

Kennel Club of Fort Atkinson Celebrates 25 Years with Event October 29

Press Release

Oct. 15, 2017

The Kennel Club of Fort Atkinson (KCFA) marks its 25th anniversary in 2017. The club was founded in 1992 by Patty Beran, formerly of Fort Atkinson and now of Whitewater, and Rita Hasel and Marleen LaPlant, both of Fort Atkinson. The three started meeting in the parking lot of the Fort fire station to train their dogs, and they eventually decided to form a club.

The club has offered training at a variety of locations through the years, including upstairs above the municipal building, the gymnasium of the municipal building, the Norland Corp. building, and the former elementary school in Hebron. In 1996 the club moved to an upstairs space in the old Thomas Industries building just off North Main Street in Fort Atkinson. In 2003 the club moved to its current space on the ground floor of that building, occupying two brightly-decorated training rooms, a meeting room and storage areas.

Today the KCFA has 34 members and offers dog training classes, community education programs, and social activities for members. Training classes offered include Puppy Kindergarten, Basic Skills and Everyday Manners, Continuing Basic, Intermediate, and Rally Obedience. Enrollment is open to the public.

The club participates in community events including the Fort Atkinson Holiday Parade, the Furry Friends 5K fundraiser for the Humane Society of Jefferson County, the Gemutlichkeit Parade, and responsible dog ownership educational events. The annual KCFA Fun Match offers dogs and handlers the opportunity to practice or brush-up on their skills in preparation for official competitions. Several club members also make visits and presentations at schools, libraries, and senior living facilities with their certified therapy dogs.

The club recently spearheaded fundraising for, and coordination of, the K9 Veterans Memorial in McCoy Park, in partnership with the Friends of McCoy Park and the Fort Parks and Rec Department. In 2010, as a memorial to the late Marie Heinke, the club placed a sculpture and a water fountain with separate spigots for humans and dogs on the Glacial River Bike Trail.

In recognition of the club's 25th anniversary, members will host an informal gathering at Fort Atkinson's Legion Dugout on Sunday, October 29, from 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. Current KCFA students, former students, former members, and KCFA friends and family are invited to join the club's founders and current members for refreshments, memories and conversation.

The Kennel Club of Fort Atkinson is an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Meetings are open to the public and those interested in exploring membership are cordially invited to attend. For more information visit www.kcfadogs.org or call 920-568-0364 and leave a message.