



**Board of Trustees Meeting
Ruidoso Select Sales Pavilion**

**July 20, 2024
9:00 a.m.**

PRESENT

President Jay Taylor, 1st Vice President Mark Brown, 2nd Vice President Warren Franklin and Trustees Brian Anderson, Norma Alvarez, Denise Chambliss (telephonically), Tom Goncharoff, Debra Laney, Mike Logan, and Mac Murray.

ABSENT

Susie Prather & Helen Nave.

GUESTS

John & Susan Bachelor

QUORUM

President Goncharoff acknowledged a quorum present.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mark Brown made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Tom Goncharoff. Motion carried 9:0.

MINUTE APPROVAL

Mark Brown made a motion to approve the minutes of June 20, 2024, as written, seconded by Brian Anderson. Motion carried 9:0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ZOOM COMMITTEE UPDATE

President Taylor said that in the last meeting, it had been determined that our Zoom Policy needs to be included in the By-Laws. The Zoom Committee consists of Denise Chambliss, Tom Goncharoff, and Mark Brown.

Denise Chambliss had put together language for a new By-Law proposal allowing Zoom attendance and it was read into the minutes by Tom Goncharoff, (copy incorporated into the minutes).

Tom Goncharoff had discussed special circumstances with Denise Chambliss, and they felt that language should be included in our Code of Conduct to cover this, and the Trustees should discuss allowing, when necessary, the President to be able to decide if a meeting would require in person attendance.

President Taylor would like to have this as an action item at our next meeting so that the Trustees could have a copy of the language and vote on it.

There was discussion concerning Zoom during Executive Sessions and also if the By Law is passed, the need to upgrade our equipment.

PUBLICATION COSTS

Mary Barber had supplied reports that showed what was spent on the publication split out in detail for 2022 with four issues and 2023 with only two issues.

Mike Logan suggested that instead of doing our own magazine, we could have a section in the Speedhorse magazines. He thinks this will be better because it will reach a lot more people.

John and Susan Bachelor were in attendance to discuss this idea, and they will put together a proposal for the Trustees to look over.

John Bachelor talked about how the cost of paper has gone up by 40% and his sales are down. They are working on getting a state-of-the-art website that will include their magazine digitally for their subscribers. He also talked about having a hard time collecting from some advertisers.

There was more discussion about advertisement fees and editorial restrictions.

EMBRYO TRANSFERS DONE OUT OF STATE

After a short discussion, it was decided to table this item and put it on the next agenda.

TROPHY PRESENTERS FOR AWARD CEREMONY

Mary Barber briefly went over the different trophy categories and asked the Trustees to present certain ones that evening and made a list.

Norma Alvarez made a motion to adjourn the Trustee meeting, seconded by Mike Logan. Motion carried 9:0.

Debra Laney and Denise Chambliss left the meeting and were not in attendance for the Town Hall Discussion.

Jay Taylor
President

Mary M. Barber
Attest

TOWN HALL DISCUSSION

President Taylor thanked everyone for coming and had each Trustee introduce themselves and say where they are from.

President Taylor went over the list of topics that we came up with for discussion with the members.

- 1) Budget Discussion – President Taylor explained that our budget had run over last year and will be going over this year as well. We hired Joe Thompson as our lobbyist and the magazine is a large expense. These are some of the issues we are looking at.**

We have not raised our fees for a long time and the cost of business has gone up. We try to make money with the Stallion Auction, but he asked if anyone has any comments or suggestions. The amount that we were over budget in 2023 was discussed but there were no suggestions.

- 2) Thoroughbred Participation – President Taylor stated that the foal crops are down nationwide. He researched this and in the BloodHorse Magazine, it showed that Thoroughbred sales that happened in 2006 there were 29,060 horses offered for sale and they sold for 1,266,918,841.00. In 2023 there were only 18,000 Thoroughbreds offered for sale and they sold for 1,245,000.00. So basically, sales were no more in 2023 than in 2006 and inflation has gone up 50%. The price per head was up but it still didn't cover the cost of inflation that ate up any profit that was made. The high-end breeders probably did all right, but the average breeder didn't.**

Glenn "Ace" Berry suggested that we open it up for one year that as long as a foal was by a New Mexico stud they could be registered as a New Mexico Bred. Once the breeding takes place, they mare could leave New Mexico and foal out of state and

that baby would still be eligible to be a New Mexico Bred. We have to do something, or we won't have any Thoroughbred NM Breds in the next few years.

President Taylor mentioned that we have asked the membership to vote a couple of times in the last few years to allow some changes in order to get more foals and they have voted these ideas down.

Tom Goncharoff has heard that the wealthy guys would take advantage of any changes to the program and crush all the small breeders. This is a misconception. How do we sell this? When it comes from us, it doesn't pass.

Janis Murray totally agrees with this suggestion. This idea is different from any idea we have presented before. The only changes would be that the mares would not have to foal out in New Mexico. She thinks we should do this for both the Thoroughbreds and the Quarter Horses.

Brent Nichols, who is from Texas and is a member of the NMHBA runs horses in Louisiana, Texas, and New Mexico. Louisiana made changes to their rules, and they killed their program. Louisiana is allowing Thoroughbred foals by out of state studs, and it really hurt their local stud farms and people did bring in foals out of top stallions to run as Louisiana bred.

Tom Goncharoff pointed out that this would be a one-time deal, and it would be very different from what Louisiana did by allowing mares to be bred out of state.

Mark Brown likes the idea of allowing pregnant mares by New Mexico stallions to leave New Mexico and foal out of state. He thinks this would help the stud farms and maybe it would bring more mares that are high quality into our program.

Candy Ezzell stated that there is not enough opportunities with the cuts to race dates and the NMRC is disregarding statute. We need to make a stand, and the opportunities will not be there if they continue to cut races.

Tom Goncharoff asked the Thoroughbred trainers that were present, why they think that participation in the Thoroughbred futurities is so low.

Simo Buechler doesn't know what the answer is. He feels that the Racing Secretaries have really hurt participation with the way they write races. He doesn't know why the Futurities are down. Even Todd Fincher didn't run as much as he usually does.

Glenn "Ace" Berry feels that we run Thoroughbreds too soon and we need to move them to later in the year and maybe even put the funds we are spending on the earlier futurities on derbies instead.

Someone from the audience stated that in 2012 there were 1164 TB mares bred. In 2018 we bred 724 Thoroughbred mares and 2022 there were only 452 bred. There were 61.17% fewer mares bred in a ten-year period. We had 59.31% fewer studs standing in the state of New Mexico. This is the problem and why we are not having

better Thoroughbred participation. We need more opportunities and to be able to run for good purses. Every state in the country is trying to figure out how to do this.

Norma Alvarez is a Quarter Horse Trustee, and she feels that the Thoroughbred people need to make big deals and be willing to put money into these races. The sales have gone way up for the Quarter Horses since the start of the million-dollar race.

Mary Barber commented that we do have two big races for three-year-olds at Sunland Park and the purses are \$250,000 guaranteed each and we can't get full fields. We also have a Thoroughbred Futurity late in the year at the New Mexico State Fair that we add \$80,000 to for breeds, and we end up running two trials to eliminate one or two horses.

Megan Petty talked about needing to run Thoroughbreds later in the year in order to preserve them. We might want to change the stakes schedules or maybe focus on derbies instead.

- 3) Publication – President Taylor asked if there were any comments about our magazine and there were none. He asked who all read the magazine and the newsletter and almost everyone present put their hand up.**
- 4) AQHA Chipping – Mark Brown talked about needing to use a chip that is compatible. The problem is that some of these chips cannot be found and then they have to be rechipped. This is the way horses are being identified. They might make the Lip Chip be the only one that can be used. This is being discussed.**

Megan Petty talked about her experiences chipping horses. The AQHA has their own identifier scanners that work well.

- 5) Mary Barber told the members present that they should be receiving their summer magazine in the mail pretty soon and in the back of that magazine is a ballot for a By-Law change proposal. If this is passed by the membership, the Trustees will be able to set the date and location of the Annual Meeting. Currently, the By-Laws say that the meeting must be held in January and that the members at the current Annual Meeting must set the date in January and the location of the next Annual Meeting. Many years ago, there was racing at the Downs At Albuquerque in January and this worked well. Now there is no racing in Albuquerque in January, and we don't get a lot of people to come to the meeting. Mary asked the members to please fill out their ballots and send them to the office by mail or email.**

OPEN DISCUSSION

Candy Ezzell announced that she was successful in her Senate race, and it will be official on January 1st.

She talked about statutes being ignored by the New Mexico Racing Commission. They unrecognized the New Mexico Horsemen's Association that is an integral part of this industry. She believes they will be coming after the New Mexico Horse Breeders Association next. They have disallowed races because the racetrack decided they don't want this. She thinks that the racetrack casinos need to be shut down if they are not going to run according to statute. The racetracks have those casinos because of racing and if we don't stand together. They are going to try to drive a wedge between all of us. We have a Commission that is running rampant. They are seated by the Governor. She has been listening too much to the animal rights groups. The industry is trying to do things to make it safer for the animals but there are always a few bad apples that give all of us a bad name. Oil and Gas is the number one industry, Agriculture is the number two industry, and Horse Racing is the number three industry in New Mexico. She has asked the dept of tourism to come to the New Mexico Bred sale. There will be legislation coming up to recognize the NMHA and to not incumber the NMHBA. There are fines that are not being paid and they need to be so that we have the money to do more testing.

President Taylor thanked everyone for coming and for their comments. He wished everyone good luck at the races.