

MDGA Board
September 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes

President Shellie Gilbertson called the MDGA Board of Directors to order on Monday, September 2. The meeting was held both in person in the Dairy Goat Superintendent's office at the state fair and virtually via Messenger.

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

Secretary Report: Motion by Heldt to approve the report from August 24. Motion seconded by Stensass. It was approved unanimously.

The last board meeting was on June 29. Agenda topics included planning for the fall conference. Lexy Heldt is heading up the organization and will start a group messenger chat with all who volunteered to assist with planning. Heldt also provided an update of the youth portion of the state show and Gilbertson provided a summary of the remainder of the show. The board also briefly discussed state fair plans.

Treasurer Laura Kieser tendered her resignation, effective December 31 or when the board appoints a replacement. The board discussed past appointment procedures. Prodoehl offered to serve as treasurer if no one else could be found. The board will post the open position to see what other interest there is in the role. An audit will be done during the transition.

Treasurer Report: Report will be considered at the next meeting. Motion to table by the report by Stensass. Motion seconded by Heldt. It was approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

- Show: Shellie and Lexy
 - Gilbertson said the state show is set to be held in Preston on May 31 to June 1. The location was changed due to facility issues, lack of pen space, and lack of volunteer help from the area. The date was changed after ongoing discussions with organizers of all shows from Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa. The Quad City show organizers did not participate in the discussions and unfortunately scheduled their show the same weekend as the MDGA show. She believes they moved their show due to the timeframe of the national show and stated they did not have a show in 2023 because of it. Heldt noted there may be a risk of low attendance, but Gilbertson noted there are several big herds from Wisconsin that are planning to attend. Seena Glessing has offered to host the show in Howard Lake in 2026 and possibly 2027. Heldts will continue to run the youth show. The show order will remain the same with youth exhibiting the morning of the 31 with the junior show to follow. Seniors will show the morning of June 1.
- Public Relations & Marketing: Kirsten, Wendy
 - Zoellner noted everything has been going smoothly. Both she and Gilbertson stated there have been many positive comments from members.
- Development: Kirsten, Wendy, Cathy

- Gilbertson provided an update on Futurity feedback with the consensus from members and participants that it remains at the state fair. Emily Thompson is the Futurity chairwoman and also recommends keeping it at the current show and to keep it a three year-old doe futurity program. Gilbertson added that more education about the program and how to participate is needed. The futurity entry deadline is January 31 of each year.
- Education: Maggie, Lexy (youth)
 - Stensass updated the board regarding education at the state fair. A schedule of presentations at the dairy goat booth was published in the fair schedule, but a lack of microphone hindered the presentations. Stensass also noted the banner and brochures designed last year were missing. Zoellner suggested MDGA items from the state fair be collected and kept in designated storage bins like fall conference and state show items. The board discussed several ideas for further engagement between the MDGA and fairgoers. Suggested by Stensass was a spin wheel with facts about dairy goats. She also suggested prizes for the wheel and scavenger hunt such as pens or paper fans with goat heads on them. Zoellner suggested a wooden Polaroid-looking frame where fairgoers can take their photo. It would have a hashtag and interactive QR code for scanning that would highlight the MDGA. Gilbertson suggested something to incorporate breeds of goats and information about them. Zoellner suggested hanging double-sided banners with the information.
- Youth: Lexie and Kelly
 - Heldt is planning the youth events at the fall conference including more hands-on showmanship. Gilbertson noted that planned activities include a 4-H youth teaching about ruminants, goat butchering, and butter making. She suggested having state 4-H winners come in the future to help, drawing in more youth to the program. Stensass and Gilbertson suggested a practice interview and project quiz bowl with prizes.
- Organizational: Budget & Bylaw
 - Zoellner reminded the board that officer and committee descriptions need to be updated before the end of the year.
- Historian: Kirsten & Lexy
 - Heldt is talking with the Maefsky family to organize a time to get the historic documents. Zoellner stated the board needs to come up with a plan for how it will be sorted and compiled. She suggested some of the photos should be printed large for displaying at the state fair to show the association's history. Stensass suggested the MDGA could create banners to display past winners.

Old Business

- Fall Conference
 - The board discussed the tentative schedule and the need for speakers. Zoellner will talk to her vet, who is a member, to see if she's willing to speak. Heldt was unable to find someone to speak about fecal testing. Topics of possible interest include parasite control, supplements, AI, ultrasound, Avian Influenza. A save the

date is up on the public and group pages. Zoellner noted the goal should be to publish a save the date in September and have a schedule shared by October 1. Gilbertson suggested having something to share at the national convention.

- New Treasurer
 - There have been no new respondents interested in the position. Prodoehl has expressed interest if no one else is interested. Treasurer Laura Kieser tendered her resignation to be done before the end of the year, but prefers to be done before the fall conference. The board will need time for an audit and considered putting a temporary treasurer in place for now and to keep searching. No board action was taken.
- Futurity Awards
 - Motion by Stensass to keep the Futurity program at the state fair. Motion seconded by Heldt. It was approved unanimously.

New Business

- Rental fee for the state fair sheep booth
 - This amount must be paid the weekend of the state fair and is done annually. Gilbertson requested the board approve a \$75 payment to cover the cost. There was no official board action, but the treasurer will draft a check for the payment.
- Production Awards Ceremony
 - Zoellner noted eight herds submitted records and that the new system and communication worked well. All certificates are printed and ready to be presented. Gilbertson asked about confusion on fair entry day. Zoellner explained that Mark Boorsma and Diana Miels were included in the discussion regarding changes to Production Awards and that the State Fair Premium Book entry was changed to have a July 31 deadline. No submissions are to be expected on entry day per the premium book deadline since everything was already tabulated and printed. She added that it was a great team effort. No board action was taken.
- Rookie of the Year
 - There was not a winner chosen in 2023. Historically, the board has selected one new show person each year and awarded them with a one-year MDGA membership. This year, the four new show persons are Heidi and Jason Benson, Maggie McLaughlin, Grace Beryl, and the Myers family. The board selected McLaughlin.
- Ambassador Award
 - Zoellner suggested a new award to highlight a member show person who supports others, is encouraging, and represents the industry. The board decided to call it the G.O.A.T. (Greatest of All Time) Award and to give the chosen winner a fun tee-shirt every year. The board chose Lawrence Marquette as this year's winner.

- Sables at the state fair
 - Zoellner stated Boormsa had requested an MDGA opinion on whether or not Sables should be added to the breeds shown at the state fair. While the MDGA opinion has no relevance to the state fair board decision, he wanted to know the board's thoughts on it. This year, the fair board said it was too short of a timeline and that there was no budget for it; but to plan for 2025. According to Zoellner, Boorsma indicated that while he's for it, there's some "baggage" that comes with it such as a risk of pushing other breeders out due to full capacity. She noted there's a registration timeline and it's a participant's responsibility to be sure it's met timely. Gilbertson noted the barns were not filled the last two to three years, but it is full this year. She added that the discussion has been going on for a year and Sable breeders are going to want to know. The board took no action but the consensus was all breeds should be represented. They will discuss further if needed.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Heldt. Motion seconded by Stensass. It was approved unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled for October.