



**NICOLA VALLEY
RODEO ASSOCIATION**

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February 24, 2023

SAY-GOODBYE-TO-WINTER NEWSLETTER

Hello, everyone. Here are some notes of current activities and upcoming events.

Fundraising dinner February 25. If you do not yet have tickets for the steak dinner this Saturday night at the Grand, don't procrastinate any longer - it's a fun evening. And we need the money! Why? Because we always need to demonstrate that the NVRA is self-supporting in respect of our operating expenses. This helps us when we apply for grants for capital projects such as those we have been recently undergoing. And though our revenue activities don't usually begin until late April, our expenses pile up all year long. Tickets are \$25.00 and are available at Purity in Merritt or by calling Lis at 250-378-7125. There are 2 sittings, 5:00 and 7:15, with a silent auction for each. Let's fill both sittings!

A few noteworthy items from the directors' meeting January 9.

Financial: In November 2022, the Association paid off the balance of an outstanding private mortgage received several years ago to fund the reconstruction of the support structures in the grandstand. The NVRA greatly appreciated this financial assistance that allowed us to carry out the necessary work.

The NVRA finished 2022 in the black, with approximately \$30,000 in our bank account. This should allow us to meet late winter/early spring expenses and represents our best financial report for many years.

In January, I met with Mayor Michael Goetz, to discuss the relationship of the Association with the City and how the two of us can work together in the future for mutual benefit. We are grateful for our ongoing excellent connection with the City.

We were recently advised that our application for a \$7500 City Grant-in-Aid to help fund accessibility improvements at the grounds was successful. We need approximately \$35,000 to hard-surface the gravelled area in the concourse to benefit those guests with mobility issues. We are researching other grants that can help this project.

Recently, we were also excited to be accepted for a grant through BC's "Spark" Program, which matches selected applicants with a tourism marketing mentor and also provides us with \$3000 to assist us with marketing of the Pro Rodeo. We want to fill the stands this year!

Annual General Meeting. The AGM took place February 11. Any member wishing copies of any reports including the President's Report, Financial Report, or Report on the Pro Rodeo may email nicolavalleyrodeoassociation@gmail.com with your request.

The members attending passed a resolution increasing the number of directors from seven to a maximum of ten, and the Board of Directors for 2023 was elected as follows:

Peter Spencer, President
Melissa Dinsdale, VP
Mary MacGregor, Secretary
Gert Leslie, Treasurer
Lis Ladyman
Jacqueline Whitecross
Randy Rogers
Quinn Pooley

After several years as a director and former president, Haley Rutherford elected to stand down. We thank her for dedicated past service and welcome two new directors - Randy Rogers and Quinn Pooley.

Rodeo Grounds Concession. We previously reported that Charleen Alexander and Charlotte McRae, who have run the concession at the grounds for the many years, have retired. We are still looking for a new caterer. If you know of anyone who has experience and interest in handling the catering needs of the various events at the Rodeo Grounds, please contact me either by email or phone. (peterspencer26@gmail.com; Cell: 604.240.1951)

Memberships. If you have not already done so, please renew or take out an annual membership with the Association. We need to show funders, governments and the public generally, that we are a healthy, vibrant organization. I believe there is widespread support for what we are doing and trying to achieve as an Association. Everyone wants us to succeed. One of the best ways you can demonstrate your support is by buying a membership. You can do that online (nicolavalleyrodeoassociation.com) or through our treasurer by emailing nicolavalleyrodeoassociation@gmail.com. Cost is only \$10.00!

Labour Day Pro Rodeo September 1 & 2, 2023. Several contracts for our biggest event of the year are now in place, including for the stock contractor and the announcer. The organizing committee is having its next meeting on Tuesday, March 7 at 6:00 pm at the Interior Savings Credit Union meeting room. We are hoping to start building some of the principal committees and are looking for team leaders. We are in recruiting mode, folks! Anyone interested in helping in any way, either as a team leader or volunteer, or simply getting more information, is welcome to attend this meeting.

OK, that's it. And I promise, spring will be here soon!

Peter Spencer,
NVRA President

P.S. .We have some great events booked this year - keep checking our website for info!