

PRESIDENT:
VICE PRESIDENT:
TREASURER:
SECRETARY:

CLUB OFFICERS

BEV WALKER beverlywalker3259@yahoo.com
BETH WIDDOWS bew1234@sbcglobal.net
CATHY KELLEY cmkelley@comcast.net
ANGELA EVANS EvansAngela.4116@gmail.com
15649 Riverside
Livonia, MI 48154

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:

DEE RAKIC <http://westieclubmi.com/application-for-membership/>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CATHY WEISHAAPT cathyweishaupt@yahoo.com 517-242-4847
JANET LINDREN lindgrenjanet@yahoo.com 517-482-0593
GARY PORRETT obieone5@comcast.net 586-727-7688

CLUB & EDU WEBSITES: www.westieclubmi.com, and www.WestieEduMi.com

CLUB EMAIL LIST: whwtcofsem-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

NEWSLETTER ONLINE: www.westieclubmi.com (Choose Newsletters)

CLUB MEMBERSHIP: See web site for applications or contact Membership Chair (above)

EDITOR
Beth Widdows

WEBMASTER
Clare Shufelt-Club
Open-Education
Beth Widdows-Rescue

WESTIE RESCUE
See website for details
www.westierescue-mi.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$10/YEAR (but free on line!)
(Send check to Jackie Curtis, 12460 Pamela Court, Hartland, MI 48353)

PLEASE CONSIDER ON LINE VIEWING OF THE NEWSLETTER

<http://westieclubmi.com/newsletters/>

ADVERTISING RATES:

TWO ISSUES/SAME OR DIFF. AD
Or ONE ISSUE/2 ADS

\$15 FOR FULL PAGE WITH PHOTO

\$10 FOR HALF PAGE WITH PHOTO

ONE AD/ONE ISSUE

\$10 FOR FULL PAGE WITH PHOTO

\$ 6 FOR HALF PAGE WITH PHOTO

FOR INFORMATION ON ADVERTISING, WRITE OR CALL:

BETH WIDDOWS, EDITOR, 1371 W. S. BLVD., TROY, MI 48098 248-879-2479
bew1234@sbcglobal.net

See our website for membership information: www.westieclubmi.com Choose Membership
Contact the Secretary (above) for meeting information

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *Bev Walker*

Hi All!

Another successful Specialty is under our belts in spite of lower entries. We got some feedback from exhibitors that we can use to tweak certain areas to make it more attractive for them to come. I am happy that we are going to continue for another year. I want to thank all those who helped make this another "Special" Specialty. It takes a village and even though our village is small, we multitask wonderfully. I would like to have more members join in to help carry the load that the few now do. I hope we can have more discussion on this at future meetings. It is now on to picnic. I made arrangements for tents, tables, and chairs for picnics this year. The low turnout for help with setup was also the reason for this. At least this way those who have been at setup can really enjoy the day without thinking about taking everything down. Hope to see you all at the annual picnic. Give a special "thank you" to Sue Peters for flyer design and Susan Bloomfield for taking on the welcome table at picnic this year. Hope that you can make it later in the day, Sue. Cross our fingers for a lovely summer day. Sue will have RSVP date on flyer. See you at picnic!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Westie Picnic/Meeting – July 11, 2015 Fenton, MI
Club Meeting – September 21, 2015 Whitmore Lake, MI
Christmas Party – December 6, Howell Rec Center

WE'RE ON THE MOVE!

Our club will be setting up our canopy and tables at the:

Frankenmuth Dog Bowl

Frankenmuth, Michigan

Saturday & Sunday, May 23 & 24

<http://dogfunfest.com/>

The Frankenmuth Dog Bowl is everything dog. You will see vendors selling their various dog-related items, plus there will be an array of dog competitions that are always fun to watch or participate. Stop by and visit us in our booth! You won't be able to miss us. Our little white ambassadors will greet you as you walk by!

CRITICAL – PLEASE READ
THE FUTURE OF OUR CLUB IS AT STAKE!

(To be sure all are informed, this letter will be mailed to all Club members via US mail)

TO ALL CLUB MEMBERS, ACTIVE AND ASSOCIATE

Many years ago our Club was organized by a group of breeders as a means to support and encourage each other in breeding and showing Westies. Over time, many of the original members have gone on their separate ways and few of the current breeders in the Club are breeding and showing on an active basis. While our membership has increased, it has become largely a breed club made up of pet owners. The main emphasis in our Club has long been the organization and production of the annual Spring Specialty which just celebrated its 30th anniversary. As is the case generally, we have watched our entries drop to the point where we had just 16 dogs entered at this year's show. Due to the advertising efforts of some of our members and the presence of the Rescue parade and Rescue supporters, we maintained the attendance at this year's show and even were able to remain "in the black" financially. It is, however, a huge effort to put on this show and we have to wonder if we haven't reached a point where something needs to be done to either increase entries or simplify the efforts. This is especially true because much of the active membership have reached a place in their lives where they are less available and less able to continue this effort on their own.

At this month's meeting, we discussed the situation and several possibilities. Some of those are:

- Continue the annual show but make it part of the TCM show on the Friday of the Cluster.
 - o We would not be able to have the full activities and fundraisers that we have now; it would be more like the fall specialty which most of us don't even attend
 - o This means minimal fundraising however it also means minimal expenses
 - o Once we make this decision it will be difficult or impossible to reverse it if we find we don't like it.
- Continue the Club but discontinue the annual show entirely; make changes in meeting schedule to encourage a larger turnout at meetings
- Convert the Club to a social Club
- Disband the Club and give any assets to a 501c3.
- Continue as current but somehow find more younger workers and find ways to increase entries

At this meeting, we voted to continue the show for another year in its current form but to actively discuss the issue at all future meetings and come to a resolution at the completion of next year's show.

We are writing this letter to all of the membership to ask each of you, active and associates, to consider this issue seriously and attend future meetings to take part in this discussion and decision making. Please consider your own situation and how you, as an individual, might help carry the burden to make our Club more dynamic and active should the decision be to continue.

Please know that no one is taking this issue lightly but we do all feel we are clearly at a point where changes must be made. We would like all of the membership to be part of these decisions. Even though associates cannot vote, ideas may be offered and participation is encouraged.

Our next meeting will be the picnic meeting on July 11. And it is likely there will be discussion on the email list which all members are encouraged to join.

Board of Directors
WHWTCSEM

Email list: Contact Beth Widdows bew1234@sbcglobal.net with your email address to receive an invitation to join if you are not presently on the list.

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES *May 11, 2015*

Present: Susan Bloomfield, Jackie Curtis, Angela Evans, Josh Genaw, Janet Lindgren, Sue Peters, Gary Porrett, Adela Rivera, Bev Walker, Cathy Weishaupt, Beth Widdows

General Business

The March Club meeting was cancelled; therefore, there were no minutes to present.

- ❖ **Report of President** – No report
- ❖ **Report of Secretary** - No report
- ❖ **Report of Treasurer** – Angela Evans reported for Cathy Kelley what the current balance is in the Club’s checking account. Because of various fundraising events, the club is in the black. Beth Widdows motioned that the Club donate \$1,000 to the Westie Foundation. The motion was put to the floor, voted upon and passed unanimously.
- ❖ **Committee Reports**
 - Rescue and Education Corporation Reports** - Angela Evans gave Education’s financial report. Education continues to do well with various sale items. Beth Widdows suggested that Education place more ads throughout the year. Carole Beaudry currently places ads twice a year. A report for Rescue was not given. However, Carole Beaudry provided to the group email list her report for current dogs in care and dogs surrendered since the last report.
 - Specialty 2015** – After expenses, the Club netted \$500 at this year’s specialty (subject to change). Despite the low number of entries, the show was well attended by the general public. This was due to on line advertising, and especially, due to the article in the Observer Eccentric newspaper.
 - Specialty 2016** – Jackie Curtis volunteered to be Show Chair for 2016. Jackie indicated that Sherry Bittles will be Show Secretary. Jackie said she will not be able to attend the show, but that she will work with Sherry, assemble committees, etc.
 - AKC Compliance for 2016** – Bev Walker indicated that she had mailed the compliance letter to the AKC.
 - Monroe Fall Specialty 2015** - Angela Evans stated that Sherry Bittles has been communicating with Janet Lindgren, regarding judges for this show.
 - Club Fundraising** – Club Fundraising such as the Christmas candy sleighs, specialty show t-shirts and raffles have been very successful fundraisers for the Club. The candy sleighs and t-shirts were Adela Rivera’s ideas.
- Miscellaneous**
 - Wagtales** – Articles, pictures and any information are due by Monday, May 25, 2015.

Website – Angela Evans stated that a webmaster is needed for the club’s site. Volunteers would be appreciated. Beth Widdows indicated that Education’s site has not been managed in quite some time and there are many broken links. Beth has considered shutting down the site. Susan Bloomfield volunteered to review the site. Beth will assist Susan in showing her how to find the links.

Frankenmuth Dog Bowl – Sue Peters read the schedule for volunteers on Saturday, May 23 and Sunday, May 24. To date, there are plenty volunteers for Saturday. A few more volunteers are needed for Sunday. Adela Rivera will handle setting up the booth on Sunday. Beth Widdows will take care of tear down and, taking home the tables and canopy. At this event, fundraising is not held. Beth Widdows came up with the idea of handing out bags with Education’s logo on it to people who stop by the booth. Beth suggested to Sue Peters that she contact Marcia Reimer, who might design a bag that Education could use. Sue Peters suggested that Education use funds from its account to purchase giveaways at shows.

Summer Picnic – The picnic will take place at Bev Walker’s home in Fenton. The Club meeting will begin at 11 a.m., with the picnic to start at 1 p.m. Bev has contacted a party rental company that will set up and take down tables, chairs and a tent. The fee for their services is \$354. The Club will have a 50/50 raffle. Susan Bloomfield is going to set up and man the welcome table. Sue Peters will coordinate with Susan, regarding the doggie door prize and name tags.

Christmas Party 2015 – The date for this year’s Christmas Party is Sunday, December 6. Once it is closer to the date, further details will be provided. Sue Peters volunteered to chair the party. Sue announced that she will be assigning committees to assist with planning the party.

- ❖ **Club Membership** – An application for Associate membership was submitted by Melissa Tunison. Melissa’s application was read and then voted in as an Associate member. Josh Genaw was voted in as a new Active member. Josh is Adela Rivera’s nephew.
- ❖ **New Business** - Cathy Weishaupt will chair the nominating committee for 2016 Officer and Board positions. Susan Bloomfield and Adela Rivera are on the nominating committee.
- ❖ **Advertising** - Angela Evans presented an email from the publisher of the Michigan Canine Resource Guide 2016. This is publication that will be a resource guide for dog owners in Michigan. The publication will include a calendar of events, club listings, breeder listings and informational articles. Angela will contact the publisher for additional information.
- ❖ **Club Donations in Memoriam** - Angela Evans suggested the Club make donations, whether it be an arrangement or a monetary amount in memoriam, when an active member passes away. The Club previously voted to only send cards. After further discussion, the board members decided to continue with sending cards.
- ❖ **Unfinished Business – Participation in Club Activities** - Club events are almost always chaired and most of the work done by the same members. In order for the Club to continue holding events, other active and associate members are needed to participate. Along those lines, and also because of the number of entries at the spring show continuing to be low in the past few years; it was discussed whether or not the Club should continue as an AKC breed club (out of the current club breeders, only two are breeding), or become a social club; and if the Club should have a spring show in 2016. Beth Widdows suggested, and all members present, agreed that a letter should be drafted and then mailed to active and associate members, informing them of what the Club’s options are in order to continue as a viable Club.

Adjournment

Next Club Meeting
Saturday, July 11, 2015 at 11 a.m.
Bev Walker’s House in Fenton
Picnic at 1 p.m.

Attendance: Bev Walker, Beth Widdows, Angela Evans, Janet Lindgren, Gary Porrett, Cathy Weishaupt

- ❖ Reading of Minutes of last meeting were waived
- ❖ Report of President – None
- ❖ Report of Secretary - Angela Evans presented an email from the publisher of the Michigan Canine Resource Guide 2016. This is publication that will be a resource guide for dog owners in Michigan. The publication will include a calendar of events, club listings, breeder listings and informational articles. Angela will contact the publisher for additional information.
- ❖ Report of Treasurer – Angela Evans reported for Cathy Kelley that the club is in the black. The club netted a profit from the Spring Specialty. Beth Widdows motioned the Club make a donation of \$1,000 to Westie Foundation. Bev Walker seconded the motion. All attendees were in favor and the motion was passed.
- ❖ New Business - Future Status of the Club was discussed as outlined below:
 1. Whether to continue as a breeder club or become a social club;
 2. If the Club should have a spring specialty in 2016;
 3. The low number of entries at spring specialty and the reasons for such low numbers;
 4. Whether or not club should have its spring show with Progressive, or have a combined show with the Terrier Club of Michigan; and
 5. Participation in club events by club members, both active and associate.Beth Widdows recommended that a letter be drafted that sets forth these issues, and then mailed via the U.S. mail, to each active and associate member. The letter will also be printed in the next issue of Wagtales. This letter is important so that all members are aware of what the club's current situation is and its future as a breed club.
- ❖ Club Donations in Memoriam - Angela Evans suggested the Club make donations, whether it be an arrangement or a monetary amount in memoriam, when an active member passes away. The Club had previously voted to only send a card. After further discussion, the board members decided to continue with sending cards.

Adjournment



(Artist Unknown)