



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Bill Richardson appoints new Boards & Commissions members

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today announced the appointment of 12 people to various New Mexico State Boards and Commissions. The new appointments will fill vacancies or expired terms.

"I am proud to appoint qualified and enthusiastic people to lead representative roles in the State," said Governor Bill Richardson. "I want to thank and applaud those willing to give their expertise and time to serve the people of New Mexico."

Governor Richardson has made the following appointments:

New Mexico State Racing Commission

Thomas "Eddy" Fowler, of Ruidoso will replace Jack Cole, and will serve a six-year term. Fowler is the owner and President of Win Place and Show Inc. and of Fowler Inc. Quarters. He has previously served as President of the New Mexico Horseman's Association and on the Ruidoso Downs Horsemen's Committee. In 1999 he was awarded the New Mexico Horsemen's Association Life Time Achievement Award.

David Norvell, is replacing Kenneth Corazza and will serve a six-year term on the Racing Commission. Corazza is a former Attorney General of New Mexico.

New Mexico State Highway Commission

John Hummer, of Las Cruces, will replace Bud Hettinga. Hummer, a career healthcare professional with more than 15 years of senior hospital executive experience, is the Chief Executive Officer for the Mountainview Regional Medical Center in Las Cruces. Hummer is the Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance in Las Cruces and also sits on several boards of directors, including the New Mexico Association of Commerce and Industry and the Federation of American Hospitals. Hummer also served in the United States Army Reserves as a commissioned officer. Hummer will serve the remainder of the six-year term.

New Mexico State Game Commission

M.H. Dutch Salmon, of Silver City, will replace Jennifer Montoya. Salmon is a freelance writer for numerous newspapers and magazines, including the Albuquerque Journal, Silver City Daily Press, Field & Stream, and New Mexico Magazine. He is the author of seven published books and is a former teacher. Salmon is a member of the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission and has previously served on the Game & Fish Advisory Board and Chairman of the NM Wilderness Coalition. Salmon will serve the remainder of the four-year term.

Commission on Higher Education

President Levi Pesata, of Dulce, is replacing Tom Myers. Pesata is President of the Jicarilla Apache Nation. He will serve the remainder of the six-year term.

New Mexico Border Authority

Gilbert Apodaca, of Las Cruces will replace Ed Carr. Apodaca served as a County Commissioner for Dona Ana County from 1997- 2004. Currently he is self-employed at State Farm Insurance and has been there for over 17 years. Apodaca is a member of the New Mexico Association of Counties Board of Directors and has previously served as the Association's vice-president. Apodaca will serve the remainder of the four -year term.

Community Development Council

Sam Baca, of Deming, is replacing Robert Martin. Baca is currently the Mayor of Deming. Mayor Baca will serve a full three-year term.

New Mexico Tourism Commission

Skip Drinkard, of Albuquerque, will serve a seven-year term, replacing Robert Moore. Tilden L. "Skip" Drinkard, is the President and founder of Layne Hotel Management Corp., and has 40 years of experience in the hotel industry. Drinkard has achieved national recognition for the rehabilitation and management of the Albuquerque Hilton Hotel, for which he built the Ranchers Club of New Mexico. Drinkard currently operates La Posada de Albuquerque and has also been the Director of Sale and Marketing for the

Boston Copley Plaza. He has served as Chairman of the Albuquerque Convention & Visitor Bureau and President of the New Mexico Hotel & Motel Association.

Bill Hirschfeld is replacing Bealquin Gomez and will serve a seven-year term. Hirschfeld is the owner/broker of A+ Realty Services and resides in Ruidoso. He has served as chairman of the Billy the Kid National Scenic Byways and is the past President of the Ruidoso Board of Realtors and the Ruidoso Chamber of Commerce. This is the third administration that Hirschfeld has served. He was appointed by Governor Bruce King to serve on the Governors' Economic Advisory Council and by Governor Gary Johnson as a member of the Region 5 Tourism Advisory Council.

Museum of New Mexico, Board of Regents

Hilary Elliot is replacing Frank Ortiz, who resigned due to health reasons. Elliot will serve the remainder of this six-year term.

National Hispanic Cultural Center, NM Board of Directors

Robert Moore is replacing Chris Garcia and will serve a four-year term.

Nelson Valdes is replacing Joni Gutierrez, who was elected to the NM House of Representatives. Valdes will serve out the four-year term. Nelson Valdes resides in Albuquerque and is a sociology professor at the University of New Mexico. Valdes is a graduate of UNM and has spent most of his life in Albuquerque, where he arrived from Cuba in 1960. He maintains his specialty in Latin American social institutions with an emphasis on Cuba and the Caribbean.