

MDGA Board  
March 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes

President Shellie Gilbertson called the MDGA Board of Directors to order on Saturday, March 15. The meeting was held digitally.

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

Secretary Report: Approved unanimously by the board via Facebook March 17. Motion by Hovel. Motion seconded by McLaughlin.

The last board meeting was held in person at the Zumbrota Public Library on January 25. This was the annual organizational meeting. During the treasurer's report, current treasurer Cathy Prodoehl suggested the board continue to look for a new long-term treasurer.

During committee reports, the board approved fees for 2025. They also discussed the website and the lack of access and updates. It was recommended that webmaster Wendy Lawliss provide full access to the website. Prodoehl will contact Lawliss about giving website access to the association.

A new logo was officially approved following a member poll. The new MDGA and Best of the Midwest logos will roll out immediately. 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 voted to put the potential bylaw change to a vote at the general membership meeting May 31.

Board officers & committees: The board nominated Gilbertson to remain president, Hovel to remain vice president, and Zoellner to remain secretary.

Treasurer Report: (read in email from treasurer) Motion by Smith to approve the report. Motion seconded by Hovel. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Committee Reports

- Show: Gilbertson stated the show is officially sanctioned for all breeds as of March 15. The show was awarded the District IV Nubian Specialty, but she has not heard back regarding application for the Nigerian Dwarf Specialty. of 3/15/25. Zoellner is updating the show setup and entry through the Showman app. Shavings will be delivered to the show. Setup volunteers are Gilbertson, Hovel, Prodoehl, Ripley, and Zoellner.
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- Public Relations & Marketing:
  - Website: Zoellner provided clarification on issues as she was absent at the January meeting and felt things had been misrepresented. Stensass suggested a deadline for Lawliss to provide editor/admin access to the association or the board will take further action. Gilbertson email Lawliss and give one week to provide access.

- MDGA merchandise: Committee volunteer Lauren Zoellner provided the board with a proposal for MDGA merchandise with the new branding. The board suggested a pre-order form only. If minimums are not met to place orders, a new request can be made to the board and the item revisited before the state fair. Gilbertson made a motion for a pre-order form for t-shirts and sweatshirts only to be published. Rippley seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
- Development:
  - Futurity: Sables were added to the state fair entries and the MDGA will add them to nominations for futurity. Zoellner created a jotform specifically for Sables and it is active. The deadline to submit is March 31.
  - Production Awards: No updates
- Education:
  - State Fair: Lauren Zoellner put forth a promotion proposal for the goat info booth at the state fair. It includes a photo booth for fairgoers and a prize wheel. Zoellners will also update the scavenger hunt activities. Smith made a motion to approve the proposal up to \$400. Rippley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
  - Fall Conference: Mechura is the point person for this year's conference and she has created a planning chat group. The board discussed hosting a pre-TC judges training this year. They compared the cost and requirements of a full training and the pre-TC training. Mechura suggested the board contact Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted FFA about hosting again and expressed concern about benefit to the larger membership with a full judges training. Hovel questioned whether the board should alternate the usual on-site conference with the training or something else. Goats would need to be provided and in milk in October, and the location would need to be near an airport. Gilbertson will look into it more.
- Youth: Zoellner made a motion to appoint Gilbertson as the Youth Advisor. Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
- Organizational, Finance & Operations:
  - Insurance: The MDGA policy has been updated to provide insurance to the Mid-Minnesota Classic and the Bluff Country shows. The cost for each policy rider is \$20. Zoellner made a motion to pay the \$20 for each show's coverage. Hovel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
  - Officer/Committee Responsibilities:
    - Show Committee: Gilbertson, Prodoehl
    - Public Relations & Marketing: Zoellner, Prodoehl, Lawliss, Lauren Zoellner
    - Development: Zoellner, Rippley, Prodoehl
      - Production Awards, Futurity: Emily Thompson (chair), Smith

- Education: Stensass
- Youth: Gilbertson, Hovel, McLaughlin
- Organizational, Finance, & Operations: Mechura
- Historian - Zoellner
- Conference - Mechura, Smith, Zoellner

- Historian: No updates

#### New Business

- Grant proposal support request for study from Anna Thompson-Hadjik: Motion made by Gilbertson. Motion seconded by Mechura. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### Old Business

- National Show basket representative: Stensass noted that Laura Moore has volunteered for this position.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Gilbertson. Motion was seconded by Zoellner. It was approved unanimously.