

## WPRA President's Message

June 19, 2019

By now you may have seen that an alleged major rule violation (mrv) has been filed against me, as the President/CEO of the WPRA.

Since this allegation is directed at me and my role as your President, I would like to share my thoughts and observations with you.

- First, I will start with these allegations are false.
- Second, these allegations appear to be a retaliation attempt regarding an appropriate decision that the Board made on June 10 with subsequent vote on June 11.
- Third, these allegations will be addressed by the Board.
- Fourth, I believe that these allegations and the public distribution of them represents one person's continued attempt to undermine the WPRA and hurt not only me, but your Board and your association.

Due to the nature of social media and its distribution, I have been asked why the Board took the action that it took last week.

As stated in a message sent to current WPRA members last week, your Board removed Ms. Jymmy Kay Cox for cause as outlined under rule 4.4.3 in the WPRA rule book. I think it is important to note two things. First that this particular rule has been in existence since 1993 and second when the vote was taken last week, there were 14 voting members. I am not one of them and I do not have a vote.

Your Board followed the rule book.

Regarding the Board's decision, their concerns centered on but were not limited to:

- Breach of fiduciary responsibilities
- Social media involvement harmful to the WPRA and its integrity
- Actions negatively impacting Directors ability to carry out their job
- Actions making it difficult for the Board to work as a cohesive elected body
- Actions resulting in a negative representation to those we do business with

As noted above as your president, I do not hold a vote and in no way am I able to enter into any agreement without approval by the Board of Directors. While there is talk and rumor about a possible merger between the PRCA and WPRA that is not the case. I have been in dialogue with the PRCA regarding the future of the WPRA, but I am strictly gathering information to report back to the board. At which time a formal document is put together detailing the proposed plan it will be thoroughly discussed with the Board and as a group will determine best way to move forward.

In regards to meeting minutes and financial summaries - meeting minutes are available on our website and financial summaries can be requested through email (contact@wpra.com).

The Women's Rodeo Foundation is currently in the process of attaining IRS approval as a 501(c)(3) entity that will be recognized as being tax-exempt by virtue of its charitable programs. The WPRAs as it currently stands is a nonprofit organization but not tax-exempt. Over the years groups and individuals have approached the WPRAs about giving large donations but they wanted it to be tax-exempt and as an Association that wasn't possible. This new foundation will allow for that and in turn be an avenue to preserve the history of women in rodeo, allow for funding of ground testing for rodeo committees and future charitable programs.

With all that said, I think it is important to also share with you all the positive things this Association and Board are currently doing for the WPRAs membership and the sport we love so dearly.

- The Association as it stands today is the largest and most financially sound that it has been in the last decade. In 2018 membership totaled 3,015 with 500 rodeos paying out close to \$5 million.
- The Association continues to provide countless opportunities to the membership via:
  - A diverse list of approved events
  - Increased added money and total prize money
  - \$50,000 bonus money with the Wrangler Network Tour
  - Breakaway roping being introduced at PRCA rodeos
  - Relationship with PRCA for ProRodeo Tour and Finale in Puyallup
  - Increased avenues for members from 8 to 80 to reach their goals
- Professionals Work With Professionals
  - The WPRAs shall at all times be operated and conducted as a nonprofit association in accordance with the laws of the State of Colorado
  - As a professional organization formed for the mutual protection and benefit of its membership we work with
    - A professional 3<sup>rd</sup> party audit firm on all the Associations financials and rodeo points. The firm we currently work with has extensive experience in the nonprofit world including the rodeo industry
    - A reputable law firm that the Association has retained since 1995
    - Professional Board members from across the United States with experience not only in the rodeo industry but in all walks of life including:
      - Corporate world

- Accounting
  - Entrepreneurship
  - State agency
  - Private business
- As professionals building honest and positive relationships with partners inside and outside the industry is paramount for continued growth and stability of the Association

This Association has withstood the test of time for the last 71 years by following the rules and principles initially set forth by the 38 women who formed our organization. Now as diligent caretakers of this Association it is our duty to uphold the standards while looking to evolve the business to stay relevant. Therefore, I will be the first to say there is always room for improvement and to capitalize on our strengths and learn from our weaknesses. Please remember that the directors (who hold voting power) were voted in by the membership in each of the 12 circuits and roping division to serve on the Board of Directors and that they are here to collectively serve the entire membership in a way that is mutually beneficial to WPRA members, rodeo committees/producers, industry personnel, industry partners and fans of the sport.

Doreen Wintermute