

MDGA Board
October 26th, 2024 Meeting Minutes

President Shellie Gilbertson called the MDGA Board of Directors to order on Saturday, October 26. The meeting was held virtually via Messenger.

Roll Call: Shellie Gilbertson, Lexy Heldt, Kelly Hovel, Wendy Lawliss, Rustianna Mechura, Cathy Prodoehl, and Kirsten Zoellner

Secretary Report: Tabled due to technical issues. The report will be considered online via the MDGA Board page.

Treasure Report: Due to transition of treasurer position, the report will be considered online via MDGA Board page.

The last board meeting was held September 2 at the state fair. Recurring agenda items included the selection of a new treasurer. There have been no respondents interested. Cathy Prodoehl has offered to do it if no one else comes forward. The board may need to put a temporary person in the position and keep searching. The location of Futurity awards was also discussed in old business and the board approved keeping it at state fair for consistency and following the recommendation of Futurity Chairwoman Emily Thompson.

In new business, the board approved the annual rental fee for the state fair sheep booth. An update on the Production Awards program was provided. The changes rolled out this year have been effective and efficient. The board chose Maggie McLaughlin as the Rookie of the Year winner. They also created the new G.O.A.T. Award and chose Lawrence Marquette as the winner. A recommendation from the MDGA Board was given to State Fair Superintendent Mark Boorsma to allow Sables at the show.

Committee Reports

- Show: Shellie and Lexy
 - State Show: Gilbertson informed the board that the judges are selected and everything is in place with the \$1800 rental fees and youth show changes. The board will need to consider judges' lodging. The show committee will need to find volunteers to assist with pen setup, but clean up will be provided. There is plenty of camping available, restrooms in the camping area and in the arena, room for 100 more pens than were available last year, and concessions are being looked at. The three judges potentially lined up are Scott Horner, Jennifer Lohman Peterson, and Sarah Hazeltine. Their contracts still need to be signed. Gilbertson is seeking specialty shows for Nigerian and Nubian since their numbers are typically the highest. The committee is going to try to secure enough Oberhasli and sables. Tentative judges for 2026 are Travis and Cade Cockburn, and Tom Considine. Judges' costs are typically \$1000-1500 including transportation, lodging, and food.
 - A National Show MDGA Committee representative is needed for next year. The work includes making a MDGA basket and gathering donations, communicating

with the ADGA representatives, getting photos, and making a collage for the ADGA website, and arranging to get the basket to the show.

- Public Relations & Marketing: Kirsten, Wendy
 - Gilbertson questioned the website control going forward since Lawliss' term on the board concludes at the end of this year. Lawliss said she is happy to stay on as webmaster. Gilbertson questioned who has access to putting information on the site and whether there was a way to update it and keep the domain. Lawliss stated there is only one person with access.
 - Gilbertson provided an update as the ADGA National Convention MDGA representative. Over 300 people were served while the MDGA hosted the hospitality suite. She indicated people were impressed and "knew Minnesota wouldn't let them down." There were many donations. The money spent was a good investment as many are now coming to the fall conference.
- Development: Kirsten, Wendy, Cathy
 - Futurity: Gilbertson reminded the board that a decision regarding the futurity program was approved at the last meeting. The location, new JotForm entry, deadline, requirements, and promotions are all set. More information will be coming and the board needs to continue to educate the members about the program.
 - Production Awards: Zoellner stated the state fair ceremony for the awards went well. Gilbertson noted comments of appreciation from members.
- Education: Maggie, Lexy (youth)
 - Fall Conference: The details, topics, expenses, and fees are all being monitored. University of Minnesota is not able to do an Udder Health Seminar, so the conference organizers will need to look at additional options. Gilbertson suggested Dr. Cindy Wolf who presented on CAE, OPP, and the Avian Flu at the national convention noting that biosecurity is a big topic right now. Gilbertson will also contact Seena Glessing who's arranging the buck collection with Xcell Genetics to see how it's progressing. New ADGA Alternate Youth Representative Alyssa Shisler will come to talk with the youth. Fees for the conference were discussed by the conference committee. A \$250 donation will be made to the Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted FFA group for set up and cleaning. Promotions for the conference are ready and underway. Prodoehl will track the numbers, including raffle items on a sign-up sheet for raffle table organizer Theresa Smith. Large item raffle tickets will be tracked with a QR code.
- Youth: Lexie and Kelly
 - No update
- Organizational: Budget & Bylaw
 - Bylaws: Gilbertson highlighted positive feedback on the updated Bylaws. Three organizations have contacted the MDGA to request to use the bylaws as a model for their organization.
 - Insurance: This renews next year and the policy will need to be updated. The new board will need to review an itemized checklist in January.

- Officer/Committee Responsibilities: These will need to be updated in the shared MDGA Google Drive before the handoff from current to new board members.
- Historian: Kirsten & Lexy
 - Gilbertson stated The Minnesota Goat Ladies have items.

Old Business

- New treasurer
 - Motion by Gilbertson to nominate Prodoehl as the new treasurer. Motion seconded by Lawliss. It was approved unanimously. A promo will run on social media introducing Cathy and thanking Laura Kieser for her tenure as treasurer.

New Business

- Board Terms
 - Lawliss has completed her two terms on the board. Both Cynthia Rico and Lexy Heldt will not be completing a second term. There are several candidates that have expressed interest and the Nominating Committee is still contacting others. Gilbertson suggested having different breeds and areas of the state represented. Bios and photos are needed of candidates. Voting will be done online this year and ballots are due December 1.
- Membership fees
 - 2024 fees were \$17.50 if paid before Feb 1st and \$20 after. Because the enrollment form is already receiving submissions, the price will remain the same this year. The board will consider the fees for 2026 at the first organizational board meeting of 2025.
- GGG
 - The board considered the current needs of the membership including whether or not the publishing of the GGG needs to continue 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.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Heldt. Motion was seconded by Zoellner. It was approved unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled for late November.