

MDGA Board
October 1, 2023 Meeting Minutes

The MDGA Board of Directors was called to order by President Wendy Lawliss on Sunday, October 1. The meeting was held via Zoom.

Members present: Morgan Allen, Rodney Coe, Lexy Heldt, Kelly Hovel, Wendy Lawliss, Cynthia Rico, Maggie Stensass, Amy Winter, Kirsten Zoellner

Secretary Report: The last board meeting was virtually on August 3. A meeting was scheduled for September 4 at the state fair but was canceled due to the early exhibitor release.

Agenda topics at the August 3 meeting included the state show, public relations/marketing at the state fair, the fall conference, and a youth scholarship to the ADGA convention. The board is considering locations for the 2025-2027 state show. The board unanimously approved Stensass ordering informational brochures and signage to distribute at the state fair, scheduling the fall conference for November 11, and providing a \$250 scholarship to the ADGA convention to the runner-up MDGA Outstanding Youth.

A full copy of the minutes was provided to the board and is available to the public. Rodney Coe motioned to approve the report and Kelly Hovel seconded. It was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Motion by Kirsten Zoellner to approve the report. Motion seconded by Morgan Allen. It was approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

- Show: Garrett Moore has resigned as chairperson for the MDGA state show. The board discussed locations and who should take over. Wendy Lawliss will contact candidates for application forms. The board also discussed whether an existing board director should serve as show chairperson or if the position should be opened up to the general membership. It was agreed that the chairperson does not need to be on the board and that limiting it may prevent future opportunities for some to serve on the board in the future. Stensass suggested the new chairperson be included at future meetings to be a part of the discussion. Morgan Allen suggested an email to the membership or a Facebook post about the open position could help garner interest, even if just in the interim. She further offered to reach out to the Treasurer to email the membership. Wendy Lawliss will update the MDGA website regarding the position.

A question was asked about the state fair show and MDGA production awards. Kirsten Zoellner spoke to show superintendent Mark Boorsma at the show about streamlining the production record process and suggested moving up the deadline date for the records may help.

- Promotion: Morgan Allen provided an update on the Fall Conference, scheduled for November 11. A Save the Date notice has been sent out virtually. Speakers Dr. Joan Rowe has several presentations ready to go including one on abortion, but Allen stated Rowe is open to anything. Dr. Jeremy Sheflers will talk about pneumonia and barn ventilation. Lexy Heldt volunteered to run the youth portion.

The location is a conference center and the youth will have their own area. Allen and Kieser discussed registration forms, conference cost, and lunch. She also spoke with Zoellner about raffle-related items.

There will be a virtual option, but at the time of the meeting, Allen was unsure if it would be livestreamed or recorded for later use. Lawliss noted there is a lot of interest in a recorded version if the technical options can be worked out. Allen will work with her office's point person about the audio/visual.

Lawliss will add the save the date information about the conference to the MDGA website. Allen suggested it also be shared on district page and farm pages.

Costs related to the speakers will be determined. Allen will confirm any fees and bring any costs to the board for final approval.

Education: None

- Youth: Rodney Coe stated rewards for FFA were received and that the state 4H dairy goat show went well. He thanked the board for sponsorships to both.

Regarding MDGA Outstanding Youth, Lawliss suggested a conversation about youth awards and updating of the bylaws to more clearly define the responsibilities.

The board previously approved a ADGA convention scholarship for the the runner-up MDGA Outstanding Youth. Coe indicated he assumed runner-up William Carlson would be attending, but hadn't heard for sure. Allen suggested an email from MDAG asking him to either accept or decline the scholarship. Coe stated he'd reach out to Carlson about it.

- Organizational/Finance/Operational - None
- Futurity - None
- Development - None
- Budget committee - None

Old Business

MDGA Historian: The board has sought someone to fill this ongoing role. Zoellner asked for clarification about whether it was semipermanent or if the historian filled a specific term. Lawliss suggested the board accept whatever the membership is willing to offer. Allen suggested talking to Christine Maefsky and that perhaps Ellen Considine and Shane Maefsky would be interested in keeping track of things. She offered to contact them about the role.

New Business

Nominating Committee: It was suggested that the board establish a nominating committee for candidates of the three board seats expiring at the end of this year. The seats are currently held by Allen, Coe, and Amy Winter. The committee would locate those in the membership willing to serve as a board director. Stensass volunteered to help look through things and both Allen and Lawliss also volunteered. Candidate bios need to be in prior to November 11 so the membership can vote by ballot at the fall conference.

Other

There was a request by Stensass to include board communication via email as well as Facebook.

Coe reminded the board there needs to be a conversation on the constitution bylaws added to the agenda for the January meeting.

The board will hold its next meeting on Saturday, November 25, at 8 pm, via Zoom.