

**THE NEW MEXICO HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
STATE BOARD MEETING
June 14, 2023**

The NMHA State Board of Directors held a meeting on June 14, 2023, by Zoom conferencing and in the NMHA conference room. Paul Jensen, President called the meeting to order at 9:03 am, with the following in attendance:

Paul Jensen, President
Jose R. Gonzales Jr. Director
Larry Strain, Director
Tony Blea, Director
Susie Prather, Director

Jill Giles, Director
Steve Brown, Director
Pam Sena, Director
Tony Cappellucci, Director
Jay Rader, Director

Brenda Gabaldon, Terri Montoya, Jason Thompson, Mary Barber, David Lock, Gerald Marr, Flaco Cappellucci, Donna McArthur, Maureen Fincher

Paul called the meeting or order at 9:03

Approval of the Agenda

Pam added RHSA and Nancy Summers to the agenda under new business. Jill added HBPA.

Report From the President – Paul Jensen

Paul told the board that settling the lawsuit regarding the jockey insurance is going well. Gary will give the details in the executive session.

Track Committees

Sunland Park

Paul said Sunland is not running right now but he thinks management will talk with us. Jose said it has been very quiet.

SunRay Park

Jill talked with Max at SunRay. He gave her an update on sending the simulcast signal out of the country, simulcast was up. The average field size for quarter horses was 9 and for thoroughbred was 8. This was above the national average. They lost one horse on the track and one in the paddock. They were very pleased with their numbers. They had a few positive tests. Management was very accommodating for us to stay until Albuquerque opened. She thanked Jose A. and Tony for their help in getting DAA open. Max will get her the gaming numbers for the meet. He said their numbers for the Belmont were not great. He was pleased with the meeting overall. He is willing to talk with us. She will be talking with him each month.

Ruidoso Downs

Pam said it is mostly bad news from Ruidoso. They are not allowed to function on the property. They cannot conduct business anywhere, not even the chapel. They fired the assistant racing secretary, agents are helping. There are problems with the starters and gate crew. HISA is a nightmare. The Jockeys change rules every week. They have raised the purses 10%. Ruidoso management is fighting with Ruidoso Jockey Club. A thoroughbred trainer was removed but then worked. You have to have a seven-horse field to run a thoroughbred race. Bobby Simmons has helped a few people but also tells everyone they won. Leasa Johnson said they have better vets. Steve said it is a train wreck right now. Pam said someone called Mark Junger, he said he couldn't help he was going on vacation. Steve said those guys didn't know what they were getting into. The Jockey Club is in a battle with track management. Rick wants the Jockey Club to pay \$300,000 for electricity. They need it for improvements, not sure where he came up with that figure.

Downs @ Albuquerque

Tony B. said the track is good. It has been quiet. He does not know of anyone signing a contract. He asked Terri if she had heard anything, and she had not. Tony asked Paul if we should just let the contract sit for now and he said yes. We can ask Don if he needs our help with anything. Tony C. said that at the Downs simulcast yesterday it was shut down for two hours. No one would say why. Jose Jr. said we need to address grooms not being able to stay on the backside. Tony will get with Jose A. and see if Don has a solution. Don had said we could try to help, maybe bring in trailers. Tony said he will keep pushing. Tony C. said he has several owners who are very concerned about what kind of protection there will be to protect their horses. There are trailers there now, what happens when the meet starts. Right now, they are between the barns, it won't stay that way. The bathrooms are closed from 7pm to 6am. Where are they going to the restroom? Tony will ask Jose A. Paul wants to get a list from the fire marshal on what needs to be done to turn the tack room into sleeping room. Tony said the biggest problem is there are no sprinklers on the barns in case of a fire. They were ok with a cot and a small fridge. Can we call them a night watchman? Tony will work with Jose. Paul wants to see what code is.

Zia Park

Susie hasn't heard anything. She wondered if Larry has been able to talk to the new person. Hopefully they will be more supportive.

Public Comment

No comments.

Approval of the May Minutes

Jill made a motion to approve the May minutes. Pam seconded. **Motion passed.**

Approval of the May Financials

Jill welcomed Steve to the state board. Dues and Fee are down, coffee and water have been cancelled. Office supplies are down. We have a contract with the postage machine so will have to stay with them. Utilities are down. The ladies are doing a very good job keeping expenses

down. Ruidoso is up for simulcast too medical. Jill made a motion to approve the financials Tony C. seconded. **Motion passed.**

PAC Report – Jason Thompson

Jason said that the interim committees have started meeting. The legislature will appoint committees to meet on different topics. No policy decisions are made. The meetings are educational in nature. Jason and John are attending these meetings to see what issues the hot topics will be. They will meet in different places around the state. If anything comes up about racing, gaming, or sports betting he will keep us updated. Paul asked Jason if he had talked to Candy, she had some ideas. Jason said he would call her. Jason said that Candy may be running for the Senate. Paul thinks that could be good for us.

New Business

Social Media update – Susie

Susie said the new sight is doing really well. She is posting daily. Larry and Pam have sent her information. Jose had a good idea to spotlight someone. Lots of feedback that website is user friendly. Jill noted on the financials that the money Larry donated for the website shows as income, it will show as a payout in June. It was asked why the website does not have Gerald and Jose A listed under their committees.

Bylaws – Jill

Jill suggested that after listening to Gary and the TRO case that adding a change to the bylaws would help with the contract issue. We can add that only the State Board of Directors President or the Executive Director can sign the contract. The TRO was approved because the contract was signed by a horseman. She also said everyone needs to make sure your committees have a copy of the bylaws. They keep saying we don't follow bylaws. All important items need to be signed by the President or the Executive Director. Paul said we need to talk to Gary about this.

Voting by Text

We follow Roberts Rules of Order and voting by text is not an approved method of voting. You can only vote in person or by zoom. It is also not in the bylaws that we will accept a vote by text. Pam asked if voting by text is not allowed, can you vote by email. Terri said voting in person there is a verbal response for the minutes. Email can be used in an emergency since you can print out the response.

RHSA – Pam

An email from NHBPA went out about new Legislation to replace HISA. It is a summary answer to HISA resolutions with new options. It would return power to the states. Use professional groups for consulting. Work with current states but still have uniformity. They need our support from New Mexico. This will also include quarter horses. They want us to say we do not have a problem with including other breeds because eventually HISA will be adding them. Pam likes that only states who join RHSA can simulcast. Doesn't like that the rule runs through the NMRC, and they will set the fees. Paul said we have to improve our relationship

with the commission. We can't get rid of the commission; we have to work with them. We start with the tracks and the commission will follow. Need to use whatever body is in charge to step in and help with the racing commission. Whoever has Federal authority needs to make the NMRC do what is right. Paul made a motion to support RHSA. Steve seconded. Role call motion **passed 10 yes 0 no**. Paul will contact the NHBPA.

Nancy Summers – Pam

Nancy called Pam and asked if she could lease the Horsemen's building at Downs @ Albuquerque. She wants to use it for her tack and for her grooms to stay in. She will keep it clean. We would need to check with Don to see if that is ok. It would also have to be emptied. If was asked, what would we do with the stuff in the office. Jay said he can bring it over her. Gerald said to talk to Don first to see if that can be done. Paul said maybe we can use it for a dorm. Paul asked Tony to check on it. Steve asked if we owned it. Yes, we own it but it is on The Downs' property.

HBPA – Jill

Jill said that the information that Pam sent out still has Richard listed as Executive Director. Also, the old members need to be taken off and the new members added.

Old Business

None

Executive Session 10:15

In executive session the board did not do away with the yearly 3% raise for the office staff. No action was taken in regard to litigation.

Back in session 11:15

The July meeting will take place in Ruidoso at 10:00 Location to be decided. Jill will provide refreshments.