



WAGS *and* TALES

September 2020



Pet Therapy During a Pandemic? It Can Be Done!

See story on page 4

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- 08/29 NACSW Odor Recognition Test
- 09/03 Monthly Membership Meeting @ 7:00 pm
- 09/04 Agility Run-Throughs
- 10/01 Monthly Membership Meeting @ 7:00 pm
- 10/02 Agility Run-throughs
- 10/10 – 10/11 WDC Fun Match
- 11/05 Monthly Membership Meeting @ 7:00 pm
- 11/07 Canine Good Citizen testing
- 12/03 Monthly Membership Meeting @ 7:00 pm

In the Newsletter:

- 2 Minutes: August Membership Meeting,
- 3 New Membership
- 4 Pet Therapy During a Pandemic
- 5 Confirmation Class Information
- 6 Volunteer Information

October News Deadline

Please submit articles

By **September 15** to

WDCNewsEditor@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES- August 8th, 2020

President and Vice-President not at meeting so Secretary will lead with Treasurer's help.

Secretary Opens meeting.

Secretary Report: No mail other than bills and junk mail. No phone calls this past month. Motion made to approve meeting minutes for June and July. The motion was seconded and passed.

President's Report: Heating and Air conditioning have been upgraded with micropower guards and UV scrubbers. Concrete pad for dumpster installed. New fence around dumpster completed by Stan, Jon Kester, Wayne VanDenLangenberg, and Brian Draeger. Thanks, Stan, Jon, Wayne, and Brian. Freestanding sanitation stations are now at doors so everyone can get to hand cleaning product the first step inside. Election on 08/11 will use front room. Set up on Monday evening.

Treasurer's Report: Started month with \$121,696. \$421 income and \$6227 expenses for a final total of \$115,890. August already showing loss.

Membership Report: One couple at their 2nd meeting. Five others for their first meeting.

Committees:

Agility: Nancy Zolkowski reports that agility trial will be held on November 28 and 29. She is going to next agility trial at Oshkosh to see how they are doing it. Needs volunteers. Volunteers can sign up on website by using email or We Join to let Nancy know about volunteers.

Committees:

Nosework: Jackie Kobierecki reports she needs volunteers for ORT August 29th. The ORT will be held here.

Parades: Penny Garbe reports she has not heard anything on the Christmas parade. She has the new banner and says it's very nice, a big improvement over old banner. She will let us know when she hears anything about the Christmas Parade.

K-9 Closet: Cindy Veit reminds us that items may be ordered. She showed a couple of items.

Committee on Committees: Barb Hoffman looking for new winter conformation show committee chair. There is a good committee in place.

Director of Training: Kayla reports that new classes will be starting again soon. She is looking for volunteer trainers. Classes went well, protocol was followed and everyone was cooperative.

Old Business: Working on changes for Covid compliance with Building Committee.

New Business: Judy Massey again brought up building a wind breaker in the back dog exercise area. Assured her we would talk about it at the next board meeting. A complaint was brought up about not being able to stay past 15 minutes in the yard when no one else is waiting to get in. Assured that we would address at board meeting

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Milliren
Secretary.

Membership First Meeting:

Weggel, Abbey (I)
4725 N. Newcastle Ln Apt D
Appleton, 54913
920-419-6136
Newfoundland
abbey.weggel@gmail.com

Martin, Kylee (I)
358 Broad St
Menasha, 54952
785-443-5254
Golden Retriever
kyleemartin.mpi@gmail.com

Vargas, Luis (I)
N8331 State Park Rd
Menasha, 54952
920-570-9328
Belgian Malinois
Luisvarall@yahoo.com

Villagomez, Leo & Joveni (H)
W5321 Quarry Rd
Appleton, 54915
920-903-4054
Giant Schnauzer
nanov1996@hotmail.com

Membership Second Meeting:

Verhagen, Rick & Liz (H)
5 Diane Lane
Appleton, 54915
920-213-0098 920-419-0367
Golden Doodle
RVERHAGEN1@new.rr.com

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 713
Appleton, WI 54912

Telephone

920-731-6800

Website

www.winnegamieDogClub.com

Facebook

www.facebook.com/WinnegamieDogClub

Training Center

2043 Manitowoc Road
Menasha, WI 54952

The WINNEGAMIE DOG CLUB

Is an all-breed dog club affiliated with the American Kennel Club (AKC). Established in 1958, the WDC exists for the purpose of advancing the cause and welfare of dogs, both the purebred and the mixed-breed variety.

Officers**President**

Christine Rappel
(213-2240)

Vice President

Margie Hohman (734-6734)

Secretary

Linda Milliren (558-4739)

Treasurer

Marie Murphy (882-0809)

Board of Directors

Jackie Kobierecki (739-8626)

Gayle Kukulka (788-0562)

Louise Torkelson (740-6224)

Building Committee

Don "Stan" Stanislawski
(850 3927)

Jon Kester (716-5115)

Brian Draeger (205-3441)

Dog Club Librarian

Lauren Gaines (471-2234)
laitoste@gmail.com

Hours Recorder

Megan Krema
meganjlutz@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Kim Dworak
WDCNewsEditor@gmail.com

Sunshine Committee

Karen Willett (733-6814)

Website & Calendar

Marie Murphy (882-0809)
murphyfrodo@gmail.com

Pet Therapy During a Pandemic? It Can Be Done! by Amy J. Schneider

On March 19, my certified therapy dog Josie and I completed our 202nd visit—our last in-person visit of 2020—at the Appleton Public Library. We had recently been averaging six to eight visits per month and already had about a dozen visits scheduled through May. But then COVID arrived and shut down much of the world's physical contact, ironically at a time when people could use pet therapy the most!

With health-care facilities, schools, libraries, camps, and other activities cancelled, pet therapy programs have had to get creative! Residential facilities have been getting their puppy love through pandemic-safe means. During **window visits**, handlers and dogs come to residents' closed windows from outside (often guided by a sign indicating that the person wants a visit) and let them see the dog, do tricks, and so on. **Pet parades**, either in cars or on foot, with signs and even costumes, let residents sit outside at a safe distance and watch canine visitors go by. Some handlers send **posters and cards** to let the residents know that we miss visiting and are thinking of them. I have some **stand-up cut-outs** of Josie to place at our venues so people can still see her adorable face.

Technology helps as well! Josie and I **recorded a video** that we sent to Winnebago Mental Health Institute and the Wisconsin Resource Center for their group therapy sessions. We've also done a **Zoom visit** with clients of Friendship Place, who've enjoyed Josie's in-person visits in the past, and hope to arrange Zoom visits with some of our other facilities.

With online visits, your dog does not even have to be a certified therapy dog! The Animal Farm Foundation has created **Pets Together**, which matches volunteers and their pets (many of whom are certified therapy dogs) with facilities all over the country for group Zoom visits. Josie and I have met not only residents but also fellow handlers and dogs that we knew only from Facebook.

Therapy dog organizations have had to be flexible. The Alliance of Therapy Dogs (ATD) has not suspended visiting but advises handlers to follow facility COVID rules as well as CDC guidelines for masking and social distancing when visiting in person. ATD has temporarily waived the rule of at least one visit every three months to maintain our certification. However, ATD counts no-contact visits (including Pets Together) as official ATD visits as long as we are following all the ATD rules. And because ATD counts them, AKC allows them to be counted toward AKC therapy dog titles as well.

So far, Josie's visits have been all virtual, as most of our in-person visits have been to facilities that are closed to visitors and are not set up for no-contact visits. It will be a while before we can return to the ThedaCare hospital in Neenah or UW-Oshkosh (where we often had several dozen visitors at once). The last two Camp Hope sessions in May and September have been cancelled and Josie will miss the kids there.

Josie hasn't been on complete sabbatical; my mother had surgery in March and stayed with us during her recovery until she went home in early July. So Josie spent a lot of time cuddling with Grandma. I think she was sad when Grandma went home! She doesn't understand the "people in the computer" visits, but the people enjoy seeing and hearing about her, so that's what counts. I am looking into doing some very small outdoor in-person visits with all CDC precautions in place. We have also talked to the Oshkosh Area Humane Society, which is coordinating local window visits. I hope Josie will enjoy connecting with people that way, and I know they will enjoy seeing her and the other therapy dogs.

Even though a large part of pet therapy is usually hands-on petting, studies have shown that even seeing a dog can improve a person's mental and physical health. It's been heartwarming to see handlers and organizations find ways to bring the love of dogs to people who need a lift, even in the time of COVID.

Conformation Class is Starting September 16th

Conformation class will begin on Wed. Sept. 16th and run for 8 weeks (until 11-04) Class time is 7 - 7:45 Schedule is subject to change depending on COVID situation. Please make sure I have a valid email if you attend class for any last minute notices.

1. 10 dog teams maximum in the ring at one time. A team is one human and one dog.
2. Non - active members will be allowed at a cost of \$5 per team. Payment must be the exact amount of cash and placed in an envelope with your name on it.
3. Each person must sign a [COVID-19 waiver](#) before signing up in Google Sheets. You must initial after each line, sign at the bottom, and deliver to Louise Torkelson BEFORE signing up.
4. Each session will begin promptly on time. No one will be allowed into the building until approx 5 minutes before class.
5. Upon arrival at the building you must wash your hands and/or apply hand sanitizer, then immediately proceed onto the mats, do not mill around by door, practice social distancing.
6. Masks must be worn over nose and mouth at all times. If your mask does not fit properly you need to fix it or leave. Masks are available for sale at \$5 each.
7. No eating and drinking during class.
8. Anyone with a cough will be asked to leave.
9. No guests or ringside observers, no children, no other pets.
10. Sanitation will be completed after class, help is requested and you will get hours towards active membership by helping.

Anne Schmidt

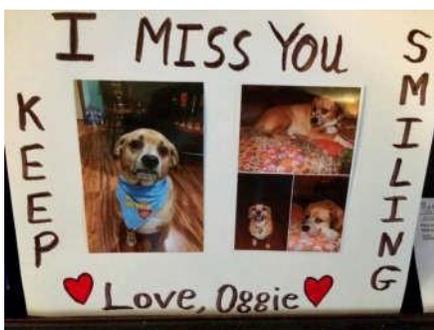
Pet Therapy During a Pandemic



Oshkosh Area Humane Society volunteers doing a window visit at Parkview Health Center.



Mojo, therapy dog in training, helped his big brother make a window visit at a nursing home.



Oggie the therapy dog made a poster for his friends at a nursing home.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

COMMITTEE HELP NEEDED

Contact: Barb Hoffman
 920-851-3350
blhoffwi@gmail.com

Meeting Snacks

No food or drink will be served during meetings until further notice

CLASS HELP NEEDED

More help is needed with teaching and assisting. It's a fun way to share your knowledge with students and help them train their dogs to its full potential. A private training session will be held. We are also in need of assistants to help with the training equipment during classes: this is keeping track of payments, receipts, and fittings of collars, etc. during classes. Vacuuming after Obedience classes is also needed. This takes about 30-45 minutes each day. Hours are flexible. If interested in helping, contact the Director of Training, email: wcdot@gmail.com

CLEANING

Most Friday's beginning at 8:00 a.m. Help is needed to clean the building. Contact Stan to confirm dates/times at 920-722-8536.

NURSING HOME VISITS

Contacts:

Pam Siebert
kieshagirl54956@gmail.com
 920-470-6634

Fawn Tauber
fawndan@gmail.com
 920-419-7336

Prerequisites:

- Must be an approved member
- Your dog must be at least one year old and have earned its Canine Good Citizen certificate
- Dogs need to be approved by Pam Siebert (contact Pam to schedule an evaluation)

Procedure for Submitting Member Volunteer Hours Reports

As you earn volunteer hours, please complete the "Volunteer Hours Report Form" and submit it to the Hours Recorder in one of three ways:

- Scan and email the form to meganjlutz@gmail.com
- Drop off the completed form in the club office
- Mail it to the Hours Recorder (address on form)

Hard copies of the form are available in the club office. It can also be downloaded from the website under the Membership tab (listed in both the Forms and Volunteer sections).

Members can check their hours completed to date status on the website in the Membership / Volunteer section. The document name is "Volunteer Hours Log". Updates will be posted at least once a month.

Any questions or comments, please contact Megan Krema at meganjlutz@gmail.com.

Fun Match

This year's Fun Match has been changed to October 10 & 11, with obedience and rally on Saturday and Conformation and Junior Showmanship on Sunday. Please contact Louise Torkelson (latrst@hotmail.com) or Margie Hohman (muttsgo@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer.

WDC FUN MATCHES

2043 Manitowoc Road

Menasha, WI 54952

www.winnegamiedogclub.com

Saturday, October 10

Obedience & Rally

Sunday, October 11

Conformation & Junior Showmanship





Winnegamie
Dog Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 713
Appleton, WI 54912-0713