

THE LOST COAST HOWLER



EDITOR - LAUREN WENDT



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

🥂 A New Year's Toast from the Lost Coast Kennel Club President

To a fresh year on the North Coast, where the fog rolls in, the trails stay muddy, and the dogs stay happy.

To the four-legged partners who bring us together – the athletes, the couch cuddlers, the seniors with wise eyes, and the puppies who remind us not to take life too seriously.

To every handler who shows up with patience, humor, and a pocket full of treats.

To the friendships forged ringside, the triumphs we celebrate, and the lessons our dogs teach us whether we asked for them or not. To the dogs we cherish, the dogs we remember, and the dogs who will join our community in the year ahead.

May 2026 be filled with teamwork, laughter, wagging tails, and the kind of joy only a dog club can create.

Cheers to the Lost Coast Kennel Club – and to the wonderful dogs who make our world brighter every single day.

-Deb Lake
Lost Coast Kennel Club President



Board of Director Officers

Deb Lake
President

Patty Mendes
Vice President

Kris Smith
Secretary

Jill Otto
Treasurer

Members of the Board

Michelle Dostal
Debbie Tull
Kurt Pires

JOINS US!
JANUARY 20, 2026
MEMBER MEETING 7:00PM
HELD VIA ZOOM

“It is good to have an end to journey toward; but in the end, it is the journey that matters.”

— Ernest Hemingway

I came across this quote recently and it got me thinking.

I've never really been someone who has been interested in titles for my dogs (nothing at all against those of you who do!), and maybe part of that is because when you achieve a title, a journey (or at least part of it) ends. I've always been more process-focused. Of course, it's important to have something to work toward, but every time I get close, I find myself wanting to move the finish line just a little farther so I can keep learning and growing.

I was a multi-sport athlete as a kid, I played year-round. Some seasons, losing was the norm. I've been on teams that have gone entire seasons without a single win. But I kept showing up anyway because of the process: being better than we were yesterday, supporting teammates, and simply getting to play the game.

That same mindset is what I've fallen in love with in dog training. The partnership we build, the problem-solving, and celebrating the small wins that come from consistent work together. 3 more steps of perfect heeling, a straighter front, a faster recall, a more precise alert. And, most rewarding of all for me, preparing for and then working with my dogs in real-world operational settings.

Then, when we fall short (it's inevitable) or something doesn't go as planned (it won't), we get to go back to the drawing board, tweak the smallest details, get creative together and try again.

Recently, I was doing some obedience work with my 9 year old Labrador, Finn, when someone nearby was watching us intently. When we stopped for a break, they apologized for staring and said how pretty it looked. I thanked them and reminded them (and myself a bit too) that the two minutes they saw is a culmination of nearly 9 years of diligent work. Work that I truly love and cherish, and that I believe my dogs feel as well.

Each of my dogs teaches me something different. I (hopefully) learn from the mistakes I make with one and try to carry those lessons forward with the others. That ongoing learning is what keeps the journey interesting.

This year, I'm planning to trial a couple of my dogs in disciplines that are outside my usual wheelhouse. Not necessarily for the Q or title (if we even get it), but for the experience and what it might add to our journey and growth as a team.

So here's to enjoying the process, staying curious, and maybe pushing ourselves just a bit further in 2026.

—Lauren Wendt
LCKC Newsletter Editor



General member meeting will begin at 7:00pm

**NEXT GENERAL MEMBER MEETING
TUESDAY JANUARY 20, 2026**

Meeting will be held via zoom.
Link will be sent out via the io group.

All members are welcome and encouraged to join!

Board Meetings are now being held the second Tuesday of the Month at 7pm.
All members are welcome to attend but only board members can vote.



\$15 individual and \$25 household/family

Checks can be mailed to:
Lost Coast Kennel Club
PO Box 6808
Eureka CA 95502

ANNUAL CLUB DUES

Check it off you to do list now before the busy holiday season!

Details and payments <https://lostcoastkc.org/members-only.html>



HUMBOLDT DISC DOG

2026* PRACTICE AND TRIAL DATES

Rio Dell Fire Department, 50 W Center St,
Rio Dell CA 95562

- April 25 practice
- May 9 practice
- May 30-31 trial
- June 13 practice
- June 27-28 trial Crossover Crown
- August 15 practice
- August 29-30 trial
- September 19-20 Triple Crown
- October 3 practice
- October 10-11 trial - Monster Mash

*Upon approval of Rio Dell Fire BOD

World Galgo Day and Fit Dog Walk Sunday February 1st, Arcata Marsh



Sunday, February 1st (weather dependent) walk at the Arcata Marsh to end the worldwide abuse of the Galgo Espanol and all hunting breeds. **Meet 11:15am in G St. Parking Lot for a longer walk.** Or **meet in Klopp Lake Parking Lot at 11:30 for the picture and a shorter walk** on pavement. A picture will be taken at Klopp Lake which will be posted around the world on social media. This walk can also be used as a group FIT Dog Walk. Kim will be there to sign paperwork. Good exercise!

Here is the story of the galgo:

<https://www.galgorescue.org/spanish-galgo>

Tell the Spanish Government to continue to enforce animal cruelty regulations which include galgos, podencos and other hunting breeds. Also to enact breeding laws to regulate over-breeding. An estimated 100,000 hunting dogs are disposed of every year, some in the cruelest way imaginable.

First Humboldt County, CA, USA Galgo Walk at Arcata Marsh in 2022. 8 dogs, 6 people
This will be the 4th year that members of Lost Coast Kennel Club, along with other community members, will participate in World Galgo Day, which is commemorated every year on February 1st.

February 1st is the end of the hunting season in Spain.

We missed 2025 walk due to adverse weather.

2024 walk. 31 dogs, 27 people. Can we set a new record?!

Lunch at El Chipotle, 12:30. 850 Crescent Way. Off Bayside Rd and Samoa.

Please RSVP for lunch. fcatt.lckc@gmail.com

PRACTICE DATES 2026 – TENTATIVE*

Held at Humboldt County Fairgrounds in Ferndale

Practices are open to non-members, there is no official fee. Donations are accepted, suggestion is \$5 per dog which that covers everything the dog practices that day. Participants must sign a yearly liability waiver, and sign in on the daily sign-in sheet .

April 12, 1pm Midway Lawn –Conformation, Obedience, Rally, Scent work

April 26, 11am Track – Fast CAT*

April 26, 1pm Midway Lawn – Conformation, Obedience, Rally, Scent work

May 10, 1pm (Mother’s Day) Midway Lawn – Conformation, Obedience, Rally, Scent work
Alternate if FCAT gets rained out on Apr 26.

May 17, 11am Track – Fast CAT

May 17, 1pm Midway Lawn – Conformation, Obedience, Rally, Scent work

(May 24 – could be alternate for May 10 to avoid Mother’s Day)

June 7 – Practices TBA (Woofstock weekend)

June 14 11am Track – FCAT

June 14, 1pm Midway Lawn – Conformation, Obedience, Rally, Scent work

June 21, 1pm (Father’s Day) Midway Lawn – Conformation, Obedience, Rally, Scent work

CAT – TBA

*Needs to be approved by the Fairgrounds

This avoids May 31 – Memorial Day weekend

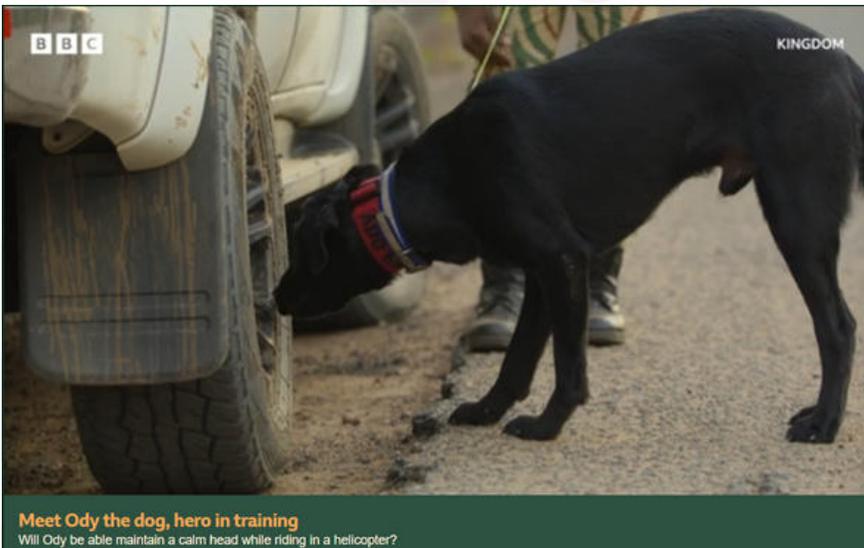
There are only three weekends in June this year

Updates will be made monthly as needed. Please check to group for additional updates.



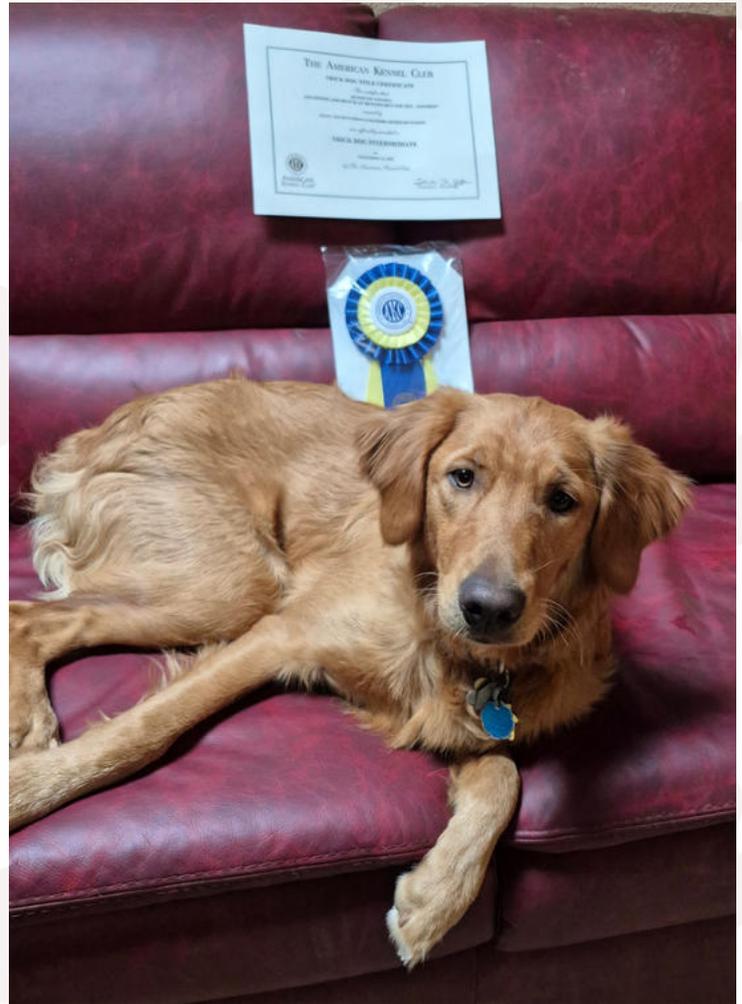
Bayley Cottrell earned titles in NASDA Urban Locator 1, Trailing and Locating 1, and Lost Item Recovery 1 at the first ever Humboldt County NASDA trial. The trial was organized, and hosted, by Sarah Lindgren Akana/My Nosey K9. It was held in November 2025. Bayley completed many additional points in these 3 NASDA events. She is half way to completion of the Level 2 title in Lost Item Recovery. It was super fun! In all she qualified in 18 out of 18 runs during this 2 day event and had quite a few placements.

Bayley also finished her 2nd year as a Therapy Dog at Providence St Joseph Hospital. It has been a very rewarding experience for both Bayley and me and plus after 2 more visits she will be eligible for the AKC Therapy Dog title. - Submitted by Marilyn Cottrell

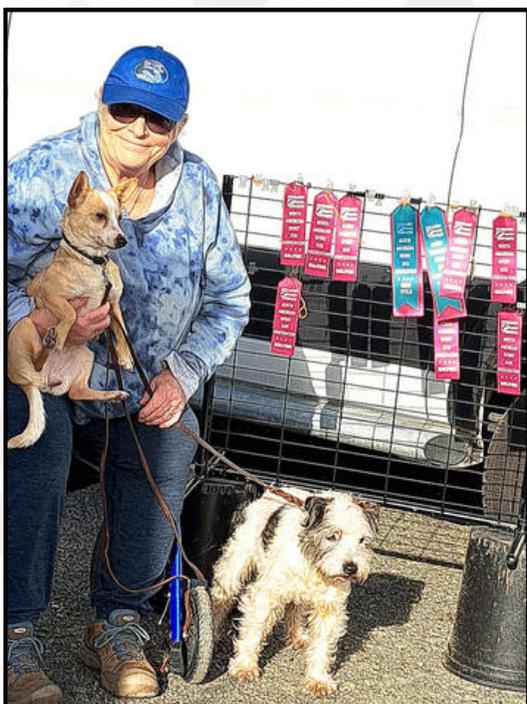


I recently learned that a dog I raised a few years ago from a pup and trained for an anti- poaching unit in Zambia is featured in episode 6 of BBC's newest series *Kingdom*, narrated by Sir. David Attenborough! The series premieres in the US on January 24th and can be viewed on AMC+, Prime Video or BBC America. You can see a short highlight [HERE](#).

-Submitted by Lauren Wendt



Seika and Hutch earned titles and received their ribbons on Dec. 15, 2026 for their Intermediate Tricks Titles. I tried getting them to sit together for a group photo, but when one was good, the other was obnoxious. 🤦 oh siblings...lol - Submitted by Susan Hutchinson



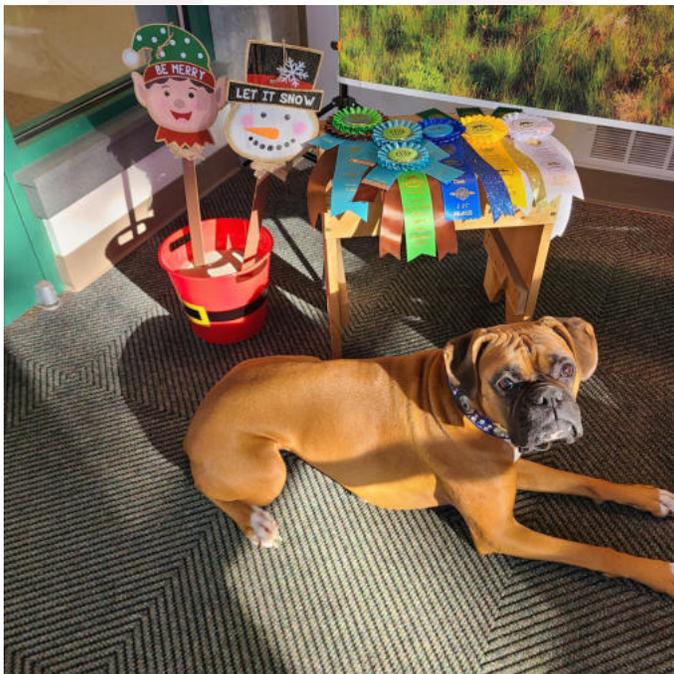
Fada and Bug had a fun rat hunting weekend, Nov 28-29. They both came home with a new NASDA Level 1 title. Bug - Urban Locating. Fada - Trailing & Locating.

Thanks to Sarah Lindgren-Akana and My Nosey K9 for bringing the NASDA (North American Sport Dog Association) events to Humboldt County!

Also, we won the raffle!
-Submitted by Cathy Wright



On December 12 and 13 my young Border Collie, Jesse, trialed at the Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club of America's scent work trial in Marysville. We passed all 4 of our Novice classes and all 4 of all Advanced classes. - Submitted by Janeann Erickson



Copper competed in a scent work trial in Sunriver OR in Dec. It was a nice relaxed show and Copper did well. She Qd 7 of her 8 runs. She received her all elements title on Sat and on Sun went High in Trial for the Advanced level. She was the only adv dog that Q'd in all 4 elements. This was only her 2nd trial and I was so proud of her, especially since we didn't know anyone and were very unfamiliar with the area and all the environmental smells. I'm looking forward to coming down in May to compete at the LCKC trial - Submitted by Chris Irvin

Last year had my last litter of Rottweilers. One has received AKC Puppy Achievement Award before reaching 9mos, Mel-Mars Elite Force Recon, Forever Faithful CGCU TKN and 4pts towards his Championship. He is bred by Mel-Mar owned and loved by Sandy Bello. -Submitted by Maritta Christensen



Hooligan and I started the new year off with a bang. On January 3 at the San Francisco Bay Weimaraner Club agility trial in Rancho Murieta he earned his Master Agility Champion 9! The rosette he received dwarfed him by comparison. I've achieved more with Hooligan than any of the dogs I've championed in agility over the 30 years I've been doing the sport. And he just turned 8! He's so much fun to play with.
- Submitted by Beverly Morgan Lewis



The club holiday party included wonderful food, getting to visit with fellow club members, some great games; building a tower out of cups and plates, human scent work, and bingo (thanks you Tina for adding images of breeds our club members have!). And the gift exchange. Thanks to all the dedicated club members who helped organize and put this event on!



The Board meeting was called to order by President Debra Lake at 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Board members: Michelle Dostal, Debra Lake, Patty Mendes, Jill Otto, Kurt Pires, Kris Smith, Debbie Tull.

Non-Board members: Tina Moulton.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: The minutes from the October 21, 2025, Board meeting were approved as published. (Patty/Debbie T)

Report of the Treasurer: Jill said that she had not received a report from Andrea, although they had communicated about some questions. There will have to be some corrections on where to certain items have been recorded. We will need to have Andrea's report by the second Monday, the day before the Tuesday Board meeting. Andrea has had pressure from family problems and is trying to keep up. Patty suggested having someone else look at our books. Kurt has been looking at old records and reports some discrepancies in some years. We need this year's reports to check to see what things are recorded in the wrong place. Deb L said maybe we should have someone audit our books. Debbie T suggested we all go through the reports we have, mark questions, and have a meeting to go over them. Chairs have to be willing to go through their sections to check for accuracy. It's important for each chair to fill out their expense/income report after their event. Jill reported that she has sent out the donations as decided on at the October meeting. MSAC (Kurt/Michelle) to accept Jill's report saying we don't have a financial report, and that the 2026 charitable donations have been sent.

Unfinished Business:

- Meeting with Humboldt County Fair Assoc to discuss 2026 event contracts, November 12 – Tina said we need to know the contract fees. Last year's outline of what we need is still good as a guide. We want an all-inclusive price and reassurance that we will get what we need. We need the contracts by the end of the year. Last year's contracts and lists of needs can be used for reference. Patty said to make sure we will know ahead of time if they can't provide golf carts. Debbie wants to be clear on grounds upkeep, as we end up doing a lot that they should do. We should keep track of hours we spend doing things that they should have done. We can't go above the fee that we agreed on. 2027 will probably be another increase. Patty reported that she and Nick were driving by the campground and saw that the county was putting in the sites wrong. Nick stopped them and they went to talk to the office. Later the Fair decided to gravel the whole area, leaving no grass, but at least there are enough sites.
- Create a policy for Line-item equipment costs – Jill suggested creating a separate category for capital purchases, with sub-categories for each individual event/use. Patty said purchases for a type of event should go with the accounting for that event.

Jill said she would ask Andrea for advice on how to categorize. Tina pointed out that part of our mission is to provide events, so losing a little money on some might be acceptable. Debbie T said we need guidelines; she will make a list of categories by the January meeting to be consistent over all the events. Chairs will put their expenses in those categories.

- All-breed show - Tina said a complication has come up in the two-shows-in-one-day plan. Our usual stewards won't do two shows in one day because it's too tiring. They come because they like the shows and the area, like a vacation. They only get lodging and meals. If we have to pay another crew for the second show on Friday, it might cancel out the extra we make from entries. Tina wants to talk to some other people for advice. If they don't have a solution, we will probably have to abandon the second show on Friday. Michelle said we would still probably have the second rally trial, as it's not tied to the show like obedience is. Concerns were also expressed that the difficulty of organizing a different crew might lead to confusion and reflect badly on the club.

New Business: None

Announcements:

- Kurt said the Ferndale Chamber of Commerce has invited us to go back in March and we will need to discuss what we will talk about.
- The January board meeting will be separate from the Regular meeting again, on the second Tuesday. We will try for a length of one hour, one and a half hours if really necessary.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Patty Mendes at 7:00 pm.

Present: Sara Borok, Ann Burroughs, Michelle Dostal, Kim Gradin, Gail Hovorka, Susan Hutchison, Mike Lake, Beverly Morgan Lewis, Cassie Lock, Suzi Martin, Stella Moore, Patty Mendes, Tina Moulton, Jill Otto, Kurt Pires, Beth Rogers, Kris Smith, Deb St Myers, Debbie Tull, Lauren Wendt, Cathy Wright.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: The minutes from the October 21, 2025, Regular meeting were approved as published (Jill/Mike).

Report of the President: VP Patty Mendes reported on the November 11, 2025 Board Meeting, saying it was mostly to try to figure out how to enter event financial items to keep bookkeeping consistent over the events. Event chairs were included. Financial reports were examined. This need to be cleared up for next year's bookkeeping, so another Board meeting will be held on December 9, to address bookkeeping, show decisions, and the Manila Montessori donation/fee for the spring Scent Work trials, Event chairs are encouraged to attend. Jill will meet with Andrea for advice regarding bookkeeping. Questions for Andrea should go to Jill before then.

Report of the Secretary: Kris said she obtained and paid for an additional insured for the Manila Community Services District for the spring Scent Work trials. Jill said we received a flier came from the AKC Canine Health Foundation regarding donating for cancer research. They are no longer doing club memberships, so we will donate instead. The Rhodesian Ridgeback Club will match our donation for this research. **MSAC (Mike/Kim) to donate \$200 to the CHF cancer research drive.**

Report of the Treasurer: Jill presented the attached Treasurer's Report for October. The final numbers are the same for the events as reported before, but some items have changed location. The comparison to previous years is not useful due to inconsistencies. Jill has sent out the charitable donations approved at the October meeting.

Report of Committees:

PRACTICES

Kris said there are no practices scheduled for the rest of the year. She has submitted a list of tentative 2026 practice dates to the Fair and will publish them when they are approved.

B-OB SHOWS/RALLY/Fast CAT/CAT 2026:

Shows: Tina said we have run into a bump – our usual stewards don't want to do two shows in one day, so she is trying now to find a chief steward for one show on Friday. It will be an extra cost, and we will have to offset that cost. Need to set up a committee for trophies; Cathy is trying to get more people involved in the trophy effort; 3-4 people to share the different parts of the job. Need to start soon. Contact Cathy if you are willing to help. Giving nice trophies is important to attract entries. Tina said we need to increase revenue – looking at raising RV fees and/or charging for grooming space. Cathy said we need to ask the Fairgrounds to do something about the footing in the outdoor rings – get the County to roll the ground? Provide

materials? Tina said they only have one grounds guy, and he's new. We need to check out conditions regularly and talk to the Fair.

Rally/Obedience: Michelle said that if we don't have a second show on Friday, we can't have a second obedience trial because they are tied together, but we can have a second rally trial.

Fast CAT/CAT: Debbie T said nothing new for Fast CAT.

AGILITY, BARN HUNT, Fast CAT 2026:

Agility: Beverly ML said there is nothing new for Agility, but at the meeting with the Fair, they said they are willing to take reservations and fees for RVs, but not interface with the campers as they arrive. Kurt volunteered to do that and get everyone in the right place.

Fast CAT: Same as above.

Barn Hunt: Mike said there is nothing new.

SCENT WORK TRIALS 2026

Spring Trials May 2,3 – Cathy said Jeanette will be the Secretary, there will be two judges, and the information is on the AKC event site. The Facility use form has been sent to the Manila CSD. This event will function as a fundraiser for the Redwood Coast Friends of the Montessori School, and we will donate \$800 as a use fee, which may go toward their field trip fund. They may be vendors at the event. We need to decide how to write up the donation/fee so it fits in our framework.

Labor Day Trials – Susan said the contract with Cutten School District is ongoing – they may increase the fees and change some policies.

MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION PICNIC 2026 – Beth suggested a date that Rohner Park is available, but it conflicts with a Disc Dog trial, so she will check for September 27 (Sunday).

FIT DOG – Kimber said there will be a Fit dog/Turkey Trot walk on Saturday, Nov 29, on the Hikshari Trail, heading south from the Truesdale Vista Point, with lunch after at Applbee's.

NEWSLETTER: Lauren was thanked for another great newsletter. She said the PDF is not working for everyone, but Kurt is helping figure it out. Send news to lckcnews75@gmail.com.

WEBSITE: Kurt said nothing new.

CHAT GROUP: Beth said new members have been added.

MEMBERSHIP: Beth said the roster is up to date. If you want a new one, ask her.

BYLAWS: Kris said the committee is finished with the Constitution, Article I, and Article II.

Election of New Members: none

Election of Officers and Board for 2026

The slate approved at the October was adopted by acclamation (Mike/Kurt):

President: Debra Lake

Vice President: Patty Mendes

Secretary: Kris Smith

Treasurer: Jill Otto

Board Members: Michelle Dostal, Kurt Pires, Debra Tull

Unfinished Business:

- Holiday Party - Unitarian Fellowship Hall, Bayside, January 10, 2026 1-5 pm. Jill will put a request for help in the group email, and will send invitations.
- Jill reminded everyone that dues are due. Please get them in by January 1. It's easy to do on the LCKC website on the member page, or send a check to the PO box, or hand it to a Board member.

New Business:

- Contract Meeting with the Fairgrounds - Tina, Debbie T, Deb L, and Beverly ML met with Moira Kenny of the Humboldt County Fair Association on November 12. The meeting was pleasant and co-operative. She agreed to all inclusive contracts. The contracts were distributed to the chairs and the Board. They will be sent back with lists of what we need and we will pay next year, for bookkeeping purposes. Discussion of where to allow set-ups, make sure bleachers get set up. \$6,000 for the show weekend, \$4000 for the agility weekend. Request was made to dig a ditch around the shed for drainage, as it gets wet - don't set things on th floor during winter! Debbie said it was a very positive meeting. Moira said their goal is 8 large events a year, and ours is one. She is feeling positive about the direction of the Fair. She is thinking about a non-profit booth day at the Fair, and we could participate.

Announcements:

- Beth said the Dog Expo notice has gone out, and asked when we need to decide if we're going to have a booth. January agenda item.
- Next Regular meeting - January 20, 2026.
-

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kris Smith, LCKC Secretary

(LCKC usually does not have meetings in December, however this extra Board meeting was called to get financial questions sorted out before the new year of bookkeeping begins.)

The Board meeting was called to order by President Debra Lake at 7:01 p.m. Present:
Board members: Michelle Dostal, Debra Lake, Patty Mendes, Jill Otto, Kurt Pires, Kris Smith, Debbie Tull.

Non-Board members: Beverly Morgan Lewis, Tina Moulton, and guest/bookkeeper Andrea Ralph.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: The minutes from November, 11, 2025, Board meeting were approved as published. (Patty/Jill)

Report of the Treasurer: Jill read the attached Treasurer's Report, Summary of Financials. The Treasurer's Report was approved. (Kurt/Debbie T)

Our bookkeeper, Andrea Ralph, joined the meeting to answer questions. She explained how she enters MB-F financials based on the report sent and itemized by MB-F. Patty said we should enter our MB-F income only, not the details of how MB-F got that number.

- Discussion of what MB-F information should go into Quickbooks. Suggestion - to keep the monthly reports simple, show only the income from the superintendents and secretaries, then have those reports be a supplemental report for details if necessary. Andrea said the AKC rules about keeping club books say it all should go in our books as reported by the super/secretary.

- Discussion of how to arrange income and expenses so it would be easier for chairs to check the numbers for their events.

- Andrea and Patty will both research the AKC requirements regarding what information to enter in our books, and they will get back to the Board.

- Capital equipment - Andrea has made a category for all equipment purchases, with sub-categories for each event, so they will not show as a negative amount on the end of the year summary of the costs for that year's event.

- Debbie T said we need to be consistent across all the events. Most want to see details from the supers and secretaries, even if it makes the monthly reports longer.

Andrea was thanked for joining the meeting.

Old Business

HCFA contracts - Kris will sign and email the contracts to Moira, along with the list of our needs for each event and a map of the grounds showing our set up.

New Business - none

Announcements:

- Kurt is working on having the mock scent work trial/practice at Sunnybrae School in August. The committee will visit the site in March

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectively submitted by Kris Smith, LCKC Secretary