



**Special Board of Trustees Meeting
By Zoom**

**February 19, 2026
4:00 p.m.**

PRESENT

President Tom Goncharoff, 1st Vice President Norma Alvarez, 2nd Vice President Jay Taylor, and Trustees Pierre Amestoy, Brian Anderson, Mark Brown, Warren Franklin, Bobby Lee, Mac Murray, Helen Nave, Susie Prather, and Andy Rivera.

ABSENT

None.

GUESTS

Ralph Vincent

QUORUM

President Goncharoff acknowledged a quorum present at 4:10 p.m. and called the meeting to order.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Jay Taylor made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Norma Alvarez. Motion carried 11:0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

REGIONAL THOROUGHBRED RACES WITH TEXAS AND OKLAHOMA

President Goncharoff asked if everyone had a chance to go over the white paper that Glen Robertson put together and started the discussion about possible regional Thoroughbred races with Texas and Oklahoma who reached out to us. They are having some of the same problems with not having as many Thoroughbreds and also a lack of opportunities. This is very preliminary at this point.

Mary Barber listed the people from Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico who met by Zoom and apologized to Bobby Lee for leaving him off. Tom Goncharoff, Ralph Vincent, and Mary Barber attended the meeting to represent New Mexico and Danielle Barber, and one other lady represented Oklahoma, and Tracy Sheffield, one of her assistants and Glen Robertson represented Texas.

Ralph Vincent and the Trustees discussed Mr. Robertson's white paper and the idea of a stallion series and or a Governor's Cup. It was mentioned that Mr. Robertson also included regional overnight races. The Trustees had some concern that this program could possibly be more beneficial to Texas and Oklahoma since New Mexico has more racing opportunities and better purses. Helen Nave mentioned that both Texas and Oklahoma are allowed to breed to out of stat stallions where New Mexico is limited to registered stallions standing in New Mexico. President Goncharoff thought that we could possibly make it like we did with the Arizona program that horses would only be eligible if they were sired by a stallion standing in Texas and Oklahoma.

Ralph Vincent suggested a round table discussion. He also suggested that we talk to one or two of our racetracks and see if they would be interested in taking one of their open stakes and making that part of this series. Texas and Oklahoma would need to do the same in their states.

President Goncharoff explained that we are not asking for an official vote at this time but asked if any of the Trustees was opposed to continuing these discussions with Texas and Oklahoma. None of the Trustees said they were opposed so our committee will continue to discuss this with Texas and Oklahoma and report back.

Norma Alvarez asked if we could include Arizona in the regional races and discontinue the program we started last year and was told that everything is on the table at this point.

Jay Taylor suggested that we put something in the next newsletter explaining that Texas and Oklahoma approached us and that regional races might be a possibility.

Mary Barber was instructed to write a letter to the members about the potential collaboration with Texas and Oklahoma and that it is very early days and that nothing has been decided and that it is a work in progress. Jay Taylor would like to add that the membership will have an opportunity to voice their opinions before any final decisions.

UPDATED NEW MEXICO THOROUGHBRED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Ralph Vincent went over his power point presentation that had been sent to each of the Trustees. He reported that among the participants were track management from Zia Park and Sunland Park. The biggest thing this group accomplished was that it opened lines of communication as well as with other racetracks, commissioners, owners, breeders, etc.

The major points discussed was the decline in Thoroughbreds and the need for more. Also discussed was the loss of Black Type and the need for larger field sizes.

We need a consistent racing schedule that is guaranteed for multiple years. We need longer meets so that the horses do not need to be moved every couple of months. A suggestion was to have revenue sharing for overnight races so that all New Mexico racetracks would have the same purses. This way trainers will not hold back in running until they get to the racetrack with the biggest purses. Each racetrack would still maintain their individual stakes schedules.

Straight meets would attract out of state stables to come to New Mexico and stay here.

Also discussed were possible new breeder incentives.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Tom Goncharoff, Pierre Amestoy, and Mac Murray were all invited to attend the special meeting that was held the day before to settle the problems with the simulcast signals and the horsemen's association being unrecognized.

Although the meeting was confidential, they all felt that things are looking good and that there will be another final meeting in mid-March to settle these issues.

Mark Brown was concerned that Ralph's program was supposed to start at the end of 2026, but he is not sure how that can be done without having a racing schedule set for next year yet. Ralph Vincent agreed and reported that at this point we have too many balls in the air at this time and it has been tabled. We do not even know for sure what racing we are going to have this summer.

Jay Taylor said that there was races called the Sunshine Millions for races in California and Florida. They had a day were they had races for the two breeds to compete and at some point we might want to do something like that. Each state could have a day of races for the tri-state breeds. At the end of the year there would be a champion for each category, and they would be awarded a bonus. Mark Brown added that each state could award their top money earners because if we go by money earned, there would be like eight New Mexico Breds and only one or two from the other states since our horses run for more purse money.

Warren Franklin asked what would we benefit from these regional races. Is it just that we would have more horses to run? Otherwise, he thinks it would definitely be more of a benefit for the other two states than for New Mexico. Pierre Amestoy added that we could

also use these additional horses from Texas and Oklahoma to get more days. This could make regional races a lot more beneficial to us.

Mark Brown added that we need more days for the Quarter Horses as well. Pierre Amestoy added that the number of Quarter Horses is a lot larger versus Thoroughbreds because of embryo transfers and there is not going to be enough races for all the Quarter Horses as it is. People are already having difficulty getting their Quarter Horses in races.

Jay Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Norma Alvarez. Motion carried 11:0.

Tom Goncharoff
President

Mary M. Barber
Attest