

Minutes 4/7-8/16- Teleconference

WPRA Board Meeting Minutes Spring Meeting- Kissimmee, FL 4/7-8/2016 8:00 AM ET

In attendance: Doreen Wintermute, Jerri Mann, Patti McCutchen, Marguerite Happy, Heidi Schmidt (on phone), Margo Ransom, Dillon McPherson, Eileen Lang-Kramme, Patti Roberts, April Denny, Cindy Gillespie, Marlene McRae, Lois Ferguson, Chris Powers (on phone), Melanie Luark and Julie Herman. Dana Eismeier and Janet Cropper.

Friday: April 7, 2016—8:00AM ET

WPRA President, Doreen Wintermute calls the meeting to order.

1. Welcome & Agenda Review

Ms. Wintermute welcomes the Board and new Directors, Chris Powers, Columbia River, Patti Roberts, Southeastern and Marlene McRae Futurity/Derby Division. A few minutes were taken to provide a hi-level review of the agenda and the flow of the next 2 days.

2. Vice President's Update

WPRA Vice President, Jerri Mann reviewed two topics:

Topic #1: NFR Awards Program and the Saddle Rotation Program. Ms. Mann reviewed the list of awards provided to the Top 15 WNFR qualifiers and rookie. Ms. Mann explained that they are a combination of purchased and donated items. As for the Saddle Rotation Program, most saddles are donated though occasionally the WPRA must supplement and make purchases. She also commented that since the WPRA Tour saddle is awarded at the Star Celebration, she thought more attention needs to be made about this award to both members and saddle makers.

Topic #2: Protest Committee update. Ms. Mann reported that there were 65 protests received in 2015. 30% pertained to turnout fees (many weather related) and 24% pertained to circling. The remaining covered entry fees, late fines, collections, etc.

3. Attorney's Update

WPRA Attorney, Dana Eismeier reviewed two major topics:

Topic #1: Officer & Director Responsibilities. Mr. Eismeier reviewed the Board's general responsibilities, decision making powers, confidentiality issues, Social Media Policy and the Conflict of Interest Policy.

Topic #2: Tenant Situation in WPRA Rental Property. The current tenant is moving to a larger space. Mr. Eismeier shared the conversation that he has had with current tenant and their options, which includes: a sub-lease, a buy out of the current lease or the WPRA taking the space back for its own use. The Business Committee recommends to the Board that we investigate a sub-lease contingent on the WPRA's approval of the new tenant.

4. Corporate Partner Visit & Introduction

Visitor # 1: Jake Gibbs, from Professional's Choice, provided an overview of the company and shared with the Board the many benefits available to the Directors by being a Corporate Partner with them. He reviewed their Awards Program and how the Directors can obtain quality, personalized awards for their circuit awards and World Finals awards.

5. 2015 World Finals Review

WPRA Chief Operating Officer, Janet Cropper provided a hi-level review of the 2015 World Finals. Ms. Cropper highlighted the # of entries, income & expense items. Time was short, so she was asked to finish the review at the next Board teleconference call.

6. Review of the Recommended Spokeswomen List

Each Director reviewed her list with the Board. Additions and edits were made as requested.

Motion by Great Lakes Circuit Director, Margo Ransom: I move that the Board accept the submitted Spokeswomen list and apply the requested edits.

2nd by Wilderness Circuit Director, Julie Herman

No objections.

Motion passes.

7. Equine Medications & Prohibited Substances (EM & PS) Policy Update

EM & PS Chairman, Dr. Doug Corey provided the Board with the following information:

- A. Background regarding why the WPRA program currently works and should continue to work with the United States Equestrian Federation.
- B. An explanation regarding how rodeos are selected for testing.
- C. A review regarding the random selection process for testing.
- D. A review regarding how quickly results come back from the lab.
- E. A review regarding how the EM & PS Committee works from start to finish, i.e. from receiving test results through to deciding on a fine or warning.
- F. A numerical and anonymous summary of the # of tests over the past 3 years, the results (positive & negative), types of violations, the fines and or warnings.

In addition, Dr. Corey and WPRA Attorney Dana Eismeier discussed the need to implement the rotation guidelines for both the EM & PS Committee and the Hearing Board. This is most relevant given the passing of Dr. Ruth Haslip who was on the Hearing Board. It was agreed that they would join the Board on the next Board teleconference call.

8. Review of a Member Appeal

A member asked that the Board review a decision made by the Protest Committee regarding her suspension after making payment through the collections process. Per rule 9.1.2.1, once a member's account has been turned over to collections and is finally paid, the member is suspended for 90 days.

The member asked that the suspension be waived.

Board discussion.

Motion by Great Lakes Circuit Director, Margo Ransom: I move that the Board maintain the suspension per the rule 9.1.2.1, which was also the conclusion of the Protest Committee.

2nd by Wilderness Circuit Director, Julie Herman

15 Yes votes/ 0 No votes

Motion passes.

9. Review of the 2015 WPRA Audit & Financial Review

The WPRA Auditor, Pauline Davis of Logan, of Thomas & Johnson, explained that while the audit was not yet finalized (a few items were being re-categorized & adjusted), she was in a good position to review her findings.

Topic #1: Internal Controls. Understanding that there has been turn over in accountants during 2015, we need to commit to having actionable written procedures, minimize late adjusting entries and be sure that no Officer & Director re-imburements be processed without acceptable IRS required documentation.

Topic # 2: Financial Review. The WPRA experienced another positive year. The WPRA continues to grow and realized a positive net income. Income is up again for the 5th year, despite declines in sponsorship due to position turnover. Expenses are all within reason. The WPRA ratios, compared to peer groups, are good.

10. Corporate Partner Visit & Introduction- cont'd

Visitor #2: Maryjane Carpenter, from Resistol shared that the Resistol was delighted to be a WPRA Corporate Partner. She told the Board about their new RideSafe, western helmet, and explained their strategy for introducing it. She also offered 1 RideSafe helmet per circuit for each Director to use as an award. If the Director is keeping the RideSafe and using it, Resistol would provide a straw hat for awards.

Visitor #3: Steve Miller, from Montana Silversmiths explained two important items. First he explained how the 1st right of Refusal works with Montana. Second, he explained the differences in buckle quality throughout the industry, and the importance of understanding quality versus price when making a purchase.

Note: The Badlands Circuit Director mentioned that the ownership status of Woody's Performance Feeds has changed and that she did not know if they would be continuing to supply 3 saddles for the 3 Circuit Finals.

11. Review of WPRA Office Metrics

Ms. Cropper reviewed statistics & trends for the following items: Member applications, Rodeo approvals, Procom entries, Divisional Circuit approvals, Limited Entry Rodeos, Major Rule Violations, RodeoPay and PESI administration.

12. Major Rule Violation Hearing

Hearing #1: Alleged violation of rule 9.3.6 and 9.3.14 harassment of an official and conduct inconsistent with the best interests of the WPRA.

Hearing and deliberation.

Motion: I move that the Board reduce the major rule violation to a minor and assess a \$250.00 fines.

2nd

15 Yes votes. 0 No votes

Motion passes.

13. Futurity/Derby Division Update

Futurity/Derby Program Director, Marlene McRae explained the purpose of the division has always been to develop great rodeo horses. Yet historically the WPRA's emphasis has been focused on Futurity (as has the industry) and not the Derby. She would like to see more attention being channeled toward Derby events and eventually see equal added \$ for the Derby (with Futurity) at the WPRA World Finals.

Other topics included: is there a place for the Futurity Only membership? Who are we trying to attract to the program? Is the current points system appropriate? Do changes need to be made to the added \$ and/or entry fees for the 2016 World Finals for both events? All of these items will have impact on how the division grows.

Board discussion.

Ms. McRae will come back to the Board at their next teleconference call with her recommendations.

14. Roping Division Update

Roping Division Director, Patti McCutchen reviewed the status of her All Around Vision & 5 Year Plan and "Roping by the Numbers". Ms. McCutchen then discussed her thoughts for how to grow the division and support the World Finals. Thoughts included: allowing juniors to rope, starting an Italian Circuit which would allow co-approvals in Italy (interest has been expressed by ladies in Italy), discontinue the Australian Circuit (not enough growth) and wondering if more can be done to increase our presence in Breakaway. She also mentioned that California seems to be a hot spot for growth.

Board discussion.

Ms. McCutchen was asked to put together a Roping Committee (Marguerite Happy, Margo Ransom, Janet Cropper & Doreen Wintermute volunteered to be on it) and build a plan for these items.

15. Ground Program Update

Defer to next day-Saturday morning.

16. One & Done Program Update

WPRA Chief Operating Officer, Janet Cropper explained that the program is going very well with 92% of the Secretary's results packages coming into the WPRA correctly. We want to see how to help the remaining 8% and then turn our attention to a possible Timer program.

17. Business Committee Update

WPRA President, Doreen Wintermute explained that now that she is President and automatically on the Business Committee, a vacancy has opened up on this committee.

Board discussion.

Motion by California Circuit Director, Marguerite Happy: I move that the Board appoint April Denny and Melanie Luark to the Business Committee.

2nd By Wilderness Circuit Director, Julie Herman

No objections.

Motion passes.

18. Rodeo/Competition Committee

Rodeo/Competition Committee Chairperson, Lois Ferguson discussed that this committee works very well and is an efficient way to handle those rodeos where the Board feels it can delegate their approval process, instead of taking them to the full Board.

With that in mind, it was discussed if there were any other activities that might be delegated to this committee. One thought was to consider delegating certain types of major rule violations, i.e. competing in less than 7 days while on a release, to them.

Board discussion.

The Board concluded to let this be handled through the 2017 rule proposal process.

19. Rule Book Committee Update

Rule Book Committee Chairperson, Julie Herman updated the Board regarding the composition of this committee and the schedule for processing 2017 rule proposals and publishing the 2017 rule book.

The Board appointed Marlene McRae to replace Susie McConaghie to represent the Futurity/Derby Division.

20. World Finals Committee Update

World Finals Committee Chairperson, Jerri Mann provided a brief update. April Denny asked if she could talk with TC Long about some possible schedule changes that might make sense. Marlene McRae was added to replace Susie McConaghie for the Futurity/Derby Division.

21. PRCA Update

WPRA President, Doreen Wintermute shared with the Board highlights of a call that she had with PRCA Chief Operating Officer, Aaron Enget and PRCA Commissioner, Karl Stressman.

22. Meeting adjourned until Saturday morning.

Saturday, April 8, 2016—8:30 AM ET

23. Future Growth Opportunities for the WPRA

Topic #1: Status of the Rodeo Competitive Landscape. The Board discussed relations with PRCA and the CPRA (Canadian Professional Rodeo Association) and any other organizations touching the rodeo environment.

Topic #2: Membership Trends. The board reviewed the numbers for the last 5 years, discussed the impact of specific programs, i.e. Divisional Circuit jackpots, juniors etc.

Topic #3: Divisional Circuit Related. The Board discussed if there should be a Divisional Circuit Finals at the World Finals. This discussion also included some thoughts about a possible Divisional Circuit Only card.

These items were sent to the Divisional Circuit Committee for further thought and exploration.

Topic # 4: Gold Card/Holder Related. The Board discussed if more should be done in our magazine highlighting those who achieve this status.

Topic #5: Permit Finals. The Board discussed requiring a Permits Finals in each circuit to support Permit growth and help the Permits advance to a card status.

Topic #6: Definition of Junior for Approving DC Junior Events and Do We Expand into Rodeo. What is the correct definition for approving junior races? Where do Juniors fit in our future vision? Do we continue with the pilot in the Southeastern Circuit and allow a junior race at rodeos or do we stay with just approving Divisional Circuit jackpots for Juniors?

These items were sent to the Divisional Circuit Committee for further thought and a recommendation.

NOTE: A Divisional Circuit Finals schedule should be added to the magazine.

24. Other Topics

Topic #1: Magazine Related. What is its role? Schedules are dated?

Topic #2: ERA Related Conflicts. Board shared their views on where they are, where they might be going and how to avoid last minute ground rules changes, i.e. Austin for Finals conflicts.

Topic #3: General Membership Meetings. The Board questioned if the current approach with these meetings is an effective way of reaching out to members for feedback or sharing what is happening within the organization.

It was suggested that perhaps it is a good idea to focus on Rodeo Committee's that would benefit from a visit from the WPRA President and schedule a General Membership meeting at the same time for economic reasons.

NOTE: The Prairie and Great Lakes Directors thought that they might have some rodeos where this idea might work.

Topic #4: Equine Medications & Prohibited Substances Related. The Board discussed some of the results that they heard in Dr. Corey's report on Friday. They discussed where the program is and where it is going.

Motion by Wilderness Circuit Director, Julie Herman: I move that the Board approve the continuation the EM & PS program. It should be funded at the same level as it was for the last 12 months. At the end of June 2017, the Board should review it again for next steps.

2nd by Jerri

10 Yes Votes/ 3 No votes (2 were not on the call)

Motion passes.

Topic #5: WNFR Barrel Race Run Order Rotation. It has been suggested to the Board that the current run order rotation for each night should be adjusted. WPRA Vice President, Jerri Mann informally polled some former NFR qualifiers for their thoughts and tried to work through options that might make sense. The Board discussed what problem(s) are they trying to rectify by changing the order. Is it ground related? Would they be trying to offer the opportunity for top or close to the top to all? Or is it about recognizing the #1 qualifier going into the WNFR in the 1st performance?

Board discussion.

The Board will follow up on this over the next few teleconference calls.

Topic #6: Standards for Qualifying Limited Entry Rodeo (LER) Contestants. The Board asked if there were consistent standards that could be applied for all LER qualifications. Does the PRCA have standards, would they make sense for the WPRA?

Topic #7: Safety at Rodeos. The Board discussed what can they do to encourage rodeo committees, judges and contestants to think more about safety. Where can we weave in helpful tips for all about safety? How do we help promote the RideSafe helmet being newly introduced by Resistol? Would it be helpful to supply rodeo committees and judges with a check list as a reminder?

Topic #8: Justin Best Footing Awards. Is it possible to re-shape the program to include Stock Contractors in some way?

25. Meeting adjourned.