

MIDWEST DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION

MDA February 2026 Board Meeting
Monday, February 16th, 2026 · 7 PM

Time zone: Eastern Standard/Detroit

Location: Virtual

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

Guests: Jennifer Herron

Not Present: Madeline Flynn

Agenda:

- **Call to Order at 7:10 PM**
 - **President's Opening Comments – Mykal**
 - Jennifer has agreed to take on the volunteer aspect of our rated show
 - Need to create a list of what roles we will need filled (Jordan can work on this with Jennifer)
 - Parking attendants
 - Stable check-in
 - Scribes (4 minimum, 6 ideal)
 - Gate attendants
 - Music coordinator
 - Want to try and make this show as user-friendly as possible – volunteers can help make this happen
 - Soliciting the volunteers
 - Jennifer created a sign-up page
 - Can share via Facebook post, email blast, newsletter
 - Via sign-up genius (collecting name, email, phone number)
 - Can do time shifts for certain positions (maybe 4 hours)
 - Volunteer hours can be gained from these positions
 - Need to decide on a point person for the vet
 - Can organize volunteers, run table, etc.
 - Can assist with reassigning roles or replacing roles if anyone drops out
 - Katie to make sure Jordan has Jennifer's email
- **Officer's Reports:**
 - **Secretary – Katie**
 - January Minutes
 - Meghan motions to approve, Mykal seconds, minutes approved
 - Official 2026 Meeting Schedule
 - **January:** Virtual @ 9:30 AM; 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**
 - January Report
 - Katie motions to approve, Mykal seconds, report approved
 - Mykal needs to deposit the CD – making note to run that in this week
 - Amazon expense
 - Dispute this – nobody purchased a book with MDA card
 - Award shipping
 - Have gotten a couple requests to ship out YEA's, those individuals have paid, and Meghan has shipped out awards
- Committee Reports:
 - **Membership – Katie**
 - Currently at 46 members
 - 2 Open, 8 Junior/YR, 34 Adult Ams, 2 Social
 - **Education – Katie, Mykal & Meghan**
 - Gentleman reached out to Mykal wanting to do Classical Clinic
 - Will forward the email to the board for input
 - This year isn't a very good year for us in terms of time
 - We can pass along information about our grant program in case he finds someone willing to put on a clinic that could use financial assistance
 - **Marketing – Alex**
 - Individual banners to hang at horse shows fundraiser
 - Mykal to reach out to lady who makes the banners
 - Find out some sizing options and pricing
 - Need someone to take on Marketing for the horse show
 - This year we don't have much to offer Sponsors, so would be best to keep the numbers limited to relationships we already have
 - Don't want to put too much on our plate for this first show
 - **USDF/GMO – Valyn**
 - Book club added to Facebook page
 - Added score sheets from last year submission to the drive
 - **YEA/Shows – Meghan & Katie**
 - MDA Rated Show 5/16-17
 - Judges: Amy Rothe-Heitter (r) & Ken Levy (R)
 - Need to lock in judges for 2027 in the fall so we can try to get two large R judges (able to judge 3rd & 4th level)
 - Technical Delegate: Jennifer Koch
 - USEF licensing agreement signed
 - We are a qualifier show

- Fairgrounds agreement/payment
 - They will write up a contract once they receive payment
 - Alex to send email asking about contract
 - Meghan may be able to just mail a check rather than make a trip over
- Will Steve be onsite this weekend with the food truck?
 - Alex to confirm
- Cost breakdown
 - Need to figure out what we need to break even when we start setting prices
 - Also want to be competitive compared to Waterloo – Schooling show range
- Prize list
 - Need to get this sorted by the end of February so we can start publishing it and sharing
- Registration
 - Could use Fox Village
 - Could use Google form type format
 - This may be a good starting point for this year to be cost effective and can always upgrade to a program next year
 - Would have to invoice people for payment after receiving their forms
 - Alex isn't familiar with Horse Show Office, so if someone else was familiar this could be an option
- Show on-call farrier
 - Jordan and Alex to reach out to their farriers to see if they would be interested
- Do we need to have a committee meeting more frequently?
 - Touch base on March 2nd virtual at 7 PM
 - Katie to send out invite for this
- Off-season Schooling Shows
 - Program parameters – Lite Show
 - L judge
 - Only have to offer tests permitted in small square (Intro, Basic, Training)
 - Meghan to type up a proposal and we can chat about this more in June
 - How many do we want?
- 2026 Sanctioned Shows
 - Have gotten minimum payments from host farms
 - Only have gotten CMHA and Great Lakes Dressage Club
 - We should set a drop date for the future so that we can get our show list out to membership earlier in the season
 - Need to let them know they cannot advertise as MDA sanctioned until payment is paid in full

- Meghan to draft something here about what is required to be sanctioned for standard or lite shows
 - YEAs
 - Should we change up ribbons next year?
 - Some of the text embossing is sloppy and not fully defined
 - Action Awards is who Alex uses, and she is very happy with them
 - Have pricing listed on the website if we wanted to see about quote
 - Their lead time is good – we should use them for the rated show in
 - Could change the colors up
- Newsletter – Madeline
 - N/A
- Communications/Social Media – Madeline & Mykal
 - N/A
- Bylaws & Standing Rules – Jordan
 - N/A
- Board Nominations – Jordan & Alex
 - N/A
- **Banquet – Alex & Jordan**
 - Banquet takeaways
 - Suggested we have some way of recognizing people who won medals
 - Add to programs for who has won up to date
 - Could make up a poster board with photos
 - We should take the time to label all the awards or ribbons so that we know who didn't get their awards at the banquet
 - Liked that we auctioned off leftover prizes from the previous year – we should continue to do that
 - Could order some in the future without “champion” wording just to sell or offer to members in auctions
 - Leftover awards
 - Give it 6 months for people to pick up their items – if they don't then we take ownership of anything leftover
 - Award issues
 - Next year we may want to post scores that members can double check their own submissions
 - Potentially send an email of confirmed submission with the three scores
 - Venue
 - Should we look to find a larger location next year, maybe more central
 - Push this to June
 - We could ask the membership what their price point is for banquet tickets
- **Grants – Meghan**
 - BOD approved grant application, Madeline to add to website

- Have gotten one application so far
- Nomination for Dressage Hall of Fame
 - MDA created this in 1997 – at this time there was no other HoF
 - Needed to have contributed to dressage locally and nationally
 - USDF created their own HoF since, so we should drop the national requirement
 - Volunteers – Mykal, Madeline & Katie
 - N/A
- **Lending out dressage rings**
 - Moving vote to June meeting, after our MDA show
- **Insurance to add on officers & directors**
 - BOD approved

New Business:

- N/A

Next meeting scheduled for Sunday, March 15th at 9:30 AM and will be virtual.

Motion to adjourn: Katie motions to adjourn, Meghan seconds, meeting finished at 9:07 PM.