

**Michigan Foxtrotter Assoc.,Inc.**  
**Michfoxtrotters.com**

Well THIS has sure been a very snowy winter. Let's hope that all of this snow will help refill the lakes and help hay and pastures grow in the Spring. It sure isn't fun driving in it. Which gets me to the January 2009 MFTA meeting.....it got cancelled due to the bad driving conditions. So, my son & I went up to watch some of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary MI Horseshoers event going on at the MSU Pavilion in E. Lansing. As we entered the building we could smell those horses' hooves burning as the hot shoes were fitted to their feet. I met a nice lady helping run the event and told her how us gaited people had trouble finding an adequately-trained farrier for our horses in Michigan. I gave her some information written by Foxtrotter farriers, Bob Blackwell and Keith Mizer of Missouri, to put in their MI Farrier newsletter explaining how our breed should be trimmed & shod. She said she would contact both of the gentlemen to ask permission first before disseminating their pearls of gaited farrier wisdom. I hope this helps the gaited horse population in Michigan get shod & shod better. Go to our website ([michfoxtrotters.com](http://michfoxtrotters.com)) to access those articles.

We are still planning the MFTA annual banquet set for Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> (note NEW date) at Tony M's in Lansing (3420 S. Creyts Road). It will be nice to see everyone again. Nominations are still being taken for the officer positions. Please get your name to me if you are interested in running for any of them. I need to get your name on the ballot in time for the banquet where we will be voting. Outgoing Treasurer, Justin Beltramo, has decided to vacate that position due to lack of time. Anyone want to be Treasurer?

Did you see the Foxtrotters in the Rose Bowl parade Jan 1<sup>st</sup>? They were the first line of horses in the Long Beach Mounted Posse Group. Their saddles were stunning! The Buffalo Soldiers also rode MFTs in that parade. RFD TV showed them during Equifest shooting blanks over a "fallen" horse in a mock battle the week before the parade. If you didn't catch it, then watch RFD TV next year before the parade...there's a show just about the horses in it.

Chuck Fanslow has agreed to attend the Feb. 7 Trail Riders Alliance of MI organizational meeting in Midland. He will report back to us at the banquet.

MFTA members need to log on to Yahoo group MFTregion8 to be included in the discussions going on there with other Foxtrotter people about, among other things, the DNA and drug issues which need to be addressed. Region 8 representative, Char Ostrom, reports our opinions to the MFTHBA. Get on there or call her (517.541.1282) to tell her what you think.

Please send me your 2009 MFTA membership ASAP. We'd like to keep the Association going but we need YOU to keep it alive!

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Mannino(MFTA Secretary)