

WPRA Board Meeting Minutes
WNFR Las Vegas
12/8/2017
8:00 AM- 3 PM PT

In attendance: Doreen Wintermute, Jerri Mann, Patti McCutchen, Heidi Schmidt, Margo Ransom, Dillon McPherson, Melanie Luark, Eileen Lang-Kramme, Patti Roberts, Marlene McRae, Cindy Gillespie, Stacey Freitas, Toni Karr, Chris Powers, Lois Ferguson and Julie Herman. Dana Eismeier and Janet Cropper.

WPRA President Doreen Wintermute calls the meeting to order.

1. Rodeo Industry Topic Update

PRCA representative Jed Pugsley provided an update on the topics of animal welfare and government related activities, and their impact as he sees across the country.

Next Mindy Lindquist from Rodeo Salinas shared her rodeo's experience when challenged by certain groups.

Each stressed the importance of open communications and education for members and the public.

2. Futurity/Derby Program Update

Futurity/Derby Director, Marlene McRae shared her observations about the program. She outlined different ways of looking at the program. Her main conclusion is that a Futurity/Derby program is an "added value" option that we offer members, which is good, but it is important to remember that it is not our main business. With that said, some form of streamlining would make sense. The Board discussed some options but drew no conclusions.

Ms. McRae will come back with more thoughts on streamlining while taking into account the program's contribution to both PESI and the World Finals.

3. Haas and Wilkerson Insurance Update

Darin Crisman, the WPRA Relationship Manager at Haas and Wilkerson, stopped by briefly to visit with the Board.

4. Equine Medications & Prohibited Substances Update

WPRA Attorney, Dana Eismeier spoke to the Board about what he is observing in draft ground rules/agreements from both Calgary and Rodeo Houston. Both rodeos would like to see zero tolerance for any positive results showing use of Class 1, Class 2 or use of more than 1 NSAID (stacking).

The Board also discussed their desire to receive more information about the program, i.e. where testing has taken place, the # of negative/positive test results and the types of positive results found. They would like this monthly.

5. Judges Program Update

Chris Horton, PRCA Judge supervisor, George Gibbs and Steve Knowles PRCA Pro Officials came to speak with the Board. Mr. Gibbs covered several important subjects. One, he stressed the importance of putting important details in the ground rules for each rodeo, i.e. if dragging after 5/6, when hand raking, if having a WPRA junior race, running junior races on the WPRA stakes, closed gates, banners on gates, etc. this provides "teeth" for enforcement.

Two, the importance of recognizing the judges job & role once the rodeo begins. Therefore, it is important to have Directors or Spokeswomen talk with the Judge before the rodeo begins and not micro manage the Judges once the rodeo begins.

Three, ahead of time work out side gates and how not to circle.

Four, perhaps more time needs to be spent on more member education.

Five, the Judges want a good relationship with us.

6. Special Recognition

Roping Division Director, Patti McCutchen highlighted the enormous contribution of Jennifer Casey in the Columbia River circuit. Ms. McCutchen highlighted Ms. Casey's achievements which include acquiring 46 new Roping members who joined WPRA in Columbia River in order to compete in Ladies Breakaway, getting 8 PRCA rodeos to add a Ladies Breakaway event and the total contribution to the WPRA's bottom line, her efforts to educate rodeo fans and committees about Ladies Breakaway, etc.

7. Director View on Structure:

One of the Board members asked for time to share her research and thoughts as to whether the WPRA structure was helping or impeding growth. Based on her interviews with some Directors and some of her members, she concluded that time is the top challenge for Directors and members want someone at the top who can devote more time to important decisions and negotiations. She suggested looking at the President and Vice President roles differently, how to utilize committees to be more empowered to do things and then restructure the office to better align with a different way of working.

The Board members asked questions and shared their thoughts. They decided to continue the discussion at a follow up meeting.

8. Spring 2018 Board Meeting

The Board decided that the Spring meeting will take place in Colorado Springs and that the target time for the meeting should be March 9 and 10, 2018.

9. Miscellaneous

Topics on the agenda not covered due to time constraints: World Finals detailed report (cover at the March meeting), the future of the Junior Program, the roles of Limited Entry Rodeos, WPRA Tour and Qualifier races, 2018 General Membership Meeting schedule.

Meeting adjourned.