



**Board of Trustees Meeting
Association Offices**

**June 20, 2024
Albuquerque, New Mexico**

PRESENT

President Jay L. Taylor, 1st Vice President Mark Brown and 2nd Vice President Warren Franklin (by Zoom & late arrival), and Trustees Norma Alvarez, Denise Chambliss, Tom Goncharoff, Debra Laney, Mike Logan (late arrival), Mac Murray (late arrival), Helen Nave and Susie Prather.

ABSENT

Brian Anderson.

GUESTS

Association Lobbyist Joe Thompson, Auditor Lonnie Juarez of the SJT Group, BOK Financial Advisor Benjamin Garcia, and members Janis Spencer Murray (by Zoom) and Leslie Fincher.

QUORUM

President Taylor acknowledged a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Tom Goncharoff made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Norma Alvarez. Motion carried 10:0.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Debra Laney made a motion to approve the minutes of April 25, 2024 as written, seconded by Tom Goncharoff. Motion carried 10:0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Tom Goncharoff made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Norma Alvarez. Motion carried 10:0.

After about a half hour discussion with association lobbyist Joe Thompson, Norma Alvarez made a motion to go back into open session, seconded by Debra Laney. Motion carried 10:0.

OPEN SESSION

ACTION ITEMS

AUDIT REPORT AND PRESENTATION OF 2023 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Lonnie Juarez of the SJT Group, who did our 2023 audit, joined the meeting, and was introduced to the Trustees.

Mr. Juarez handed out a power point presentation and went over each item with the Trustees (copy incorporated into the minutes). Overall, Mr. Juarez felt that the audit went well.

Later in the meeting, Helen Nave made a motion to approve the audit, seconded by Norma Alvarez. Motion carried 10:0.

INVESTMENTS

Benjamin Garcia, of BOK Financial Services who is the association's financial advisor was introduced to the Trustees.

A copy of the front page of the association's most recent statement from BOK Financial showing the different investments that we have was provided to the Trustees and Mr. Garcia went over each item.

After discussion, it was decided that some of the funds that went into the Money Market when a CD matured would be reinvested.

Debra Laney made a motion to reinvest a total of \$85,000.00 out of the Money Market account. Of the \$85,000.00, \$25,000 will go into a 5-year fixed annuity at 5.15%, \$40,000 will go into a Unit Investment Trust with a buffer on the downside of 30% for 15 months, and \$20,000 will go into a Unit Investment Trust with a buffer on the downside of 10% for 15 months. Seconded by Helen Nave. Motion carried 10:0.

BUDGET REPORT

Mary Barber went over the Budget report and also the report from our accountant, Barbara Bates, which showed expenses for the first quarter of 2024. President Taylor had noticed there were some discrepancies in some of the expenses for 2023. Mary Barber believes that her budget report figures must have been posted before the finals figures were determined.

Some of the items on the budget were discussed, such as the publication and marketing expenses. There was discussion about cutting expenses and also about possibly raising fees.

Another idea was to just have one publication a year. These items can be discussed again in a future meeting.

The bank fees coming out of the General account was discussed and Mary Barber will get in touch with the bank to see if we can get that changed.

After more discussion, Denise Chambliss made a motion to approve the Budget report, seconded by Susie Prather. Motion carried 10:0.

EVALUATE MOUNTAIN TOP THOROUGHBRED FUTURITY

Mike Logan had planned to have a meeting with management at Ruidoso Downs last week but was unable to due to the fires.

There were only thirteen entries into the trials for the Mountain Top Thoroughbred Futurity and one of those scratched. Mike Logan thinks that we need to eliminate this race and add the funds to the Rio Grande Senior and Rio Grande Seniorita Futurities instead in order to boost those purses.

Helen Nave feels that we should make it a Derby instead. She would hate for us to lose a race. There was discussion about helping the race before cutting it. Maybe there could be a bonus for sale graduates for the owner and breeder and maybe the racetrack could kick in a little more to help this race.

After more discussion, Mike Logan made a motion to table this item and to bring it back on the next meeting's agenda, seconded by Denise Chambliss. Motion carried 10:0.

ADDITION TO CODE OF CONDUCT

President Taylor would like to add wording that would cover a situation when a Trustee gets suspended so that there is no question how that situation would be handled under the Rules of Conduct of the NMHBA, Section B. Discipline in our By-Laws booklet.

After more discussion, Helen Nave made a motion to table this item, seconded by Denise Chambliss. Motion carried 10:0.

ZOOM MEETING ATTENDANCE AS IT RELATES TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

This agenda item was later changed to:

ZOOM MEETING ATTENDANCE

President Taylor started off by reading the New Mexico State Statute on whether a Non-Profit organization can have electronic meetings or not. The Statute said that as long as it is not prohibited in the association's By-Laws, a person may attend meetings electronically.

According to Roberts Rules of Order, it should be in the By-Laws for someone to be allowed to attend meetings electronically.

President Taylor pointed out that our By-Laws were written before Zoom existed. If we vote to allow Zoom meetings, we need to have it put into the By-Laws and there should be a committee formed to come up with the exact wording of any proposed By-Law change to put on the ballot for the members to vote on. He feels that we should not have Zoom meetings until this is resolved.

There was discussion about certain Trustees that have a challenging time attending in person and also how emergency situations come up and it is the only way a Trustee would have to be able to attend.

Allowing people to attend Executive Session by Zoom was also discussed.

Mac Murray made a motion to allow Zoom meetings, seconded by Tom Goncharoff.

There was discussion that it was only on the agenda for Zoom meeting attendance as it related to Executive Session and Debra Laney amended her agenda item to be simply Zoom Meetings Attendance.

A Roll Call vote was taken to allow Zoom meetings or not and there were seven votes for, two votes against, and one vote to abstain.

President Taylor asked the Trustees what they felt should be allowed and there were several suggestions. One Trustee felt it should be for emergency meetings only, and others thought that if someone had a situation where they could not come to a meeting in person, the President could make the decision to allow that person to come by Zoom or not. Another suggestion was to make sure and address what would be allowed when in Executive Session as well.

President Taylor named Mark Brown, Denise Chambliss, and Tom Goncharoff to be on the Zoom Committee, and they would need to write up the specific wording that would go on the By-Law proposal for the members to vote on.

The new Zoom Committee will be put on the next agenda to report on their proposal.

President Taylor asked if this means we cannot have Zoom meetings until this is resolved and Tom Goncharoff said no since we should continue since we have been having them all along.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ZIA FESTIVAL – TOPICS FOR TOWN HALL DISCUSSION

President Taylor asked if anyone had any topics they would like to suggest.

- 1) Mike Logan would like to discuss Thoroughbred participation.
- 2) Jay Taylor & Mac Murray would like to discuss raising our fees. We need to check the statute on this to make sure we have to have the members vote on this.
- 3) Tom Goncharoff suggested we discuss our publication.
- 4) Mike Logan suggested AQHA Chipping Rules

UPDATED PENDING REGISTRATION REPORT

Mary Barber went over the report that showed all the horses with pending applications as of April 30, 2024. This report showed that since that date, fifty-six yearlings and thirteen two-year-olds have come off this list.

The list is being updated by the Administrative Assistant Amanda Magel at the end of each day that she works.

MARKETING COMMITTEE

Norma Alvarez did not have anything new to report but asked if everyone had seen the new commercial. This latest version talks about Senor Buscador. We are not being charged for the commercial updates this year as per our agreement.

The Cowboy Channell was discussed. Mark Brown talked about how there are a lot of Thoroughbred people that watch the Cowboy Channell.

President Taylor mentioned that he really liked our advertisement in the Trainer Magazine. The advertisement was right there with the story about Todd Fincher.

Denise Chambliss reported that she had placed that advertisement in Trainer Magazine and also had a copy sent to all the people on our subscriber list.

Denise Chambliss had also placed a congratulatory ad with TOBA for Fred Alexander who is our Thoroughbred breeder of the year. She wanted to compliment Amber Martin who puts these advertisements together. She does a fantastic job and gets it done very quickly.

Another advertisement will go out in Horsemen's magazine that goes out to 18,000 households. She showed the color copy of the advertisement that Amber came up with for that as well. She plans to do another advertisement in another issue of Trainer Magazine.

STAKES COMMITTEE

Mike Logan reported that the Mountain Top QH Futurity and the purse was \$351,000 so that races is still really strong. We have a Juvenile for this futurity now and the purse of \$50,000 comes out of the mother race. The Mountain Top QH Derby had seventy head enter in the Trials. The purse was \$175,000 and change. The Mountain Top TB Futurity will run in the future and the purse will be about \$117,000.

Mike Logan also reported that in 2023 we had 250 head in the New Mexico Bred sale and in 2024 we will have 230. There are 161 Quarter Horses and 69 Thoroughbreds. Denise Chambliss added that in her advertisement that will be going out before the sale, it includes a list of all the Thoroughbred stakes, and it also lists the top ten Thoroughbred sellers in last year's sale.

Mike Logan thinks that some of the tracks need to get going on their open stakes because that will bring more people to New Mexico. They need to advertise.

Norma Alvarez said that Ruidoso and Albuquerque are the only racetracks that show our commercial. Tom Goncharoff thinks we need to send an email to Chris McErlean of Zia Park.

The million-dollar race at Albuquerque has over 250 nominations so it is still doing really well.

Mike Logan wanted to congratulate Mac and Janis Murray for the great weekend they had and for all their success. Their breed program really stands out and they work for every bit of it.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Debra Laney and Norma Alvarez met with legislator Ray Lara down in Anthony, New Mexico to just start a conversation about the New Mexico Horse Breeders Association. He told them that the Indian Compacts will expire in 2027. He talked about his background. He is really kind of a conservative and is into education. He had carried a bill for one of the racetracks that we really clobbered a few years back. He was very friendly, and it went really well.

Norma Alvarez also plans to get together with legislator Joe Cervantes, who is a lawyer and would be an exceptionally good contact for us. We are going to try to get together with Rebecca Dow as well. Helen Nave will be in contact with Candy Ezzell.

Debra Laney wants to get a list together of what we would like to get done legislatively. We need to start brainstorming about that and maybe we can email back and forth and then we could vote on the top two or three items to work on and have ready in our back pocket.

SALE PARTY REPORT

Mark Brown has talked to Chaplain Winter, and they are all on board again this year. They are starting to watch for sales on beef and chicken. They have a big freezer they can keep it in until it is time for the party.

Helen Nave is going on a buffalo hunt and will donate the meat to Chaplain Winter for this event. The hunt is on July 17th or so. She will have it cut and packaged and sent to Ruidoso. They can use any left-over meat for other events.

Mark Brown wants a banner purchased that will say that the Sale Party is sponsored by the Ruidoso Racetrack Chaplaincy and the New Mexico Horse Breeders Association.

The bottled water we have been purchasing was discussed.

Helen Nave made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Norma Alvarez. Motion carried 10:0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Warren Franklin left the meeting, and the Zoom meeting was ended.

HORSEMEN'S ISSUES

After discussion, Helen Nave made a motion to go back into open session, seconded by Norma Alvarez. Motion carried 9:0.

OPEN SESSION**OPEN DISCUSSION**

Mac Murray was very disappointed about how the By-Law change was done and would like the association attorney to review proposed By-Law changes in the future.

Mike Logan talked about making sure that the Vista Distaff that was formerly known as the Rita Danley and the Mountain Top Thoroughbred Futurity are run once Ruidoso Downs is back open.

President Taylor also wanted to congratulate Mac & Janis Murray for being inducted into the Hall of Fame this year.

Helen Nave made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Susie Prather. Motion carried 9:0.

Jay Taylor
President

Mary M. Barber
Attest