

Hello Members and Friends,

I hope the 2017 ride season was as enjoyable for you as it was for me!

Now, leaves are down, fields are being harvested, birds have flown South, and geese are forming their V's to join the other small birds in warmer climes. We've seen a few snowflakes flying on the wind and a few white yards already. We and our horses are adjusting to more pasture/home time, furry winter coats for them with sweatshirts and jackets for us. As we prepare for the upcoming winter and holidays, we also look forward to our Annual Meeting get together in January. This message focuses primarily on that meeting, but please also note that Membership renewals are due and MAPFHA is again making plans to attend the MN Horse Expo next April.

**LOCATION CHANGE for 2018 Annual Meeting** – Jan. 13, lunch and cash bar, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., will be **held again at Jacque B's Kitchen and Cocktails, in Montrose, MN.** (Former reservations fell through at the St. Michael Cinema due to staff and service changes.) Save the date and please plan to attend. **Free lunch** for current members again!

#### **MAPFHA Proposed Changes to Bylaws and Membership Renewal**

Changes were presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting and will be voted on for approval at the 2018 meeting. The proposed changes are attached for your review in advance of the meeting. We discussed these updates at the 2017 meeting, but if you have any questions, please bring them to the 2018 Annual Meeting. Some changes are minimal; others are intended to improve communication and clarify our guidelines. Changes are noted in red on the attached document. Due to our current reduced membership numbers, we can operate with less formality and process; but, as an official non-profit organization, the Bylaws must legally reflect that. **We need your vote** to approve these changes to streamline MAPFHA's processes and practices, as well as to clarify some confusing language.

One of the proposals involves changing the membership timeline to be synchronous with the new PFHA membership calendar, which now runs Jan.-Dec. MAPFHA's current membership year runs Oct. 1-Sept. 30. If the change is approved at our Annual Meeting 2018, our new membership year will begin with the 2019 renewals.

So, at this time, **Membership RENEWALS are DUE.** Please fill out and submit your renewal now to Chuck Hauser (dues and address are on the attached form). New members receive their first year free; no payment needed, just send the completed application.

#### **MN Horse Expo 2018**

Five members have expressed interest in representing the Paso Fino breed and our organization at the 2018 MN Horse Expo. If you haven't already done so, participants should mail their portion of the cost **(\$47.25)** to Chuck Hauser immediately. His address is on the attached Membership Application form. As in the past, MAPFHA will cover the Expo expenses up to \$500; participating individual members share the remaining cost.

The Expo is held Fri.-Sun. the last weekend in April at the MN State Fairgrounds in St. Paul. Horse check-in is on Thursday, and horses must remain on the grounds until Sunday, 5 p.m. Riders/owners can camp on the fairgrounds or drive back and forth each day; but they must be in

attendance and care for their own horse daily, as well as participate in the presentation practice and exhibitions. Exhibition includes the Parade of Breeds (12-1 p.m. Fri.-Sun.) and the Breed Demonstrations on Fri.-Sat. We will try to practice our group Demo routine Thursday night in the Coliseum. No experience is necessary, but your horse should be able to safely handle a high-stimulus environment both in the Coliseum and on the street.

<http://www.mnhorseexpo.org/>

Minnesota's Horse Expo is one of the largest in the country and a **great opportunity to promote the Paso Fino**; but, we want well-gaited, well-behaved horses to present their finest attributes to the public. Horse owners have shown increasing interest in the gaited breeds, and we want to demonstrate the Paso Fino's smooth gait, as well as their outstanding temperament.

### **Elections – President, Secretary**

Since we have received no nominations for President and Secretary, we will take nominations at the Annual Meeting in January and **conduct a general election** at that time.

### **New Website!**

Many, many thanks to our new webmaster, Diane Merz, for renovating and updating our **MAPFHA website**. Please note the new URL; it is “.org” not “.com” anymore.

<http://www.mapfha.org/>

You can also **Find us on Facebook**! Look for “MAPFHA” and join the group.

MAPFHA members again enjoyed our spring trail ride/camping event at Crow-Hassan, welcoming a few guests; and a few hearty souls braved cold/wet weather to ride together again at Ft. Ridgely in mid-October. On a personal note, my endurance team competed in events from Wyoming to southern WI, including the North Dakota Badlands and the South Dakota Bear Butte area. We also spent five recreational days at Hay Creek Ranch in SD with Jan and Marv Meyer. The end of this ride season saw my gelding, Nevado, earning the PFHA High Point Endurance Trail Horse award again for the third consecutive year; my mare Zia retiring mid-summer and moving on to a new, loving home; and my second gelding, Chaco, totally recovering from his former pain/anxiety issues and successfully re-starting his competition career. Zia and Nevado also made the Top Ten list for the MnDRA organization. It's been an eventful, productive season for us! If you have special events, travels, accomplishments or updates with your horses you'd like to share with the group, too, feel free to reply to me. I'll be glad to forward them.

We look forward to seeing you in January. Have a great holiday season with your families, friends and furry family members, too!

Warmly,

*Lynda Zimmerman, President  
Mid America Paso Fino Horse Assn.*

On behalf of the Mid America Board of Directors:

Chuck Hauser, Treasurer  
Jan Meyer, Secretary  
Sharon Gallagher, Director at Large