

MDGA Board  
November 25, 2023 Meeting Minutes

The MDGA Board of Directors was called to order by President Wendy Lawliss on Saturday, November 25. The meeting was held via Zoom.

Members present: Morgan Allen, Lexy Heldt, Kelly Hovel, Wendy Lawliss, Cynthia Rico, Amy Winter, and Kirsten Zoellner. Absent was Maggie Stensass.

Secretary Report: Motion by Rodney Coe to approve the report. Motion seconded by Morgan Allen. It was approved unanimously.

The last board meeting was virtually on October 1. Agenda topics at the meeting included the state show, the fall conference, and youth updates. The board also revisited the MDGA Historian role and created an informal nominating committee.

Garrett Moore has resigned as state show chairperson and a new volunteer is being sought. The fall conference is scheduled for November 11 and will be held in person and virtually. The board may more clearly define the Outstanding Youth responsibilities. It will determine acceptance of the scholarship to the Outstanding Youth Runner-Up. The board is still seeking a new MDGA Historian. Lastly, the board formed an informal nominating committee to recruit candidates for the upcoming board election. The board received a full copy of the minutes. It is available to the public. Rodney Coe motioned to approve the report, and Kelly Hovel seconded. It was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Morgan Allen provided an update under committee reports.

#### Committee Reports

- Show: Shellie Gilbertson has volunteered to take over as committee chairman for the MDGA Best of the Midwest State Show. Zoellner stated Gilbertson is looking for volunteers to help, whether from the board or the membership, particularly for a point person on the raffle, ring stewards, and other needs. The board will be in contact about what assistance is needed. Heldts volunteered to run the youth show. Allen indicated that unused ribbons and other items from Melissa Czeck are for the state youth show. Heldt was appreciative.
- Promotion: None
- Education: Allen provided an update on the fall conference, noting it all went well despite the last-minute venue change after the original location was under delayed construction. \$5,365 was brought in, including lunch. There were \$2,238 in expenses, including the lunch and speaker travel and fees. A few items still need to be included. The net profit was just over \$1,500. The large raffle items netted \$550, and the small raffle \$450.

Organizers sent a survey to attendees, and the response was largely positive. Items noted included the location, cost, and speakers. Attendees offered mixed reviews regarding the food, but MDGA was required to use the hotel's caterer. There were some issues with the virtual portion of the meeting with Zoom keeping pace with the events in person and some technical difficulties with the hotel equipment. The hotel reimbursed the board for the equipment/technical fees. There were also mixed reviews about Dr.

Rowe's presentation. Attendees liked Dr. Sheffer's presentation and suggested topics for future conferences, including DHIA and Linear Appraisal training.

Winter thanked Allen for her work organizing the conference and thought the virtual portion of the conference was good. Allen noted that taking a step back from having an on-farm event was easier, but it is an option again in the future. There were an estimated 80 attendees between in-person, youth, and virtual.

Heldt stated that the youth turnout was so large that it could have used more space. She also said she should have accounted for parents staying with their youth rather than attending the other portions of the conference. There were limited activities in a hotel conference room. Heldt stated she prefers to have hands-on activities with goats. The age range for the youth was approximately 60 percent junior showmanship with many entry-level knowledge of goats.

Winter offered up space at her St. Paul workplace for future consideration. Allen suggested using a fairgrounds with both meeting space and animal areas. Many spaces are not available in the off-season, and it isn't easy to find areas that meet the geographical needs of members.

- Youth: Coe noted that Outstanding Youth applications are out in the GGG. The deadline is January 31. Zoellner will make social media posts about it, including the application forms.
- Organizational/Finance/Operational - Rico sent a Google doc on the Bylaws earlier this year. There are many updates needed. The board will review and discuss before bringing any proposed changes to a vote at the general membership meeting. Rico has already removed some outdated things and will resend the link to the board members. Coe suggested that the renewal from 2016, with changes, may have yet to be printed. Rico will continue to dig through to find more information.
- Futurity - None
- Development - Lawliss suggested combining the Development and Education Committees, noting some overlap. Allen suggested the board review all committees, determining who's on them and what they address. She also noted that the committees were to be renamed several years prior, with a description and budget. However, she is unsure if the board completed it. The board will review committees at the January meeting.
- Budget committee - None

#### Old Business

Zoellner provided an election update to Lawliss before the meeting. So far, she's received one ballot by mail and 17 ballots at the fall conference. Zoellner posted a reminder to the membership on both MDGA Facebook pages to cast their ballots before December 1.

The board is still searching for someone for the role of MDGA historian. Allen noted that Christine Maefsky has traditionally been the historian. Zoellner noted she is willing to

help digitize and gather materials but is not interested in serving as the historian in an ongoing role. Allen will continue reaching out to Maefsky and potential candidates for the role.

#### New Business

The MN State Agricultural Society is seeking a representative from MDGA. Lawliss asked if anyone had information about it and whether there was value in the MDGA pursuing it. Coe noted far more value in someone sitting in the Minnesota Livestock Breeder's Association (MLBA) meetings than in the Ag Society. Allen will contact Melissa Czeck, who used to serve on the MLBA and ask for a report.

The board will hold its next meeting, the annual organizational meeting, after the new year. The date and location are to be determined.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Rodney Coe. Motion seconded by Kirsten Zoellner. It was approved unanimously.