



**Board of Trustees Special Meeting
Zoom Video Conference**

**August 18, 2020
Albuquerque, NM**

PRESENT

President Tom Goncharoff, 1st Vice President Mike Logan, 2nd Vice President Jay L. Taylor and board members Norma Alvarez, Mark Brown, Warren Franklin, Debra Laney, Annette McCloy, Mac Murray, Verner Query, & Nancy Summers.

ABSENT

Miguel Gallegos

QUORUM

President Goncharoff acknowledged a quorum present.

MINUTES

Norma Alvarez made a motion to accept the minutes of July 22nd as written, seconded by Mike Logan. Motion carried 9:0. Verner Query was not available for the vote.

NOMINATIONS & MAIL IN BALLOT PROCEDURES

Debra J. Laney started off by going over some dates she felt would be a good time to send out the Trustee Nomination forms and the Mail In Ballots.

We could mail out the Trustee Nomination forms on Monday, September 14th for this year and then the 2nd Monday in September in subsequent years to our members. The deadline for these forms to be returned would be to have them postmarked no later than Monday, September 28th. This would give them two weeks to mail them back.

Debra Laney made a motion to have the nomination forms deadline be three weeks from the date they are mailed, seconded by Jay L. Taylor. Motion carried 10:0

The timeline for the Mail In Ballots was discussed. We would need to send out the ballot along with the photos with bios for each nominee. After discussion it was decided that they would be mailed out in the first week of December and have to be back in early January.

Debra Laney made the motion that we mail out the ballots with the bios of the nominees and those board members that are on the ballot on the 1st Monday of December which would be December 7th this year and that the deadline for them to come back will be postmarked no later than January 4th to be counted, seconded by Norma Alvarez. Motion carried 10:0.

Jay L. Taylor asked if we would have someone come and count these Mail In Ballots in advance of the meeting? We could keep those results private and then the person counting could come back for the Annual Meeting and add on those votes that come in that day. Debra J. Laney thought it would be better to have all of the ballots counted at the meeting. Jay L. Taylor thought it would be better to count them in advance in case we have to have a recount. Norma Alvarez brought up that we might not be able to have a meeting in person in January. Mary Barber asked if she should try to reserve the date at a hotel? It was discussed that we would not want to have to pay a down payment. Mary Barber will look into it. It is hard to know what to do. With the change from proxies to the mail in ballots, we cannot know what kind of a turnout we will have. We will plan to have the meeting as usual and provide a free lunch like we did this year.

Mary Barber asked if someone should show up at the office after the deadline, would they be allowed to vote? It was determined that there would not be any ballots accepted after the deadline and that any members that did not vote their Mail In ballot by the deadline would have to come to the meeting to vote. Mary Barber also asked if the Trustees would want there to be a return envelope for these two mailings and if so, would we include postage? After discussion, it was determined that we should include a return envelope with postage on it in order to get people to send them back to us. Jay L. Taylor mentioned that the Board of Trustees may need to discuss this again in the future once we get a year or two behind us to determine if changes need to be made. Mike Logan stated that he thinks the nomination process is overkill but will go along with it and he hopes it works well. He is afraid we might not get much response from it. Mary Barber made the comment that we do not want more than one ballot per envelope because we are going to put the members return address label on the return envelope and check them off the list as they come in.

Mac Murray does not agree with members having to vote for three QH & three TB nominees. He has talked to some of the members and they do not like this either. He feels it should be up to three on each side instead of you have to vote for three people on each side. Jay L. Taylor said the reason he brought this up is because he has helped count the votes and big farms will stack the vote with who they want to get in and this happens a lot. Mac Murray stated that it is not right to have to vote for someone you do not really want to vote for. President Goncharoff suggested we put this to a vote.

Mac Murray made the motion that we leave it that you can vote up to three candidates on each side and that you do not have to vote for three, seconded by Mark Brown. Norma Alvarez asked if anyone else has an opinion on this? Mike Logan does not want to be forced to vote for someone he does not know or like. Annette McCloy mentioned that in a national election you do not have to vote for people you do not want to. Debra J. Laney

thinks that this is something different than what we have been doing since we are going to include photos and bios for each nominee. She can see both sides of this issue. Motion carried 8:2 with Jay L. Taylor and Debra J. Laney voting against.

Debra J. Laney mentioned that we will need to know pretty soon which Trustees whose terms will be expiring would want to be on the ballot. Norma Alvarez also stated that we would want our lawyer to look over our procedures to make sure we are doing things legally so we cannot be challenged. Mike Logan asked if there are any issues with the 2020 and 2021 memberships? Mary Barber feels that you should have to be a 2021 member in order to get a mail in ballot. If you are not a member by the time the ballots are mailed out, you will have to come to the meeting to vote.

Norma Alvarez made a motion that we retain an attorney to look at our new voting procedures to make sure they are solid, seconded by Mac Murray. Motion carried 10:0.

NEW MEXICO MILLION

President Goncharoff asked what kind of a response we got from the postcards. Mary Barber reported that we have received 136 back so far. Of those, 101 are for the NM Million. Of those 38 are TB breeders, 18 are QH breeders, 28 breed both TB's & QH's and 17 were unspecified. Of the 136, 23 are against the NM Million, 9 TB breeders, 5 QH breeders, and 9 were unspecified. 11 QH breeders and 1 who breeds both did not answer the question. On the comments, one said for TB's only which is a given, another one said great for New Mexico racing, another one said only the rich can afford this, and the last one said keep up the good work.

President Goncharoff commented that we were exploring the idea of sponsors. The AQHA Challenge races are all sponsored by big business. He asked Mark Brown to help look into getting some sponsors for the New Mexico Million. Verner Query agreed and thinks we should try to get sponsors from New Mexico as much as possible. President Goncharoff also suggested someone like Purina. Verner Query asked the other Trustees to help out with ideas and who to contact. President Goncharoff will find out some information. Debra J. Laney mentioned that sponsors are able to track if they get business through this sponsorship by giving out discounts. The fees for the race were discussed and the feeling was that it would be easier if you just had to nominate the foal. If we can get sponsors to donate, it would take off some of the need for all the payments. Norma Alvarez thinks that we can get sponsors if they can get something back. We also need to set a target to work towards. Verner Query thinks we could make it so that the nomination of the stallion and the mare would be just a one time fee.

President Goncharoff thinks we need to do a little more work on this.

Mark Brown mentioned a couple of sponsors and how this can be handled. He has some good ideas on how to do this.

Mike Logan mentioned that we were supposed to have a meeting in March with the Sunland Park management but that was cancelled due to the shut-down. He thinks that

the racetrack & their casino wherever this race ends up being run, could be a sponsor of the race as well.

President Goncharoff would like to see us have a million dollar futurity for New Mexico Bred Quarter Horses as well.

The consensus was that Verner Query should continue to work on the New Mexico Million.

Mark Brown will help Verner approach sponsors.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Mary Barber updated the Trustees on items that were sent for the QH sale in Oklahoma. We sent the yellow NM Bred stickers to Sarah Hoover at the Lazy E who will be putting them on the stall doors for us. We also sent the chart of Quarter Horse Futurities and Derbies that are available for those horses. This form includes what races are held at what racetrack and their phone numbers for the packets. We also sent our updated advertisement that Mindy McArthur did last year for the packets and it is also in the catalog. This advertisement has been updated to let owners know they have to be a member in order to get their incentive awards in November.

Mary Barber asked if we are planning on having the Awards Banquet at Ruidoso Downs during the Summer Party or should she reserve the hotel in Albuquerque for both the meeting and the banquet. The consensus was that we would like to have it at Ruidoso Downs during the Summer Party.

Mary Barber asked the Trustees if anyone had a problem with her owning a New Mexico Bred racehorse and there were no objections.

Mike Logan asked if it is on the agenda for the 2021 nominations for Ruidoso Downs at the next Commission meeting? They are raising the administration fees from 10% to 15% on the open races but the New Mexico Bred races are staying at 10%. President Goncharoff reported that this was discussed at the NMHA meeting. These fees are going up for the 2021 Triple Crown and the horses have already been nominated. They got Jeff True to get on their Zoom meeting and his argument was that #1 they need the money and most of the horses will change hands at the yearling sales so the new owners will continue the payments with the new fees.

Mike Logan has gone over the New Mexico Bred nomination blanks and he does not see any changes. Mary Barber had contacted Annelle Reynolds, the nominations secretary, and she said they only added the date of birth in order to keep the embryo transfers straight. She also noticed that the races are a week later than this year and she hopes this does not create more conflicts. The State Fair has always started on the Friday following Labor Day and that is when the trials were. Now the Downs At Albuquerque are running these trials at the end of August. We wanted there to be three weeks between the trials and the finals and this has been difficult to make happen.

President Goncharoff wanted to discuss what he and Mary are planning for the Commission meeting. The Commissioners are going to go into Executive Session to discuss Zia Park, so it does not give us an opportunity to comment on the issues. So, Mary will go first and go over her reports and then she will turn it over to him. He will ask the Commissioners to do the right thing and discuss these important issues in open session. He reminded the Trustees that you can send in an email by noon tomorrow to be read during the Commission meeting. We know they did not read Norma's email at the last meeting so he will ask about that as well.

President Goncharoff complimented the staff on the member outreach. He has gotten a lot of compliments on the email blasts and the newsletter. Mary Barber stated that Ernestine has gotten really good at sending out these items and she also updates the website and puts posts on Facebook. She may even like that part of her job more than registering horses.

Jay L. Taylor wanted to update the Trustees on the new computer program. Mary Barber sent out a letter asking for them to come up with a plan and they have sent back a timeframe of when they plan to get this completed.

Mike Logan made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jay L. Taylor. Motion carried 10:0.

**Tom Goncharoff
NMHBA President**

**Mary M. Barber
Attest**