

Dear Mary Jean:

Thanks for the job you do in putting together the *Mustang Times*, also for the coverage of the 30th Anniversary Stampede. The event was a lot of work for Magic City Mustangs, but I think all enjoyed the outcome. I know our club was pleased with all the comments from the show.

My wife and I were shocked when we received the December issue and saw our car on the cover. We really appreciate you selecting our car. We've had the car for about six years and really enjoy attending Mustang shows and local cruise-ins. The car underwent a complete restoration about five years ago. We really feel honored to have our car on the cover of the *Mustang Times*.

Berney & Shirley Cunningham

*Hi, Berney and Shirley,
The show was a success, and I, for one,
had a wonderful time!*

*Your Mustang is quite beautiful and
certainly worthy of the cover. -mj*

Hi, Mary Jean:

I have been an MCA member for three or four years. Influenced by your admonition that prior Board election ballot returns were "pitiful," I voted and mailed my ballot. However, in doing so I may have done a disservice to the MCA.

I suspect that my sentiments are not uncharacteristic of the "average" member and may explain low voter response.

Since joining MCA, I have read every issue of *Mustang Times*, including pieces, which the "average" member may skip over..."From

the Driver's Seat" (sorry, Arley!), and "Editorial" (no disrespect, Mary Jean!). I have also attended the Grand National and one of the Regional shows each year. I attended the judges meeting in Youngstown where I felt honored to assist the new Assistant National Head Judge with "Judging duties" that day, and attended the banquet in Birmingham at the 30th Anniversary show. I've also participated in several other nationally recognized regional shows attended by the MCA Board Officials. At each of these events I have mixed, mingled, and gotten acquainted with several "national-level" people.

Despite this experience (which I would imagine represents more active involvement than a significant portion of our total membership) I felt terribly inadequate judging the merits of the candidates for vacant Board positions. For even the candidates I have met or observed (only seven of the 25) I have no real idea of how they have or would subsequently perform as a Board member.

Some of the biographical material is relevant (especially MCA or local club leadership experience) but the fact that a person held a certain position does not mean that they served effectively. I judged much of the biographical material irrelevant. The names and ages of spouses and children are probably highly correlated with effective board service.

In the face of all of this I did, in fact, vote. However, if any of those I voted for are elected, rest assured that their exemplary service would be no credit to my judgment.

The point of all this is to suggest that a low voter response is not necessarily

"bad." Hopefully, those with sufficient experience to make educated decisions will have voted and our 13 positions will be filled with capable members.

In the event that more than just a few of the several thousand members like me vote...we'll need a lot of "good luck" in the next two years.

Thanks for your service,
Rusty Welch

PS. I love MCA and my local club (Valley Mustangs Unlimited of Staunton, Virginia). I look forward to the day that I can comfortably cast an educated ballot.

*Dear Rusty,
What a fantastic letter.*

Vote totals this year were quite low, which is still a disappointment for me. Based on the numbers, I know there are many members who are familiar enough with the candidates to make an "educated" decision who probably didn't sent in a completed ballot.

Irregardless, a new board has been elected. Although there were a few surprises, I'm sure those who comprise the Board intend to serve the MCA well over their term.

Thanks for taking such an active interest in the MCA! I hope to meet you at a show this coming summer. -mj

We would like to hear what's on your mind. Send your letters via e-mail to editor@mustangtimes.org or via USPS to:

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