



Board of Trustees Meeting  
Zoom Video Conference

October 22, 2020  
Albuquerque, NM

**PRESENT**

President Tom Goncharoff, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Mike Logan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Jay L. Taylor and board members Norma Alvarez, Mark Brown (late arrival), Warren Franklin, Miguel L. Gallegos (late arrival), Annette McCloy, Mac Murray (late arrival), Verner Query, & Nancy Summers.

**ABSENT**

Debra J. Laney

**QUORUM**

President Goncharoff acknowledged a quorum present.

**MINUTES**

Annette McCloy made a motion to approve the minutes of August 11, 2020, August 20, 2020, & September 23, 2020, seconded by Norma Alvarez. Motion carried 8:0.

**NOMINATIONS**

Mary Barber reported that the cost of the mailing for the Trustee Nominations forms came to \$2,629.25. This total included the cost of the envelopes, postage, printing, lawyer, and extra labor. There were about 1,085 Trustee Nominee ballots including four sheets of paper and a pre-paid inner envelope mailed out. We only received 52 back.

On the Thoroughbred side, the people with the most votes were Helen Nave with 20, E. Glenn Berry with 17, Susie Prather with 4, Pam Sena with 4, and Renee Abdouch with 3. All five of these people have accepted their nominations. On the Quarter Horse side, the people with the most votes were Jim Hernandez with 8, Norman Allen with 8, Vanessa Alexander with 7, Linda Joiner with 4, and Sarah Donaldson Rioux with 3. Three of these people accepted their nomination but Linda Joiner & Sarah Donaldson Rioux did not wish to be placed on the ballot. Mary Barber stated that this should be enough people on the ballot because we also have Annette McCloy, Mike Logan, and Verner Query up for re-election. This will give us six Thoroughbred nominees and five Quarter Horse nominees.

This was the first time we have done this and we learned that we need to make sure people understand that the six Trustees that remain on the board and the Trustees that agree to run again do not need to be nominated. There were a lot of votes for these people.

(Mac Murray & Miguel Gallegos joined the meeting.)

### RACE DATES

President Goncharoff discussed what happened at the race dates meeting we had with the horsemen and Commissioners Buffington and Bourguet. This meeting went very well, and we had decided that the race dates we will propose were provisional for three of the racetracks. We were really trying to stress that whatever dates were approved, with the exception of Sunland Park & SunRay Park, the dates granted for the other three race meets would be provisional. If conditions changed, the dates could be adjusted as needed. The Commission has to grant the race dates so that the racetracks can get their licenses renewed.

At the next Commission meeting, the Commissioners granted the exact dates that the racetracks asked for in their proposal.

Those dates were:

Sunland Park – 42 days starting on December 26, 2020 through March 31, 2021

SunRay Park – 17 days starting on April 23, 2021 through May 4, 2021

Ruidoso Downs – 50 days starting on May 21, 2021 through September 6, 2021

Downs At Albuquerque/NM State Fair – 35 days starting on July 31, 2021 through September 19, 2021

Zia Park – 36 days – September 27, 2021 through December 15, 2021.

President Goncharoff mentioned there is the gap of 23 days between Sunland Park & SunRay Park which is against state statute. This was not discussed at the Commission meeting which was surprising.

### STAKES REPORT

Mike Logan reported that he had multiple discussions with Dustin Dix of Sunland Park. He just does not know what the future holds, and they have not sent out any nomination blanks. He spoke to TOBA and Thoroughbred stakes can be as low as \$40,000 for 2020 and 2021 and still be black type. This is \$10,000 less than what it was at recently.

A bright spot is that our nominations were up for the Futurity & Derby at Zia Park. They have listed the Juvenile & Sophomore races in their condition book, so things are looking good there.

President Goncharoff also spoke to Dustin Dix and things are uncertain. He also reported on the terrible situation with the spike in COVID-19 in the El Paso area. Unless things change, they may need to start later if they can.

Mike Logan also reported that we have 23 stakes races at Sunland Park that we can fund but trying to run that many stakes races in a 42 day meet is probably not possible.

### EXPORT BROODMARE REPORT

Mary Barber reported that this year in 2021, we have made \$55,000. This is slightly down from last year however we could still make more. Things went well and we are very pleased. Mac Murray asked Mary if she knew how many are Quarter Horse and how many were Thoroughbred. She did not have that information but will email that information to the board when she can get that information.

### LETTER FROM BOBBY SIMMONS

President Goncharoff summarized the letter from Bobby Simmons and Mary Barber verified that they did submit an Export Broodmare form for a mare that they had forgotten the day after the deadline along with the letter of explanation and a \$500.00 check.

After a lot of discussion, it was decided that there would be a roll call vote on this issue. There were three votes to allow this mare in the Export Broodmare Program for the \$500.00 fee, five votes to not allow this mare in for

the \$500.00 fee, and two Trustees abstained from voting. Mary Barber was instructed to write a letter to Bobby Simmons to let him know the board's decision

The Trustees also discussed possibly having a grace period in the future. There were several ideas that were tossed around. Some of the Trustees felt we should just stick to our rules and not make any changes. After much discussion, this topic was tabled.

#### PAC FUND

President Goncharoff explained that PAC stands for Political Action Committee and the purpose of a PAC fund is to funnel these funds to legislators who are friendly to your cause. He credited Mike Logan for bringing this up. President Goncharoff discussed this with John Thompson who is, along with his twin brother Jason, the lobbyists for the horsemen. These guys really know how this stuff works. John explained that the rules on this are really pretty murky. The horsemen get \$2.00 per start that totals around \$40,000.00 per year. The board then discusses how it will be spent.

President Goncharoff will gather more information on what this would take and report back to the board on what he finds. We are probably better off just waiting until we know more. Mike Logan belongs to several other states programs and they are very proactive. The AQHA just sent out an email a few days before asking for funds for their PAC fund. He feels we need to consider doing this. We could solicit members to donate to this fund so that we can be ready when we need to be. President Goncharoff felt that we do not need to raise a lot of money for this and we may just want to put these funds aside for this purpose. Mac Murray agreed that we need to get some funds together for this purpose.

President Goncharoff asked Mary Barber if we are licensed with the New Mexico Racing Commission. Mary Barber is licensed as the Executive Director, but the association is not, and she has not been contacted by the Commission to say that the association needs to be licensed. She does not believe that the association was licensed under the previous director as well. President Goncharoff reported that the horsemen were fined \$10,000.00 for not getting their association licensed. He looked into the rules and found that when discussing licensing they refer to a racetrack as an association and that the horsemen may not need to be licensed.

#### ANNUAL MEETING

Mary Barber reported that she has reserved a ballroom at the Sheraton Uptown for the Annual Meeting. It is a very nice hotel, and their events person understands that we may need to cancel it and is not charging a reservation fee. She thought we could set up the room with round tables that seat ten people but only set them for four to keep people socially distanced. We would also serve lunch in the same room, so people do not need to get up and go into another room and maybe come back to a different seat. If we cannot have an in person meeting, we could possibly have a Zoom meeting. If that is the case, people will be able to come by the office to vote on the day of the meeting.

#### COVID PAY

Mary reported that Ernestine tested positive for COVID-19 earlier but will hopefully be able to come back to work next Monday. Jay Taylor explained that Paulette tested negative but will have to get tested again after ten days. If she gets another negative test, she will be allowed to come back to work.

President Goncharoff stated that the employees were paid through October 16<sup>th</sup>. Mary Barber is salaried, Ernestine is salaried but on an hourly basis, Paulette is hourly. Jay Taylor explained that Mary will be paid for this time, but Ernestine and Paulette will need to be discussed. We do not have to pay them for this time off, but he suggests that we should pay them but explain to them that the bonus and year end raises may be affected.

Mac Murray made the motion to pay the two hourly employees what they normally would have made during the time they were off, seconded by Mark Brown. Motion carried 10:0.

**OPEN DISCUSSION**

Mary Barber stated that normally we would have done the budget during this meeting but due to being out sick this will need to be done at the next meeting. She is also concerned that we may need to discuss moving investments.

Another issue Mary Barber wanted to let the Trustees know is that our Incentive Fund total is a little over \$1.9 million which is down \$2 million from last year. There was a lot less racing so the individual awards may not be down that much. We will know soon when we get back the calculations from the accountant. She plans to have US Bank mail the checks out on November 24<sup>th</sup>.

Jay L. Taylor wanted to know how much money we are losing every week that we normally get from racing. After discussion, the figure is anywhere from \$900.00 to \$1,500.00 a week that we are not making. He wanted to explain that when he and Mary came up with the budget, we expected to make a lot more money than we are.

Norma Alvarez feels that for the horses that we have for the sale next year, things may not be very bright. However, because of supply and demand, the people who breed in New Mexico next year may have a very prosperous year in 2022. Other states are doing very well since they are not having the trouble we are having. She is planning on having an advertisement campaign to promote breeding in New Mexico. She has already put in an advertisement in our magazine and in the stallion issue of Speedhorse.

President Goncharoff wanted to thank the Trustees for their participation and hard work. He is happy that Mary is on the mend and asked Jay Taylor to thank Paulette for all the extra work she has put in. He also wants to give credit to the horsemen for including us in all of their meetings.

Mark Brown brought up that the Horse Integrity act has gone through the House and it looks like it is going through the Senate. The AQHA has been working hard and there are some senators working to stop it. He is afraid it will go through and roll right over us. President Goncharoff commented that we do not know how this is going to be paid for. We are a small state. Mark Brown spoke about Lasix and that Thoroughbreds are going to be forced into this, but the Quarter Horses are trying to opt out of it. They are working on a study to show that Quarter Horses need Lasix in this area.

Annette McCloy made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Norma Alvarez. Motion carried 10:0.

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**Tom Goncharoff**  
NMHBA President

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**Mary M. Barber**  
Attest