

Minutes 8/19/14- Teleconference

WPRA Board Meeting Minutes Teleconference 8/19/2014 4:15 PM MT

In attendance: Carolynn Vietor, Jerri Mann, Patti McCutchen, Marguerite Happy, Heidi Schmidt, Margo Ransom, Doreen Wintermute, Dillon McPherson, Eileen Lang-Kramme, April Denny, Cindy Gillespie, Jana Kent-Isaac, Lois Ferguson, Melanie Luark and Julie Herman. Dana Eismeier and Janet Cropper.

Not in attendance: Susie McConaghie (provided a proxy)

WPRA President, Carolynn Vietor calls the meeting to order.

1. RodeoPay Update

Janet Cropper, WPRA Chief Operating Officer, provided the number of membership signups. 35% of our membership has signed up as of June 30, 2014. All is going very well.

2. Caldwell General Membership Meeting Report

WPRA President Carolynn Vietor reported on the topics reviewed and the feedback provide from members at the 8/12 meeting in Caldwell. Approximately 18 members attended. Members appeared to be satisfied with the discussion around 2013 financials, RodeoPay progress, the strategy for Divisional Circuit program and the newly added finals component. They agreed they would like to see more efforts to help educate committees, judges and contractors on improving ground conditions. There was a discussion by one member regarding her thoughts as it pertains to the Equine Medication & Prohibited Substances process as it applies to the fines for violations and the hearing process. Limited Entry Rodeos were discussed as was the WPRA Tour and the role it plays in providing another avenue for members to qualify to these rodeos.

3. Major Rule Violation Discussion- Rule 9.2.9

Discussion.

Motion By WPRA Vice President, Jerri Mann: I move that the Board not pursue this alleged violation, as the rule does not apply to this situation.

2nd by Wilderness Circuit Director, Julie Herman

14 yes/0 no votes

Motion carries.

4. Planning for the 2015 WPRA Tour

Each of the Directors was asked to share their thoughts regarding increasing the # of WPRA Tour rodeos from 3 to 5 per circuit. Discussion items ranged from the importance of providing more opportunities for members to qualify for Limited Entry Rodeos, to how one would handle ties, to impact on both large and smaller circuits, etc.

Motion by Great Lakes Director, Margo Ransom: I move that the Board increase the number of identified WPRA Tour rodeos per circuit from 3 to 5 in 2015 and that a member's best 7 WPRA Tour rodeos count toward the 2015 WPRA Tour standings.

2nd by Texas Circuit Director, Lois Ferguson

11 yes/3 no

Motion carries.

5. 2014 Lifetime Membership Nomination Process

WPRA President Carolynn Vietor reminded the Directors to bring their nominations to the September meeting based on the previously approved criteria.

6. 2015 Rule Proposals- Review of Group 3

Rule Book Committee Chairwoman, Julie Herman asked that WPRA Chief Operating Officer, Janet Cropper review this group which contained many "clean up" items. Ms. Cropper reviewed each item in Group 3. The Group 3 list is attached to these minutes, which include those reviewed, edited (where necessary) and the associated recommendations.

Motion by Wilderness Circuit Director, Julie Herman: I move that the Board accept the Group 3 recommendations.

2nd by Great Lakes Circuit Director, Margo Ransom

No objections.

Motion carries.

7. Ground Conditions Discussion

WPRA President Carolynn Vietor reviewed a member note sent to the Board requesting consideration of a rule proposal asking that with WPRA and committee approval, a drag would be allowed in the middle of a performance. Each Director was asked to share her thoughts on the topic of ground conditions in her circuit, whether a rule is a good solution for improving ground conditions, whether a GR makes better sense if necessary, alternative options, etc. The Directors spent time discussing the impact that a rule or ground rule might have on committees and judges. They explored ideas for better communication around the topic of improving ground conditions and the role of educational materials. They concluded the later idea was the best solution.

Motion by Roping Director, Patti McCutchen: I move that the Board create a multi-faceted Ground Improvement Plan for the 2015 rodeo year.

2nd By Great Lakes Director, Margo Ransom

No objections.

Motion carries.

8. Miscellaneous Topics

California Circuit Director, Marguerite Happy asked that a note go out to all members reminding them about the Equine Medications & Prohibited Substances Policy. She thought they should be reminded that the USEF hotline is available 24/7 to answer medications related questions, that members are responsible to know our rules and the policy and that it is really important to properly dispose of syringes after use.

WPRA President Carolynn Vietor said she would prepare a note as well as a summarized one year report on the WPRA's 1st year experience with testing.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 26 at 4:15 PM MT to finish work on 2015 Rule Proposals.

The meeting was adjourned.