of enrollments for the fourth quarter. This has been a reoccurring trend for the past few years. I did not need to maintain a waiting list for the Tweener or Puppy Socialization classes. The demand for the Competition Bedrock classes was consistently high. Members are currently waiting 4-6 months to get into the class. There was a shorter wait for the Tuesday noon class session. There was a huge interest in the Beginning Scent Work classes. It was typical to get 30 or more applicants for the class having a 6 dog capacity.

## Member Feedback

The majority of member concerns I get are regarding the waiting time to get into the Basic Training and Competition Bedrock classes. I have also received a number of emails praising the instructors and staff this past year. Good work team!

## Events Coordinator – Scott McKenzie

January saw Kirstin O'Neill from Edmonton, Canada, present a weekend of seminars. Topics ranged from How to Motivate Your Dog, Building Focus, Building Drive, and others. Kirstin broke it down into Beginners, Young Dogs, Novice, Intermediate, and Masters sessions. There was also a session on Jumping Skills presented on Friday night. An after-the-fact survey showed a mostly very positive response to the weekend. And the concerns expressed are being used to further the Seminar Program.

April had Darcy Roessler present the Fitness Seminar. There were four sessions, Family Dog, Turns & Acceleration, Core for Young Dogs, and Core for Older Dogs. There was a blip in the weekend as we had to cancel one day due to weather issues. We did make that up within a few weeks. Darcy had been at TCOTC previously, and response was positive both times.

In addition, TCOTC also hosted smaller seminars and events. There was an ACT test in November, as well as a "Get Ready to Trial" seminar by Chris Mosley. June had a repeat of "Emergency Pet CPR" and in November there was AED/CPR training for staff. Game Night was held twice during the year, and that is always a fun time for our members and staff.

Year 2024 already has bookings for several seminars. Darcy Roessler will be coming back in February, as will Kirstin O'Neill in November. Rachel Downs, from Strategic Dog Sports in Greenville, Texas will be presenting at TCOTC in December.

I look forward to continuing to build out a Seminar Program at TCOTC.

## Department Head Reports

### Flyball – Anne Schenk

In 2023 TCOTC held one Flyball 1 class, one Flyball 2 class and three Flyball 3 classes, with a total of 15 members participating. Many thanks to instructor Chris Schultz and assistants Sage Van Voorhis and Trisha Hetue for the making these classes available to our members this past year.

### Agility – Sara Zislin

2023 was a successful year for the Agility Department. Our enrollment in the Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced classes increased slightly, and Foundations classes remained stable most of the year. We added three new classes in 2023, an additional beginner class on Wednesday at 1:45 PM, a weekly Weaves class Thursday at 7PM, alternating with our Foundation One class to match enrollment needs, and Agility for Fun on Thursdays at 3PM. An additional Intermediate class has been added for January 2024, on Tuesdays at 4:30 PM, and a second Advanced class is being added late winter/early spring on Tuesday at 3:15 PM. Additionally, Mondays will have an additional beginner class added at 8:15 PM. We have hired some new instructors, and are actively looking to hire additional instructors to meet enrollment needs. Many of our classes are full, or close to full, currently there are 85 intermediate/advance teams, 12 teams in our combined beginner/intermediate class, and 20 beginner teams. And we do have some room for more students as well! We have seen an increase in enrollment with the update to our program that allows for students who have done their foundation training elsewhere to be evaluated into our program, and placed in a class that fits their needs. The new Weaves classes and Agility for Fun created an additional \$3,660.00 profit.

A monthly Instructed Open ring session has also been added, with very good enrollment, it has filled often with a waitlist every month, and is very popular with our Foundation and beginner students. The Instructed Open Ring class brought in additional profits of \$970.00.

A December weekend weaves class was also added in 2023. Weaves classes continue to remain in demand, and will continue to be offered in 2024.

We held our first big agility seminar in January 2023, TCOTC hosted Kirsten O'Neill from Canada for three days of seminars. The response was very positive, and all spots were filled, with plenty of auditors coming to observe as well. A small seminar focusing on running the Relay class at Agility regionals was also offered in July 2023, the turnout was lower than hoped for, but the response from the attendees was positive. Total seminar profits for 2023 were \$2,631.73

There are two big seminars planned for 2024:

- Kirsten O'Neill will be returning May 18, 2024 – May 20, 2024
- Rachel Downs will be here December 6, 2024 – December 8, 2024

In addition, Friday night seminars with local agility competitors are in the works for 2024.

We held 4 trials in 2023, including hosting our January trial at Fusion for the first time. Additionally, an Act Test was hosted in November 2023. The ACT test profits for 2023 were \$596.24. The agility trial profits were \$7,934.58. The Agility Department was minorly impacted by snow in 2023 in regards to closures, however the department was very much affected by the hotter than average summer temperatures in 2023. We experienced more closures than in past years, and lower attendance often on some of the hot days that were still appropriate to hold classes. We did our very best to consider the instructors, and students needs in each decision made, and hope for a more comfortable summer of 2024.

This was overall a great year for the Agility Department, we really focused on adding, and updating our classes to meet the enrollment needs, as well as the student's and their dogs' needs. And our staff was exceptional at adapting. TCOTC is very lucky to have an incredible crew of instructors, in no particular order: Julia Torgersen, Anitra Francis, Katie Brittan, Luann Tillman, Christina Wessel, Paula Sotorin, LaDonna Kool, Jim Nally, Gina Pizzo, Kristi Flynn, Marsha LaDuc, Alexis Erikson, Laura Breckheimer, Shelly Russ, Lisa Nawrocki, Chesley O'Connor, Sara Zislin, and our amazing assistant Kree Saille.

| CLASS                 | INSTRUCTOR(S)      | SESSION | # STUDENTS |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------|------------|
| Advanced              | Julia              |         | 5          |
| Beginner/Intermediate | Julia and Sara     |         | 12         |
| Advanced              | Julia/Katie        |         | 12         |
| Intermediate          | Julia/Katie        |         | 7          |
| Advanced              | Luann              |         | 6          |
| Intermediate          | Paula              |         | 3          |
| Beginner              | Christina/Paula    |         | 6          |
| Intermediate          | Christina /LaDonna |         | 10         |
| Beginner              | LaDonna/Sara       |         | 9          |
| Advanced              | Jim/Gina           |         | 12         |
| Beginner              | Shelly             |         | 5          |
| Intermediate          | Christina/Kristi   |         | 8          |
| Advanced              | Jim/Gina           |         | 11         |



|                      |                            |     |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-----|
| Advanced             | Marsha                     | 5   |
| Agility For Fun      | Chelsey                    | 6   |
| Advanced             | Alexis                     | 6   |
| Foundations 1        | LaDonna/Laura              | 6   |
| Weaves               | LaDonna/Paula              | 5   |
| Foundations 3        | Laura/Sara/Anitra          | 8   |
| Foundations 2        | Sara/Anitra/Kree assisting | 10  |
| Instructed open ring | Sara                       | 6   |
| Total                |                            | 152 |

## Obedience – Jane Jacobson

Obedience continues to be a major focus of the day to day running of TCOTC. We train puppies and dogs of all ages and all breeds or mixes. Classes are offered on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings, and Tuesday mornings with a range of classes from Puppy Socialization to Competition at the Utility level. Most of our students are interested in developing livable skills with their dog and building a cooperative relationship that benefits both parties. To meet that need we offer a wide range of classes such as Public Manners, Loose Leash Walking, Reliable Recall, Tricks, Sports Sampler, K9 Companion, Impulse Control, and Oh So Adolescent.

Classes, especially Basic and Puppy Basic, continue to fill although not as quickly as the last two years. Basic frequently fills several weeks to a month prior to the start date and Tier 2 classes also fill in advance of the start. Puppy and Tweener classes have returned to the pre-pandemic ebb and flow based on the time of year.

We continue to strive to improve our instruction to better meet the needs of our students, both human and canine, by staff development during staff meetings and evaluations, curriculum development and review, and feedback from students. Discussions during staff meetings included visioning about the future direction of TCOTC, creating a more informative website, skills to reinforce the human half of the team, and the revision of the assistant job description. Classes are also under development or revision. This past year a very popular class, Scentwork, was developed by Sara Brokaw and started in March with more advanced classes following. A second sequence started in July and a third is scheduled in January, 2024. Other classes under development or revision include Tricks 1, senior enrichment, a class for kids aged 8 - 12, and reducing reinforcement for pet dogs.

The annual obedience trial was held in October. The numbers of entrants continue to decline as is the case for all trials. In future years we will be reducing the number of judges from 3 to 2 to improve the financial results.

A big thank you to my entire staff for making 2023 the best year possible: Chris Schultz, Dennis Carlson-Rioux, Donna Grabowski, Joyce Carlson-Rioux, Julie Heaton-Hill, Karen Wennberg, Katina Stamp, Laura Waudby, Leia Graven, Ellie Driver, Mary Verness, Meera Kannan, Meg Beisner, Scott McKenzie, Renee Foster, Rhonda Noetzelman, Sara Brokaw, Sherri Besaw, Trisha Hetue, Linda Lenc, Jenny Edgerton, and Paul Mockovak. You are all wonderful and appreciated! An Observing Behaviors class graduated 4 new assistants; Stephanie Nowak, Alyssa Niven, Elektra Wrenholt, and Rachel Maino. It's great to have you!

We are always looking for great staff, both instructors and assistants. If you enjoy working with people and dogs and are committed to fostering the human/canine bond for the betterment of both, talk to Jane Jacobson or email the TCOTC office ([office@tcotc.com](mailto:office@tcotc.com)). Also watch for an Observing Behaviors class which is the first step in becoming an assistant or instructor.

## Camp K9 – Meg Beisner

The team executed on a number of opportunities this past year. We adjusted pricing to align with current costs. We reorganized the team trainers and added a newly appointed lead admin. A significant focus has been on staff retention. The team solicited and incorporated feedback regarding work balance and staff wellness, resulting in retooling the program to avoid burnout, all while still managing all required work efficiently. The team shifted from four dogs per trainer per session to three with some amount of flex. This resulted in improved interaction and staff wellbeing. To accommodate,

this also prompted another marginal price increase to keep the program viable. Finally, the team initiated a project to automate dog report cards in leveraging Excel to streamline report card processing across a variety of trainers in the program. Initial feedback is positive and the project is ongoing.

Client satisfaction is reflected in the fact that most of our clients have been bringing their dogs to Camp regularly (weekly, bi-weekly, monthly) for a year or more. Several of our clients have cited the positive impact Camp K9 attendance has had on their dogs. Survey feedback also reflects this. Here are a few of the comments we received:

- TCOTC has far exceeded my expectations. The guidance, care, and support has been outstanding. The time spent before drop off/pickup with the trainer is invaluable and unexpected. It's not a 60 second task of grabbing your dog, you actually learn about their day and go home with insights and tips to confirm the work.
- Camp K9 has been a mainstay in our dogs life. It is a great way to engage your dog mentally as well as physically while making steady progress on training goals.
- The facility, the trainers, the classes, have been a game changer in helping my rescue dog. They have assisted in every way Beyond imagination and are incredibly helpful, solid guidance, and very knowledgeable. I have recommended the facility to so many people because it has changed our life with our 3-year-old rescue dog.

## **Therapy Dogs – Carol Ouhl**

### **ASSESSMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY TO TAKE CLASSES**

- I require my approval of in-person assessments of teamwork, connection and solid obedience to be eligible for my classes
- Viewing the PowerPoint is a prerequisite; people appreciate it. Those who forget to review are referred to it for detailed answers to their questions
- I tweaked another description of the assessments that goes out in our eNewsletter. Hopefully that will make it more clear to people that I'm assessing training skills, not temperament, personality or aptitude.
- I have raised the requirement for obedience training to be eligible. It is now 6 months of group obedience within the last 18 months. I was still having people show up with having taken obedience classes 5 or 10 yrs ago and not kept the skills current.

### **CLASSES**

- 6 class blocks of Level 1 were offered in 2023
  - All taught Tuesday mornings; no evening classes
  - Returned to standard format of 1 hr / wk for 6 consecutive weeks. This provides more time for dogs and people to practice the exercises that focus on desensitizing the 5 senses
- All classes returned to strictly Level 1 exercises with a few Level 2 lectures
- All classes filled with 6 or 7 people; only two class blocks finished with 6 people.
  - It's very common for people to start therapy dog work because they have family members newly entering medical facilities.
  - This also frequently results in people having to drop out because those family members need more time and care than can be given at the same time as taking therapy dog classes.
- 2 Class blocks of Level 2 were offered this year; one with 4 people, one with 3 people
  - Number of people was low because they were the only people who progressed sufficiently to be ready for Level 2
  - Same format of 1 hr / wk for 6 consecutive weeks.
  - This concentrates on taking all skills learned in level 1 and applying them to real life scenarios
  - It also assesses the positions that make each dog most comfortable and what each handler needs to do to aid that interaction
  - Two people very quickly found tests, passed and immediately started visiting. One in a hospital; one in a long-term care facility
  - Two more people are ready to take the test which continue to be very difficult to find.
- For the first time in 30-35 yrs of teaching these classes I've had to excuse two teams; one for a very low threshold for biting and the other for an extremely high level of sound sensitivity exacerbated by all the rumbling noise from the upstairs tenants

### **ASSISTANTS**

- For first time in 5 years I am thrilled to have assistants.
  - Having assistants allows the dogs to see more people and the handlers to have triple the practice opportunities

- One is Vanessa Niemi who joined just to get another perspective on dog behavior and training. She has been invaluable in working with dogs; students love her and appreciate her help tremendously, as do I.
- The other is a newly retired sister of a former student who was looking for some volunteer opportunity to try. She is a quick study, great with the students.
- Most exciting is she comes from a long line of old school strong command based training. I only have to show her once the positive way to train the same thing. She is excited about learning the new training approach and promotes it to everyone with a dog she meets in various settings. It's rewarding to see the positive training approach expanding exponentially from one accidental meeting.

#### **THERAPY DOG VISITS**

- Environment has returned to Facilities being on wait lists for every national registering organization.
- Requests for therapy dogs at college exam week/ stress reduction events has increased a great deal.
  - Students report it helps tremendously. Some students say it is the only time when students can truly relax and talk about something other than school
  - Students away from home and their own pets truly appreciate a chance to spend some time with a dog.
- Pet Partners is now the only national therapy animal registry accepted by hospitals because
  - Hospitals are required to reassess/retrain their volunteer staff every 2 years to maintain their hospital accreditation
  - Hospitals recognized they are not qualified to retrain/ reassess dog/handler teams
  - Pet Partners is the only national therapy animal registry requiring its members to retest every 2 yrs and stop visiting if they don't pass a re-evaluation

#### **Tracking – Anne Schenk**

In Spring 2023 we offered two Beginner Tracking classes and two Tracking 2 classes. We're grateful to our instructors Jane Jacobson (and assistant Rhonda Noetzelman), Ted Jewel (and Ted's assistant Beth).

The fall TDX (Tracking Dog Excellent) test on Oct. 29 was cancelled when one of our judges had to pull out of the event with not enough time to find a replacement. In general, finding judges for our annual tracking test has been a challenge.

Our next test is October 26 & 27 and will be a TD. Mark your calendars as many volunteers are needed, from track layers to hospitality. Judges have already been retained.

Submitted by **Anne Schenk**, Executive Director

#### **Conformation - Wendy Olson**

AKC Conformation is one of the few sports where professionals compete against beginners and amateurs. As a result, people who believe their dog a potential champion must learn some of the "tricks of the trade" if they want to be competitive in the show ring. Our students range from beginners to those that have been competing in the show ring for years. In addition to group instruction, each participant gets individual attention to work on their own handling skills besides teaching their dog how to properly stack and gait. Students from the class have gone on to compete in AKC, UKC and IABCA shows and have had success in finishing their dog's championships. Several also compete in the owner handler ring besides the breed ring. Students also receive a folder of handouts I created so they have access to many of the things that are addressed in the class in written form.

In 2023, I offered two classes per week most weeks. Overall attendance was 486 compared to 526 in 2022, with revenue of \$4,364 compared to \$4,734 in 2022.

Submitted by Wendy Olson, Conformation Instructor

#### **Committee Reports**

##### **Safety – Joyce Carlson-Rioux**

The TCOTC Safety Committee met multiple times in 2023 to continue updating safety procedures at the club. TCOTC has joined the Red Cross Ready Program which provides evaluation tools and guidance for making sure safety procedures follow current best practice. Organizations earn a "star rating" for completion of the Red Cross Ready steps. This "star rating" informs members and the public that the organization prioritizes safety TCOTC's current Red Cross Ready rating is 3 out of 4 possible Stars.

Projects completed by the Safety Committee in 2023 include:

1. Preparing and presenting a proposal for procurement of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and training of staff members in using it. The Defibrillator is now positioned near the First Aid Kit and staff training has been completed.
2. Systematically reviewing the facility and potentially dangerous situations that would necessitate evacuation or shelter-in-place procedures. The committee prepared a detailed plan for evacuation or shelter-in-place based on this review as well as input from staff members and the board of directors. The Board has voted to accept this plan.
3. Review of the contents of the present First Aid Kits.

Ongoing projects:

1. Development of a training module to educate staff and members regarding the evacuation and shelter-in-place procedures
2. Complete updates to the First Aid Kits
3. Identify member(s) who will commit to checking the First Aid Kit(s) on a regular basis so that items are replaced as needed
4. Periodic review of safety procedures following the Red Cross Ready Protocol

I encourage everyone to send a HUGE THANK YOU to the TCOTC Safety Committee members, all of whom worked many hours to accomplish the above.

If you feel called to join us on the committee or help as a First Aid Kit Checker, please let Anne Schenk or one of us know.

Melissa Anyg  
Maddie Hansen  
Philip Jemielita  
Anne Schenk

## **Agility Trial – Refer to Agility Department Report**

## **Obedience Trial – Refer to Obedience Department Report**

## **Flyball Team and Tournament – Karen Radford**

### **Tournament**

We had a successful tournament this year, with the same number of entries as in 2017-2019. Twelve clubs participated in the tournament over the weekend. The open division was the most popular, attracting 25 out of 41 teams.

Our tournament finances were also positive, with a profit of about \$740 above the five-year average. You can find a summary of the income and expense breakdown in the table below. Further information regarding the financial details can be provided on request.

### **Raffle**

We held a raffle this year, raising an estimated \$727 for the Club. A big thank you to Lornell Brand and Roxanne Johnson for organizing the raffle, and to everyone who donated items and bought or sold tickets!

### **Titles Achieved**

2023 was an excellent year for titles with six active dogs earning one or more titles.

| <b>Handler</b>  | <b>Dog</b> | <b>Breed</b>   | <b>Title</b>  |
|-----------------|------------|----------------|---------------|
| Jan Wagner      | Dobby      | Pug            | FD, FDX, FDCH |
| Lynnda Lenzen   | Haiku      | Mix            | FMCH          |
| Roxanne Johnson | Nash       | Mix            | FD, FDX, FDCH |
| Karen Radford   | Nebbie     | Mix            | FM            |
| Lorrie Pilgrim  | Shelby     | Border Collie  | FMX           |
| Lynnda Lenzen   | Tuvok      | English Cocker | FD            |

We also saw two long-time team dogs, Dooley and Sterling, retire in 2023. We welcomed Dobby, Nash, and Tuvok to the racing roster, and we look forward to more successful racing and new team dogs in 2024.

# Budget for Dale Weyhrich Memorial Tournament

September 16-17 2023

|                                 | 5 yr Average | Actual            | 2017       | 2018       | 2019       | 2021       | 2022       |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Income</b>                   |              |                   |            |            |            |            |            |
| Sat regular teams @ \$110       | \$753.40     | \$990.00          | \$1,260.00 | \$967.00   | \$660.00   | \$220.00   | \$660.00   |
| Sun regular teams @ \$110       | \$664.00     | \$770.00          | \$945.00   | \$945.00   | \$440.00   | \$220.00   | \$770.00   |
| Sat Open teams @ \$110          | \$1,140.20   | \$1,540.00        | \$989.00   | \$1,260.00 | \$1,672.00 | \$460.00   | \$1,320.00 |
| Sun Open teams @ \$110          | \$986.80     | \$1,100.00        | \$757.00   | \$956.00   | \$1,441.00 | \$680.00   | \$1,100.00 |
| Single dog racing               | \$68.20      | \$145.00          | \$69.00    | \$30.00    | \$63.00    | \$144.00   | \$35.00    |
| <b>Total Projected Income</b>   | \$3,612.60   | \$4,545.00        | \$4,020.00 | \$4,158.00 | \$4,276.00 | \$1,724.00 | \$3,885.00 |
| <b>Expenses</b>                 |              |                   |            |            |            |            |            |
| NAFA fees                       | \$610.20     | \$768.00          | \$704.00   | \$693.00   | \$682.00   | \$300.00   | \$672.00   |
| Judge's Fees                    | \$257.00     | \$220.00          | \$330.00   | \$305.00   | \$250.00   | \$200.00   | \$200.00   |
| Volunteer/Judges meals          | \$21.95      | \$45.00           | \$0.00     | \$11.75    | \$11.00    | \$0.00     | \$87.00    |
| Prizes                          | \$160.62     | \$245.00          | \$151.00   | \$167.12   | \$235.00   | \$0.00     | \$250.00   |
| Miscellaneous                   |              |                   |            |            |            |            |            |
| Printing                        | \$6.58       | \$0.00            | \$0.00     | \$0.00     | \$32.88    | \$0.00     | \$0.00     |
| Set up/down                     |              | \$25.00           |            |            |            |            | \$270.00   |
| <b>Total Projected Expenses</b> | \$1,110.35   | \$1,303.00        | \$1,185.00 | \$1,176.87 | \$1,210.88 | \$500.00   | \$1,479.00 |
| <b>Net Profit</b>               | \$2,502.25   | \$3,242.00        | \$2,835.00 | \$2,981.13 | \$3,065.12 | \$1,224.00 | \$2,406.00 |
| Raffle                          |              | \$727.00          | \$631.00   | \$846.00   | \$638.00   | \$0.00     | \$995.00   |
| <b>Total</b>                    |              | <b>\$3,969.00</b> | \$3,466.00 | \$3,827.13 | \$3,703.12 | \$1,224.00 | \$3,401.00 |