

MDGA Board
September 1, 2025 Meeting Minutes

President Shellie Gilbertson called the MDGA Board of Directors to order on Monday, September 1. The meeting was held in the dairy goat superintendent's office at the Minnesota State Fair.

Roll Call: Shellie Gilbertson, Kathy McLaughlin, Cathy Prodoehl, Theresa Smith, Maggie Stensass, and Kirsten Zoellner.

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

At the August meeting, the board discussed several items during committee reports. These included the 2026 Best of the Midwest show. The board voted to move forward with securing the Fillmore County Fairgrounds for the show. They also approved adding on additional items to the merchandise pre-order to bring the per item charges down with the intention of selling the extra items at shows and conferences. Fall conference planning will continue.

In state fair related discussions, it was noted that both the Futurity and Production Awards details are lined up. Several promotional items are being planned and the board approved ordering prizes. Biosecurity measures will be taken for goats on display. The board is also looking into a portable microphone for use at the goat booth and MDGA events. The 2026 Outstanding Youth was chosen as Haley Pfeifer.

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

Committee Reports

- Show:
 - Gilbertson noted the Fillmore County Fairgrounds will be the site of the 2026 Best of the Midwest show for the last weekend in May. Announcements will be made on the website and social media. There were recommendations to hold a youth clinic, instead of a showmanship class, and a sanctioned youth show. After discussion, the board opted to make no changes to the youth show.
- Public Relations & Marketing: No updates
- Development:

- Futurity: Winners are noted and checks have been made out for the awards ceremony.
- Production Awards: Certificates are complete and will be handed out during the awards ceremony. There were less herds this year, but more breeds.
- Education:
 - State Fair: Gilbertson and Stensass had good comments about the state fair promotional items. After some feedback, the board will make some modifications for next year. Zoellner noted the interest in the items brought the public up to the booth which led to more engagement and education. Stensass added that they brought designation of dairy goats to the booth rather than it being perceived as a general information booth. Gilbertson also recommended the goat anatomy model come back to the state fair booth. Stensass recommended the goat milking stand be made operational for an interactive opportunity. She also suggested a celebrity milking contest and a goat costume class be considered next year. The board also discussed a top ten goat questions banner at the goat booth.
- Youth:
 - Outstanding Youth: The board discussed clarifying a code of conduct and/or required checklist of tasks for the Outstanding Youth.
- Organizational, Finance & Operations:
 - Bylaws: Following a general membership vote in May, the bylaws will be updated to reflect the GGG wording.
- Historian:
 - Documentation of MDGA history will be kept digitally moving forward

New Business

- FFA: Gilbertson was approached by FFA to find a way for MDGA to help incorporate a FFA dairy goat show at the state level. Some concerns include show time conflicts, whether or not the state dairy goat judge would have time to judge the FFA show or if an MDGA member could judge their show, and moving FFA animals from their barn to the dairy goat show arena among crowds. The board liked the idea of an embedded show, rather than a stand alone show, most and felt they could help with volunteers. It may provide a good segway for youth into showing in an open show and provide opportunity for new members.

- G.O.A.T Award: Nominees included Diana Rico, Laura Kieser, Lexy Heldt, and Seena Glessing. Motion by Zoellner to select Seena Glessing as the 2025 recipient. Motion seconded by Stensass. The motion passed unanimously.
- Rookie of the Year: Nominees included Theresa Smith, Alexis Myers, and Jaxon Alvarado. The board selected Alvarado as the recipient. He will win a one-year membership to MDGA.

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