

MIDWEST DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

**MDA September 2025 Board Meeting**  
**Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 · 1 pm**  
Time zone: Eastern Standard/Detroit  
**Location: Tavern 109 – Williamston, MI**

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

Guests: N/A

Agenda:

- **Call to Order at 1:28 PM**
  - **President's Opening Comments – Holly**
    - Rattlewood is interested in hosting future clinics (freestyle?)
    - Consider adding an Anything Goes Freestyle to schooling shows
      - More AA friendly
      - Others offer this (like Glass-ED)
    - Instead of hosting clinics, maybe we move towards giving a stipend to each clinic site
- **Officer's Reports:**
  - **Secretary Report – Katie**
    - September Minutes
      - No changes needed
      - Holly motions to approve, Mykal seconds, minutes approved
  - **Treasurer Report – Meghan**
    - September Report
      - No changes needed
      - Katie motions to approve, Mykal seconds, report approved
- **Committee Reports:**
  - **Membership – Katie**
    - Currently at 179 members, 3 additional pending payment
      - 20 Open, 35 Junior/YR, 120 Adult Ams, 4 Social
    - Membership costs to stay the same for 2026
    - Katie to check date that purchased memberships switch to 2026
    - Add competition dates to 2026 membership form to remind members
  - **Marketing – Mykal & Alex**
    - Horse Expo 2026
      - If we don't have a demo spot, is it worth going?
        - Hard to staff with people to run booth, costs ~\$300
        - Unanimous vote to skip for this year
        - Could use that money and resources to set up a tent at Regionals or Finals/Nationals instead

- Instagram is live
      - Tag things that are happening (horse shows, end of year posts, etc.)
      - Make post about HayBox that was up at the freestyle clinic
      - Could do takeovers at shows next year, interview members, share achievements and behind the scenes, etc.
    - Banners
      - All board members should have one that they can hang on stalls or tables at events
      - Mykal to find out costs about making personalized banners for a fundraiser
        - Could have a photo, phone numbers, names. Etc. along with MDA logo
        - Can decide on costs after getting info
        - 1X3 foot
  - **Year-End Awards/Shows – Holly & Alex**
    - Need to decide on a gift for BOD members that are finishing their terms
      - Quarter-zip sweatshirt
    - Getting Branded awards
      - 40 haybags in stock; we are ordering 35 and can return any we don't end up needing personalized
      - Holly to ask about reserve prizes (bottle hanger)
    - Confirming scores and volunteer requirements
      - Holly to start a spreadsheet for this and to confirm active membership
      - Anyone who didn't get their hours can get an email asking for them (if they missed the submission deadline) or option to pay donation if desired
  - **Education – Mykal**
    - Freestyle Clinic
      - Holly to work on overall budget for next meeting – but was a financial loss overall
      - Had 3-4 auditors
      - Clinic went very well, and clinician was well-liked
        - Good feedback from riders
        - Audience feedback is very helpful for working on selection
        - Was bare-minimum participation
      - Potentially need to start marketing the clinic additionally as utilizing music to enhance horse's stride
  - USDF/GMO – Alex & Valyn
    - N/A
  - **Bylaws & Standing Rules (& Annual Meeting) – Jordan**
    - Annual membership meeting
      - Official date: Sunday November 2<sup>nd</sup>
      - Official time: 1 PM; Virtual
      - Katie to email finalized ballot and invite to the virtual meeting
    - Ballots
      - Google doc for voting
        - Jordan to work on this and send out to membership to approve

- Bios for anyone interested in BOD spot
        - Got a bio for Madeline
    - Committee Reports
      - Need a summary from each committee
        - Katie to send out last year's as an example and remind people what committee they are on
        - Email them all to Katie by Friday 31 OCT so she can compile them and get on the google drive
  - Professional Advisory – Jordan
    - N/A
  - **Banquet – Alex, Jordan, & Mykal**
    - Set up door prizes to get rid of leftover MDA swag from previous years (chairs, shirts, etc.)
    - Letter notifying member they won an award to be sent out after volunteer hours and membership are verified
    - Silent auction items
      - Everyone on BOD to send Mykal vendors, farms, etc. in their area for potential donations
  - Communications/Social Media – Valyn & Mykal
    - N/A
  - Newsletters- Holly
    - N/A
- **Volunteer hours**
  - If a member wants to “purchase” their volunteer hours, it should be a \$100 donation instead of the full \$250 sponsorship amount
    - The \$250 sponsorship gives those sponsors perks that our standard member doesn't need
    - The donation can then be used for our silent auction, putting on clinics, misc. education, etc.

New Business:

- **USDF Convention**
  - Proxy needs to be submitted since Holly is our automatic delegate
    - Mykal can be our delegate and lead organizing
  - Alex and Valyn interested in attending
  - MDA to pay for 1 hotel room to attend convention (additional rooms will be another vote) mileage, meals, and convention fees
    - Unanimous vote of approval

**Motion to adjourn: Katie motions to end meeting, Meghan seconds, meeting adjourns at 3:30 PM. Annual Membership Meeting to be held Sunday November 2nd at 1 PM and will be virtual. The BOD November meeting will follow directly after.**