

MDGA Annual Membership Meeting Agenda May 31, 2025

President Shellie Gilbertson called the annual meeting to order on Saturday, May 31 at the Fillmore County Fairgrounds, Preston, Minn., following the conclusion of the Best of the Midwest junior doe show.

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

Secretary Report (read file in agenda folder): Motion to approve the report by Kelly Hovel. Motion seconded by Stensass. The motion was approved unanimously.

Treasure Report (read in email from treasurer): Motion to approve the report by Zoellner. Motion seconded by Mechura. The motion was approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

Gilbertson noted the board is always looking for more committee members from within our membership. Anyone who wants to volunteer can “jump in” at any time on any committee.

- Show:
 - Gilbertson asked for thoughts on a show location for 2026. The options include repeating the show at the Fillmore County Fairgrounds or hosting it in Howard Lake. The weekend of May 30-31, 2026 is available in Preston. Pricing for the Fillmore County Fairgrounds was \$1800 with a reduced rate due to the youth show. Zoellner noted six exhibitors and one judge tell her they enjoyed the Fillmore County Fairgrounds and would like to have it at the same location again. There were 100 goats penned in 2024 in Sauk Centre. Over 200 goats were penned in Preston this year. Motion to host the show in Preston in 2026 by Hovel. The motion was seconded by member Morgan Allen. The motion was approved unanimously.
- Public Relations & Marketing:
 - A merchandise pre-order with the newly rebranded logos kicked off April 30. To date, order minimums have still not been met. Zoellner requested those wanting items to submit a pre-order. Once they are, those on the list will be contacted and invoiced for payment and the items delivered throughout following events.

Gilbertson asked the membership about communication and if the information has been too little or too much. There was a positive comment about the Facebook page. Gilbertson asked if anyone had checked out the new website which launched May 5 and the responses indicated yes.
- Development:
 - Futurity: There were 83 doe kids nominated in 2025, representing 13 herds and all breeds. Futurity nominations were opened to Sables until March 31 and there were two additional does entered. Gilbertson noted Sables were allowed to go up to three-year olds since it was a new addition.
- Education:

- State Fair: Member Lauren Zoellner is working on a number of new promotional items, which were approved at the last board meeting. Gilbertson noted there will be items, including a spin wheel and new scavenger hunt, to keep people, especially youth, interested.
- Fall Conference: Goodhue County Fairgrounds is booked for October 4. We have the use of the arena and 4-H building. The committee is looking for information on what members want to see whether classroom or hands-on. The board discussed doing a pre-TC training if the MDGA can get it. It would allow 25 people to get their judges training. Zoellner noted if anyone did not respond to the interest poll following the conference last year, they can email her at any time with ideas and she will pass them on to the committee.
- Youth:
 - The Outstanding Youth application for 2026 is live on Jotform and will be accepted until July 31, 2025. It will be presented at the state fair awards ceremony.
- Organizational, Finance & Operations:
 - The board is still seeking a new treasurer. If anyone is interested, they're advised to contact the board.
- Historian:
 - Gilbertson stated the board is trying to get all our historical records from Poplar Hills, but it's been a difficult process due to logistics and health issues.

New Business

- Proposed change to the bylaws regarding the continuation of the Gopher Goat Gossip.: The proposed to strike Article XIII, regarding the newsletter, from the bylaws. A poll was taken online last year to determine the future of the GGG. The membership was notified both by email and on social media about the poll and the potential change. More members were in favor of discontinuing the GGG than not. Gilbertson indicated people are getting more information from the Facebook page, emails from the MDGA, and the website, and not the GGG.

Anna Thompson Hajdik suggested instead of completely discontinuing the GGG, the board suspended it for the foreseeable future instead. She indicated it was a big thing to cease it completely. The publication was part of the initial founding of the MDGA. She suggested there might be someone down the road who wants to invigorate it. Gilbertson noted the board is saving all information shared digitally to be included in the historical records. She added that it's a huge undertaking and time investment. A motion to change the wording in the bylaws to allow suspension of the GGG for the foreseeable future was made by Anna Thompson Hajdik. It was seconded by Stensass. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Zoellner. The motion was seconded by member Emily Thompson. It was approved unanimously.