

MDGA Board  
January 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes

President Shellie Gilbertson called the MDGA Board of Directors to order on Saturday, January 25. The meeting was held at the Zumbrota Public Library.

Roll Call: Shellie Gilbertson, Kelly Hovel, Rustiana Merchura, Cathy Prodoehl, Laura Ripley, and Theresa Smith. Absent were Kathy McLaughlin, Maggie Stensass, and Kirsten Zoellner.

Secretary Report: Motion to approve the November minutes by Hovel. Motion seconded by Prodoehl. The motion passed unanimously.

The last board meeting was held November 16 following the fall conference. During the treasurer's report, Prodoehl requested a minimal spending allowance each month for administrative needs and supply. Discussion was also included regarding the official amount for reimbursement for mileage. The board will propose modifying the bylaws clarifying the reimbursements at the federal volunteer/charitable rate at the general membership meeting.

During committee reports, show chair 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. Youth group classes will be removed from the show lineup in 2025. In regards to the Public Relations/Marketing Committee, control of the website with only one admin could result in the association losing control of the site and possibly the domain. The board felt they should have access to the website as a safety measure. The board approved an annual subscription to Jotform for the Development Committee for Futurity and Production Award entries. It will be used for other forms including Outstanding Youth, Board of Directors ballots, and polls.

Board members serving as officers or on committees will update their list of responsibilities related to each role or committee for a standard of practice for new board members. Online ballots are due on December 1 and the results will be canvassed by the board. Obtaining historical documents will be set aside for the time being in favor of maintaining a good record going forward. The board will determine the future of the GGG publication via a poll to the membership and a potential membership vote at the general meeting in May.

Treasurer Report: Prodoehl noted this year, the board needs to find a way to better determine itemized costs for the conference and the state show as entries are listed as a lump sum per individual. For the treasurer role, Prodoehl recommended the board continue to look for a long-term treasurer as she cannot dedicate as much time to the role as anticipated due to other shifts in her life. Gilbertson noted the board has been pulling non-treasurer responsibilities out of what was generously done by previous treasurer Laura Kieser. An audit will be done in February.

Previous treasurer Laura Kieser needs to be paid \$240 for the role in 2024. Motion to pay Kiese and approve the report by Smith. Motion seconded by Mechura. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### Committee Reports

- Show:
  - Gilbertson stated the state show is paperwork ready to go. Ribbons will be delivered by May 1. Judge Scott Horner will need his airfare paid. Smith will chair the raffle table again this year and will need volunteers to help. A set up crew will be needed and there will be two different set up times a few weeks before the show. A clean up crew will also be needed. A costume class for youth.
  - Show fees: Proposed fees for 2025 include \$7/head/ring registration, \$10/head/ring late registration, and youth registration of \$4/head. Proposed pen fees are \$7/pen. The board proposed member eligibility for a \$12 discount on total show fees. Bedding fee, for those that want it, is to be decided. The fairgrounds where the show is held has its own fees which are listed on their website. The MDGA has no control over these fees. Motion by Hovel to accept the fees. Motion seconded by Smith. The motion passed unanimously.
  
- Public Relations & Marketing:
  - Website: Gilbertson asked the board what was wanted and expected from the website. Following discussion from the previous meeting, Lawliss is the current webmaster and the person with access. She also expressed disappointment with the website and noted she gets no response from Lawliss about the site. Mechura noted the website should be the most complete source for MDGA information. It was recommended Lawliss provide full access to the website and Gilbertson noted it was requested and not provided. Rippley said one issue to consider is that MDGA pays for the platform usage. Prodoehl will contact Lawliss about giving website access.
  - New logo: Member responses to the proposed logos were presented by Gilbertson. Motion by Prodoehl to accept the proposed logo choices. Motion seconded by Smith. The motion passed unanimously.
  
- Development:
  - Futurity: The deadline for futurity entries is January 31. The board is still waiting to hear back from the state fair board about the addition of Sables to this year's fair. Sable Futurity entries may be considered.
  
- Education:
  - No update
  
- Youth:
  - No update
  
- Organizational, Finance, & Operations:
  - Responses to the MDGA poll regarding the future of the GGG indicate a desire to end the publication of the GGG, moving communication to electronic form. The board will need to. Motion by Rippley to put the potential bylaw change to a

membership vote at the general membership meeting May 31. Motion seconded by Mechura. The motion passed unanimously.

- Board officers & committees: The board nominated Gilbertson to remain president, Hovel to remain vice president, and Zoellner to remain secretary. Motion by Rippley to accept the nominations. Motion seconded by Prodoehl. The motion passed unanimously.
  - There will be three in-person board meetings in 2025: the January organizational meeting, the general membership meeting at the state show in May, and on Labor Day at the state fair. There will be three other meetings held virtually during the year. The dates and times are to be decided but it was recommended they be held the second Saturday of the month at 3:30 p.m.
- Historian:
    - No update

#### New Business

- Donations for 2025: The board discussed annual donation recipients and amounts. Hovel made a motion to approve \$850 to the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Associations, \$250 to FFA, and \$300 to the Minnesota State Fair. The motion was seconded by Smith. The motion passed unanimously.
- Premier Youth Goat Sale Sponsorship: A request was received from Seena Glessing for a donation to the youth sale. Motion by Smith to approve a \$550 donation. The motion was seconded by Rippley. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Hovel. Motion was seconded by Rippley. It was approved unanimously.