



Committee Connection

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Association of Rodeo Committees Newsletter

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GLOBAL RODEO CONFERENCE 2011

September 22-23, 2011
Quest Center
Omaha, Nebraska

EARLY REGISTRATION

\$60 for ARC Members
\$75 for non ARC Members
until September 10, 2011

LATE REGISTRATION

\$75 for ARC Members
\$90 for non ARC Members

Hotel Information

Courtyard By Marriott

101 South 10th Street
1.800.321.2211

CODE

ARC Rodeo Conference
Rate: \$92+tax

Hilton Omaha

1001 Cass Street, 402.998.3400

CODE

*Association of Rodeo Committee
Conference*
Rate: \$138+tax

Hampton Inn & Suites

1212 Cuming Street
402.345.5500

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The Purpose of ARC

Any successful organization has to have a guiding purpose and ARC is no different. An organization without a strong purpose for being is like a person in a row boat with one oar. He may have the best intentions and try real hard, but he's going to end up going in circles.

The purpose of ARC was adopted only after much thought and deliberation. It is as follows:

The purpose of the Association shall be to advance the needs of rodeo committees by providing educational opportunities, serving as a resource and fostering communication with the PRCA.

ARC strives to accomplish this purpose by providing information and taking positions on behalf of all rodeo committees on rule and by law amendments and by providing excellent educational opportunities for committees through the Global Rodeo Conference. ARC provides best practice and statistical information to rodeo committees and promotes high standards in rodeo production.

Can ARC be all things to all committees? The plain answer is No. We cannot as an organization intercede in a dispute between an individual committee and the PRCA for example. Nor can we engage in any unlawful practices, even on behalf of rodeo committees.

One of ARC's most important functions is to try and get more rodeo committees involved in the sport. This may be perhaps our most important challenge. A seat on the Rodeo Committee Executive Council could not be filled by a general election two terms in a row due to the apathy of rodeo committees in that category! That's a problem folks.

Rodeo committees can make a difference in the rodeo business. That's been proven. The Association of Rodeo Committees can help make that difference, but we can't do it alone. As a rodeo committee, what are you going to do?

Meet Your ARC Board of Directors



Marvin J. Witt

Marvin is Vice President of Operations for the National Western Stock Show & Rodeo. One of his many direct responsibilities is the Livestock Department, which annually produces the largest purebred cattle show in North America. The show generally hosts 10 national purebred cattle shows, the only stockyard show in the country and 29 different cattle sales that produce over \$5 million in revenue. His team also oversees the largest horse show at a fair in North America with over 13,500 entries.

Marvin is a 1972 graduate of North Dakota State University with a double major in Agricultural Education and Animal Science. In 1982, he earned his Master's Degree in Administration from the same university.

Marvin's work experience includes teaching vocational agriculture in Beulah, ND. He served as FFA Livestock Superintendent at the North Dakota State Fair. He spent four years as manager of the Georgia National Fair where he supervised construction of the facility and development of all livestock and horse activities for the fair.

The National Western Stock Show currently hosts 29 rodeo performances during the month of January, of which 23 are PRCA, 3 PBR, 2 Mexican Rodeo and the Martin Luther King Rodeo. Marvin and the National Western team currently bring in over 25 stock contractors for the PBR and PRCA Rodeos, while National Western serves as the stock contractor for the timed events.

Marvin is currently serving his second term on the IAFE Board, Western Fair Association Board of Directors, Director of the Association of Rodeo Committees, and the Strategic Planning Council of the PRCA.

PRCA Rule and Bylaw News

Here is an update on recent action taken by the PRCA Board and proposals for 2012. Each of these may impact the conduct of each of our rodeos, so we really want feedback from you. The ARC Board will take positions on each of these proposals on behalf of our membership.

2011

Rule 4.7.3- Rodeo committees should now give first right of refusal to PRCA Member photographers when selecting photographers to work individual rodeos.

All bylaws relating to the submission of rodeo approvals, ground rules, new rodeos, etc, have been changed. Formerly, submissions received by the PRCA 120 or more days prior to the first rodeo performance were given a 50% discount on approval fees. Now, submissions must be received a minimum of 150 days prior to the first performance in order to receive the discount of 50%.

A proposal that would have significantly altered the approval fee structure which would have required some rodeos to pay higher fees and some to pay reduced fees was denied by the Board. The maximum number of rodeos which may be counted as official entries in two events has been reduced. In the saddle bronc riding, the number of rodeos was changed from 100 to 85. Tie-Down Roping official entry rodeos dropped from 100 to 75.

2012

The following proposals will be considered for next year and will impact rodeo committees and the conduct of each of our rodeos. The ARC Board will take a position on these proposals after committees have had a chance to voice either opposition or support to us. Please take a minute to let us know your position on these proposed amendments.

One proposal would require that at rodeos which limit entries in one or more events, the qualifications for those events would be based only on the previous year's earnings. The present rule provides for a combination of current year and prior year earnings. For rodeos in the first half of the rodeo year, this proposal could result in the elimination of top contestants from the current year's standings.

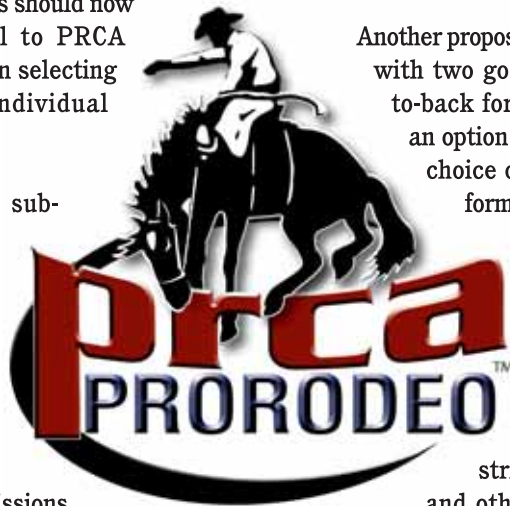
Another proposal would require that all rodeos with two go-rounds must go to the back-to-back format. Currently, this format is an option only and gives committees the choice of whether or not to adopt the format. Back-to-back requires more cattle in each of the timed events.

The Animal Welfare Council and the Stock Contractor Executive Council jointly submitted a proposal to more strictly regulate the use of prods and other tools in loading livestock. They submitted another proposal which strictly regulates the use of prods in the bull riding event.

A proposal has been submitted that will require the timed event boxes to be lined from a minimum of four inches under ground level up to at least three feet above ground level. The current rule does not require the lining below ground level. This proposal adds some additional safety for contestant's horses.

The Rodeo Committee Executive Committee submitted a proposal to change the process for approving or not, a new rodeo when an existing rodeo in the same marketing area protests

the approval. Currently the PRCA Board of Directors makes the final decision in these cases. The proposal will allow the final decision to be made jointly by the PRCA Commissioner and Director of Rodeo Administration to hopefully eliminate politics in making decisions on these questions.



association of
RODEO
committees

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Hello to all members of ARC!

I want to start with a thank you to all of you as ARC members for the hard work you do hosting PRCA rodeos. I would also like to encourage all of you as committees to contact myself or any PRCA event representative at any time if we can be of assistance to you. All PRCA event representatives have e-mail addresses and phone numbers listed in the PSN. As members we must always remember the PRCA is our Association and anytime we criticize without offering positive solutions we are damaging ourselves.

Some of you may not be aware of a new online project the PRCA is encouraging contestants to use called "rate my rodeo." This will allow contestants to rate all PRCA rodeos, using a numbering system, in many different areas such as arena conditions, stock quality, hospitality, etc. Personally, I think this can be an effective way to improve rodeo quality for fans and competitors. Also, the system can be utilized by committees to insure they are getting the most out of what they pay for in the areas of contracted labor. I do feel that a key element to the entire project will be communication. Contestants will need to fill out the surveys and then PRCA staff will need to compose the data and relay it to the committees. If your rodeo receives a report defining areas where you need improvement, it will be very important that you contact the event representative of the effected event or events. As elected leaders we can help you determine if there really is a problem area or

if the respondents to your rodeo were just a group of guys that didn't win on that day. Also, we can offer solutions that are good for the entire membership and the sport of rodeo. Input from one contestant or one contractor can be useful as well but at times may be more self-serving than that of an event rep or board member. It is our goal that "rate my rodeo" will be used in a positive manner and will not just serve as a complaint department... only time will tell!

Since I mentioned self-serving, I do want to mention one specific item in my event of steer wrestling. This involves R8.12.2 which establishes the proper weights for PRCA steer wrestling cattle, the minimum weight is 450 lbs and the maximum weight is 600 lbs. All cattle should be within this weight range and in good health condition each time they are competed on. All PRCA stock contractors received a letter reminding them of this and other rules pertaining to steer wrestling in November. I would like to encourage all committees to make sure their stock contractor is aware of this and all rules involving livestock at your rodeo.

Thanks again,

Spud Duvall
PRCA Steer Wrestler and PRCA Contestant Executive Council Member

Spring 2011

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