

MIDWEST DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

**MDA April 2025 Board Meeting**

**Saturday, April 5th, 2025 · 12:30 pm**

Time zone: Eastern Standard/Detroit

**Location: McPhail Center, East Lansing – Karen Fulcher Clinic**

**Attendees:** Holly Zecchin, Katie Bratschi, Valyn Dall, Jordan Irwin, Meghan Connolly, Mykal Roth, Alex Pollack

Guests: N/A

Agenda:

- **Call to Order at 12:56 PM**
  - President's Opening Comments – Holly
    - N/A
  
- Officer's Reports:
  - **Secretary – Katie**
    - March minutes
      - No changes needed
      - Meghan motions to approve, Alex seconds, minutes approved
  - **Treasurer – Meghan**
    - February and March reports
      - Katie motions to approve, Mykal seconds, reports approved
    - Holly to call Cheryl and follow up on tax information
  
- Committee Reports:
  - **Membership – Katie**
    - To put together email group for current membership that can be used for email distribution
  - **Marketing – Mykal**
    - MSU Horse Expo takeaways
      - NEED more volunteers if we continue to do this
      - Seems that we are the only English group attending
        - Want to discuss with Jane Manfredi and see about getting more groups involved (GLASS-ED, ADA, etc.)
      - We should change the video player out for a slideshow of photos from the membership – at shows, banquet, at home, etc.
      - Should we try to get a riding demo spot next year?
  - **Year-End Awards/Shows – Alex/Holly**
    - Leadline division
      - Was added to YEA
      - Ridden/judged like Dressage Seat Equitation – all of our sanctioned shows already offer DSE, so this class should be easy for them to accommodate

- Walk only
  - If there is a desire from the membership, we could consider adding walk/trot next year
- Rider must be a member (leader does not need to be)
- Only need 3 scores; can be under the same judge
- Age limit?
  - Any age seems more inclusive
  - Can limit leadline riders to this division, they cannot be showing in a walk/trot or walk/trot/canter class during the show year and still qualify
- Virtual shows
  - Can be any virtual show as long as the judge is an L or higher
  - Must have been an active member when showing submitted rides
  - Pay in when submitting scores
    - \$35 per division or \$50 for two divisions
  - Can do two consecutive levels in the same season
- Email out a prompt of the new award programs and volunteer hour requirements
  - Jordan to help make a visually pleasant E-flyer for this
- Should volunteer hours be mandatory this year?
  - Requirement is small (4 hours)
  - Need to share the hows and whys with the membership for this program and why our sport needs volunteers
  - This requirement is meant to foster and encourage engagement in the sport
  - Bottom line – Yes
    - If we get pushback we can send back examples of how they can get hours
    - Does not need to be just MDA events, just dressage in general
- Education – Mykal, Katie, Meghan
  - N/A
- USDF/GMO – Alex/Valyn
  - N/A
- **Bylaws & Standing Rules – Jordan**
  - Need any Bylaw proposals put together by the end of September so that they can be distributed to the membership in time for voting at the November Annual Meeting
  - eUpdates to consider
    - Code of conduct and social license to operate
- Professional Advisory – Jordan
  - N/A
- **Banquet – Jordan**
  - Alex to rebook Zehnder's for Banquet in January 2026
  - Janelle Deisig volunteered to be point of contact and assist with banquet committee
- **Communications/Social Media – Valyn/Mykal**
  - To get more social media engagement, we should try doing photo spotlights

- Membership can submit photos of what they've been up to – horse shows, clinics, lessons, grooming, etc. to be posted on Facebook page
    - Could raffle off prizes to help participation (example: show us how you have been completing your volunteer hours this year)
  - We have an Instagram that needs to be linked to our Facebook account
    - Not currently active on this
  - Website
    - Have a current member (Madelyn) who is a web designer interested in volunteer hours who we would like to have run the website for us
      - Unanimous support for this
- Newsletters- Holly
  - N/A
- Grants – Meghan
  - N/A

**New Business:**

- Jessica F (organizer at Rattlewood) reached out about sponsorships from Meijer and TSC
  - We can look into getting our schooling show sanctioning fees sponsored by these companies and offer refunds to shows who have already paid their fees
- Annual membership meeting
  - Should we move this to the fall so we have a larger membership roster at the time and more members are able to attend and vote on ballots?
  - Yes – move to November 2025

**Katie motions to adjourn, Meghan seconds, meeting adjourns at 1:55 PM. Next meeting is Monday, May 5th at 7 PM and will be virtual.**