***President’s Message—June, 2019 NMRacquetball.com***

***‘Pride of Ownership’***

**New Mexico has a history of staging large, complex, memorable events. Examples: NCAA Final Four**

**Basketball Championships, International Balloon Fiesta, World Boxing Championship, and numerous**

**political rallies. We were on stage again for the National Senior Games in mid-June, a 20 discipline**

**Athletic Festival held over 12 days. It was another opportunity for Albuquerque and New Mexico to**

**shine. Racquetball was one of the 20 disciplines; hosting more than 200 players from many states at**

**the New Mexico Sports & Wellness Midtown and Downtown venues. Players who qualified in**

**mens/womens singles & doubles plus mixed doubles vied for medals in more than forty categories.**

**Generating community support can be a rigorous venture. Those who joined did so with passion,**

**sweat, and a sense of PRIDE. Conspicuously absent were personal agendas. Communication amongst**

**organizations, government entities, and volunteers is often a huge concern, especially when there are**

**questions as to who is the leader of the hierarchy. The Local Organizing Committee,**

**the City of Albuquerque (Parks & Recreation/Visit Albuquerque/Department of Senior Affairs) and**

**the National Senior Games Association all worked together to create access for athletes,**

**diplomats, administrators, and volunteers. I have experienced large athletic festivals over**

**three decades, such as the Olympic Festival, Pan American Games, and World Games.**

**Only the Kaohsiung (Taiwan) World Games in 2009 surpassed this one in terms of organization,**

**administration, and value. They hit the ‘jackpot’, even though most of the visitors did not speak the**

**native tongue of Mandarin.**

**Thank you to the thousands of volunteers who lent support across the city and locations in other**

**parts of New Mexico. It was apparent that each one had the motivation to help make the 2019 NSG**

**the best it could be. With close to 14,000 athletes and an economic impact of over $30 million, we**

**wish all who came, saw, and conquer well, and we invite them back.**

**Quote of the month…**

***‘Who, what, when, where, Kawhi’***

***Mark Jackson on Kawhi Leonard, NBA Toronto***