



MARK MACKIE

2020 MFTHBA Presidential Candidate

Those of you that have received your MFTHBA ballot know that I am running for re-election as President of the association, as I feel we have some things moving in a direction that needs to continue. I would very much appreciate your support.

My wife, Caryn, and I have 2 children and 5 grandchildren, and our family and I have been lifelong supporters of the fox trotting horse and the MFTHBA. Our priorities have been God, Family, and then our horses.

In 1967, I began showing at the Show and Celebration, and prior to that I had attended the Show and Celebration as a spectator with family and friends. Now, at 63 years old, our Fox Trotters are still a huge part of our lifestyle and family values.

During my professional career I managed large corporations from many aspects for almost 40 years. Most recently, prior to my retirement in 2013, I spent 7 years as the VP of Operations at Redneck Trailer Supplies, which held me responsible for 21 company facilities nationwide.

I have enjoyed the past 2 years despite the many challenges, especially the past 6 months dealing with COVID 19. It was a huge disappointment to have to cancel this years 3 year old Futurity and Spring Show. We tried to minimize the impact on the members as much as possible and partnering with Mid-America to get our Futurity classes in was the preferred way by membership. I also want to thank Mid-America for partnering with us.

One of my main goals starting last year was to develop a training program for both our in breed judges as well as new judges from outside the breed. We got off to a very exciting start with a great seminar in February at William Woods College in Fulton Mo. We had planned a follow up seminar and training in March along with training at the early shows, but along came the Covid 19 pandemic and we were forced to cancel. We have some excellent candidates in the program but with so many shows being canceled we simply haven't been able to get the new judges enough experience to be eligible to judge. We certainly want them to be successful. We have 2 new judges that will be judging the Versatility show this year.

Last year we were able to acquire a new tractor for the grounds, which has saved us an unmeasurable amount of money with having access and keeping the grounds in top shape. Those of you that were there might remember the 4 inches of rain at last years Spring Show. The grounds were back in shape the next day. We installed new lights in the Versatility arena, and the two warmup arena's. The Versatility arena also has a new coat of paint.

Earlier this year, we got the requirements changed to make it more cost effective for smaller affiliates as well as changed the requirements for the smaller affiliates to host National trail rides. These changes were starting to show good results with membership and registration growth before the virus hit. I was able to get a small grant for the association through the EIDL program. We also have a professional fund raiser working for us that seems to be paying off so far.

A big challenge going forward is to get our finances in order. Cancelling one big revenue generator was a significant hit. My goal for 2021 will be for each individual budget line to be profitable. Another goal is to get more of our older youth involved in the individual committees so they become part of the planning process.

I'm one that is never satisfied when things don't happen as quickly as you like, but I do truly believe we are on the right track to achieve our objectives with a very cohesive Board.

I want to continue focus on being on a path that will ensure that all MFTHBA rules are applied fairly and without bias. As an association we must be accountable for setting an example of excellence and honesty. Without a fair, well managed environment, we cannot offer the best of our abilities to our members and their beloved Fox Trotting Horses.

I don't debate issues on social media. However, feel free to contact me directly anytime with questions.

I had some fun with this video 2 years ago so I'll play again.

Thank you again for the support.

Mark Mackie

