



504 SW Windmill Lane
Lee's Summit, MO 64082
(816) 537-0610
Fax (816) 537-0624
www.MoQHA.com

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Dear MQHA Friends,

Wow! Another month has passed. It seems as if 2010 is flying by.

I'm pleased to report that the first set of Carthage shows, which were dual approved with Kansas, were great shows. And, I'm told that the recent Wichita shows, also jointly approved by Kansas and Missouri, were well attended. We will continue to explore opportunities like this with our other neighbors.

Please tell all your friends about the great opportunity that our upcoming Maple Leaf shows in Columbia (May 7-9) and our Boystown shows in Lake St. Louis (May 13-16) provide to show to 8 judges in 9 days. They should be great shows—and the Boystown shows count as double Missouri points for year end award purposes.

Also, the MQHA futurity shows in Sedalia at the State Fairgrounds, set for August 27-29, 2010, have now received AQHA approval. So, be sure to mark your calendars. As an added attraction, Dawn and Bruce Smith, along with daughter Denim, are hard at work putting together an exciting speed event show with lots of added money and prizes for Friday and Saturday nights. They are calling it the "Missouri Quarter Horse Association Speed Extravaganza." This provides us with an opportunity to reach out to a group of exhibitors that might not otherwise participate in our shows. Dawn tells me that they will be running barrels all night on Saturday!

The 2010 AQHA Convention, held this year in Orlando, is now behind us. The AQHA Board of Directors approved two bylaw changes that were recommended by the AQHA Nominations and Credentials Committee. The first change lowers the age for a director to be eligible to be elevated to director emeritus status from 70 to 65. The second change lowers the

cumulative terms of service on the board of directors in order for a director to be eligible to become a Director-at-Large from 20 years to 15 years.

These changes impact Missouri, in that both Paul Lindsey and Robbie Rainer have served on the Board of Directors for 15 years. Therefore, they will become Directors-at-Large. The elevation of Paul and Robbie then, of course, presents an opportunity for the addition of two new directors from Missouri. The MQHA bylaws outline, at Article IV, Section 6, the nomination process for becoming a national director (see www.moqha.com for a copy of the current bylaws). If you or someone you know would be interested in becoming a national director, I would encourage you to review this section of the bylaws. More importantly, I would encourage you to grab one of our current directors and talk to them about what being a national director involves.

Finally, I just wanted to take a second to publicly thank Homer and Cookie Stude for all that they do for the MQHA, and all that they have done for this great organization through the years. I have had an opportunity to watch Homer and Cookie interact with their AQHA family the last couple of years at the annual convention. Each year, I walk away with the truly heartwarming feeling that no one is more loved and respected in that organization than Homer and Cookie. We, as an organization, are truly blessed to have them on our team.

Until next month.

Mike Murphy
MQHA President