

"THE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM HAS BEEN A GREAT TOOL AT RECRUITING AND OBTAINING NATIONAL LEVEL JUDGES AND WE WANT TO KEEP THIS TRADITION GOING."

JUDGING CERTIFICATION

Since the first Mustang Club of America show where there was judging, it has been paramount to the club to ensure that our judges are knowledgeable in their area of expertise. The certification program was created to set a base standard for judges willing to participate and give their time to judge at MCA shows. To become a certified judge, a written test was provided to an applicant and they could use whatever resources to answer the questions. The completed test was mailed back in, graded, and then the applicant was notified if he or she passed or failed. We have had some challenges with this system and there has been some discontent with the promptness and communication throughout the process over the past year. While we take this matter very seriously, I don't want to dwell on problems of the past. I want to let everyone know what we're going to do to make it better. The certification program has been a great tool at recruiting and obtaining national level judges and we want to keep this tradition going. As we move forward with the new MCA website, we believe that we can greatly simplify the testing process to a more automated system. We have the benefit of having some great folks behind the development of the new MCA website. One in particular, John Dettori, will be providing his technical expertise to develop an online certification system for judges.

As I write this column in early December 2010, we are already designing how the system will work and intend to launch the interface in early 2011. The goal is to offer an online testing system to all current MCA members. The questions would be multiple-choice and most likely a 50-question format. There will be a larger pool of questions so that no two tests for the same certification would be exactly the same. A time line to complete the test will be in place and, once submitted, would be graded on the spot. If the member passes the test, they will be able to print a certificate with their name on it and the class for which they are certified. If the member fails, a set time period will be invoked for them to wait to re-take the test. In the past, this was several months, but we don't want to discourage folks from re-taking the test, so we will most likely shorten the wait period.

When a member passes a test, the process would be complete once the new judge comes to an MCA National Show, where they would receive their wallet card. I've mentioned in the past that we want to see more judges utilizing their certifications and not just hanging them on the wall. We need more judges at our National shows, so we figure we can get you to attend at least one time by holding your certification card! I don't think this is too much to ask. Besides, your become a judge to actually judge, right?! I'm really looking forward to working with John and other MCA folks in getting this system in place as soon as possible. With that said, we believe it would be best to hold off on processing test applications at this time. We intend to clear up and finalize any tests in the works prior to December 1, 2010. There are some members waiting on their results who have been very patient and we will get you taken care of as soon as possible. I would like to thank Laurie Slawson for helping with the certification program this past year. It is a very time-consuming job and we are grateful for folks stepping up to help out.

As a follow-up to the Judges' Meeting this past October, I want to remind everyone to submit any recommendations they may have as soon as possible. We would like to have any rules updates received before the end of January. Coordinate your recommendations with the appropriate Assistant National Head Judge (contact info on MCA website) or if it is higher level, contact one of your National Head Judges.

In regards to National Head Judges, our new MCA President Steve Prewitt has appointed Jim Silverman as National Head Judge for 3rd, 4th and 5th Generations. Jim previously held this position in the past as some may remember. The MCA Judging Team welcomes Jim in his new role.

We also are very grateful to have had Allen Stewart in this position for the past few years and thank him for his service.



Charles Turner
National Head Judge
1st - 2nd Generations

Charles Turner



**NATIONAL HEAD JUDGE -
1ST & 2ND GENERATION**

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**NATIONAL HEAD JUDGE -
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