

My name is Sam Gerhardt. I'm running for the Region 8 Director position. I'd surely appreciate your vote.

A little personal information about me... My wife and I now live in the Great Smoky Mountains Of East Tennessee. I'm from Oklahoma. She's from Alabama. We met and married while in college in Chattanooga, Tennessee. During the almost 44 years of our marriage, we've lived in Tennessee, Alabama, Oklahoma, Mississippi and Missouri. We've been back in Tennessee since 2004, and have no plans to leave! I was associated with troubled youth rescue ministries for over 20 years and in the US Army for 9 years. We have a married daughter in Mobile, Alabama, who has four children. We have a married son in Knoxville, Tennessee, who has four children. We are close with all of our children and grandchildren. Along with being a husband, father, grandfather and veteran, I am also a small business owner and I pastor a small local church. This is the short version of my full and rewarding life!

A little information about my association with Missouri Fox Trotters... I first joined the MFTHBA in 2003, when I transferred the first MFT I bought into my name. I still own that gelding, Kattie's Midas Touch, aka Midas, who is now 18 years old and going strong! Over the years we've bought, sold and traded many MFTs. We've owned as many as nine at one time. As of this writing, we own four MFT geldings. Every MFT we've owned has been enrolled into the Fox Trot America Program. The four MFTs we now ride have a combined total of 3,665 plus hours on the Fox Trot America Program. Of those hours, my Midas has over 2,107 hours, which places him among the top ten MFTs in that program. So far, I've earned 24 points in the National Trail Ride Program. My wife and I have owned and ridden other horses in our lives, but we've never been as actively passionate about any other breed as we are about our MFTs!

A little information about my association with the MFTHBA... Along with a few others, I started the Tennessee affiliate of the MFTHBA, the Foxtrotting Trail Riders Of Tennessee, aka "FoxTROT", in 2008. I've been the president of FoxTROT since day one. FoxTROT hosts two National Trail Rides each year. The members of FoxTROT and I have been influential in introducing many new people to the Missouri Fox Trotter and the MFTHBA throughout our area. I served several years on the National Trail Committee. For most of those years, I was the only member from outside the southern Missouri area. I served on the Promotions Committee for several years. I am currently the Chair of the Affiliate Committee. Under my leadership, the Affiliate Committee has presented proposed changes to the current Affiliate structure and requirements, which we believe will greatly improve the Affiliate program. Several years ago I started the FaceBook group, MFTHBA Trail Programs, where I seek to promote and educate folks on all things related to the MFT trail rider. I believe that I had a little influence in getting the page in the Show & Celebration Catalog that lists the names of the National Trail Ride participants and the top Fox Trot America participants. I'm an active member of and an official ambassador for the MFTHBA partner organization, Top Trail Horse. My wife and I also support other MFTHBA Affiliates with our membership. (On a side note, we support two Back Country Horsemen chapters in the areas in which we trail ride.) I wear a MFTHBA belt buckle every day. My truck and horse trailers have MFTHBA and FoxTROT decals on them. If you have any knowledge of me before seeing this candidacy letter, you know that there are few folks in the MFT world who are more passionate about the MFT trail horse, the MFTHBA National Trail Ride Program, the Fox Trot America Program, and MFT trail riders being current and active members of the MFTHBA than I am.

A little information about why you should vote for me as the Region 8 Director... if what I've already presented isn't enough, allow me to add a bit more. I love this breed. I love the folks with whom I've been associated within this breed association. I love the purpose of and have great hope for the future of this breed association. I believe that my passion, experiences of life, and experiences within the breed association, can be of benefit to all of the members within Region 8 and the MFTHBA. I vow to support the rules of the MFTHBA and to strongly support all of the disciplines within the MFT world. In the areas in which I'm weak, I'll educate myself and seek the wisdom of those who know. In the areas in which I'm strong, I'll speak out boldly and seek to educate those who do not know. If elected, it is my intent to attend at least one event sponsored by each active Affiliate within Region 8 during my term of service. If elected, I'll actively seek to assist each current Affiliate and to assist the starting of new Affiliates within Region 8. If elected, I'll actively seek input from every member of Region 8 in order to effectively represent the interests of the MFTHBA members in Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Iowa.

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