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Dear MQHA Members,

I write this letter in early March, recognizing that it will not be published in the Central States Horseman until April. The Missouri Quarter Horse Association's 2010 show season is now upon us and by the time this letter is published, will be well under way. I always look forward to seeing both new faces and old in the show arena each year. Each are equally important to MQHA, and I hope that if you see someone new at the horse shows this year, in true MQHA fashion, you will make them feel welcome.

I've been thinking a lot about the great value that an MQHA membership provides both to folks who show, and to folks whose connection to the quarter horse might be through a horse-related business or profession. The obvious benefits include the shows and the opportunity to compete for great year-end awards. And for the youth, MQHA shows offer an opportunity to qualify to represent Missouri at the AQHYA World Championship Show in Oklahoma City, and in the NYATT events at the All-American Quarter Horse Congress. But there is a lot more!

For instance, all member families receive the Central States Horseman. All members receive the annual directory. Our futurity in the fall has endured these tough economic times and continues to be great fun and an opportunity to win real money as a participant. Additionally, it is always good to connect with friends away from the horse shows at the annual convention.

Our organization is dependent upon its membership in order to continue to grow and prosper. For that reason, I would like to challenge each member to make contact with your friends who are quarter horse owners and exhibitors. Get them involved! Also, get your farriers and your vets and your feed and hay suppliers involved. It's a great opportunity from a business standpoint to network and to gain exposure to new clients for these folks.

Additionally, Mark Baker and Wayne Hembry are co-chairing our corporate sponsor committee. If you have any ideas as to potential corporate sponsorships, they would love to hear from you. We continue to look for ways to add value to our corporate sponsors.

Sometimes we tend to think of ourselves as a horse show organization. And we are that. But the MQHA also offers a number of events that aren't directly related to horse shows. For instance, Robbie and Tesia Rainer put on a heck of an event each fall up in Huntsville in the form of the annual MQHA trail ride. This year's trail ride is scheduled for September 9-12, 2010. The Rainers offer entertainment, an auction, door prizes, a cowboy poker ride, and seminars. And, you can explore 2000 acres of scenic, horse-friendly trails. Whether you trail ride or just enjoy getting together with friends to socialize, Robbie and Tesia guarantee a great time. For more information, see their website at www.missvalley.com/rainertrailride/index.htm.

Finally, on the business side, and because we are not just a horse show organization, I'd like to remind everyone about the upcoming Show Me Spring Classic Horse Sale that will be held at the Boone County Fairgrounds in Columbia on April 17, 2010. If you are looking for nice horses, this sale is a great place to find them.

Talk to you next month!

Sincerely,

Mike Murphy
MQHA President