



Paddock Paper

Northern New Mexico Horsemen's Association Newsletter

March 2021

2021 Board Members Dig into New Business - Member Input, Strategic Plan

At the February 16 Board meeting, officer positions and length of terms were decided. Officers for this year are: Howard Gershon, president; Kristina Martin, vice president; Helen Newton, treasurer; and, Joyce Davis, secretary. Members-at-large are Gary Clendenen, David Marks and Piar Marks.

Terms were also determined: One year - Joyce, David and Helen; and, two years - Gary, Howard, Piar and Kristina.

Outgoing president David Marks was thanked for his service. "My focus for the last three years was to get us to where we are now," he said. "I'm very excited about what's to come. We are poised to become the most important equine organization in New Mexico."

Identifying Key Issues and Opportunities

There was discussion of creating a task force to explore the care-taking of the organization's financial assets, as well as the role of fund raising. It was subsequently noted that initial work also lies with developing a strategic plan, a part of which will address the management and use of financial assets.

This written plan will connect our new mission and vision statements to key issues and opportunities that the organization is in a good position to address. Then, specific programs and events will be identified that best address these issues and benefit both

members and the greater equine community. Member input will be gathered at stages of this process; the Board is already planning to conduct an online survey of all members.

The Board also feels a better understanding of the role of a 501(c)(3) organization is important at this time. While all this will take a few months, the Board will regularly update members on its progress, seeking feedback along the way.

Member, Board Meetings

We will return to an Annual Membership Meeting in the fourth quarter; such a meeting was not held in 2020 due to the pandemic. In addition, we are all looking forward to getting back to having regular monthly member meetings, even if online for now.

Member attendance was low for earlier online programs, so we need a better understanding of member interests before scheduling and promoting other online programs. A subcommittee of Board members was formed to develop a way to return to regular program meetings (online, for now) with better attendance. Member ideas are always welcome, especially in planning topics and speakers for member meetings.

Finally, it was decided that Board meetings will be held the third Tuesday of every month at 5 pm. Members are welcome to attend meetings, so please contact any Board member for more information.

Member News - Meet Your Board

Beginning this month, you will find brief interviews with Board members in this newsletter. They share their thoughts about organization plans, future activities and how they spend their "horsing-around" time.

Gary Clendenen



Congratulations, as a re-elected or newly elected Board member. What originally interested you in NNMHA?

My wife and I become interested in NNMHA once we became first time owners of a couple of miniature horses with our My Little Horse program. We enjoy knowing some of the people in NNMHA and going to some of the talks. We also like the annual event at the rodeo grounds where individuals take their animals on the obstacle course. Interesting to see that one huge donkey that wouldn't do any of the obstacles - helped me realize the challenge to train them.

Looking forward, what are one or two things you'd like NNMHA to accomplish in the next year or so?

I would like NNMHA to find and focus on interacting with more people related to equines. In particular, there is a lot of opportunity to do that with kids many of whom are in awe of horses, mules and donkeys, but have no way to continue to be around them. We had several Montessori kids come out regularly for a year or more and do work projects or walk our four miniatures. They really seemed to enjoy the experience, especially as they were coming out often enough to bond with our equine.

How do you see the organization, as a 501(c)(3), serving both members and the larger equine community?

It will take volunteers among members, but I would like to see (post-pandemic) members working with small groups taking care of equines, equine learning and perhaps riding. I would also like to see a larger annual or biannual Equine Fair in which the Santa Fe community is invited to meet equine and see at least some activities.

Our My Little Horse program will be going to reading days at the Southside Library, so perhaps NNMHA can participate in something like that, bringing an equine or two there or similar locations once a month.

We have new mission and vision statements and identifying key issues and opportunities will further help determine specific programs and events. Will there be a written plan? What is the role for member input?

It is important to have member input since we will need members to be involved in whatever we do. I'm wondering if a committee called Equine Education Programs and Equine Activity Programs may be worthwhile. Several education ideas have already been put forward by members.

I would like to see us give membership scholarships to people with a strong interest (and low income). I can imagine developing a group of young people who are very interested in equines perhaps go to different NNMHA member's facilities and have experiences at each.

It would also be interesting to sponsor a teenager club or perhaps a kids club, although that would take a special person to lead it. We could send a couple of high school kids to a weeklong leadership summer camp every year.

I think an overall written plan is a good idea, since it may help members relate to things to which they can contribute, although it will need a lot of flexibility.

Are you considering committees to help the Board with planning, fund raising or other specific areas?

I'm open to being on a committee and forming committees, as needed. I look forward to involving members in programs and activities – we had a lot of expertise in many areas and great “horse sense” among our members.

What hobbies and activities do you enjoy, or what interesting life experiences have you had?

I enjoy being active including hiking in the mountains, road biking, walking our miniature equine (two at a time) and going to the gym (pre-pandemic, anyway). I also enjoy traveling (Africa, Mexico and Europe) and photography, especially of wild animals. My son lives in Africa where he works for Chevron as a drilling engineer and has taken many photographs of African animals from gorillas to elephants to hippos.

What is your favorite equine activity?

I like walking and grooming our miniatures. I'm not crazy about the manure and our guys are so small that I am too heavy for them, even if two of them are under me, so riding is out of the question. Ha!

Kristina Flanagan



Congratulations, as a re-elected or newly elected Board member. What originally interested you in NNMHA?

Thanks so much. I'm really happy to be a part of this organization, as it reaches out to the larger world of folks who love all equines. I joined several years ago, because my colleague on the Board, Piar Marks, told me it was a great place to know horse folks - and it is. I had just returned to keeping horses, after 15 years away, and wanted to know trails and Northern New Mexico with my horse buddies. Julie's Ridge Rides were just the best.

Looking forward, what are one or two things you'd like NNMHA to accomplish in the next year or so?

I would love for us to engage membership in projects, taking those responsibilities from the Board members into the organization at large. Clinics, rides and getting-to-know-you events. I would also like to see how our income from the sale could be used to more broadly support equine activities and people who love them. A scholarship fund? A grants program? I'm looking for the membership to give us ideas.

How do you see the organization, as a 501(c)(3), serving both members and the larger equine community?

As mentioned above, the 501(c)(3) status lets us move our planning into our membership's choices. The Board now serves members and the greater equine community in Northern New Mexico. Soon, we are going to be polling members to see what they want from NNMHA, so we can then take steps to realize those dreams.

We have new mission and vision statements and identifying key issues and opportunities will further help determine specific programs and events. Will there be a written plan? What is the role for member input?

Member input is our first priority, as it aligns with the vision and mission of the organization. I would like to see a program, a funding and a fundraising committee all with substantial member leadership and involvement. And as mentioned above, members will be seeing surveys and other outreach so the Board can start focusing on what the membership wants us to support.

The proceeds of the Grounds sale are managed conservatively. How do you see the role of fund raising, such as member fees, donor contributions, program fees or other ways to fund our activities?

We are still learning about the financial structures of a 501(c)(3) corporation. The decision to become one came quickly to maximize our returns from the sale. The full Board is committed to a deep dive into this question, but we don't have clear answers for you yet. Personally, it is a top priority. We are reaching out to other Santa Fe community resources to get the best practices and guidance.

Are you considering committees to help the Board with planning, fund raising or other specific areas?

This is already in process, but in early stages. At this point, our top priorities are to organize our finances and fundraising and spending policies. At the same time, we want and need to learn from the members about what they want NNMHA to be doing for them and for Northern New Mexico equine lovers.

What is your favorite equine activity?

Tough one! Working at liberty with my Andalusian gelding and then throwing a saddle on my senior Fox Trotter and stepping out into the Galisteo Basin Preserve.

We Now Have a Data Privacy Policy

Most organizations these days have policies regarding the use of “insider” information, such as member, employee or customer data. Our new Data Privacy Policy is to ensure no one misuses member information, such as email addresses, for non-NNMHA purposes. A recent incident such as this prompted the following letter from the Board.

Dear Members of NNMHA,

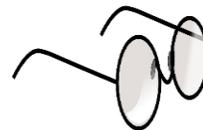
As some are aware, in early February one of our Board members made a mistake and marketed his business to some of you through our NNMHA mailing list. This was unfortunate, as it was a violation of our Bylaws as a tax-exempt corporation, and our policy not permitting the use of the mailing list for personal gain.

The Board struggled over this event and came to the conclusion to accept the member’s apology, and to be sure all who were affected also received a written apology. NNMHA is truly in a new world, finding our footing, as we move from a closely held membership association to an outward focused charitable corporation. Growing pains are just that, and this one truly caught us off guard.

Going forward, we are reassuring you of our commitment to honor your trust in us as your volunteer Board, doing the business of NNMHA by learning and following our agreed upon and statutory rules in the Bylaws. We serve you and the equines with real gratitude for your trust and look forward to a smoother ride in the days to come.

If you are interested in seeing our Data Privacy Policy, it is posted on the NNMHA website. If you have questions, please contact any Board member.

Do You Know...



Many domestic horses (about a third) tend to have **myopia** (near-sightedness). Wild horses, however, are usually far-sighted. Probably more important to see danger while at a distance, to have enough time to escape.

If you have an equine (that could need glasses), what color or shape would the glasses be?

Thoughtful Tips for These Times

Horses and yoga are a combination these days that can offer helpful tips when times can be difficult. Cathy Woods is the author of *Yoga for Riders: Principles and Postures to Improve your Horsemanship*. She offers some perhaps obvious but nonetheless helpful ideas, noting that horses are good teachers.

Woods suggests, "Live in the moment," citing how horses do just that. Doing so allows us to fully experience whatever we're doing with greater enjoyment. Put aside other thoughts and find joy in the moment, Cook advises. Doing so helps reduce anxiety by replacing too many "what ifs" with focused activity.

She also reminds us that eating healthy and keeping active is important. Riding, driving and just general barn work help us keep us moving! She suggests, "Adopt an attitude of gratitude" - like our four-legged pals - by staying plugged into friends, family and support networks.

Finally, Cook says to practice "mindful grooming." By that, she means when you are with your horse, listen to music, enjoy the essence of taking care of another being and appreciate the quiet times together.

Happy St.



Patrick's Day

Classifieds

Do you have something equine-related to sell or services to provide? Short classified ads may be placed by any member in good standing. Please send an email with exact wording for your ad to: Sandra, smithcom@goldengate.net, or Karen, redmule@kdt.net.

STUART H. GARBER, DC, PhD, AVCA

Animal chiropractor with 39 years of experience. Certified in animal chiropractic by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association. Equines and canines, but also happy to treat any critter with a spine. By appointment: 505 913-7493.

TERRY BERG

Trainer offers lessons, training, show coaching. Specialty: ranch riding, reining and ranch trail. Contact: sfcolores@sprynet.com, 505 473-4147.

LYNN CLIFFORD

The Ride of Your Life Horsemanship instruction and The Inner Equestrian Life coaching/counseling, Santa Fe. By arrangement: www.lynnclifford.com, 505 231-5353.

THE TRINITY RANCH

Santa Fe's premier horse facility. Boarding, training, lessons, indoor arena, 150x300 jump course, 20x60 dressage court. Absolutely beautiful facility, exceptional staff, positive atmosphere. More info: www.santafehorse.com.

NORTHSIDE BOARDING

Ride out on miles of trails, five minutes from NM599/La Tierra Rd. Reasonable rates, relaxed atmosphere. Prices from \$300-\$375 for pens 12x60 and larger. Arena, round pen, three tack rooms, wash rack, trailer parking. Horses fed grass mix or alfalfa twice daily. Boarders provide extras, we feed. Owner lives on premises. Contact: Carolyn, Centaurus Ranch, 505 474-0821.

BOARD YOUR HORSE

At the "Happy Horse" place, RANCHO MARIPOSA. Horses fed quality hay three times a day, grain twice a day. Turned out regularly in large pasture and ring, blanketing. Every stall and shed has a paddock and shavings. Indoor arena, sand riding area, dressage ring, round pen, trails available. Caretakers live on site. Lessons and training available. Manager has 40 years professional horse experience and cares for your horse the same way she does her own. Please come and visit us! We're located on "Ranch Road" off of 285, just SE of Eldorado. Call Barbara at 505 466-1005.

Board and Committees

Officers of the Board

President	Howard Gershon	howard@reach-newheights.com	505 690-8433
VP	Kristina Flanagan	omdurga108@gmail.com	415 271-8560
Treasurer	Helen Newton	sfcolores@sprynet.com	505 470-1396
Secretary	Joyce Davis	bjmrkitty@gmail.com	505 490-5390
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	David Marks	david.marks.sf@gmail.com	505 466-0306
	Piar Marks	prsantafe@gmail.com	505 466-3306

Committees

Ridge Riders	Open		
Programs/speakers	Joyce Davis	bjmrkitty@gmail.com	505 490-5390
Facebook Manager	Open		
Website Manager	Betsy Walker	betwalk@cybermesa.com	505 466-1643
Newsletter/ membership	Karen Denison	redmule@kdt.net	505 469-2698
	Sandra Smith	smithcom@goldengate.net	505 983-0144

Website

<http://www.NNMHA.net>

You are welcome to contact any board member with questions or comments about plans or activities. Board meetings are held each month, and members are invited to participate in board meetings. Due to the pandemic, meetings are online. Please contact any Board member for more information.



***Horse Sense: Those that don't get it, can't show it.
Those that got it, can't hide it.
Maybe that applies to people, also?
Adapted from Zora Neale Hurston***