

MISSOURI ANIMAL CONTROL ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 6th, 2025, at 10:30 AM.

The meeting was conducted in person at Shakespeare's Pizza. The meeting was called to order at 10:41 AM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

**Matt Allen _X_ Christina Elmore _X_ Karen Griggs _X_ Holly Bowie _X_
Steve Norman _X_ Maureen Keedwell _X_ Michael Layton _X_ Jamie Williams _X_
Sara Spease _X_ Troy Schneider _X_ Alyssa Norsworthy _X_ Beth Gillespie _X_
Stephanie Bugbee _A_**

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Stephanie Bugbee was absent. Michael Layton made a motion to Excuse Absent Board Members. Jamie Williams seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

MEMBER AND GUEST ATTENDANCE

In attendance was Cody Atkinson, formerly HSUS, now called Humane World for Animals.

CONSENT AGENDA

Sara Spease made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Beth Gillespie seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

Previous meeting minutes were reviewed. Sara Spease made a motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Alyssa Norsworthy, and unanimously approved.

MEMBERSHIP'S COMMENTS

There were no membership comments.

Guest Speaker:

Cody Atkinson is the state director with Humane World for Animals (formerly known as HSUS), spoke about the name change which was done in order to get them all under one name and to separate themselves, (Humane World for Animals), from shelters as they do not do direct adoptions. Cody also spoke about current legislation that they are for and against emphasizing the importance of each bill. Cody advised that during the budget meetings they are working on a \$250,000 spay/neuter grant program and they have requested that this be a permanent allocation as this would enable 3,000-5,000 spay/neuters over the year. Reminder from Cody that they do provide free training to law enforcement and prosecutors. Thank you to Cody Atkinson for attending the meeting and hopefully he will be at our conference.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS

President's Report:

President Matt Allen advised that since our last meeting, the legislative session has been in full force. MACA was asked to provide a statement on a couple of animal related bills. Matt is hoping to have some discussions on clearing up receipts for payments and registration confirmations for events during the meeting. Other goals are to firm up our representation at Humane Day, discuss the conference app for this year, and discuss a timetable for calendar fundraiser launch. Lastly, Matt advised to please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about timelines or duties of your specific committees. If Matt doesn't know the answer, he will find it out.

Vice President's Report:

Vice President Christina Elmore advised that she did a poll on the members only Facebook page to see what everyone liked for speakers and received a good response. She also advised that she received several speaker submissions. She has also been working on the figures for the food/drink budget for the MACA Conference along with picking out the food to be served. Christina advised there are currently 16 people who signed up to attend and only two board members have signed up. Christina and two of her co-workers have been emailing all agencies across the state to let them know about the conference. She also advised that her hotel and flight have been booked for the NACA summit and the Humane Expo. Christina reminded everyone to respond to people in a timely manner as some emails are time sensitive and/or there are issues that need to be addressed quickly.

Secretary's Report:

Secretary Karen Griggs advised that Sara Spease was kind enough to stop by my facility and get the secretary laptop up and running so that any future secretary can use the computer. While working on the computer, it was found that no backup drive was with the computer. The previous secretary is not able to locate the drive, so we are looking at having to purchase another drive to back everything up. It was approved to purchase another hard drive. It was also suggested that an inventory log be made for each position to ensure MACA property gets transferred.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Sara Spease reported \$23,882.39 in the main account; \$8,582.45 in the certification account with PayPal and Stripe both having zero balances. Christina Elmore made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented with Beth Gillespie seconding the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Awards:

Maureen Keedwell advised she has received one Paws for Applause nomination. She also advised she is looking for ideas for the Wild West theme.

Academy (Certification):

Maureen Keedwell advised that she sent out 28 renewals. For the April Academy Maureen advised they have 12 attendees scheduled. Rooms have been reserved for Maureen, Ellen Stark and JT Taylor with Matt Rold and Molly not needing rooms. The November Academy has been set for October 21st – 23rd in Jefferson City. Molly has reserved us a room for the classes. It was requested to do the spring of 2026 class up north around the Kansas City, Platte County area. Reminder that CEU's (any training job related), can be submitted on the MACA website.

Constitution and Bylaws:

Jamie Williams had nothing new to report.

Legislation:

Troy Schneider did email and submitted a letter for the HB489 but stated that Sara Spease's letter was much better. Matt Allen clarified that Troy wrote an email to the sponsors and Sara wrote a letter as a statement from MACA. Sara Spease went to Jefferson City to testify because the bill is egregiously bad. The biggest takeaway from the Agricultural Committee is they have no idea what we, (animal control officers), do or how our process works. The committee believed we get a warrant, go to the property, and take people's animals. The committee didn't realize that the warrant is our last resort after trying other types of mitigation to solve issues. This bill then was sent to the rules committee. We are hoping that this bill will get shut down in the rules committee. HB910 no one showed up to oppose it in person. HB1298 had one person show up to oppose it for the fact of MACA running the hotline. The person works for Breeders of America or similar name, and no one knows who MACA is. Hotline was a topic as people feel it should go directly to law enforcement and not through a hotline. This bill was sent to the rules committee as well. Sara has all of the items for Humane Day in her truck to hand off to Troy. Troy was approved to get a MACA shirt made to wear for Humane Day. Sara advised that Cody Atkinson with Humane World for Animals is requesting a statement in support for the spay/neuter grant program.

Historian and Photographer:

Jamie Williams reported that he had nothing new to report. Jamie advised that if anyone sent him some pictures, he is requesting they be sent again.

Membership:

Alyssa Norsworthy reported that we currently have 189 members, and 15 lifetime members. Alyssa advised that she sent out invoices at the end of February via email to 75 members that are currently not paid.

Nominations:

Michael Layton said he had nothing new to report. Matt Allen advised we need to figure out a way to get people interested in being involved with the board. Sara Spease advised that Caleb from Raymore expressed interest and tried to use the form on the website with no success. There will be three positions that may potentially open up at the end of this year. It was recommended to do more posts on the members only Facebook page to try to gain more interest.

Scholarships:

Karen Griggs advised that she sent out the scholarship proposal to Symrise back in January but haven't heard back from them yet. Karen advised she forgot to attach Steve Norman's sponsorship information but sent a separate email and copied Steve on it. Karen has started receiving applications for the Academy classes and conference. Maureen Keedwell made a motion to approve Georgia Drager's application for tuition scholarship to the MACA Academy. Troy Schneider and Michale Layton seconded, with the motion passing unanimously. Matt Allen suggested contacting Datamars to see if they are going to sponsor the Gabby Evans Scholarship. Matt advised to state the cost of lodging and tuition is \$745.

Exhibitors/Grants:

Steve Norman reported nothing on grants so far. The portals didn't open until February. Shelterluv is doing the Chihuahua sponsorship. ACES seems interested when contacted and were having their meeting this week. No exhibitors lined up so far. Steve expects the regulars to attend and he advised he did speak to the Humane Educators of Texas who are interested but are wanting to speak so may have to speaker/exhibitor package. Matt Allen advised the Prairie States Animal Conference is a regional conference where he applied for a scholarship. Matt advised that they have amazing sponsors, so he asked how they obtained the sponsorships. Matt was advised that the relationship went back to prior to the changes. Matt suggested going to their website and checking their sponsorship list and start using state numbers for the grants. Steve reached out to Branson Tourism and hasn't heard back from them yet. He did advised he received two tickets to the Branson Aquarium, two tickets to the wax museum, Pink Jeep tours will be donating two tickets, and Steve is hoping to obtain some free lodging tickets to do a package deal with meals.

Social Media:

Stephanie Bugbee emailed a report advising nothing new to report.

Mini MACA:

Troy Schneider advised that the first Mini MACA is scheduled for 5/20/2025 in Sedalia with JT Taylor as the instructor. The topics covered will be Professional Report Writing/Animal Handling and Equipment use. Troy advised that the flyer has been created and sent to Holly for the website. Troy advised he sent it to Stephanie Bugbee for the Facebook pages but didn't get a response. Christina Elmore advised Troy to send it to her and she will get it posted. Troy asked if he could email the flyer to members on the membership list. Matt Allen advised it is good to ask so we don't flood the members with too much but advised training is appropriate. The second Mini MACA is planned for late July or early August and hopefully find a venue in the Kansas City area. Christina Elmore suggested using Platte County. Matt Allen advised they might be able to use his facility. Amber Bowlby is interested and willing to present on Dog Behavior and Use of Force. Amber's presentation is only two hours, so Troy is searching for a second training topic to fill in the rest of the day. Troy reached out to HSUS previously and hasn't heard back from them.

Branding:

Holly Bowie advised that the first solid step for branding is to establish mission, vision, and values for our organization. Holly provided descriptions of each and a draft of a mission statement for everyone to review and provide input. Matt Allen advised that we may need to include a disclaimer that this agency does not have investigative powers across the state.

Website:

Holly Bowie reported that she is currently working on an issue with receipts being emailed to the customer when making purchases. The system is designed to email receipts to the purchaser, but our checkout page does not show an option for the purchaser to add their email. Holly advised she will let us know when it has been resolved. Holly advised that if anyone has content that they want added to the website to let her know as she doesn't want to be the only one coming up with content. Holly thanked Troy Schneider for sending her the mini MACA information which has been added to the training link. She plans to add a pop-up to the main page for upcoming events such as this when time allows.

Merchandise:

Beth Gillespie reported that she has 20 cups that were purchased last year that she paid for and will donate them to MACA. Beth advised that her daughter could put the logos on them. Beth brought in pictures of several different items for consideration for the MACA store. Beth is looking at some other items still. Matt Allen suggested we not put any shirts in the swag bags as that seemed to hinder the shirt sales and suggested we use the lanyard or key rings for the swag bags. Steve Norman advised he knows someone that can do the laser cutting on the cups. He will see how much he charges and if he has time to do the cups.

OLD BUSINESS

Travel authorization for the NACA State Summit/Humane Expo 2025

We voted on it and approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Authorization for Yapp Conference App

The app will be used again. \$650 for the cost. Matt Allen advised he would work on setting up.

Bank Card Difficulties

Sara Spease advised that those that have bank cards, online payments via the cards are not working correctly. Sara advised that Maureen Keedwell was sent a card and Maureen did not receive the card. Sara then contacted the bank, and they could not advise where they sent it. Sara then ordered a third card and that card failed to show. Sara then ordered a fourth card and had the card expressed shipped via UPS to Maureen's house. Sara advised that the pin did not arrive. The other issue that occurred was when Sara went to pay for the P.O. Box and her card was rejected. Then when she attempted to purchase their plane tickets and the payment wouldn't go through. Sara advised that after arguing with the bank for approximately 12 hours, the bank advised that you have to have a verified by Visa merchant account in order for your cards to work for online purchasing. Sara followed the banks instructions, going to Visa's online merchant website where Sara found that each cardholder has to have their own separate account. Then they will text you a verification code to confirm that the transaction you are making are valid or not. Sara is requesting we change banks as Nicole Griffith is still listed on the main bank account and the bank will not discuss it with Sara since she is not the main person listed. Holly Bowie sent a message to Nichole Griffith to see if she could assist. Steve Norman made a recommendation on a bank for us to check out as they have great customer service. Other banking institutions were also given as suggestions. Sara is wanting to pursue looking at other banks and bringing a proposal for the board to approve for a new bank.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULE

Next meeting will be a Zoom meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 10th, 2025, at 10:00 AM.

ADJOURNMENT

Karen Griggs made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Beth Gillespie. The motion was unanimously approved. President Matt Allen adjourned the meeting at 1:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Griggs

**Karen Griggs
Executive Secretary**