

My name is Brian Oglesby, and I am currently seeking the office of President of the MFTHBA.

A little about myself... I am 55 years old and live on a farm in northeast Missouri with my wife, Teahna, and our three children. Here we breed, raise, and train foxtrotting horses. I have been a lifetime member of the MFTHBA since the late 70s and haven't missed a day of the Celebration since 1978. I started training foxtrotting horses at the age of 15 and have been blessed to make a living doing something I enjoy for over 40 years.

In 1998 I organized and was President of the International Foxtrotting Horse Trainers Association. Through this organization I was able to bring the trainers together for the support of the show horse industry by creating a point series show circuit with a championship show.

In 2005 I ran and was elected Vice President of the MFTHBA. In 2006 I ran and was elected President. I was the first person ever to bring Regional Representation positions to the board. My original plan needed some tweaking, but with the Board's help, we came up with a solution that gave members from all areas of the world a voice on the Board of Directors.

Also during my time on the board, I proposed a competitive trail/trail miles circuit. At the time I had sponsorships for a trailer and six new saddles as year end awards. I'm not always politically correct, and guess I stepped on the wrong toes because my proposal failed to get the Board's approval. I regretted not getting this program passed. I feel it could have taken the trail program to a whole new level. Nevertheless, a spade is still a spade, and that's what I am going to call it. I finished my term in a lame duck session. When I say finished my term, I mean I was at every meeting and workshop for the whole term of my presidency. Since I recently started contemplating running for office, the word got out that I might run. Some members started spreading the rumor that I did not finish my term while I held my previous office. They needed to educate themselves a little. At the time I was in office, the terms of these positions were only one year. Terms were changed from one year to two years at a later time.

In the spring of 2017, there were rumors of cutting the 2 year old division from the Show and Celebration. Myself, along with my fellow trainers and some very dedicated amateur riders, developed the 2 year old Incentive Fund. This program brought together trainers, breeders, and exhibitors from all facets of the breed. We raised over \$14,000 that was split between the open and amateur in the championship classes for 2 year olds. The preliminary classes were full, and each of the stake classes were full. This was done to prove to the existing board that there are other solutions than just throwing away something that's been a huge part of our breed for decades. Look outside the box, have an original idea, and try something. It just might work.

In 2020 a fellow trainer approached me about a Trainers' Association and developing a Point Series Show. Through a lot of work and support from all the trainers, this point series took off like wildfire. The small weekend shows were seeing numbers they hadn't seen in years. Trainers were getting out and promoting the breed. This is a great plan and something I would like to see continue. It's a win win situation for the breed, trainers, amateurs, horse shows, and the economy. While it got temporarily halted due to the Covid outbreak, I think we'll see it flourish once again in the near future.

Some who oppose me might say that he'll take us back to the "Good Ole Boy" system. I'm not sure to be offended or proud of this accusation. Being heavily invested in this breed for over 40 years, I've been fortunate enough to see the breed in its glory years...times when you couldn't find an empty stall on the grounds or a place to sit in the bleachers on any given night of the Celebration. Those were my early years in the breed and the "good ole boys" were running things then...the Esthers, Lowes, Sutherlands, Jones...All men of integrity whom I looked up to and had the utmost respect for. Memberships and registrations were growing by leaps and bounds. They introduced our breed to the National Forest Service which had a huge impact on the promotion of the trail riding aspect of our breed. At that time the breed was very financially stable. They started the Three Year Old Futurity Show. These were men who dedicated their time and lives to make the breed what it was at the time. I think we've fallen a bit short in carrying it on to the next level. So yes, if you want to say I'm one of the "good ole boys", I guess I'm proud to be called that. I'm sure not afraid to try new things to better promote the breed, and I'm sure not one to take the easy way out and throw something away when a little work and direction could make it bigger and better.

Folks, I don't claim to have all the right answers, but you can bet I will work for what I think is the best for the promotion and expansion of our breed. I enjoy watching any good horse work of any breed. I keep up with several different breeds and their shows. Their numbers are off slightly due to the current economy and fuel prices, but they're still flourishing and very active. I'm not seeing that in our breed. We've got the best horse in the world for trail riding, versatility, dressage, and showing. Our horse, the Missouri Foxtrotter, can do it all! It's time the horse world finds out the Ozarks' best kept secret. I would appreciate your vote for President in the upcoming election.

Thank you,

Brian Oglesby