



National Little Britches Rodeo Association
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NLBRA Board Meeting – January 16, 2021

Members in attendance:

Roper Stoots	Conner Griffith	Jerald Bierman	Brant Bamberg
Sam Smith	Paul Bottini	Tim Rice	John Stewart
Galen Shumaker	Jimmy Lovelady	Kerbi Bowden	Jodi Stoddard
Jason Grubb	Sam Stoddard	Billy Nelson	Kevin Hollingsworth

Victoria Blatchford – via conference call

Members not in attendance:

Mark Massey	Chris Strickland	Fred Matthews	Jada Hamman
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Employees in attendance:

Annie Walter	Shawnee Sagers
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Galen Shumaker called the meeting to order at 8:15 am. He led the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

Minutes from July 11, 2020 through December were shared with Board Members. A correction to the July 11 minutes was noted. Sam Stoddard made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections. Paul Bottini seconded. Motion approved.

Current scholarship requests were shared with the Board. Brant Bamberg made a motion to approve the current scholarship requests. Jimmy Lovelady seconded. Motion approved.

The Nominating Committee was created to include: John Stewart, Sam Stoddard, Tim Rice and Galen Shumaker. Sam Smith motioned to approve the Nominating Committee members and Paul Bottini seconded. Motion approved.

Annie Walter shared with the Board that there are 3025 members in the current year. These numbers are up approximately 400 members from the last year at this time. There are currently 1139 total Rookie members. Last year there were 902 Rookie members total for the year.

The increased numbers lead to discussion on camping options and ideas for additional camping spots and stalling options. Currently there are around 750 camping spots on the Lazy E. The additional spots that were used at the National High School Finals which was held after last years Little Britches Finals were discussed and some possible areas to add in additional stall tents were discussed.

Discussion on how to cut costs for sewage and wastes for camper spots. This is a very big cost to the NLBRA. It was over \$90,000 in the last year. Victoria Blatchford recommended to put a task force together to get information and make a plan and to discuss the infrastructure with the Lazy E. The waste pumping costs and number of trucks used per day last year was shared with the Board. Galen Shumaker has spoken with Cecil Walker from Lazy E about creating a single collection site in specific areas. This would then allow trucks to pump in other areas more consistently. The committee to discuss waste disposal will be made up of Brant Bamberg, Galen Shumaker, Victoria Blatchford and

John Stewart. Tim made a motion to approve the committee and Kevin Hollingsworth seconded. Motion approved.

Ron Besonen, NLBRA Financial Consultant presented to the Board and gave information about the NLBRA Financial Portfolio. The Current State of Financial Markets and Investor Sentiment was shared with the Board. Discussion was held and Board Members asked questions. He recommended specific changes to the Board regarding the portfolio allocation. Jimmy Lovelady made a motion to approve the recommendations that were made to the Board. Jason Grubb seconded. Motion approved.

The NLBRA Board accepted a Resolution on January 16, 2021 that allowed the Board Officers and Executive Director authority and power to transfer, endorse, sell and assign and deliver all shared of stocks, bonds, debentures, or other securities on behalf of the Corporation. Furthermore, each individual is authorized to establish bank and investment accounts on behalf of the Corporation. These individuals are empowered to make execute and deliver any and all written instruments necessary or proper to effectuate the authority hereby conferred.

An Investment Policy Statement with Objectives and Guidelines in a Draft form was shared with Board Members. This document is in draft form and discussions will be followed up in committee discussions and with consultation with Ron Besonen. It will be tabled for voting at time and be readdressed at a later date.

The Finance Committee presented a Financial Audit Policy to the Board for consideration. The recommendation would be to have audits for the association on a regular basis. The recommendation of the Finance Committee is to put out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a 4 year term with a full audit every other year and a review on the alternating years or as needed at the discretion of the Board.

John Stewart made a motion to accept the recommendation of the RFP policy. Billy Nelson seconded. Motion approved.

The Finance Committee brought some policies to be set forth to give guidance to NLBRA in the future. The thought process was to put some guidelines in place for future Board Members and the Finance Committees to have policies in place. The Finance Committee put together a 3 year rolling average of the NLBRA Finals Net Profit to make contributions to the Scholarship Fund Account. A general/emergency operating fund account would also be established and ask Ron Besonen, the Financial Accountant would manage with very low risk investments. The target minimum of the Operating Reserve Fund would be \$275,000. This would be a way to have a resource to use in the event of an emergency that was needed rather than any other reserved accounts. Any funds higher would than that would be transitioned into other financial options.

A request made of the finance committee was to find a way to increase the jackpot money at the finals. There are several contestants who have indicated to Board Members that they would like to be able to have the chance to win larger amounts of money at the finals.

Billy Nelson made a motion to accept the Cash Reserves Policy that was recommended by the Finance Committee. Paul Bottini seconded. Motion approved.

Annie Walter will discuss with Ron Besonen to find the best options for setting up the Cash Reserve Account.

John Stewart made a motion to allocate no more than 20% of Net Income will go to the Scholarship Fund each year. Billy Nelson seconded. This will be based on a 2 year rolling average of contributions with the investment account. Motion approved.

Jimmy Lovelady made a motion to invest \$43,419.04 to the Scholarship Fund. Paul Bottini seconded. Motion approved.

Finals Committee Recommendations

Arena Directors:

Track – Jason Grubb

Rough Stock – Jerald Bierman

Outdoor – Sam Smith

Big Arena – Brant Bamberg

There will 10 judges approved. There will be 3 in the Track and the Rough Stock arenas. When the Rough Stock is done, one judge will go to the office and draw and the other 2 will go to the Big Arena and Outdoor Arena.

Outdoor Arena – Randy White, Joey Coleman and Garret Panzer will come from the Rough Stock Arena.

Rough Stock Arena – Scott Fogg, Lance Cathcart, Garrett Panzer

Big Arena – Derek Andol, Kelly Quarnberg, and Lance Cathcart will come from the Rough Stock Arena.

Track Arena – Shawn Manne, David Craig, Robert Davis

Alternate – Alan Hennigh

Timers for the Track Arena – Karen Olson and Cricket Turley

Timers for the Rough Stock Arena – Cary Colvard and Ashley McBride

Timers for the Outdoor Arena – Casey Futch and Becky Moyer

Timers for Big Arena – Frank and Marien Woner

Alternate – Sheila Casey

Announcer for the Rough Stock and Big Arena – Mack Ginn

Announcer for the Track Arena – Jamie Osbrink

Announcer for the Outdoor Arena – Seth Roy

Alternate Isaiah Garn

The personnel in the Secretary Office will be the same.

Jamie Howell

Jennifer Quarnberg

Melissa Cerezo

Faye Rivera

Jerald Bierman made a motion to accept personnel positions for the 2021 NLBRA Finals. Sam Stoddard seconded. Motion approved.

Stock Committee Recommendations

Steer Wrestling – Jace Honey

Team Roping – Jeff Smith

Calves – Marty Kueckelhan

Goats – Jim Boy Hash

Sr. Bulls – Lee Schumaker, John Garland, Phil Sumner

Jr. Bulls – Cody Custer

Jr. Bronc Steers – Garrett Miller

Sr. Saddle Bronc and Barebacks – Joe Waln, Dickie McBride, Toby Martin

Brant Bamberg made a motion to accept the stock committee recommendations for the 2021 NLBRA Finals. Billy Nelson seconded. Motion approved.

Camping and Stalling Committee – Jackie Chambers has been the camping and stalling coordinator for the past several years. She put in a proposal for the 2021 NLBRA Finals. Jimmy Lovelady made a motion to accept the position. Kevin Hollingsworth seconded. Motion approved.

TV Production – Proposals have been sent in to NLBRA from Hodge Productions and Jody Duggan. NLBRA is under contract with Flo Rodeo for one more year. Discussion was held. A motion was made by John Stewart to accept the Hodge Production contract bid for the current year. Sam Smith seconded. Motion approved.

Shawnee Sagers presented to the Board regarding marketing and sponsorships. The NLBRA publication is at readnlbra.com. Billy Nelson requested regular updates of the sponsorships and the status of the sponsors. Board Members gave suggestions and input regarding vendors and sponsors. A media kit has been put together to use as a marketing strategy with local businesses. Plans are started for contributing to the live auction with additional items.

Sam Smith made a motion to go into Executive Session. Paul Bottini seconded. Motion carried. The Board went into Executive Session at 2:30 pm. The Board came out of Executive Session at 2:37 pm.

Kevin Hollingsworth made a motion to give a 6% cost of living raise to Annie Walter. Brant Bamberg seconded. Motion approved.

Galen Shumaker communicated to the Board that rodeo franchises will not be approved if they use personnel that do not have cards at the local rodeos. If a non-carded person is used and there is no paperwork for that person, it can be a problem in the office. This could be a liability. Application and communication with the office is very important.

Franchise complaint – Galen Shumaker shared a letter that had a complaint that occurred at the NRS Franchise. A parent wrote a letter of complaint toward a Board Member, the NRS Franchise fees and alleged that rules were not followed.

The parent stated that there were fees that were not advertised and since the family had traveled from more than one state away there were additional expenses that the family had to pay be able to allow contestants to rodeo that they were unaware of.

Secretaries for the franchise rodeo create rodeos. After they are approved and the information is entered onto the NLBRA website. The secretary did not add any of the additional fees that contestants were charged at the rodeos. The additional fees that were added on at the rodeo were: \$20 or \$10 arena fee (depending on the amount of rodeos entered), \$15 office fee, and a \$10 gate fee per rodeo. This caused considerable increases in total fees for contestants for the weekend and contestants and families were not aware of these additional fees at the time of entering the rodeos. This is in violation of the rulebook which says that all fees are to be advertised prior to the rodeo.

A letter will be sent to the NRS Franchise to clarify that all fees must be advertised on the NLBRA website. If the fees are not advertised prior to the rodeo, when the rodeo is being entered, the additional fees can not be imposed.

Discussion was held of a parent and judge disagreement on interpretation of hindering the start in the box when the contestants were breakaway roping.

Discussion of the draw and how it was done using the computer program that generates the draw. There are 5 runs per goat. There was a redraw done with a set of junior girls.

Jimmy Lovelady addressed several of the allegations that were made in the letter. Jimmy Lovelady shared with the Board details of the events that were identified in the letter with the complaint regarding the NRS franchise.

Discussion was held and questions were asked regarding the events of the rodeo. There will be further discussion and communication with NRS before approving future rodeos.

Discussion was held regarding the ‘grey’ areas of the NLBRA rulebook. All efforts need to be made to act and respond with the reminder of doing everything in the best interests of the kids. The

association is set for doing what is the best thing for the kids. Discussion was held about holding people accountable and if there is a code of conduct or ethics guidelines for Board Members. Sam Stoddard made a motion that Jimmy Lovelady should not be removed from the Board. Billy Nelson seconded. Discussion that Board Members are voted in by the CD's of the association and it is not Board Members responsibility to respond to the actions of others unless they do something illegal or immoral. Motion approved.

Jimmy Lovelady wrote a letter to the Board regarding a contestant who was abusing a horse during their tiedown competition. This was also witnessed several times by other contestants including one of the Youth Board Members. The situation was described, and discussion was held as to what should be occur. If the abuse continues the contestant will be disqualified. A letter will be sent to the contestant and cc'd to the franchise.

Additional discussion was held regarding other "grey" areas of the rulebook and rewording of them. There will be discussion in the future regarding some consequences for rule violations.

Billy Nelson, Paul Bottini, Jerald Bierman, Jason Grubb, and Tim Rice will be on a committee to help with assisting judging issues. This group will be tasked with providing judging seminars.

Stall prices will go up \$10 for the 2021 NLBRA Finals. This cost will be incurred on to the stall prices and the stalls will be increased \$10 to stay consistent with the additional costs that the company is charging NLBRA. John Stewart made a motion to up the stall prices \$10 to align with the cost increase to NLBRA. Jimmy Lovelady seconded. Motion approved.

Brant Bamberg made a motion to adjourn. Kevin Hollingsworth seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Jodi Stoddard
NLBRA Executive Board Secretary

Signed by Annie Walter
approved 1/22/2022

