



**NDHSRA/NDJHRD BOARD OF
DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES
February 16, 2025
Holiday Inn Express, Dickinson
11:30 am CST**



In Attendance: Ashley Ross, Paige Delaney, Kari Hepper, Riley Frei, Elizabeth Tibke, Chet Johnson, Brent Earsley, Cody Frei, Paul Weinberger, Russ Homelvig, Travis Rossow, James Harriman, Craig Maley, Stacy McGee, Lindsey Miller, Kassidy Marschner, Tammy Backhaus, Chad Miller, Sheridan Bubel, Dawn Martin, Kathy Mavity, Kami Kling, Sydney Weinberger.

Absent: High School Members - Brian Madison and Chad Ellingson; Jr. High Members - Nancy Klatt, Derek Mott, Maycee Copeland, Camree Kling, CJ Boldt, JB Pauley, Jason Vohs, and Codi Miller

- I. Meeting was called to order at 11:41.
- II. **Additions to Agenda** - There being no additions to the agenda, Russ H. made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Dawn second the motion. Motion carried.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** - Brent made a motion to approve all minutes as presented. Kathy seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- IV. **Reports/Business**

A. National Director Mid-Winter Meeting (MWM)

Craig indicated that this was the largest set of kids and directors that have ever attended nationals. He felt it was a good meeting, and next year's MWM will be in Denver.

- National personnel really stressed insurance this year regarding contestants letting the secretary or a board of director know if they get hurt at an Association rodeo.
- Bull fighters and pick up men must be 18 years or older. ND has always enforced this rule. Some states are not allowing anyone in the arena to help under the age of 18, including cattle chasers.
- Going to a laser reading machine for shooting at nationals. Not required at the state level yet. About \$3,200 for the laser reading machine. Nationals will be allowing disabled contestants to compete in shooting.
- Craig cautioned us about using the NHSRA or NDHSRA logos without receiving permission. Stacy mentioned that Pure Country in Bismarck and Logo Magic in Dickinson are the only two vendors that have permission to use the NDHSRA logos. However, Logo Magic only has approval during open online shopping. Nobody is allowed to use our logo without permission.
- Anything social media we need to watch.
- Cowboy Channel started highlighting our rodeos. They have all the videos and pictures. Photographers must be approved of at Nationals, but our State does not. Stacy can create a policy, but she is wondering who would police it?
- Nationals are hiring Western Justice to lobby the National Protection Act. There is a petition through Western Justice that can be signed. It was suggested that we put a link to the petition on our website so our association can sign it.
- Rule Changes – Will be covered in the Rules and Safety Committee section.

- Craig's Student Officer's Update – Nationals is also struggling to get event directors. They are considering having two event directors for each event and they can split the performances. It was expressed that the event directors didn't want to work every performance. Do not have to be a qualifier to run for office.

B. Secretary's Report

High School - Tammy really enjoyed and got a lot out of the Mid-Winter Meeting. Since it is in Denver next year, she expressed interest in going again and would be willing to drive.

Take Aways:

- Met with the ARTS program administrators, Brian, and Melissa Powers. Learned that we can pay our membership dues and sponsorship dollars through the Portal, and it would be tied to our designated checking accounts. We can initiate this process right away. Showed me where we can have important messages for our contestants when they log into the Portal.
- Camping – Had she not attended MWM she would not have been aware of our shortage on sites and been able to secure camping spots at the KOA in Rock Springs.
- Insurance – Learned a few new things about limits and requirements for rodeos on their insurance.
- Queen Meetings – Met with the new NHSRA Queen Coordinator and was able to introduce herself. It is Tammy's hopes to be asked to judge some year so she can bring back what she learns through judging to our queen contestants what National judges are looking for.
- Other topics – Fundraising, Increasing Membership

Activity Report - are done and ready for the spring rodeos, just needs Craig's signature.

Van - still waiting for Wiley's check, but thankful that Tyler at Charboneau's will be the one reaching out to obtain the check.

Senior Party - will be discussed under one of the Committee meetings.

Junior High - Drawing out of the Jackpot. Cassidy wants to mention and talk about not allowing the Jr. High Contestants to cancel their Jackpot entry when they get to the rodeo. Tammy told her that it was discussed during the Rules and Safety Meeting and Craig will talk about it when he does his report.

C. Officer/Queen Reports

High School - All officers indicated that they appreciated being sent to the MWM and learned a lot. Being there gave them a sense of importance because of the things they got to give input on and help them to decide. Super to meet all the different officers and directors. They really liked JR Verzain's story and look forward to sharing his message with others. Met with Stacy and got stuff picked out for the upcoming year. They started doing a Snow Angel challenge which was fun, because the ND Officers were smart enough to wear their winter clothes.

They learned about the Animal Protection Act that is occurring right now. Paige's school superintendent is going to speak to the legislators on their behalf.

Junior High - Riley and Elizabeth enjoyed meeting a lot of new people; how to run for national office; enjoyed JR's story. They felt lucky to get to attend as Jr. High Officers and just the fact that ND has Jr. High Officers, many states do not. They learned that the North Carolina Queen must

carry everything for the high school and jr. high such as, barrels, poles, flags, etc. Shared some fun stories.

Kassidy asked if the Officers felt that if we offered attending the MWM if it would help us to get student officers easier. The group said, "Yes!"

D. Budget and Finance – Dawn Martin

The proposed National Meal Policy was presented. Kari made a motion to approve the proposed policy, that the high school budget be raised to \$1000 making both budgets the same, and it be placed into the policy manual. Riley seconded. There being no further discussion. Motion was approved

Compassion Assistance – Tammy read the proposed Compassion Policy. It was the Budget and Finance Committee's recommendation to approve and accept the Compassion Policy and placing it into the policy manual. Riley made a motion to accept the Compassion Assistance Policy as presented and have it be placed into the policy manual. Paige seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Saddle Bids – The bids are the same as last year. No motion needed since there is no change.

Vests – New vests were approved at the last meeting for the high school event directors. There is a recommendation from the Budget and Finance Committee to also get new vests for the Jr. High, so all Event Directors match and the vests be interchangeable. The plan is to silk screen the words Event Director on the back. Paul made a motion a motion to include the Jr. High getting new vests. Kari seconded. Motion carried.

Sr. Jackets – The committee had no recommendation to provide, requesting input from the full board. Concerns were raised regarding sustainability, responsibility for covering costs, and whether it would be more practical to provide the item to an underclassman for extended use. Discussion will continue in committee.

Senior Party - Planning to give seniors a felt back number as their keepsake. Having the senior party in Valley City, West Fargo's rodeo is not an option. Tammy reached out to New Salem, and they are open to letting us use their barn where the church service is held that has a stage. The Association will hire a DJ that offers Karaoke too and it will be a gathering for all members, including parents. New Salem indicated they will not be able to provide enough stalls for all contestants, but they will do their best to add more. Food will be figured out.

Rodeo of the Year - Do a banner instead of plaque. The committee can hang the banner at their rodeo and the Association will hang it at State Finals. After discussion Kari moved to have all Jr. High and High School current members vote on a written ballot after the first two rounds at State, (this allows Bowman to be included in the vote). Sydney seconded. Motion carried.

E. Scheduling and Personnel – Cody Frei

Spring Schedule - All rodeos approved. Kassidy will put up a signup sheet for help with Twin Buttes and Bowman. Stacy said we need to bring in \$5,000 to put on Twin Buttes. Suggested we do an upcharge on electricity and take gate fee to help make money. Lindsey created a proposal to submit to the Tribal Council. Elsabea was going to help Lindsey with sponsorship. Lindsey will follow up with Elsabea. Suggested starting later Saturday and have the shoot Saturday morning.

We need a helper list for West Fargo. The shoot will be on May 2nd.

Shoot in Williston will be on Friday.

F. Fund Raising and Membership – Kami Kling

New fund-raising ideas - Frisbee toss, kiss the goat, pie in the face. Kari made a motion to move forward with some of these ideas. Kathy seconded. Motion carried.

Jr High Basket at Nationals Ideas - Lindsey and officers decided on a North Dakota theme for the basket. Kami is willing to collect items. Do a 50/50 to collect funds for the big item.

Online Store - Will be opening soon.

Student Officer Code of Conduct was passed around for review. There being no discussion Kari made a motion to accept the Student Officer Code of Conduct as presented and placed into the policy manual. Dawn seconded. Motion carried.

Social Media Policy - Stacy was proactive in setting up a protection for our Association by creating a Social Media Policy that has been emailed to the board. This policy will protect our students and parents. There is a Federal law (COPPA) about putting children under the age of 13 on social media. Stacy collaborated with a lawyer. Contestants would be required to sign a one-time policy form in Jr. High and again in High School. BOD and officers need to also sign a form. Dawn made a motion to accept the social media Policy and it be placed into the policy manual. Kari seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Rock Springs – We will have 31 full hookup spots in 2025; 7 spots in the dry lot; and 8 spots at the KOA. Discussed criteria for distribution of camping spots. Hierarchy: Queen, National Director, Seniors/8th Graders, Board Members, Officers/Delegates, Lottery. All will have the option to choose between one of the on campus full hookups; a spot in the dry lot; full hookup at the KOA; or hotel. There is only one spot per family. Dawn made a motion to approve the above-mentioned criteria. Kami seconded. Motion carried. Kami made a motion that the Association cover the cost of a generator at any nationals not to exceed \$1200, unless donated. Dawn seconded. Motion carried.

Average Points – This needed to be tabled for now. Jr. High is too inconsistent. Riley stated she asked several contestants in Jr. High, and many were not receptive to the idea.

Committee Prize – The recommendation out of committee is that the prize requirements be increased in the Committee Guidelines. First place must be a minimum of \$100; second must be a minimum of \$60; and third must be a minimum of \$35. There was a lot of discussion. Paige so moved the recommendation. Ashley seconded. All were in favor, motion passed.

G. Rules and Safety – Craig Maley

Cutting - This year will go back-to-back – five judges for cutting.

Golf Cart - Same rules as last year. Drivers must be 21 years old to drive.

Videos – Kids pay \$30 for runs. Required to buy for \$20.

Boots/Shoes/Attire - Must have 1" heel. Shirts must be tucked in. As a contestant at Nationals, you must be in western attire the whole time unless you are at camp.

Event Director Harassment – Recommendation: Include in our ground rules – List the page number from the rulebook and quote that rule and expound on the rule to clarify rodeo official as any of the following: Event Director, volunteer, board member, judges, secretary, any “rodeo personnel” are harassed the contestant will be disqualified from all events for that day. There will be no warning. It is stated at the contestant meetings and that is considered their warning. - Ashley so moved. Paige seconded. Motion carried.

Jackpot – Kami made a motion to not allow contestants to cancel their jackpot entry after the draw out deadline for Junior High and High School. Brent seconded. Motion carried.

H. **State Finals/Queen – Kathy Mavity**

Church – Tyson Durfey at a minimum will prerecord a message for the contestants, but he really wants to do it live.

State Finals Schedules – Both schedules look good. The only suggestion is to clarify the verbiage under registration to indicate all contestants can register.

Queen - Codi said things are going okay from her point of view. Craig indicated that Codi shared with him that she will not be available again this year during coronation and that Codi plans to ask Lindsey to step in for her.

Photographer - Chuck Miner agreed to shoot both state finals when Lindsey and Stacy initially contacted him. The Committee Chair reached out to Chuck, inquiring what he would like for his time and he asked for his room expenses and to be paid \$750. Craig suggested we should put bids out if we are going to start paying for a photographer and that Stacy create a policy for photographers to include checking in with the State Secretary, if at a rodeo. After discussion, Kami moved that we cover lodging for both 2025 finals and ask for bids starting next year. Paige seconded. Motion carried.

National Delegates – Recommendation: To accept the National Delegate criteria as written by this committee. Kari moved to approve the criteria/policy and it be placed into the policy manual. Paige seconded. Motion carried.

BEK-TV - BEK-TV suggested broadcasting two evening performances and the Short Go. Final approval from BEK regarding their commitment is still pending. Consolidated has provided a live broadcast of the State Finals Short Go on Channel 18 and online for the past five years, with the last two years being offered at no cost. McGee will follow up with Consolidated to discuss potential options, consult with the Host Town Committee for their input, and reach out to BEK to inquire about costs and if they are available.

Jr. High T-shirts - Lindsey gave an update.

Jr. High State Finals Item - Planning to give a felt back number.

Jr. High 3rd and 4th Place Prizes - Looking into coolers, buckle rack, leather billfold, stools, BEX.

National Baskets

High School – Paige made a motion to send a check for \$750. Kari seconded and motion passed.
Junior High – Will do a North Dakota Theme.

Jr. High Grand Entry Themes – Jungle, Casino, and Pink

High School Back # Ceremony – Put a short reel together of past contestants. Kathy asked the Bowman committee to make sure the sound system is good.

Pass the Hat – Michelle Peterson is ready to pass the torch for administering PTH. It is her desire that it remains a scholarship fund for the contestants. Stacy and Tammy will create a committee.

I. Add/Remove/Update Personnel Approved List

- Add Cayden Kling to Pick Up Men List.
- Paul Eiker on the Bulls List for high school
Paul made a motion to approve both listed above. Cody seconded. Motion carried.
- Cutting Judge Removed – Judge was left on the list
- Bailey Pro Rodeo – Was left on the list.

J. Sharing Senior List Regarding Graduation Cards – Kathy

Seniors are indicated in each rodeo program and can be gathered from there without potentially compromising information.

K. State Finals Stock Bids

Bulls: Bailey Pro Rodeo
Horses: Klings
Timed: Abrahamson
Goats: Gjermundson

L. State Finals Timers & Judges

Timers: Kami, Mindy, Kathleen alt Rose
Judges: Bruce, Rick, Keith alt Reece

Additionally:

Board Members going off on the Jr. High - Chet, Nancy, and JB

Board Members going off for the High School - Russ, Brent, and Chad

Turn in your current sponsor passes to your secretary and they will get you your personalized passes. This needs to happen at the first rodeo.

Craig said we need to do the pledge of allegiance before each meeting.

Kari made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Riley seconded. Motion carried.