

# 2024 NMMHA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention

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## NMMHA Convention Recap

### CLAY LINDSEY TO LEAD ASSOCIATION FOR NEXT TWO YEARS

The NMMHA has completed what is likely the best MH convention ever held in the country! The 2024 NMMHA 50th Anniversary Convention was held July 21-23 at the beautiful Drury Plaza Hotel and La Fonda on the Plaza in Santa Fe. With gorgeous weather and amongst family, friends, and associates, this year's attendance was simply outstanding! Almost 300 attendees enjoyed a combination of business, education, and fun throughout the three-day event. The convention was kicked off by NMMHA President, Clay Lindsey, who perfectly described this year's convention with his statement, "Celebrating 50 years means a lot and no other manufactured housing organization has been around longer. To celebrate, we are going to have literally the best manufactured housing convention in the country." The Mayor of Santa Fe, Alan Webber, greeted and welcomed the attendees to Santa Fe, and then gave a rousing presentation emphasizing how important manufactured housing is to solving the housing crisis.

The General Membership meeting boasted the biggest attendance ever. The meeting featured a wonderful video celebrating our 50th Anniversary and contained a very special message from one of our founding members, Jerry Walker. You can [Click Here](#) to view the video. During the business portion of our meeting, members heard from NMMHA Treasurer, Eddie Thomas, that the NMMHA is financially strong, that all audits are up-to-date, and that the Association remains committed to a conservative financial investment policy. In his President's Report, Clay Lindsey reflected on the accomplishments of past NMMHA Presidents and emphasized what has made the NMMHA endure for 50 years, a focus on strong leadership. Especially from our current and past Board of Director Members. The Executive Director's Report also focused on the past Executive Directors and the unique history of the organization, and most importantly, the evolution of the NMMHA into the vibrant organization it is today. The report then focused on the tremendous opportunity in front of the industry related to the housing crisis in the country and the state, and how monies being funneled to state housing agencies can be utilized by manufactured housing to mitigate the backlog of homes needed by New Mexicans.

Lesli Gooch, CEO of the Manufactured Housing Institute, then gave the General Membership an economic presentation in which there was a lot of discussion on the state of the national economy. Board of Directors were also elected. The following Board of Directors were elected or re-elected to serve 2-year terms: Clay Lindsey, President; Max Schroeder, Secretary; Jody Bailey, District 1; Jackie Jarisch, District 2; Kendall Magruder, District 5; Wayde Clark, Manufacturer Representative; Doug Ottersberg, Community Representative; Kandice Cochrane, Service/Installer/Transport Representative; and Alex Sauls, Lender Representative. Upon being re-elected to serve another term as the NMMHA President, Clay Lindsey voiced to the organization that after almost 30 years of being involved in the organization, he still feels challenged and invigorated to continue to serve as NMMHA President. "With the Board of Directors we have and with the successful organization we have built, I am as motivated as ever to continue to work to bring value to our members through the great work of the NMMHA," said Lindsey.

The NMMHA membership was honored to have Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham speak to the General Membership and she wowed the crowd with an uplifting and vivacious speech. The NMMHA's 50th Anniversary Convention attracted national attention, including Housing and Urban Development Southwest Regional Administrator, Candance Valenzuela, who attended the event and provided an excellent and motivating speech that included a story of how her family needed housing assistance to make ends meet. And finally... a great Keynote Presentation was provided by Teresa Payne, HUD Manufactured Housing Office Administrator. Both Candace and Teresa completely connected to the Convention's theme of we are healthy, happy and our future is bright. Thank you, Governor, Candace and Teresa!

The Installer Workshop was very well attended with over 30 installers attending the workshop and receiving their Continuing Education Credit Hours. This year's Workshop Presenter was Martin Montgomery, Principal Engineer for RCS Enterprises, who is a nationally recognized Installation Trainer and accredited in several states. NMMHA Board Member, Kandi Cochrane, officiated the Workshop and the Manufactured Housing Division Inspectors and Administrator, Jesus Carrasco, hosted a Q&A discussion.

The Communities Workshop was also well attended with attorneys James Chavez, Jenny Isom, and Andrew Yarrington presenting several issues to our community members, and NMMHA Director Doug Ottersberg officiating an excellent round table discussion of current community issues.

The NMMHA Annual Awards Banquet was a night to remember! The evening began with special recognition and awards given to all of our convention sponsors. The industry also presented an award to the MHD Director, Clay Bailey and MHD Administrator Jesus Carrasco. The membership then took time to honor our longtime member, director and friend, Tom Monaco, who passed recently. Tom's son and current NMMHA director, Tim Monaco, blessed us all with a heartwarming reflection of his father's impact on our industry, and to so many of us personally. Mark presented Tim with a plaque memorializing Tom Monaco's value and work with the NMMHA. The audience was then treated to a delightful speech from one of our "James Knott Scholarship Fund" Awards winners, Alexis Prairie, and another award winner, Colby Priest, sent us a video that we all enjoyed. NMMHA founding member Jerry Walker also spoke and reflected on the very first days of the forming NMMHA. Next, Clay gave his President's Award to Matt Niño for Matt's great service to the NMMHA Board and for his work on the amazing convention. Matt then gave an emotional acceptance speech which left not a dry eye in the room. And with a pleasant surprise, Mark gave the Executive Director Award to NMMHA Administrator Will Saling. To close out the Awards Banquet, young Doug Howard, assisted by his mother Amber, drew tickets for some exquisite raffle items to winning attendees, in support of the "James Knott Scholarship Fund". Coinciding with the raffle was our 2nd Annual Silent Auction, where many items were sold in benefit of the scholarship fund as well. Thank you to everyone who participated in supporting our scholarship fund! And to top it off, we were treated to some fantastic singing by the children of Doug and Ana Ottersberg; Nickalaus, Stewart and Gabriella, which included a full mariachi band. Needless to say, the night will be one of the most remembered ever in the history of the NMMHA.

Our Tuesday recreational day was a blast, with over 25 people taking a professional walking tour through the sites of downtown Santa Fe, and 30 golfers participating in our annual golf tournament. The convention was closed out with a final dinner where Jimmy Griffith presented the Golf Tournament winners and their prizes. It is an honor to announce that every golfer who won a cash prize donated their award to the James Knott Scholarship Fund. On top of that, Gary Garza and Kris Wessel also matched their team's donations. Thank you all!

Last, but certainly not least, the NMMHA would like to thank all of the 2024 NMMHA 50th Anniversary Convention Sponsors (Listed below). Without their generous contribution, none of this would have been possible.

Thank you to all who attended!

Sincerely,



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