



February 2018 Newsletter

### **Rodeo Committee Summit 365**

I had the privilege to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Rodeo Committee Summit 365 hosted by the Red Bluff Round Up Rodeo and the California Circuit Finals Rodeo in January. The mission of the Rodeo Committee Summit 365 is to bring rodeo committees together to collaborate on best practices for promoting and enhancing the sport of rodeo.

The biggest topic was animal welfare, along with biosecurity and animal disease. With Ringling Brothers Circus getting closed after 146 years of business and Sea World, we (the rodeo family) must learn from it and ask ourselves – how can we avoid a similar fate? We must focus on the health and welfare of the livestock, educate, self-enforce and work together. It is especially important for us here in California to work to preserve our western heritage and our sport of rodeo as we already have one Southern CA city (Pasadena) that has outlawed rodeos.

Dr. Kent Fowler, DVM, Animal Health Branch Chief from the State Veterinary Office was present and stressed the importance of discontinuing the use of common watering troughs at equine events, as this is one of the common ways disease is spread. Also, it is very important not to share needles whenever administering medications of any sort. Another important topic was negative coggins (EIA) reports. This is important for the purpose of disease prevention. EIA (Equine Infectious Anemia) has no cure or treatment and can be transmitted by biting flies.

### **Rodeos**

In trying to get back one of the rodeos we have lost in our Circuit, I had a conversation with the rodeo producer. Their reason for not having a WPRCA barrel race at their rodeo is due to the weather and ground conditions and complaints about ground conditions. Because the weather can be iffy they wait until the morning of the rodeo to rip the ground (if they were to rip it beforehand and it rained it would be a big 'ol mud hole). They realize doing this does not create the best ground conditions, therefore they choose not to have a WPRCA barrel race as they have gotten complaints about the ground in the past. In wanting to get this rodeo back, I wanted make a promise there wouldn't be any complaints, however, I realized I could not make that promise as I cannot speak for everyone.

This is one of the reasons I continue to remind everyone to 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. Remember to know your rules of conduct. If something upsets you, count to 18,425 before you say anything to anyone or post on social media. Being nice and saying "THANK YOU" goes a long way. Also, I want to reiterate what I mentioned in the last newsletter about ground conditions – Please keep in mind no one likes to see any horse or contestant get hurt because of ground conditions. Sometimes there are times when things are out of anyone's control. Examples – main ground guy has a family emergency and has to leave the rodeo, weather has a big role in even a building—when roll up doors are opened, it can create a tunnel affect where the wind blows and the ground dries up in 3 hours versus 1 day in the previous year.

I totally understand everyone wanting a fair shot of winning and please know I have been working really hard with rodeo committees to provide the barrel racers with safe and fair/consistent ground.

### **Co-Approved Barrel Races**

Lots of co-approved jackpots have been added to the calendar, be sure to check the schedule page on the WPRA website. PLEASE thank the producers for co-approving their jackpots with WPRA and let them know how much we appreciate it. They like to get feedback if this is working for WPRA members.

Monies won in the 1D at co-approved events count for Divisional Circuit Standings for card holders, Permit Circuit Standings for permit holders and counts towards a permit holder filling their permit and for Junior's it counts for WPRA Junior World Standings and Circuit Standings. Contestants may enter as many times as allowed by the primary sanctioning association, however, only money won on the highest placing in the 1D will count towards standings and filling permits. For Junior Standings, a minimum of three (3) contestants must be entered in the dedicated Junior Class for money won to count towards standings.

WPRA Junior Rules – members must be young ladies 17 years or under as of current rodeo year (October 1), as proven by birth certificate. A junior member must sign a new liability release form upon reaching the age of 18 in order to finish the season on her junior card. She will become ineligible to continue to compete upon her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday until this release is received or she purchases her WPRA permit. Upon purchase of a WPRA permit, a junior member forfeits her Junior Membership and all points accumulated in the WPRA World and Circuit Standings.

As always, IF you have any questions, thoughts or concerns please do not hesitate to call me.

Till next time, good luck and safe travels!

Sincerely,

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