

MDGA Board
November 16th, 2024 Meeting Minutes

President Shellie Gilbertson called the MDGA Board of Directors to order on Saturday, November 16. The meeting was held at the Howard Lake-Winsted-Waverly High School cafeteria following the annual fall conference.

Roll Call: Shellie Gilbertson, Lexy Heldt, Kelly Hovel, Rustianna Mechura, Cathy Prodoehl, and Kirsten Zoellner. Absent were Wendy Lawliss and Maggie Stensass.

Secretary Report: Due to the timing of the treasurer transition on November 1, the board approved the October report online on the MDGA Board page. The September report was also revisited and approved at this time due to a lack of vote at the last meeting.

The last board meeting was held October 26 virtually. During the show committee reports, Gilbertson requested a new MDGA National Show Committee Representative. In regards to the Public Relations/Marketing Committee, control of the website going forward was a concern as board member and webmaster Wendy Lawliss' term on the board is ending. Lawliss agreed to stay on as webmaster, however only she has access to the site, not the board.

In regular business, the board approved Prodoehl as the new treasurer following Laura Kieser's resignation earlier in the year. Promotions will run announcing the new treasurer and thanking Kieser for her years of service. The Nominating Committee is contacting potential nominees for the expiring board seats. Voting will be done online this year and ballots are due December 1. The board accepted keeping the annual membership dues at the same rate, but will review them at the organizational meeting in January.

Lastly, the board discussed the future of the GGG given the sharing of information via social media, website, and email. It is increasingly difficult to find volunteers to work on its publication. The GGG requirements are covered by the bylaws and any proposed change would have to be announced to the membership and voted on at the general meeting. The board will put out a request via social media and email to the membership regarding a poll about the future of the GGG.

Treasure Report: Prodoehl reviewed the month's reconcile sheet with the board and made note of a few small items that needed to be zeroed out from previous years. The items did have a papertrail for recordkeeping. Motion to reconcile the Quickbooks and approve the report by Hovel. The motion was seconded by Heldt. It was approved unanimously.

Prodoehl also requested a minimal spending allowance each month for administrative needs and supplies. Motion to approve up to a \$50 stipend, with receipts, by Mechura. The motion was seconded by Hovel. It was approved unanimously.

Prodoehl requested board direction on reimbursement for mileage for Outstanding Youth William Carlson. Carlson submitted a bill for mileage to the state state show, state fair, fall conference, and the national convention. After deliberation on which federal rate to use, the board compromised on \$.35/per mile reimbursement, one-way, for the show, fair, conference, and not for the convention as Carlson was not asked to attend in the capacity of the MDGA Outstanding Youth. The board will consider modifying the bylaws clarifying the reimbursements at the federal volunteer/charitable rate as the MDGA is documented as a charitable corporation.

Motion by Heldt to approve the reimbursement rate for this instance for the Outstanding Youth and the ADGA Youth Rep. The motion was seconded by Prodoehl. It was approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

- Show: Shellie and Lexy
 - Gilbertson noted all requested judges have committed to the show and one has returned the contract. Judges are Sarah Hazeltine, Scott Horner, and Jennifer Lohman Peterson. The cost for the facility is \$1800 and set up/take down are covered. MDGA will be responsible for removing garbage. Shavings for the arena will be an additional stipend, roughly \$100-200. Stall shavings will be purchased separately by entrants. The board may host a meal for the MDGA members-only during the show weekend and a pizza party for members after the general membership meeting May 31. Prodoehl made a motion to approve paying a \$900 deposit. It was seconded by Heldt. It was approved unanimously.

Youth group classes will be removed from the show lineup in 2025. Education on group classes may be a future youth topic at the fall conference.

- Public Relations & Marketing: Kirsten, Wendy
 - Promotions: The board noted good feedback on the social media communication.
 - Website: Mechura noted the status of the website control. She expressed concern with only one admin and access which could result in the association losing control of the site and possibly the domain. Zoellner noted webmaster Wendy Lawliss provided her 'viewer' access, but that the access logins did not work. She stated the board should have access to the website as a safety measure.
- Development: Kirsten, Wendy, Cathy
 - Futurity, Production Awards, and other forms including Outstanding Youth, Board of Directors ballots, and others were created in Jotform. Zoellner noted this was likely for ease of accessibility and available functionality. The price is comparable to other options. An annual subscription to Jotform is available for a limited time at a 50% price reduction. Hovel made a motion to approve an. It was seconded by Heldt. The motion was approved unanimously.
- Education: Maggie, Lexy (youth)
 - Fall Conference: Heldt felt the youth portion of the conference, particularly the hands-on portions, were well received.
- Youth: Lexie and Kelly
 - Youth Education: Heldt thought an added event in the spring, geared for the youth only, would be a good addition to education.
 - Youth involvement: Zoellner asked whether any youth had ever been involved in the committees. A promotion seeking members to serve on volunteer committees will go out after the new year. Gilbertson said the youth reps/Outstanding Youth in other states attend the association board meetings.

- Organizational: Budget & Bylaw
 - Roles & responsibilities: Gilbertson urged board members serving as officers or on committees to update their list of responsibilities related to each role or committee for a standard of practice for new board members.
 - Board of Directors election: Zoellner noted online ballots are due on December 1 and the results should be officially canvassed by the board. She will post them on the board Facebook page for official approval.
- Historian: Kirsten & Lexy
 - Records: Heldt noted difficulty in obtaining the historical documents from the Maefsky family. Zoellner suggested that be set aside for the time being and the board focus on having a good record going forward. The Heldt family, Marge Kitchen, and Karyl Dronen also have materials for the board.
 - GGG Poll: The board will need to determine the future of the GGG going forward. Gilbertson previously noted difficulty in getting volunteers to assist or serve as editor for the publication. Zoellner has a poll promotion ready to go after the first of the year. If discontinuing it, the board will need to present it to the members as a change to the bylaws and secure a vote at the general membership meeting in May.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- None

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Hovel. Motion was seconded by Heldt. It was approved unanimously. The annual organizational meeting is scheduled for January.