

NAPA VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 12, 2026

Board Members in attendance: **Officers:** Linda Luchsinger, President; Vange Leonis , Treasurer,; Sara DeCrevel , Secretary; **members at large:** Sandy Bonifield, Miranda Clark, Debbie Hilton; **Past President:** Linda Wargo

A list of the members who were in attendance is available in the club office.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35PM.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the December 8<sup>th</sup> general membership meeting. Motion was seconded. All present voted aye with one abstention. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report**—Vange Leonis

As of 12/31/25:

Checking \$14,278.97

Savings \$22,371.71

CD \$21,631.13

YTD P & L loss as of 11/30/25 was (\$956.53). December is not available yet.

**President Linda Luchsinger-** Welcomed Miranda Clark as a general board member. She will handle our facebook and start an Instagram site for the club. She has ideas for fundraisers as well.

There was a training meeting January 6 to discuss sessions 3 and 4. They are looking at new ideas for classes including some shorter ones (3-4 weeks), crate games, attention class, etc. Linda Wargo will be starting new scent classes and is inviting sign ups. Ideas for new classes are welcome. They would like to help increase attendance and sign ups for the classes. David Else was approved as a provisional instructor by the training committee and pending approval from the board will begin training with supervision.

**Secretary:** no report

**Office: Sandy Bonifield:** Phones have been busy. Two classes are closed because they are totally full. One class was switched to a puppy class because there is an increase in puppy requests; so overall new session is looking positive. There was an issue with the answering machine ---the answering machine was turned off for a period of time with calls lost, etc. She is asking that NOONE try to pick up any phone messages because it is easy to hit the wrong button and lose messages.

**Publicity: Vange Leonis:** she has sent out cards to all the veterinarian offices. Linda Wargo shared a preferential list of related canine businesses and Vange will send info to them as well. Miranda and Vange will work on Instagram and get publicity going there. They are planning on pictures and videos both on that. Dena Parrish encourages everyone to carry NVDTC cards and pass them out, placing them on bulletin boards at grocery store, salons, etc. Miranda stated that Napa Light Show is coming this weekend and she plans to feature dog teams at the different exhibits inviting people to come down to see them. And Marilane Bergfelt mentioned that the Napa Art Walk will be featured also with dogs at some of the exhibits that are accessible, also featuring dog team pictures on facebook—that will be scheduled soon.

**Membership:** no chair at this time

However three new members were in attendance at this meeting: Sherry Lockhart, Tina Arcand, Soo Bazzano. A motion was made to approve their membership. All voted aye and the motion was approved. Welcome to them!

**Building: Debbie Hilton:** She has been cleaning up during the down time and she had help re-taping the floor where it was needed. There was a cleaning day held January 10<sup>th</sup> with several helpers cleaning the equipment. The building floor is on hold. Paws for Healing will use the building 1/24; Cairn Terrier group will use it 1/31. Dogs can Dance is starting her classes this week . Debbie has updated the bulletin board and there is a new AKC poster there that everyone should read.

**Newsletter /Website:** Miranda has partially taken over some of the website responsibility. Noone has volunteered yet for the newsletter. Brags are to be sent to Miranda and she will feature them on Facebook.

**Hospitality :** for this meeting Miranda Clark and Dena Parrish. Thank you!

For February meeting: Sandy Bonifield and Chris Mayer volunteered. Thank you!

**Old business:**

Gerry Glantz award Committee is Linda Luchsinger, Lea Ronald, Dena Parrish, Cheryl Meyer, and Joe Gracia. They have a meeting coming up and are still working on it.

Sue Osborn jobs: Still working on this as well.

Banquet/awards: Deadline for awards info is today 1/12. Linda Wargo is in charge of the awards and has all the info. The committee for the banquet is Debbie Hilton, Dena Parrish and new member Soo Bazzano (who worked in Hospitality). It has been suggested that we hold the banquet in this facility to save money with several ideas being presented: 1) have the meal totally catered, 2) have the main dish catered and members bring side dishes and desserts, 3) have it as a total potluck. The main reason for the change is financial but it is also an opportunity to recognize other aspects of our club, not just awards that the canines have achieved at outside events. Discussion followed with most seeming to favor this idea of inhouse event.

**New business:**

Possible 2026 AKC scent work trial: Linda Wargo spoke with Donna. The college is charging so looking for a different venue (suggestions of new sites welcome).. She pointed out that before they can confirm a trial they need to : find a venue, get a secretary, get judges, get AKC approval. If they are going to do this they will need to start NOW. Linda pointed out that AKC is easier to plan and get approved. A Sniff and Go event was also suggested. And Carol Coawette mentioned that people have difficulty getting into Detective and Master trials so those would fill up quickly for an event.

Audit Treasurer Reports: Annual treasurer report audit volunteers (to check treasurer records to make sure nothing is missed) are Debbie Hilton, Dena Parrish, Shari Newhart.

(unapproved minutes)

Marilane Bergfelt noted that she spoke to Sue Osborn and she was very happy with her gifts from the club and also is happy about the lifelong membership benefit.

Braggs:

CAROL COAWETTE: Pierre earned his AKC Scent work, Novice Elite Exterior leg, Novice Elite Interior leg, Novice Elite Buried title and 1<sup>st</sup> place, Novice Elite title, Advanced Elite Exterior leg and 1<sup>st</sup> place, Advanced Elite Interior leg and 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Master Elite interior leg, Detective leg. Louie received his AKC scent work, Advanced Elite buried leg, Advanced Elite container leg, Excellent Elite container leg, Master Handler Discrimination title.

LINDA WARGO: In November and December, Sonny earned his AKC Scent Work Exterior Advanced, Container Advanced, Buried Advanced and the overall Advanced titles and the NACSW Odor Recognition Test Title. In December Happy earned his AKC Scent Work Container Master Title with a second place finish. In November Ziji earned her AKC Scent work Exterior Excellent, Buried Excellent and overall Excellent titles.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25PM

*Respectively Submitted by Sara DeCrevel*