

Hello to All in Region 9!

My name is Andrew Hendrix. I am 27 years old and live near Marshall, AR in the Boston Mountains. I live on a 720 acre ranch with 75 registered Charolais cow/calf pairs and 30 registered Missouri Fox Trotting Horses.

I am a member of the Falling Water Church in Falling Water, AR. Since 2012, I have worked for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission as a Wildlife Technician. My degree is in Agriculture Business from Arkansas Tech University where I learned how to run a successful business. That knowledge would help to build back up the MFTHBA, since it should be run like a business.

Living near the Buffalo National River, the Richland Creek Wilderness, and the Bearcat Hollow WMA, I have unlimited access to some of the most beautiful trails in the country. I lead an average of 15 to 20 trail rides from my barn each year in the scenic Ozarks.

My first registered Missouri Fox Trotter was purchased in the fall of 1999. He was a two-year old smokey black stallion. When I was only 11 years old, I became hooked on the breed. In 2004, I set out with my Dad to purchase my first broodmares to start raising quality registered Missouri Fox Trotters. Since then, I have become involved in the show circuit, showing several great horses and winning championship titles. My stallion, Southern Sunrise's Romeo, won the 2009 Open Amateur World Grand Championship, and last fall, my mare, Stratus's Morning Star, won the Senior Model Mares Amateur Owned World Grand Championship.

During the past 11 years, I have raised, trained, and sold many Fox Trotters to members all over the United States, matching them with that perfect lifetime trail horse. I am a carded judge with the MFTHBA and in 2012, was one of the youngest judges to have ever judged a full week of the Show and Celebration. I have judged all over the United States and in Germany twice. I am also a carded judge in other organizations and disciplines. I have served as President of the Southern Classic Charity Horse Show Committee for three of the past 6 years. Currently, I am the President of a new affiliate in Arkansas; the North Central Arkansas Fox Trotter Association. To show that simple economics do work, the annual dues for the club are \$5 per person. The club has approximately 100 members from four states. Even though our overhead is low, we manage to host two trail rides in the spring and fall, a clinic, and a show.

After several concerned members called me last Friday to encourage me to run for this position, I agreed to submit my name for consideration. I would like to let each and every member know that even though I am running for Region 9 (Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi) I am not only running for a regional rep position, but a board position, and I am concerned for **all** members. I am not running for this position to win ribbons or titles. My concern is the betterment of the breed. Although I know many will want me to talk about the judging, it is my fear the MFTHBA has bigger fish to fry than hiring a judge for a horse show. What is going to happen in the next 10 years for the Association is my biggest concern.

A few topics that have been brought to my attention are:

The Journal- "Have you gotten your Journal yet?" This has been the beginning of a conversation for the membership for many years. Taking the Journal away was like "driving nails in the coffin." I realize that the Journal was discontinued due to printing and mailing costs. I would like to consider ways to allow the Journal to support itself. The Journal is the connection from the Association to the membership. Many of

our members do not own computers and as a result, do not have current information concerning the Association.

Show vs. Registry- Are the shows supporting the registry or is the registry supporting the shows? This is a subject I think the Association should address with an open mind. The future of both is at risk. Research and data need to be gathered from both in order to make a decision based upon the information. A decision should be made on what is best for the breed.

Increasing revenue- As we all know, the economic downturn of our country for the past 7 years has concerned everyone, not just horse people. The Association has no control over national economics. If we have read our Bibles, we know that this is something that is not going to get any better, but we must make the best of it. The Association will have to have an incentive for people to become members, remain members, and to transfer their horses. The Regional Representatives should do their original stated duty to inform members in their region about the MFTHBA and to be involved in events in their area to encourage others about the breed and to become members and transfer registration papers.

Informing the membership- It behooves the Association to go above and beyond their current approach toward promoting the breed, informing the membership regarding events, minutes of the board meetings, financial statements and other concerns within the association.

If I am elected for the Region 9 Board Position, I will be open and available for **all** members of the Association to voice their concerns. I appreciate your vote, but most of all, I appreciate your voting in the election and staying connected with the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association.