

MDGA Board

June 29th, 2024 Meeting Minutes

President Shellie Gilbertson called the MDGA Board of Directors to order on Saturday, June 29. The meeting was held both in person at the Covered Bridge Restaurant in Zumbrota and virtually via Messenger.

Roll Call: Shellie Gilbertson, Lexy Heldt, Rustianna Mechura, Cathy Prodoehl, and Kirsten Zoellner. (Note: There were connectivity issues with the virtual platform)

Secretary Report: Motion by Heldt to amend the board members present at the last meeting to remove herself from attendance. Motion seconded by Prodoehl. It was approved unanimously.

The last board meeting was on May 25. The meeting was held following the conclusion of the junior doe shows at the Best of the Midwest state show. Agenda topics included consideration of changes regarding the Outstanding Youth Award, the Production Awards, and other proposed bylaw changes as presented to the membership. During committee reports, those in attendance learned the details of the changes, which had been posted in the GGG and at the show. All changes were approved unanimously.

Potential locations of the upcoming state shows were presented to the membership, as well as a date change. The board will vote on these soon. Plans for the fall conference also continue. More details will be coming.

Treasurer Report: No report submitted.

Committee Reports

- Show: Shellie and Lexy
 - Show summary: Heldt felt the youth show went well and ran smoothly, but some assistance is needed to help organize the youth group classes more efficiently. Mechura stated it was worth continuing group classes as a learning experience. Gilbertson suggested further education regarding group classes, noting it's an opportunity for the fall conference. She also suggested having two judges for the group classes with them consulting at the end to select the best. Comments asking for a four-ring show were received, but there are too many challenges upping the number of rings while still doing a youth show. Gilbertson reminded the board that show locations are giving a discount due to MDGA incorporating youth events. Starting the junior show earlier could also help. Locations want all animals penned the day prior for legal/insurance issues so an early start is an option. They are continuing to work on securing judges for 2025 and 2026.
- Public Relations & Marketing: Kirsten, Wendy
- Development: Kirsten, Wendy, Cathy
 - Production Awards: Zoellner stated the JotForm and marketing promos are ready.

- Education: Maggie, Lexy (youth)
 - State Fair education promotions: Gilbertson updated the board on this area. While several things have been considered, there was difficulty in securing scavenger hunt rewards and other potential items.
- Youth: Lexie and Kelly
 - Outstanding Youth: The application and guidelines were updated and published. All documents will be shared in the board's Google Drive for review. Gilbertson noted there will be a presentation at the state fair awards ceremony.
- Organizational: Budget & Bylaw
 - Bylaws: The newly revised and approved bylaws were published on the website.
- Historian: Kirsten & Lexy
 - Historical documents: Zoellner will work with Heldt to find a time to pick up the items and begin the sorting process.

Old Business

- Follow up on general membership meeting: No discussion.
- Fall Conference
 - Gilbertson will start a messenger chat with all who volunteered to help organize the conference. Seena Glessing has helped secure the location. Heldt and Gilbertson are working to lock down speakers/presenters. Goat meat processing, fecal testing, a buck collection demo, and a showmanship clinic have been previously discussed. Other previous conference topics included a fecal testing demo, an AI demo, and an ultrasound demo. Heldt noted youth items are difficult without some hands-on activities with goats. Gilbertson also mentioned a semen raffle was done one year. These fit with the topics of AI and buck collection. Mechura suggested covering milk testing and futurity as topics. Prodoehl added that covering milk testing would fit well with the MDGA's efforts to promote Production Awards. Gilbertson also noted that DNA sampling was previously done and received well by attendees. More classroom topics are being sought and the details will be in place soon.

New Business

- Treasurer Laura Kieser tendered her resignation, effective December 31 or when the board appoints a replacement.
- Appointment process
 - Gilbertson noted Kieser has served for many years and picked up a lot of slack the last few years, beyond her job responsibilities, noting, "Some of it just fell on her lap." Prodoehl has offered to serve as treasurer and has a background in accounting. The board will post the open position on its website and social media to see if there's any other interest in the role. The board will conduct a background check on candidates and an audit will be done during the transition.
- State Fair
 - Board responsibilities at the state fair include handing out awards and taking photos, including Production Award and Futurity winners.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Heldt. Motion seconded by Mechura. It was approved unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled for September 2.