**New Mexico Gay Rodeo Association**

**Board of Director Meeting Minutes**

**Zoom Meeting, June 10, 2024**

**Those in attendance include**: Michael Kaplan, Jeff Lowe, Ed Powers, (Brandon Bays, Josh Garcia, Jaime Hernandez (joined late), Russell Ellenberger, Michael Nyer, Jeff Olson-non voting members attending)

1.**Meeting called to order** at 7:01 pm

2.**Approval of the agenda** for tonight’s meeting so moved by Ed, seconded by Jeff-unanimously approved.

3.**Approval of the meeting minutes from the May 13, 2024 meeting**: Motion by Ed, seconded by Jeff-unanimously approved.

4.**Michael Kaplan - President’s Report**: Michael (and the Board) received the letter of resignation from Juan Mares as Vice President. The three board members on the call tonight accepted his resignation. With the loss of his Father recently, and his Mom’s health, he didn’t feel that he could continue to take on the responsibilities as Vice President. As a result, Michael has been in contact with our current Royalty team regarding proceeding through the rest of the year without a Vice President. All were fine with reporting their activities/fund raising efforts to Michael and the rest of the Board. Both Brandon and Josh/Seliah both confirmed their approval of working with the rest of the Board. Both Ed and Jeff were fine with this arrangement as well. Michael asked that we make a change to the NMGRA ByLaws to allow for another Board member to be able to sign checks in the event of a vacancy on the Board at tomorrow’s general membership meeting. Jeff sent out the revised draft of the NMGRA Standing Rules. This will be discussed at the general membership meeting so everyone has 30 days to review the changes, and submit any feedback to Michael. As an association of IGRA, we must also have both ByLaws and Standing Rules. Many of the changes proposed mirror what IGRA has so we are all of one accord. General membership will vote to approve the updates at the July meeting. Brian Helander has volunteered his smaller trailer and truck to be in the Pride parade in Santa Fe. We can’t set up until 8 am on June 29th. Jeff and Russell are bringing a dining canopy, Jeff will bring the 11X17 posters that Seliah created and display them on the table. We will be gathering information from those that may be interested in volunteering at our rodeo as well. Utah’s rodeo is coming up, Ed will take care of mailing the NMGRA flag to Brandon for use in their rodeo. Brandon will ensure we get it back afterwards. Jaime/Jasmin is attending also.

Re: Raffle tickets, Jeff has sold a bunch, David has/is still selling some, Michael has sold a few. Brandon put up a square link on the [nmgra.org](http://nmgra.org) site for anyone wanting to purchase tickets on our site. All of the Royalty team have tickets also. We will have tickets available at the Santa Fe Pride booth on the Plaza. $245 was collected in May, and so far in June we have $195 deposited in raffle ticket sales.

5.**Vice President’s Report** - Josh/Seliah:July 26th is the Leather Rodeo at Sidewinders.The Royalty Competition will be on Saturday, December 21st, 2024. We need to get control of the social media sites, our FaceBook has 1500-2000 followers if perhaps Dave Henzel might be able to help. Brandon: is doing a fund raiser for NMGRA in Utah on July 5th (50/50 show with UGRA Royalty) and August 10th (100% for NMGRA). Brandon is working with Dave Henzel about some [nmgra.org](http://nmgra.org) webpage issues.. Michael asked about whether we would be collecting suggested cover charges at the door, Josh/Seliah advised that if we do collect a cover, we have to pay for a DJ in the main part of the bar. She will look into options between now and then. Michael asked about whether Josh/Seliah had been in contact with Michael Vrooman (IGRA Vice President) about the completion of the IGRA application. She tried reaching out to him today and will follow up with him about needed paperwork and monies already sent in. Brandon’s paperwork will be filled out after the UGRA rodeo, where he completes his volunteer requirements-then Ed will take care of sending in the two required checks with his application.

6.**Jeff Lowe -** **Membership/Secretarial**- Now that the required language is inputted into our Bylaws, we need to resubmit the regular 1023 form, and submit the $600 user fee. I need to work with Brandon to correct some formatting issues with our ByLaws after the UGRA rodeo. I’ll be preparing the update to our ByLaws regarding the need to have an additional signatory on the NMGRA bank account when a check writing board position is vacant. We voted on adding Betina Buckingham (aka Teeny Copafeelya) into membership. Jeff made the motion, Brandon seconded, unanimously approved.

7.**Ed Powers - Treasurers Report-** Ed commented that due to the resignation of Juan Mares from the Vice President position, another board member needs to be added to the bank account in the event that either the President/Treasurer are unavailable. Since Jeff is local, the ByLaws will be updated to make that permissible. Ed reported that as of May 31st, our bank balance is $22,832. Since we’ve had monies coming in for buckles/ribbons, etc-the current bank balance as of today is $25007.67. This puts us at $5300 ahead of where we were at this same time last year. The IGRA insurance premium has been paid, as well as the latest $94.00 bill to Creative Awards. Reimbursements were made to both Jeff (Abq Pride entry) and Michael (Santa Fe Pride-booth). Ed displayed the P&L statement to show how we compare to the same time last year in regards to amount of monies in the account, buckles sold, etc. In May, we’ve received $220 in raffle ticket sales, and $606 from fundraising shows by Brandon and Seliah. Royalty contestant sash for Jeff Olson was paid for also.

8.**Monique Zimbelman - Trustees Report** -Monique was not available, nothing to report.

9.**David J Smith - Rodeo Director** - David wasn’t on the call. Brandon provided the Rodeo Director’s report. The buckles were ordered today, proofs will be reviewed once provided. All contracts have either been signed, or are in process. The rodeo production meeting ran well, obtained some great ideas. We only have a total of 13 buckles that need to be sponsored. Glen and David are handling the vendors. The breakfast with the Bears is in the works-Cindy Lou handling that. Ed and Russell will work together on the ticket booth for our rodeo. Josh/Seliah is handling the program and the security badges for the contestants/officials. Gate tickets are being proofed. A check request for $1000 was made to Ed for the deposit to be sent to our stock contractor (Clint Hildebridle/Razor’s Edge) per the contract. There will be Five community Heroes and one of them will be the Community Grand Marshal. They are TumbleRoot Brewery, Rich Taylor, Cindy Lou, Greg Tinsley and the Santa Fe Humane Society. Invitations are either sent or being sent to each. Discussions are still on going between Brian Helander and the Mayor of Santa Fe to be our Grand Marshal. We have Five honorees for the Riderless Horse ceremony: Thom Devlin, Dominique Toya, Abraham, Uncle Jai Steel and Mauro Walden-Montoya. Seliah will add the information to the program page.

10. Old **Business - Michael Kaplan -** Received a blank contract from Jimmy Butler at the Rodeo de Santa Fe. Looking for a copy of last year’s contract for comparison. The current contract details $4000 for the use of the facility, $500 for the water truck/tractor, stall fees of $20 per day, $25 for trailer hook ups per day. We charge $35 per day for full hook ups, some sites are $20 for dry camping/$100 for the four days (Per Brandon). Jeff asked that Brian Helander be communicated with to have the trash dumpster not be picked up until after noon on the Monday after our rodeo. Jason Martinez will still be the “campground coordinator” again for us this year. TumbleRoot will be hosting the Thursday night kick off party, Seliah is making a poster and taking care of the line up of performers. NMGRA will be paying the $150 clean up fee after the Thursday night event. Seliah will also be gathering all of the music on one thumb drive for the performers. Michael will be asking the Santa Fe HRA, who does a Drag Bingo at Tumbleroot to donate their August proceeds to NMGRA. The “survivors” brunch will be held at the Plaza Care/Southside on the Monday after the rodeo. Jeff is following up with FarmTek about the new timing lights.

July 8th will be the next NMGRA BOD meeting. Motion to adjourn by Ed and seconded by Jeff at 8:15 pm-unanimously approved.