

2017 WPRA Spring Board Meeting

After almost missing a 5:30am flight out of Sacramento (why is the airport full of people at 4am??) it was a busy and fun trip to Colorado Springs for the Board of Director's Meeting. There was a lot to take in being a rookie director and I definitely learned a lot. The most interesting thing I learned is how different each of the 12 circuits are. It is challenging to find solutions that work for the association nationwide and within each circuit. Some of the topics covered at the meeting -

On the business side of things –

- Office Metrics - nationwide in 2016 there were over 2650 members, 523 approved rodeos (36 in CA) and over 1,000 co-approved jackpots (118 in CA).
- Ground Program – In December 2015, the Board voted to fund a ground educational program for rodeo producers. The WPRA's position is to provide material that helps educate and connect rodeo producers to resources that can assist them in improving their particular situation. The WPRA refers rodeos to SAF (Safe Arena Footing) for hands on assistance and details. 24 tests were allocated (2 in each circuit); 19 committees agreed to test and 12 sent samples
- Equine Medications and Prohibited Substance Program – This program will continue with random testing at various rodeos. Please read the rules on what are prohibited substances.
- Judges' Seminar - The WPRA has been working closely with the judges regarding our rules and we appreciate the role the judges play by enforcing our rule book, ensuring fair competition and providing a safe situation for the WPRA barrel race.
- Corporate Partnerships – Please support our Corporate Partners for their loyalty to the WPRA and take advantage of member benefits.
Visit <http://wpra.com/site/index.php/corporate-partnership-sponsorship> for a list of our partners.
- Limited entry rodeos (LER) - out of 523 rodeos approved nationwide only 17 were LER. Here in California we only have 1. The Board continually works closely with rodeo committees regarding LER.
- 2017 Rule Proposals – The WPRA office is accepting Rule Proposals from current WPRA members from April 1 through May 15th. When submitting a proposal, you must include your name, membership # and indicate if your proposal is a new rule or cite an existing rule that you would like changed. Submit proposals

to ruleproposals@wpra.com. You will receive an email confirmation when the office receives it.

- PESI Offspring Enrollment Special – For 10 years the WPRCA Pro Elite Sire Incentive program (PESI) has had a focus on building rodeo barrel horses. To celebrate this milestone, the PESI program is running an offspring enrollment special. From March 1 through October 1, 2017 enroll offspring of any stallion that has ever been in the PESI program for \$160 regardless of age! Click here for more information <http://wpra.com/site/index.php/office/pesi>.

Fun side –

WPRCA Office - I had the pleasure of meeting the amazing staff who work their tails off for all members.

Board of Directors – A great group of ladies that are dedicated to improving our sport of barrel racing and were very helpful in sharing their experiences and ideas.

Pro Com - Very interesting to see how rodeo entries are handled.

Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame - An awesome place filled with so much history and the brand new WPRCA exhibit (see our WPRCA CA Circuit FB page for pictures).

Circuit business

Spokeswomen approved - Thank you to the following ladies who have agreed to represent the WPRCA CA Circuit as a spokeswoman. It takes a village to run the circuit and I am truly grateful for everyone's help.

Marilyn Peterson, Ann McGilchrist, Linda Vick, Katie Pascoe, Lita Scott, Lyndee Stairs, Karla Sanchez, Marguerite Happy, Jolee Lautaret-Jordan, Sheena Robbins, Suzanne Williams.

Permit standings have been updated through 3-20-17 and can be found at <http://www.wpra.com/index.php/california-circuit-permit-standings-2017>. We are one of the only circuits that track permit standings thanks to Marilyn Peterson.

Futurity/Derby standings for our circuit have been updated through 3-31-17 and can be found at <http://www.wpra.com/index.php/california-futurity-derby-standings>. Thank you to Becca Fullenwider for taking on this task!

Mark your calendars! The 2017 CA Circuit Divisional Finals will be held during the C Bar T Homecoming Race in Tulare in November. More details to come later.

Our spring rodeos kicked off this past weekend with Oakdale. Congratulations to all the winners that braved the very muddy conditions! Mother Nature sent a lot of holy water :)

Please read and know your rules if you don't understand something ask someone for help. Lots of people available for you - myself, spokeswomen, WPRA office.

As a reminder always be absolutely respectful when talking to judges, rodeo secretaries, rodeo committee members, for without them we wouldn't be able to enjoy the sport we all love. If something upsets you, count to 10,599 before you say anything to anyone or post on social media. Being nice goes a long way.

Till next time, good luck and safe travels!

Respectfully,
Stacey Freitas
Women's Pro Rodeo Association CA Circuit Director
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