

MIDWEST DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

MDA November 2025 Annual Member/Board Meeting

Sunday, November 2nd, 2025 · 1 pm

Time zone: Eastern Standard/Detroit

Location: Virtual

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Attendees: Holly Zecchin, Mykal Roth, Katie Bratschi, Jordan Irwin, Meghan Connolly

Members: Beth Schaub, Madeline Flynn, Shari Wolke

Board members not in attendance: Alexandra Pollack, Valyn Dall

Agenda:

- **Call to Order at 1:05 PM**
 - **President's Opening Comments – Holly Zecchin**
 - Thanks for joining this year's Annual Membership meeting
 - Holly's last meeting as a Board member – finishing out her 6th year of service to the MDA
 - A lot of changes this year with some initial resistance, but ended up working out nicely and gave our partner shows lots of help, lots of votes for our proposed changes, and more membership engagement overall
 - Show score reporting
 - Adding show divisions
 - Volunteer hour requirements
 - Wants to applaud this board on being willing to take these risks and see them through – a big benefit to our dressage community overall
- Annual Officer's Reports:
 - **Secretary Report – Katie Bratschi**
 - The BOD met a minimum of once per month. Meetings were held in-person at least once per quarter during the non-show season and virtually the remaining times. Minutes are posted on the website for transparency after they are approved by the Board.
 - **Treasury Report – Meghan Connolly**
 - Attached at the end as separate document
 - Question from Beth
 - Noticed that the website doesn't mention our funds being "secured"
 - Something we can add to the website for context
- Annual Committee Reports:
 - **Marketing – Mykal Roth & Alexandra Pollack**
 - Four new banners were purchased for the MDA Ambassador Program and one banner for "The Hey Box" sponsorship, totaling \$116.60.
 - Question from Beth
 - A goal was to use sponsors to cover our Year-End Awards, how much progress have we made towards that goal?
 - Financial climate is rocky especially for the equine market – may need to revisit this next year

needs of the membership as well as updating the bylaws to be more reflective of the association's social license to operate.

○ **Education – Mykal Roth**

- As education is the main mission of the MDA, we worked hard to host or sponsor multiple events this year. We gave a free lecture on dressage at the MI Horse Expo in East Lansing. We hosted two clinics: Karen Fulcher in April (donated \$842.95 for airfare and stalls) and the Equisonic freestyle clinic in September (\$1010.37 was donated for stalls and food by MDA, the clinicians were paid for by the riders). We sponsored lunches at the Sue Hughes clinic (\$208.57) and donated snacks for the Brad Cutshall clinic (\$52.12). In total the MDA gave out \$2,054.01 for educational events. Dr. Jane Manfredi graciously provided us use of the Mary Anne McPhail Equine Performance Center for both the Karen Fulcher and the freestyle clinic free of charge.
 - Holly asked about future clinics
 - We will be working on that after the new board is appointed and we finish wrapping up our end-of year banquet/awards activities

○ **Membership – Katie Bratschi**

- We finished 2025 with 183 members. This consisted of 35 Junior/Young Riders, 24 Professionals (4 of these Lifetime members), and 120 Adult Amateurs and 4 Social Memberships, a new addition to our membership options this year. Social members have all the rights and privileges of AA/Open members except for participation in the Year End Awards program. This reduced-price membership allows those who are not interested in or who are unable to compete to still enjoy our organization. Dues have once again remained the same at \$58 for open/adult amateurs, \$48 for JR/YR, \$40 for Social, and \$20 per family member add-on despite 2025 USDF fees increasing to \$25/main and \$15/add-on.

○ **Professional Advisory – Jordan Irwin**

- Due to the progresses of technology and how connected we are now on a daily basis, the membership voted to eliminate the professional advisory committee. We hope to use our social media platforms to continue to engage and connect our membership.

○ **Banquet – Alexandra Pollack, Jordan Irwin, & Mykal Roth**

- As mentioned at last year's annual meeting, the 2025 Gala in Frankenmuth went off without a hitch! We're excited to announce that we'll be returning to the same location for the 2026 Gala and can't wait to see everyone there. We'll be reaching out soon for silent auction donations and appreciate any volunteers who'd like to help. Come earn those volunteer hours and be part of the fun!

○ **Newsletter- Holly Zecchin**

- There were four Newsletters published in 2025 as of November 1, 2025. There will be a final Newsletter with the Provisional Qualified Rider List and announcement of the 2026 Board of Directors. 5 members contributed 7 articles for Newsletters this year which were well received by other members.

○ **Communications & Social Media – Valyn Dall & Mykal Roth**

- We utilize three main forms of communication with our members: email, social media, and quarterly newsletters. Currently, we have over 2,242 followers on Facebook and we posted over 67 times as of Oct 30th. A new Instagram account was started and currently has 80 followers. The quarterly newsletters have been full of great member written articles, upcoming events, and organizational information. Important information is also emailed to every member.
 - **USDF/GMO – Valyn Dall & Alexandra Pollack**
 - The MDA was able to present entries in every category for the 2025 GMO awards. We are delighted to share that Madeline Flynn was named Regional GMO Volunteer of the Year for Region 2. Throughout the year, Madeline has made invaluable contributions to our website, and we are pleased to see her outstanding volunteer efforts recognized. The MDA also received an Honorable Mention for the GMO Photography Award (Best Amateur Photograph) category for Alexandra Pollack’s headline photo shared on Facebook in August 2025. For categories where the MDA did not receive awards, judge feedback was provided with valuable insights that will strengthen our future submissions.

In December 2025, the MDA will support three board members in attending the USDF Convention in Lexington, KY. Their participation will focus on GMO education, region meetings, and open forum sessions covering a variety of topics relevant to the MDA’s mission and goals. The MDA will also take part in the GMO Basket Exchange, a tradition encouraging creativity and regional pride among GMOs through submission of themed gift baskets to be awarded during the convention.
 - **Grants – Meghan Connolly**
 - There were no applications for MDA grants in 2025.
 - Plans to post about these more for next year in an attempt to get more participation

New Business:

- **2025 Ballot Results – Jordan Irwin**
 - Proposed Article VII, Section 1 – The affairs of the Association shall be directed by a Board of Directors composed of a minimum of seven (7) and a maximum of twelve (12) Directors, each of whom must be an active member in good standing. The Board of Directors will also be responsible to review the bylaws on a regular basis. Also, within 30 days of the end of term, all outgoing board members must transfer information relevant to their successor.
 - Yes: 32 votes; No: 0 votes
 - Proposal approved
 - Proposed Article VIII, Section 5 - The presence of greater than fifty percent of Directors shall constitute a quorum to transact business at any Directors meeting, regular or special.
 - Yes: 31 votes; No: 1 vote
 - Proposal approved
 - Proposal to Eliminate Article X, Section 2 (Professional Advisory committee).
 - Yes: 26 votes; No: 6 votes
 - Elimination approved

- Proposal to introduce Article XI, Section 1 - The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to establish the Midwest Dressage Association's ("MDA") common expectations in dressage. As ambassadors for dressage, this Code of Conduct applies to all members at all times. Section 2 - MDA Members joining any social media network (listed here or not) as member of the MDA are subject to following the rules set forth by such social media site, the MDA By-Laws and the MDA Code of Conduct. Any member who violates terms of use of such networks may be subject not only to revocation of their rights on that social network, but their MDA Membership rights as well.
 - Yes: 29 votes; No: 3 votes
 - Addition approved
- **2026 MDA Board Nominations – Jordan Irwin**
 - Holly is leaving following completing her full term
 - Katie Bratschi, Meghan Connolly, Jordan Irwin, and Valyn Dall are still on the 2026 Board while completing their first terms
 - Madeline Flynn
 - 1st term, 2026-2029
 - Yes: 29 votes; No 3 votes
 - Nomination approved
 - Alexandra Pollack
 - 2nd term, 2026 – 2029
 - Yes: 32 votes; No: 0 votes
 - Nomination approved
 - Mykal Roth
 - 2nd term, 2026 – 2029
 - Yes: 32 votes; No: 0 votes
 - Nomination approved
- New Business (thoughts, concerns, proposals from membership):
 - N/A

The Annual Membership meeting is concluded at 1:41 PM, and the MDA Board of Directors will meet immediately following.

2025 November Board of Directors Meeting

- **Call to Order at 1:42 PM**
- 2026 Officer Assignments
 - **President** – Mykal Roth
 - Midwestdressage.org emails & Google Drive access
 - Need to get Madeline access and switch Holly off president email (over to Mykal) – switch any other proxy emails
 - Madeline and Mykal to work on this via call
 - **Vice President** – Alexandra Pollack
 - **Secretary** – Katie Bratschi
 - 2026 Board Meeting Schedule – figure out at next meeting when everyone is present to schedule
 - **December 2025: 12/14 @ 2 PM (In-Person)**
 - **Treasurer** – Meghan Connolly
 - N/A
- 2026 Committee Assignments
 - **Membership** – Katie Bratschi
 - **Education** – Katie Bratschi, Mykal Roth, & Meghan Connolly
 - **Marketing** – Alexandra Pollack (confirm next meeting)
 - **USDF/GMO** – Valyn Dall (confirm next meeting)
 - **YEA/Shows** – Meghan Connolly, Katie Bratschi
 - **Newsletter** – Madeline Flynn
 - **Communication/Social Media** – Mykal Roth & Madeline Flynn
 - **Bylaws & Standing Rules** – Jordan Irwin
 - **Board Nominations** – Jordan Irwin & Alexandra Pollack (confirm next meeting)
 - **Banquet** – Alexandra Pollack & Jordan Irwin
 - **Grants** – Meghan Connolly
 - **Volunteers** – Mykal Roth, Madeline Flynn & Katie Bratschi
- Make a FB post saying if you need a contact for volunteer hours to contact these chair committee heads for 2026
- New Business:
 - YEA preliminary scores
 - Post to FB first – within next week or two – give members 2-3 weeks to send edits or discrepancies
 - Send list of qualified riders to Madeline
 - Publish corrected version to newsletter and make sure banquet tickets are available for purchase (goal to get newsletter out by December 1st)
 - Send emails to each person who qualified for an award (Katie to do this based off newsletter list)
 - Meghan to send emails about missing volunteer hour requirements
 - Mykal has close to 30 hours she is willing to gift as proxy for this year
 - Reserve prize: now engraved photo frames due to availability
 - Leadline prize: now engraved brush due to cost

Motion to adjourn: Mykal motions to adjourn, Jordan seconds, meeting adjourns at 2:19 PM. Next meeting is Sunday December 14th at 2 PM and will be virtual.

MIDWEST DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

2025 MDA Treasure's report

January 2025 Starting Balance:

- Checking: \$8990.36
- Savings: \$9813.04
- PayPal: \$5556.56 (balance was transferred to Chase Checking on 01/03/2025)
- CD: \$7544.68

October 2025 Ending Balance (as of 10/27/2025):

- Checking: \$9749.62
- Savings: \$9813.75
- PayPal: \$627.26
- CD: anticipated ~ \$7800 in January (Board has voted to redeem CD and put funds back into General Fund)

Total Available (as of 10/27/2025): \$27990.63

- *Education Fund*: \$9428.66
- *General Fund*: \$18561.97

Total 2025 Revenue: \$16290.25

Total 2025 Expenses: \$17375.14

2025 Net Income/Loss (through 10/27/2025): **-\$1084.89**