

Archive Message 1/1/18

MAPFHA Members and Friends,

Happy New Year 2018 to you! I hope you and your horses are faring well in this cold spell and looking forward to another ride season in a few months. Until then, we have the Annual Meeting opportunity to get together, share our ride stories and conduct a short business meeting over lunch.

Draft Meeting Minutes from the 2017 meeting are attached. Please review them in advance to save meeting time for business items. Details are below for the location and agenda. Especially important is the approval of the Bylaws changes that were proposed last year, including synchronizing the membership year with PFHA's membership cycle, as well as conducting a General Election for President and Secretary. The Membership Application is attached again if you haven't renewed yet.

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**. Save the date and please plan to attend. **Free lunch** for current members again!

<http://www.jacquebs.com/>

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 for 2018**. Please fill out and submit your renewal now to Chuck Hauser or bring to the meeting (dues and address are on the attached form). New members receive their first year free; no payment needed, just send/bring the completed application.

Elections – President and Secretary

Since we have received no nominations for President and Secretary, we will take nominations at the Annual Meeting 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. She will add more historical pictures from 2009 and 2010 when she receives the CD from me (soon).

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

MN Horse Expo 2018

Five members have expressed interest in representing the Paso Fino breed and our organization at the 2018 MN Horse Expo. The Expo will be held Fri.-Sun. the last weekend in April at the MN State Fairgrounds in St. Paul. Exhibition includes the Parade of Breeds (12-1 p.m. Fri.-Sun.) and the Breed Demonstrations on Fri.-Sat. 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.

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

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

We look forward to seeing you again at the January 13 meeting!

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