



To the MFTHBA Membership,

My Name is Debbi Levillie and I am running for the position of MFTHBA Vice President. I am a lifetime member of the MFTHBA, which I joined in the 1970's and I currently live in Stockton, Missouri.

Prior to moving to Missouri, I lived in Northern California where I spent several decades showing, promoting and advocating for the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse. As a founding member of the Pacific Coast Fox Trotter Association, myself and a group of

other Northern Ca MFTHBA members worked diligently and became one of the first affiliates to be recognized by the MFTHBA. It was, in my opinion, a great step in progress for the MFTHBA. By recognizing groups and members in areas outside of the state of Missouri, the affiliate programs opened many doors for our association by bringing new members, more horse sales and more publicity for our Fox Trotters in events across the country.

In the 1980's and 1990's I made many trips from California to Missouri first as a spectator and then as an exhibitor. We had a great time bringing out horses from California to participate in the large shows at Ava. Looking back through old photos I enjoy so many fun memories when showing was free to exhibitors and the crowds were full and a good time was had by all.

During the Show and Celebration of 1995 I was fortunate enough to win a Reserve World Grand Championship on my mare Pistol's First Lady. Even after many people tried to purchase that mare, I always kept her as one of my favorites who I later bred, raised her foals and she enjoyed her late years of retirement on our farm here in Stockton, where she is now buried. I feel that it only takes one experience such as this that can create a lifelong passion for a person and for our Fox Trotters.

As a past president of the Pacific Coast Fox Trotter Association and then as their show chairman, I gained quite a bit of experience with organizing multi day horse shows, but I also got to experience the versatility of our breed by organizing trail rides and week-long horse camping trips for large groups of riders and their Fox Trotters. Hosting clinics was another way of getting to know other breed enthusiasts and our west coast MFTHBA members always enjoyed our events with their horses and families.

After retiring, my family and I moved to the Sierra Mountains farther into Northern Ca and we enjoyed all of our Fox Trotters on the endless mountain trails. At the time of our move I was still showing my mare Missouri Sunrise in Northern Ca and at the Show and Celebration but most of her ride time was through the beautiful trails right outside our door in the Plumas National Forest.

Making the decision to leave Northern Ca was not an easy one but I decided that I wanted to be more involved in the breed, my brother and I wanted to have more opportunities to show and breed Fox Trotters and we had made many friends in Missouri over the years.

Now that I am a Missouri resident, I have enjoyed becoming more involved with the breed. I am currently the 2 Year Old Futurity & 4 Year Old Maturity treasurer for the Mid America Fox Trotter Horse Association and have also worked as a member of the Show Committee for the MFTHBA.

As a rider who has participated in not only performance but also many versatility divisions such as reining, western pleasure, trail obstacle classes, trail riding and even costume and side saddle classes, I feel that the future growth of our association depends on all of our members and their horses, with equality in recognition and support.

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself and I appreciate your support in our 2018 MFTHBA Election.

Debbi Levillie

