

May 2020 MFTHBA BoD Meeting Report from Sam Gerhardt

Tuesday night, 12 May 2020, was the monthly MFTHBA BoD meeting. I participated by telephone conference call. It was a productive evening. The "workshop" session started at 5:30pm (eastern) and continued until 8:10. The BoD meeting started at 8:15 and continued until 9:30. Members may see a complete video of the meeting on the Members-Only section of the MFTHBA website, which should be uploaded in the next few days. The Minutes will be posted after the June meeting.

Here are some of my notes from the meeting...

Melvin Snethern, Secretary /Treasurer, presented the Financial Report which was accepted and approved. This information is always available to MFTHBA members in the Members Only section of the MFTHBA website.

Melvin Snethern also presented the Registry Report which was accepted and approved. New MFTHBA memberships are still up by 5 for this time of year over last year. Total Registrations are up by 18 this year as compared to last year at this time. Registration Transfers are up by 36 this year as compared to this same time last year. All of these increases are very encouraging!

Regional Reports... Michelle Hodges, Region 1, mentioned their recent good weather had encouraged lots of trail riding. Alexis Zastoupil, Region 3, mentioned the ongoing effort to reestablish the Arizona Affiliate. Amber Wilson, Region 4, mentioned that most of her Region is still on lockdown. She commended the two affiliates in her region for their great communication regarding tough decisions made during this time. Debbi Levillie, Region 5, mentioned an upcoming western dressage show in her region. Eddie Moore, Region 6, mentioned that most were still on lockdown, but that some local trail riding is being done. He also mentioned that the training barns were show ready. Gale Thompson, Region 7, mentioned that the training barns were busy and that there is building excitement for the show. For Region 8, I mentioned that the Michigan affiliate had 3 specific events on their calendar; the Basic Horsemanship Clinic with Levi Beechy, 23-24 May; the Gaited Horsemanship Clininc with Larry Whitesell, 19-21 June; and their National Trail Ride, 8-9 August. I also mentioned that our Tennessee affiliate is expecting great support and could have one of the largest NTRs we've hosted. Beverly Frizzell, Region 9, mentioned that lots of trail riding is being done. She also mentioned the building excitement over the youth activities expected during the upcoming show in Ava. Ross Harper, Region 10, mentioned that Florida is just coming out of lockdown and that nothing much was happening.

The Board extended the Adult Registration Horse Discount until the end of May. The Board extended the waiver on late fees of stallion breeding reports and stall maintenance fees until the end of June. These extensions will provide continued opportunity for folks to take advantage of the

discounts.

Member Address... A member addressed the Board to discuss a number of items. He asked that the MFTHBA take the lead in our upcoming shows and that the Board consider the membership when making decisions on how to proceed. He encouraged the efforts of the Board in finding opportunities for the Showgrounds to be used for various and multiple events throughout the year. He emphasized the importance of providing opportunities for our new judges to apprentice during the upcoming show and to continue to expand the judges pool. He also asked about the Board's efforts towards rebuilding the gazebo.

Mark Mackie, President, provided a report from the man helping with the formal fundraising effort. He stated that, although the current situation had greatly hindered this effort, positive progress was being made.

Committee Reports... The Trail Committee requested that the MFTHBA still host the National Trail Ride originally scheduled for the Spring Show, 9-12 June. I and three others voted, Yes, on this request. I felt like this could be a positive thing for the trail riders to have the Showgrounds to themselves and go on with the rides. However, the motion failed. The main concern was that the MFTHBA had already told the Mayor and others in the community that there'd be no MFTHBA event at the Showgrounds in June. It all goes back to extreme caution and protecting perception in the community.

The Board approved a contract with the Mid-America Fox Trotting Horse Association to host the Three Year Old Futurity classes during the annual Mid-America Grand Slam. While I agree with some who felt that the MFTHBA Futurity should take priority over all other events on the Showgrounds, after much consideration, I voted, Yes, on this motion. My main reason being that the MFTHBA had a verbal commitment to the Mid-America Association for these dates long before the lockdowns were imposed. No one could have predicted the situation we find ourselves in and I don't think it proper for the MFTHBA to back out on this commitment. Long discussions and much debate preceded this Board decision. I know that there have been strong opinions expressed from all sides of this dilemma, but I do believe the best option was chosen given the current situation. So, here's the plan... The MFTHBA will have ownership of our Three-Year-Old Futurity classes and this was addressed in the contract with Mid-America. The MFTHBA will have full show management responsibilities for the Three Year Old Futurity classes including management of the judges. Judges sign MFTHBA contracts for our classes and the MFTHBA will pay the appropriate amount for those judges. Futurity classes will follow all our rules and any issues will be addressed by the MFTHBA. Mid-America will allow the owners of fully paid three-year-old futurity entries to participate in their judge voting process. Representatives from the MFTHBA Board will participate in the tabulating process throughout. However, please keep in mind the MFTHBA will utilize 5 judges for our classes.

This is different from the Mid-America classes. Our discussion is to utilize the three Mid-Am judges while adding two of our own. Three Year Old Futurity rules require that judges be approved by the MFTHBA Board so we will have to follow that process. More info will be forthcoming regarding the Versatility events and National Trail Ride during these dates. These arrangements are a one time deal. Baring some unforeseen situation, all will return to normal in 2021.

New Affiliate... Welcome the Arizona Fox Trotter Association! In two separate motions, the Board voted to waive the \$100 affiliate application fee in light of the very generous donation given to the MFTHBA by the previous AZ Affiliate and to approve the Arizona FTA as a new affiliate at the Iron Level! Zelda Opoka and others have worked very hard to get this done. I've seen that they've already been organizing a number of events. Keep an eye on this renewed affiliate!

As always, I appreciate your confidence and support. If you have any questions, concerns or feedback, please let me know. The next regular BoD meeting is set for 9 June 2020.

Happy Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, and...

Happy Trails to you and yours!

ENTRIES ARE CLOSED! This week is Performance Week in our Virtual "All Around Horse" Challenge. There are two challenges. Under this thread, post your video or picture of your registered Missouri Fox Trotter modeling. It could be in the arena or out on the trail. We want to see your horse's beautiful confirmation. Make sure your post includes the member's name and the horse's registered name or registration number. Good luck and have fun!!!! Entries close at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, May 10th.