

MI Foxtrotter Association Inc. (MFTA)

www.michfoxtrotters.com

Following a sumptuous lunch potluck, the Nov. 15, 2009 meeting held at V.P. Charleen Ostrom's Paladin Farm in Charlotte was called to order by Pres. Jim McKenney of Yale. As there were new faces at the table, introductions took place so we all could learn how each of us first got exposed to Foxtrotters. We found that the MFT was not the first breed most of us chose but we have found comfort & ease of use now. And we are sticking with them!

No Treasurer report was given but the Secretary report was accepted as read.

Starting with Old Business: MHC Secretary, Sandi Roath, requested that we send in our membership paperwork & fee asap. The present MFTA website is having difficulties being revamped so it was decided to create a new one. The Beltramos of Ortonville hosted a Foxtrotter trail ride Oct. 11th at Elba. Jen Beltramo reported that the riders had fun on the trails and a nice lunch followed. There were no hunters or bugs there.

Member Jen Kivela has offered to display her gelding, Demolition Fantasy Ride, at the 2009 Stallion Expo in March at MSU.

Officer nominations will be taken at our Jan. 2009 meeting so think of who you would like to fill those positions. There is a Director position open and anyone with a registered MFT can run for any position.

New Business: Our own Charleen Ostrom has been elected to represent MFTHBA region 8 which includes MI, IA, WI, IL, KY and TN! Go to Yahoo groups, type in MFTRegion8(no spaces) and read what the other states involved have been discussing. She needs to attend a workshop in Ava, MO Dec. 12-14 so plans are underway to figure out how to pay for her transport & stay. She reported from her four hour Nov. 10 meeting with the MFTHBA via telephone connect that Pres. Jim Mann made sure that all of the regional representatives were heard from. She also reported that there was a real spirit of working TOGETHER. A new era has dawned in the MFTHBA!

At the Novi expo Richard Shrake asked our Jim McKenney to work with him on some training topics in 2009. Jim was honored to be asked.

There was discussion about purchasing or producing an acceptable educational video for judges and others showing the signature foxtrot gait. Charleen will look into getting one while at Ava and Jim McKenney will see about creating one.

Chuck Fanslow has offered to host a trail ride July 18-19, 2009 at South Branch. Please give us more dates of Foxtrotter trail rides when you decide to have them so we can let folks know. Look at your calendars; we'd like to have them hosted in various parts of the state, including the UP, if possible.

There will be a clinic in Grand Haven at Stephanie Leavitt's farm April 24-26, 2009. Our Jim will be the clinician. We are hoping to host another one April 17-19; location TBA. Jim will be our clinician there, too. And ever-popular Jim will host a third clinic May 15-17 at his McKenney Ranch in Yale. He has lots to teach!

There is talk of a practice show/fun day next year, too. The youth really like that. We'll keep you updated as those details unfold.

The annual MFTA banquet/meeting will be held Feb. 14, 2009 at Tony M's Restaurant, 3420 Creyts Road, Lansing. This is the same place as last year.

The meeting was adjourned with many desserts to consume. Members shared photos and stories of their horses and made plans to see each other in 2009.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Mannino(MFTA Secretary)