



that day on it was over.

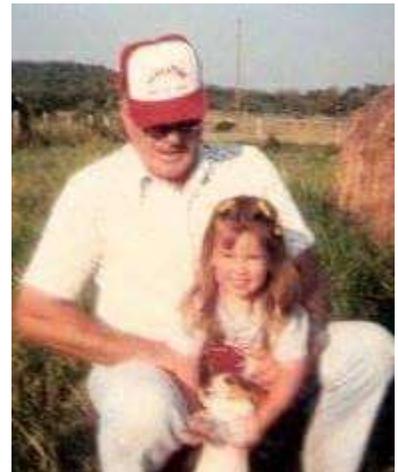
Well here it's 2020 and its election time again. As your current Vice-President I'm asking again for your continued support and vote to continue as your MFTHBA Vice-President for the next two years. My name is Mitzi Nichols I'm a third generation fox trotter enthusiast. I breed, raise, train, show, trail ride, promote and do about anything you can think of with Missouri Fox Trotters. Missouri Fox Trotters have been a family tradition and are truly a family thing in my life.

I started riding in a bucket seat on the back of a Shetland pony and once I got to where I could walk and trot him around my grandpa in a chair at the gaits as directed, then the search for a fox trotter began. With both my parents and my grandma being school teachers at that time, it was a huge thing to skip a day of kindergarten to go look at a buckskin mare with my grandpa. From

I started showing at the age of six and am still going thirty some years later. I reluctantly joined the world of boards and associations in the early 2000's by a strong push from Florine and Rex Barham. Probably more so Florine but she was extremely determined and reminded me how the young people would need to become involved in the breed to keep it going. Fifteen plus years later, many experiences and many different faces later I'm still enjoying being a part of the Mid America Fox Trotting Horse Association board. Serving for many years as a director and then currently as President. In 2007 I became a member of the National Association of Breeders and have been actively involved since. In 2017 I was asked to be on the show committee with the MFTHBA and I was the show chairman for the 2017-2018 Three Year Futurity and 2017-2018 Show and Celebration.

During my two years upon this current board I have had the opportunity to see things from different perspectives. Many of the boards that I've been on work in a much different fashion than that of the MFTHBA. The MFTHBA is one that can not work on that of the small town saddle club basis and have to be focused more on the foundation and registry of the breed. There is a lot of time and focus put in areas that need to be of that of a larger scale. We need to focus in my opinion more on membership involvement and investment. Members who are more invested within will be more willing to be involved. We have lost some of the membership due to the change in communication, going to mainly electronic. We need to get back to more of the face to face communication and written print. We need to communicate better with our members not only on notifications but also on keeping them informed. Those who are informed and appreciated will be more willing to be involved within the breed. During my time on the board I have tried to be readily available to the members. If they have questions or concerns I'm here to listen and do what I can. Everything that I ran on last election has not changed and if anything I have learned I am an old soul in this breed. The history and tradition of our breed is invaluable to our association. Definitely in today's times we are seeing how we must keep the history to move forward.

I'm looking forward to continue reincorporating the history and tradition back into the breed. The foundation of what the breed and our wonderful horse has evolved from and help move into today's world. Facing the many challenges that technology and the changing ways of the world impose upon our breed, without forgetting the foundation and history of the breed along the way. We must be financially smart and thrifty, but yet look to expand and move our association forward. Help bring new members and old members back into the breed along the way. I believe we all need to be open and available for the members and their concerns or ideas. I feel there are many areas where our regions can help to continue to expand and grow the association. I'm looking forward to continue accepting these challenges, with the support of the members, and to see growth within our association.



I would appreciate your continued support and vote in the upcoming election. It would be a great honor to represent the members of this association and to do what I can to continue to help our breed and wonderful horse. I don't know if grandpa knew or meant for his enjoyment and love of fox trotters to turn into what it did, but thirty plus years later here I am serving on three boards, thirty head of fox trotters, three stallions and every extra hour is spent with something horse related running thru my mind. I'm thankful for the memories of those afternoon naps of going thru old Celebration and Mid America books and Journals with them, the stories from fellow members, the fox hunts, the elk hunts, trips to Germany, all the wonderful people I've met, the many memories and opportunities that I've had thanks to the horses. I'm looking forward to many more and to giving back to the association. Grandpa served on the board and I'd be more than glad to continue following in those shoes with the members support.

Thank you for your support,

Your Current MFTHBA Vice-President

Mitzi Nichols

