



**Board of Trustees meeting
Association Office – Albuquerque, New Mexico**

**December 1, 2021
11:00 a.m.**

PRESENT

President Tom Goncharoff, 1st Vice President Mike Logan, 2nd Vice President Verner R. Query (late arrival) and Trustees Vanessa Alexander, Norma Alvarez, Mark Brown, C. Warren Franklin (attended by Zoom), Annette McCloy, Mac Murray, Helen Nave, Susie Prather (Attended by Zoom), and Nancy Summers.

ABSENT

None

GUESTS

**Yealonda Logan
Mark McCloy
Pierre Amestoy
Susan Vescovo (attended for a brief time by Zoom)**

QUORUM

President Goncharoff acknowledged a quorum present.

MINUTE APPROVAL

Helen Nave made a motion to accept the minutes of October 28, 2021, as written, seconded by Mark Brown. Motion carried 10:0.

Norma Alvarez made two corrections on the minutes for October 30, 2021. On page one, Brian Anderson's name was misspelled and on page 7, W.L. Mooring was not in favor of allowing the recipient mares to foal out of state but if you let the recipient mares foal out of state you should let the donor mares all foal out of state as well.

Mark Brown made a motion to accept the minutes of October 28, 2021, as amended, seconded by Mike Logan. Motion carried 10:0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

STAKES REPORT

Mike Logan reported that New Mexico Cup Day at Zia Park was a joyful occasion. We had eight Thoroughbred New Mexico Bred stakes races with the purses \$100,000 each for a total of \$800,000 in purse money and there were sixty-eight head for an average of 8.5 horses per race.

We ran four Quarter Horse Stakes with two at \$100,000 each and we also ran the QH futurity and derby and the total purses for those races came to \$796,808. Those were full fields. On Monday we ran our Juvenile and Sophomore Stakes and the Distaff Stakes. They were each \$30,000 added and there were full fields for those as well. Mike Logan explained that these races were about \$9,000 below what an allowance race is but hopes that will go up next year.

At Ruidoso Downs, the Mountain Top Futurity has 179 nominees, the Mountain Top Derby has 88, the Zia Futurity has 184 and the Zia Derby has 80 nominees. The Mountain Top Futurity has 49 nominees and the Senor and Senorita combined has 84.

There was no report for Sunland Park. The only race we could have reported on is the Shue Fly but we do not have the numbers for that. The New Mexican Spring Futurity first payment is due today. Mary Barber will have an email sent out to remind people of the deadline.

SunRay Park has the Breeders QH Futurity. The added money is up to \$120,000. The deadline is February 14th to nominate. Mary Barber mentioned that we have included the nomination blanks in the newsletters, and they are on the website as well. If anyone asks about them, they can go to our website or call our office and we will be happy to send the forms to them.

Verner Query arrived.

Mike Logan reported that on SunRay Park's website they show that there was 124% gain. Simulcast was up 137% over the 2019 meet. Their total handle was \$7 million. That is up \$3 million over 2019.

Zia Park does not have nominations due until mid-summer. The NM Filly & Mare race will run this Sunday and then the Steve Prather will be the following week. The Filly & Mare race had 19 nominees and the Steve Prather had 14 nominees.

Norma Alvarez had the updated figures for the New Mexico State Fair races. The 2022 NMSF QH Futurity has 154 nominees and the 2022 NMSF TB Futurity has 73.

The 2022 NMSF QH Derby has 73 also. The 2023 NMSF QH Futurity has 353 nominees!

Norma Alvarez commended Mike Logan on his work on the New Mexico Bred Stakes races.

PART TIME POSITION

Mary Barber reported that the part time position will be opening up at the end of January when Paulette Taylor will be going back into retirement, and she wanted Paulette to go over her duties with the Trustees.

Mary Barber asked both of the staff members to join the meeting so that she could introduce Amber Martin to the Trustees as our new Registrar. Amber worked as the part time employee years ago and is back now in the full time position. Amber has made great improvements to our website and has also produced our last two newsletters that have gone out.

Paulette Taylor was then introduced to the Trustees. Paulette came to work for us as a volunteer when Mary Barber was promoted to the Executive Director position. When the last Director left, nobody knew how to do the banking, so Paulette's job was to figure all of that out. She then trained Mary Barber on how to maintain the twenty-nine bank accounts and Mary Barber trained Paulette on the part time position. Once that was done, they switched places. Since then, we have made a lot of changes for the part time employee. Mary Barber turned the floor over to Paulette Taylor to explain all of the duties the job entails.

Paulette Taylor then explained that the part time employee is in charge of the 10% Track Breeders Awards, the NM Breds in open overnight races, and the Incentive Awards entries. She is also in charge of keeping track of the purse clearances and holds. Other duties are making sure that all items for the magazine have been proofed and submitted, that our stallion registry is kept up to date and that all active stallions have their EVA test results and yearly vaccinations.

Mary Barber added that the new owner requirement has also become the part time employee's responsibility. The part time person gets the programs and result sheets and makes sure that the owners are members. If they are not a member, a letter has to be sent out to that owner along with a membership application.

Paulette Taylor has graciously agreed to stay to the end of January and help train her replacement. Mary Barber has a person that is interested in the job that she thinks will be a good fit.

ACTION ITEMS

DONATION TO KELSI PURCELL FOR THE RETIRED RACEHORSE PROJECT

Nancy Summers reported that Kelsi Purcell has a mare that she would like to take to the retired racehorse project that is a New Mexico Bred, but it will depend on if the owners are willing to sponsor her. She will also need help with expenses and Nancy is asking if the New Mexico Horse Breeders' Association could make a donation of \$500.00.

Nancy thinks we could have some kind of banner made and put this on our Facebook page to show that we support this program that finds second careers for retired horses.

Verner Query made a motion to donate the \$500.00 to Kelsi Purcell if it works out and she is able to use this mare for the project, seconded by Norma Alvarez. Motion carried 11:0.

Pierre Amestoy promised to double the donation if things should work out.

Nancy Summers will contact Mary Barber to let her know if this all works out so that she can send Kelsi Purcell a check for the \$500.00.

ANNUAL MEETING ITEMS

BY LAW CHANGES

1. TB Mare requirements Ballot

After discussion, it was decided that we need to clean up some of the language. The first item discussed was if we want this to sunset in three or four years.

Helen Nave made a motion to put on the ballot that this program will sunset after three years, seconded by Nancy Summers. Motion carried 11:0.

There is a second option that allows mares currently in the NMHBA to travel out of state, breed to an outside stallion, foal in NM and be bred back to a NM Stallion. This can only happen once in a mare's lifetime.

Nancy Summers thinks it should be a new mare since the purpose is to get more mares into the program, but she thinks this is going to be a hard sell.

After more discussion and several motions, it was decided that a committee of Nancy Summers, Verner Query, & Mark Brown will work on rewording this ballot item and then we will have a special Zoom meeting to vote on the new wording in a few days. Vanessa Alexander also typed up a really good outline that was passed around.

2. QH Recipient Mare Ballot

After discussion, there were two changes were made to the wording of this ballot.

- a) The word **MUST** would be added to the first sentence so that it reads “**must enroll in the Export Broodmare Program.**”
- b) Instead of saying this program will last for three years, we will change it to say, “**This program will sunset in 2024 and then the membership will have to vote again in order for it to continue.**”

Annette McCloy made a motion to amend the language as discussed, seconded by Helen Nave. Motion carried 11:0.

3. Trustee Actions And Requirements Ballot

Some of the wording was cleaned up. Under Section 7 – Removal, the wording was changed to say, “(3) meetings per year (or violates the code of conduct or ethics of the association’s By-Laws) may be removed and a replacement appointment made by majority vote of the Board of Trustees.”

Mac Murray made a motion to accept this ballot item as amended, seconded by Mark Brown. Motion carried 11:0.

4. Elimination of the Export Broodmare Return Form

The words biological or physical mare was changed to Donor or Recipient mare, and it was decided that there would be a line under the last paragraph before the explanation of why we are asking for this change.

TIME OF ANNUAL MEETING

Mary Barber reported that at our last meeting, we discussed starting the Annual Meeting at possibly 4:00 p.m. but since then, after more conversations, some people feel that we need to start it earlier so that people who are having to travel to Albuquerque can leave home at a decent time and then return home at a decent time.

After discussion, Norma Alvarez made a motion to start the Annual Meeting at 2:00 p.m., seconded by Annette McCloy. Motion carried 11:0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS FOR ANNUAL MEETING

- 1) Mindy McArthur sent an email suggesting that we discuss our stance on the current climate of racing horses in New Mexico. She feels that she and many other people will not be breeding in New Mexico this year because they cannot run their breeds enough to sustain the operating costs.

Some Trustees felt that Mindy McArthur is welcome to come to the meeting and present her concerns. We should allow members to sign up to speak for a maximum of five minutes. Then the Trustees can reply to any questions.

After more discussion, Mark Brown made a motion that we reply to the question of how we stand on the current climate of horseracing in New Mexico at the Annual Meeting, seconded by Verner Query. Motion carried 11:0.

2) Other suggestions for discussion during the Annual Meeting

Vanessa Alexander thinks we should have the complete HISA printed out for the members. President Goncharoff commented that is a very long document and maybe we should just provide the link. He then suggested that Vanessa Alexander give a five minute presentation on this subject. He feels that anything longer and you will lose the group's attention. She can also make herself available following the Annual Meeting for questions.

After more discussion, Helen Nave made a motion to allow Vanessa Alexander to make a five minute presentation regarding HISA and she will provide handouts and a link to this information and she will be available for questions following the meeting, seconded by Nancy Summers. Motion carried 11:0.

3) Vanessa Alexander would like to present parts of her investigation to the membership. She would like the members to take a vote on sending a letter to the New Mexico Racing Commission asking for them to acknowledge Vanessa's investigations and ask them to take action on it.

Norma Alvarez asked if investigating the industry is under our authority? Vanessa Alexander explained that she is doing the investigation and has found evidence that there is illegal licensing and misconduct. Norma Alvarez feels that Vanessa Alexander can certainly do this on her own but that it is not for the New Mexico Horse Breeders to get involved.

(Verner Query left the meeting)

Vanessa Alexander wanted us to take a vote on this just so that it will be on the record. She asked for permission to be able to read something into the record. She said she will be quick. Then she will propose a vote to allow it to be put on the agenda for the Annual Meeting. Mark Brown explained that we cannot vote on anything that is on the agenda.

Vanessa Alexander then read her statement about her investigation into the record. Her emails have been ignored and her requests for records has been denied. Mary Barber interjected that she did respond to Vanessa's text asking if she would not talk to her by saying that legal counsel had advised her to refrain from discussion

with Vanessa Alexander until they could look into Vanessa's requests and make a determination.

Nancy Summers explained that we are a breed organization and not the police. She agrees with Norma Alvarez. Norma Alvarez feels that this is something that should be taken to the Attorney General's office.

Vanessa Alexander stated that it does not matter to her if the board votes to put this on the agenda for the Annual Meeting or not. She just wants it to be memorialized. Several Trustees felt that we don't even know the full story and that Vanessa Alexander will not even give us all of the information.

Discussion went on for some time when Mike Logan said that we are getting off of the subject that was being discussed and we are out of time and need to go into Executive Session. Vanessa Alexander went on to bring up the qualifications of the people on the Racing Commission. She asked why the New Mexico Horse Breeders were not on the agenda for the last meeting. Mary Barber mentioned that she was not notified by any Commissioners or Commission staff that she would not be on the agenda but was told by someone else. Vanessa Alexander asked if Mary Barber had requested a reason why and Mary Barber responded no. When asked why not, Mary Barber responded that she was told that they were unhappy with some of the comments she had made at the previous meeting.

Mike Logan made a motion that we close this part of the meeting and move on, seconded by Annette McCloy. Motion carried since there were no objections.

Nancy Summers asked if it is acceptable for Trustees to attend meetings by Zoom when they are out of town and cannot make it. President Goncharoff said that we encourage everyone to come in person, but it is acceptable to attend by Zoom if that is the only way you can make it.

Mary Barber then stopped the recording and left the room so that the Trustees could discuss raises, bonuses and the SEP retirement contribution. After the Trustees had their conversation, Mary Barber was asked to come back into the room and was told what their decisions were.

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

Tom Goncharoff
President

Mary M. Barber
Attest