

Thank You, for this opportunity to be heard

We realize most of this Commission is new, so allow me to introduce you to HORSE POWER (HP).

I am Sally Summers, the founder of HORSE POWER. Working most of my life, I got my SS card at age 5. My compassion for animals and people began when I worked for a blind chiropractor, exercising her guide dog. I saw the love she had for that beautiful Sheppard and the way he looked back at her made a great impression on me as a youngster.

While attending high school in Boulder city Nevada, in 1971, I got an Appaloosa Mustang, before the "Free Roaming Wild Horse and Burro Act" was passed! I can still hear the man's voice that I bought her from telling me, "Better get one now, while you can, before they pass that law!" I remember his name too, Dave Cotour... not sure in spelling his last name, but have often wondered if he and the BLM contractor are related.

While married with three children, I was accepted to law school. However, my husband refused to sign the loan papers... end of a marriage. Needing a secure job/career, and because it involved the law, I became one of four female correctional officers at the time, in Nevada at NNCC. Realizing the system wasn't working, I left to pursue a career in juvenile probation with Ron Woods. But, the funding didn't come in, so was unable to continue.

Fortunately, I got into radio - was able to help many people and groups with fund raising. That became my favorite part of being on the air. Especially fund raising for the Virginia Range Horses back in the late 80s.

Returning to Nevada in 1998, I continued working in radio. The massacre of 34 Horses was discovered in the Virginia Range. That tragedy introduced me to many groups raising funds with such activities as garage sales to feed the horses they had rescued. It's when I saw my first horse slaughter tape - the inhumanity, and the desperate cries of the black horse trying to climb out of the kill box are etched in my heart forever.

I eventually left the radio station, but helped another person become a part owner, taking my place. Due to a handicap I was accepted into a state program that tested me and asked what I wanted to do in life, with my education. I wanted to go into philanthropy-nonprofit management. The good Lord granted my request, receiving my philanthropic education at UNR. A series of jobs followed, including being in Union Construction, but, all the while becoming more focused on what was developing in my heart.

2005 Horse Power was developed to help the equine and people that help them in Nevada. Eventually, the design of our Special License Plate had its design and original artwork drawn by a color blind woman, then painted by a nationally recognized wildlife artist. The original design included three elements: the White Stallion, calling to his band, striking out for freedom, the band running towards him and curious Burros at the side, representing the 1971 Free Roaming Wild Horse and Burro Act. The two year wait gave us time to market and test wording for the bottom of the plate. In 2007 was finally available.

The plate is now one of the top selling vanity special plates, making the State of Nevada over a million dollars. The majority of these plates are in Clark County. We take polls on regular basis, asking people who have the plates what they know about the plate, where the money goes and why did they chose this one. The majority say they "liked the way the plate looked and what it says".

As we were revising the Grant Application together with our attorney Lance McKenzie, in 2007, the slanderous emails began circulating accusing Horse Power of having no money. But, we jumped through the hoops, took the high road, ignoring the slander, getting the job done.

The resulting anger and jealousy that surfaced is perplexing. HP has experienced many years of attempted sabotage, false information being spread and written complaints that were false. We surely could have gone to court and sued for damages. However, when we make any decision on spending money the board always asks, "Would Nevadans purchasing these plates approve, and are we following our mission?" So, the Board has always resisted law suits. Regardless of the rumor mill, the HORSE POWER board actually approved a matching fund grant to one of the complaining groups with the Nevada Department of Tourism.

The income HP receives only allows far less a stipend for the Executive Director than most Execs earn, and, yet, we've been able to do many things and pave the road for new programs and still give out grants once a year.

HP created the live streaming of the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board meetings in Reno . bringing it to the world! Two years of live streaming later, BLM decided to take it over. We were happy and relieved to be relieved of that expense, but that bridge has remained intact.

HP saw the need to help with the rescue situation as many horses we're going to slaughter via the auction. Fortunately, a stock trailer was donated to us.

When we realized the state of Nevada did not use pain medication when gelding the stallions HP actually paid for pain meds. Then we were accused of having them gelded!

Years ago we were called by the NvDoA Director Tony Lesperance, to help with the wild feral mares that were no longer able to be kept by the state of Nevada. This was after their experimental birth control grant money dried up. HP stepped up, helping, wanting to do what we thought was best for the horses. The "haters" used this to further accuse us of impropriety. The rumor mill was up and running. This revealed some of the bad motives behind their accusations. Director Lesperance informed us about more of their activities, and asked for us to keep it confidential. Best way to describe them is as wolves in sheep's clothing. The accusers turned out to be "killer buyers". This was confirmed by a killer buyer, who told us of these activities. Because we were given this information, once again we were accused of consorting with killer buyers.

In 2010 our President died of a massive heart attack. We also lost other Board Members to the busyness of life, and new board members were brought in. The new Treasurer got anxious and sent in the yearly balance forms without the reconciled bank accounts. Once again our accusers made a big issue of it, even making false claims and slandering us. No illegal activity was seen by the auditors and WNVCF stepped in to help HP comply, having to write a grant once each quarter for our own funds.

HP continues to give out grants, even though they are small. We have helped many rescues throughout the State of Nevada, originally designed for the smaller rescues, concerned groups and Mom and Pop operations, the ones that didn't know how to write grants or market themselves for donations. HP grant applications have been made easy specifically for them.

A few years ago, we took on 32 mares and foals. The individual that bought them put them in my name because of the liability for HP, knowing we were constantly a "target", that it would be safer for the horses. When adoptions of the cute youngsters did not go well, we called that individual knowing they would have the room for these horses. Unfortunately, they responded, "We have no obligation towards these horses whatsoever." We have now reduced more than half of them, regretfully to find out that one sanctuary we that took them to had four yearlings put down because the trainer did not have time for them!

We have an adoption program in place and an agreement with a training center in Washoe Valley that

will train horse and owner together for three months. The end result is a horse that has hopefully a better chance of having a forever home with a human that is familiar with what that horse has learned.

Yes, the process is slow and our adoption papers are detailed to protect the animals. We have heard many times about all the horses other organizations have adopted out, having no idea of where those horses are or their fate. The animals in our care have been together for years, they have formed family bands and enjoy the company of each other. Many beautiful young mares are being groomed for pictures for an adoption page.

Since injuring my hand I have to be very careful around the animals for another six weeks

After five years of harassment and false complaints to Animal Control we left our beautiful 5 acres in Washoe Valley and moved to 212 acres in Storey County. Before we had even moved one horse onto the 212 acres the harassment started. After numerous complaints were lodged against us with the planning commission in Storey County (these complaints devised to get our SUP pulled), we were advised to go to the Storey County Sheriff. Looking into it, they began a criminal investigation, and discovered harassment, stalking and conspiracy directed towards HP and myself. To my knowledge this is still an open case, waiting on the DA's desk.

HP is a charitable organization, that serves its mission well. The services we provide to other rescues and for animals in our care would be approved by people that have this license plate on their vehicle.

We are in compliance with 12 of the recommendations and will continue to raise the bar for our board. A comment was made at the last meeting that we need to have “professionals” on our Board. We actually have degreed individuals including Bachelor's, Masters and PhD's on our board, financial advisors, business managers and qualified nonprofit management professionals.

Although not required when originally forming our Board, and suspecting this is not being required of other Horse and Burro Organizations, we're actively seeking a veterinarian and CPA for the Board. Changing a board is time consuming, especially finding the best qualified persons. Contrary to comments made by the previous Chairman of the SLPC, we have had our bookkeeper, with a CPA firm, for many years... among comments that are not factual, showing no research of our board or organization on his own. We have line item accounting, recently establishing a new Treasurer who is diligently improving our financial accounting, a new President who is a major business person and owner, a Vice President who is a retired Pastor, a secretary who has a background in management and radio program editing, former Marines and Vets, first responders, doctors, judges, law-enforcement.

We are applying the knowledge we have gained over the years for the purpose of our Mission... “to financially aid those groups – we ARE one of the groups as well - organizations and individuals that care for wild, stray and 2nd chance horses, burros or mules. HORSE POWER works to address their needs as they (the legal definition includes “we”, HP as one of those groups) provide food, medical, training, transportation, education, humane habitation and treatment, improving the quality of life for these equines.

We are here for the Equine, not our Ego...

We react to a need not a photo opportunity...

Knowledge is power when it is applied.

HORSE POWER's compassionate heart has always been to keep the wild horses and burros from being slaughtered and remaining on their ranges... WILD and FREE.

Thank you. Respectfully,

Sally Summers