**New Mexico Gay Rodeo Association**

**Board of Director Meeting Minutes**

**Zoom Meeting, September 9, 2024**

**Those in attendance include**:Jeff Lowe, Ed Powers, Dave Henzel, David J Smith, Russell Ellenberger, (Non voting members) Patrick Terry, Brandon Bays, Josh/Seliah, Ronald Odion, Jeff Olson-joined 10 min after

1.**Meeting called to order** at 7:00 pm

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

3.**Approval of the meeting minutes from the August 12, 2024 meeting**: Motion by Russell seconded by David-unanimously approved.

4.**President’s Report-Jeff Lowe (Interim):** Jeff had a conversation with Brian Helander regarding the steps to help get NMGRA to a 501c3 status. We went through the lengthy application and filled in much of what was needed. Discussion regarding 2025 NMGRA BOD positions that would need to be filled. Russell indicated he would be willing to stay on in the Vice President position, Ed Powers as the Treasurer, Dave Henzel’s position is a three year one. Jeff would not be seeking a position in 2025 to pursue his retirement and desire to attend/volunteer at every rodeo in the 2025 year. Jeff presented a need to update something in our ByLaws that currently doesn’t allow for electronic communication when it comes to absentee ballot/voting. Dave Henzel recommended using some type of voting software that would be anonymous, much like what TGRA uses. David made the motion to update the ByLaws to reflect the ability to accept electronic submissions, seconded by Dave-unanimously approved. Jeff brought up the Conflict of Interest section in the NMGRA ByLaws. After discussion with Michael Kaplan, this was to have been included in the ByLaw update that the board and general membership approved earlier this year. Because, it wasn’t actually part of the minutes, Jeff brought it up again both for honesty and transparency that we confirm adding the IGRA Conflict of Interest policy in the NMGRA ByLaws as well. Dave Henzel made the motion, seconded by Russell-unanimously approved. Discussion about the appointment of the 2025 Rodeo Director culminating in a collective decision to wait and see if anyone in the general membership was interested in the position. Jeff had esent a copy of the Royalty handbook to Russell since the Royalty competition is coming up.

5.**Vice President’s Report** - Josh/Seliah and Brandon: Feedback breakdown for the following nights:

Thursday-We had a good show, but either more promotion, or just doing the kick off party on Friday after registration

Friday-Consider doing a show DURING registration. We had the venue packed inside and outside as well. This way we could really showcase Royalty.

Saturday- See about getting a sound permit, so we can do the shows later into the evening.

Brandon confirmed the Royalty competition poster is out. Jeff Olson offered a “study group” to help candidates with interview as well as Q&A. Creating fund raising opportunities to help the contestants raise their entry fees on November 10th at Sidewinders.

6.**Jeff Lowe -** **Membership/Secretarial**- Three memberships that we needed to vote on, Nancy Novak, Jason Blair and Justin Terry Smith, Nathan Doyle/Serena Jones Seliah shared information about Serena being part of the Court and having taken out a full page ad in our program. Jeff commented about the need to include contact information when members initially sign up on the [nmgra.org](http://nmgra.org) site. Presently, we don’t have the ability to reach out to new members to make them feel welcome, and invite them to participate. Once Ed (Treasurer) gets through the rodeo expenses, part of the 501c3 application is to include that past 5 years of financials.

7.**Ed Powers - Treasurers Report-** Given that this meeting is two weeks after the rodeo, and Ed is currently on vacation, only estimates are being provided at this point. Not all rodeo bills have been received/paid, nor have we received the City of Santa Fe money at this point. Some unexpected expenses, $3700 for the tent, and an additional $1500 to the stock contractor. As of today, were still $5275 in the black, current bank balance is $20697.80 . Ed expressed concerns about the monies from Tumbleroot. During Santa Fe Pride, the understanding was that we would receive 30% of the profit from sales during our rodeo service on Saturday and Sunday. We received $280 from them. The agreement was that the $1500 room charge and cleaning fee for Thursday night would be waived.Refer to David’s report for more detail

8.**Dave Henzel - Trustees Report** -We need to submit our Association dues to IGRA no later than Sept 14th. We can have 6 voting delegates at the IGRA Convention. Thus far, those confirmed include Dave Henzel, Jeff Lowe, Ken Hogg, Miss Aurora, Carl Bailey/Celebrity Star and Travis James. We can also have 5 alternates as well. The $600 annual membership fee has already been paid, we just need to submit the application, our ByLaws, our being in good standing as an organization, etc. Our rodeo application also needs to be submitted soon.

9.**David J Smith - Rodeo Director** - Given the wind destruction of our tents, and the “last minute” move to Tumbleroot for registration the “gentleman’s agreement” may have had flaws. David commented at least we got more than we had received from liquor service in the preceding three years. Certainly an opportunity area for 2025, perhaps an arrangement with Sidewinders to serve liqour at our rodeo. Non alcoholic beverages would have been good, Tumbleroot only offered Mexican Cokes. Opportunity for future rodeos, sell chips, snacks, sodas for those that want other options. Thursday set up volunteer team all worked well together. Box seating area could be a fund raising opportunity. Black bungee cords on the trash cans went well-definite to again. NMGRA booth location and opportunities can be greatly expanded for next year. Banner/tarp set up on Thursday went really well. Friday pre-registered contestant count was 35, we ended up with 58 total contestants due to added purse money. Rodeo school raised approximately $700. Salsa gifts for officials got put in the hands of some of the volunteers, rather than being sold at the NMGRA booth. All of the remaining popcorn was sold by Emaly by noon on Saturday. Possibility, depending on the contestant load, perhaps better to start the rodeo at 10 am rather than 11 am. Opportunity for next year is to be able to email all the contestants/officials/volunteers, etc the changed start time for Sunday. Something for discussion even at the IGRA level. Communicating the start time change is something that could be improved. Contestant feedbacks included the stock contractor using an electric cattle prod (with or without energizing it). If we see any photography of “distressed” livestock, we can stop those pictures from being taken. Sunday ran really well, other than the start time change. At the awards ceremony, we had two winners (tied) for Men’s Bull riding. The second buckle has been ordered from Molly’s and paid for too. This years Rodeo de Santa Fe contract didn’t include the $500 fee for sound equipment. Something to review for next year since the quality of the equipment wasn’t good. Photos need to be taken of the condition of the grounds prior to us taking over, grandstands, bathrooms, kitchen and horse stalls (which had lots of weeds in them). Clean up on Sunday went well, all rodeo supplies were stored back in the trailer. Jeff Lowe has the timing light and the leftover ribbons at his house for safe keeping. Recommendations for 2025, Brandon Bays, Dave Henzel, Jason Martinez and Cindy Lou for Rodeo Directors. Cindy was amazing at the cook shack and other than one disgruntled bear, the bear breakfast and all items prepared were delicious. Unfortunately, the left over bags of shavings were taken, without permission, so we as an organization had to pay for those. The t-shirts ordered for ZRR were such a success that additional orders have been placed for more. David is paying for them up front, then reimbursement afterwards. Deadline for the order placement will be at our meeting on October 8th. David will check with Tommy Channel to see if the loss of our tents would be covered by our insurance.

Patrick Terry recommended not replacing the two 20x40 tents that NMGRA owned, and just renting the tents so we don't have the liability, or the hassle with setting them up/tearing them down.

10. **Old Business -**Brian Helander and Michael Kaplan are working with the Mayor of Santa Fe and Randy at the Tourism Bureau to continue funding our rodeo with at least the same level of funding as they have in the past.

October 7th will be the next NMGRA BOD meeting. Motion to adjourn by Dave and seconded by David at 8:49 pm-unanimously approved.