

MIDWEST DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

**MDA January 2026 Board Meeting**  
**Sunday, January 11th, 2026**

Time zone: Eastern Standard/Detroit

**Location: Paper Meeting**

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

Guests: N/A

Agenda:

- **Call to Order Jan 11<sup>th</sup>**
  - President's Opening Comments – Mykal
    - N/A
  
- Officer's Reports:
  - **Secretary – Katie**
    - December Minutes sent out via email, need BOD approval
      - No changes needed
      - Meghan motions to approve, Mykal seconds, minutes approved
    - Official 2026 meeting schedule:
      - **January:** Paper Meeting; Sunday 1/11
      - **February:** Virtual @ 7 PM; Monday 2/16
      - **March:** Virtual @ 9:30 AM; Sunday 3/15
      - **April:** Virtual @ 7 PM; Tuesday 4/7
      - **May:** Virtual @ 7 PM; Monday 5/11
      - **June:** Virtual @ 7 PM; Monday 6/8
      - **July:** Virtual @ 7 PM; Monday 7/6
      - **August:** Virtual @ 7 PM; Monday 8/3
      - **September:** Virtual @ 7 PM; Tuesday 9/8
      - **October:** In-person @ 1 PM; Sunday 10/4
        - *No Jordan for this one*
      - **November/Annual Membership Meeting:** Virtual @ 1 PM; Sunday 11/8
      - **December:** Virtual @ 9:30 AM; Sunday 12/6
  - **Treasurer – Meghan**
    - December Report sent out via email, need BOD approval
      - No changes needed
      - Katie approves, Mykal seconds, report approved
      - Did we figure out the unknown Amazon expense?
        - Not yet, Meghan contacting the bank this week
  
- Committee Reports:
  - **Membership – Katie**
    - Currently at 27 members
      - 1 Open, 6 Junior/YR, 18 Adult Ams, 2 Social

- Have not registered anyone with USDF yet, waiting for credit card information
- Education – Katie, Mykal & Meghan
  - N/A
- **Marketing – Alex**
  - Show banners
    - Are we still interested in offering individual banners to hang at horse shows and offering them to membership as a fundraiser?
      - Discuss next meeting
- **USDF/GMO – Valyn**
  - Will be providing information about USDF Book Club for 2026
    - Books have been selected by order not yet determined
    - <https://www.usdf.org/education/book-club.asp>
- **YEA/Shows – Meghan & Katie**
  - MDA Rated Show 5/16-17
    - Have two judges locked in: Amy Rothe-Heitter (r) & Ken Levy (R)
      - Contracts have been sent out
    - Still waiting on TD response
    - Alex sent out everything for USEF License
      - Mykal renewed her USEF membership, completed Safesport & Competition Management training
      - Waiting to hear back from USEF to see if competition is accepted
    - Still need to put deposit on fairgrounds – they are holding our date
      - Meghan is local (ish) and can deliver a check
  - Off-season Schooling Shows
    - Are we open to having options for barns who may not be able to host past Training Level/WD Basic Level?
      - Can discuss parameters of programs, how many we want, etc. next meeting
  - Meghan emailed all past schooling shows about sanctioning for 2026 season
    - Donna Donaldson (Aberdeen) is intending to get us dates and send payment
      - Asked for help promoting her Schooling Show Championship at the end of the season
- **Newsletter – Madeline**
  - December/January will be a “year-end” type newsletter
    - Hoping to publish before the banquet
  - February issue will contain banquet results
  - Still looking to publish bi-monthly
- **Communications/Social Media – Madeline & Mykal**
  - A member has asked us to share a post regarding a horse available for lease (owned by a non-member)
    - Is this something we are interested in doing?
    - Meghan’s concern is if we do it once, we must do it for all
      - We are asking for sponsors and shouting them out on the page – doesn’t seem fair to plug all things for individuals

- Thinks page should be dedicated to our announcements, member shoutouts, Region 2 content, TDF Grants, and interesting dressage articles/happenings
  - What are our thoughts on creating a secondary page for buy/sell/trade for MDA members – would keep our main page from getting flooded
    - Would have a few admins to make sure its only members posting, but available to the public for viewing
- **Bylaws & Standing Rules – Jordan**
  - Results of bylaw changes and board elections were sent to Madeline to be added to the newsletter
- Board Nominations – Jordan & Alex
  - N/A
- **Banquet – Alex & Jordan**
  - Meghan posted a last call message on Facebook for banquet & silent auction
    - Let everyone know that if they cannot make the banquet, they need to make arrangements to get their award(s)
      - Sent emails to people who won an award on 1/11; only one person has requested her awards to be mailed, at her cost
  - Programs have been typed, Holly is getting them printed
  - Alex's Banquet update:
    - Menu is all set
    - We are almost to 100 tickets, which is where we will need to cap tickets
      - Room can only fit 100 people
    - We are not bringing any table decorations this year
      - They will have the winter décor out like they did last time
  - Awards
    - Holly has all of the ribbons and prizes
      - Ribbon order has been placed
      - Doing all 1<sup>st</sup> place/blues for leadline
    - Mykal has paper for Certificates – will drop off to Holly (need to double check that Holly is still doing the Certificates)
  - Silent Auction
    - Kim Robbins has 6 baskets she's bringing
    - Veronica Kohler is brining a basket
    - Received a donation from Dover, still waiting on several other locations
    - Dr. Manfredi is donating blankets
    - Were we still planning to add HeyBox to the auction? Are they going to be raffled?
- **Grants – Meghan**
  - Mykal has grant application template for people requesting help with clinics
    - Shared with BOD via email – all need to review & vote
      - Meghan thinks we need an actual cap of \$750 (not flexible verbiage)
        - Unanimous vote of approval with cap of \$750
    - If approved, Madeline can add to website, so everyone has fair & equal opportunity to request funding

- **Volunteers – Mykal, Madeline & Katie**
  - Put a call for volunteers for specific committees at the Banquet
    - Volunteer delegate that leads volunteer program (with board member to head it)
    - Volunteer delegate to lead sponsorships
    - If we have any other specific needs, make a list so it can be mentioned at Banquet

**New Business:**

- **Lending out dressage rings moving forward**
  - Mykal's proposition: allow Rattlewood Farm, with an updated agreement, to use the rings this year only after our event. Next year we either:
    - Greatly increase required donation to use rings, make everything inventoried/accounted for, make them pickup/drop off the rings (have to check insurance/liability)
    - Decide not to lease out the rings anymore
  - Rattlewood hosts 10 schooling MDA shows (5 weekends) and Kim Robbins does a lot to support the MDA – want to do what is best for MDA without burning bridges
  - Need a vote from BOD on this matter
    - Mykal votes to push this question to be voted on in June after our show
- **Mykal got quote from insurance company to add on officers & directors**
  - Approximately \$558 per year
  - Strongly feel this is necessary to protect ourselves, especially with MDA hosted show
  - Need a vote from BOD on approval
    - Unanimous vote of approval
- **Shopping night for members at local tack shop**
  - Sporthorse Saddlery in South Lyon offers an after hours experience where everyone gets 10% off any purchases made during the event
  - Could reach out to Dover in Brighton for something similar, they donated to the silent auction
  - Other options could be Wyldewood or Everything Equine
  - Timing would probably have to be March/April or October/November
  - Would need to find out minimum participants or minimum spend required
  - Can throw a survey out to memberships
  - Chat more at next meeting

**Next meeting scheduled virtual for February Monday 2/16 at 7 PM.**

**Motion to adjourn:** Katie motions to adjourn, Meghan seconds, meeting adjourned.