

The Lexington Invitational Rodeo, from what I can tell was a big success this year. Due to a few changes in expenses, and supplying our own timed event livestock, we saved a little money. I want to thank Mark Johnson for supplying the arena and rough stock again this year, with a good taste of what is to be expected at the National Finals in the rough stock events. I want to thank Greg and Isabella Cole for supplying the calves for the tie down, ribbon roping, and breakaway. I also would like to thank my wife, Deb for the use of her goats for the goat tying.

A special thanks to the Junior High Division Board of Directors for agreeing to rodeo with us at Lexington and sharing their state finals with all of us and the Lexington crowd. Hey, what about the effort Jacob Taylor put out on his chute dogging run? I hope all of you Junior High families enjoyed the camping, swimming, and most of all, the rodeo. I talked to Terry Haller, the National Director for Indiana and he assured me that the Indiana people really enjoyed coming. I do thank Indiana for their hospitality and the Apple Cobbler. I wish I could have stayed around to socialize more but this goat contractor job is very demanding.

While talking to people and listening to conversations, I was reminded of a study we were having at Church a few weeks ago. The study was on the subject of wants versus needs. It made me wonder about our High School Rodeo Association at the state and national levels and our wants and needs. Just what does our association need to survive and flourish? What are our individual wants that will help a few, but not the organization as a whole? I have come to the conclusion that there are lots of things we want. We want more payback at rodeos, but is the money what brings most of our members to compete at rodeos? I don't think so! We want two really nice saddles to give away at the state finals, but there will only be two of our kids that will really enjoy the saddles. We all want really nice buckles to win at the awards breakfast at our state finals but would our association fall apart if a third of our members didn't win forty or so buckles every year? Probably not! Now let me say I have been blessed to win three buckles in my thirty or so years of roping. I probably didn't spend more than \$10,000 in entry fees to win that first buckle, so I will wear it everywhere I go. Is the chance of winning a buckle the reason I rope? Let me fill you in on the greatest prize I have been blessed with in my years of roping, it was when my older kids decided to rope and were old enough to compete. I really enjoyed watching them compete and improve. But, to back in the box with Carson or Colton and make a good solid run, win or lose, is the best that I can ask for.

What does our association need? We most of all need members. What do the members need? Our children need to be honest, hardworking, intelligent, self sufficient, dependable, and to show good sportsmanship and conduct. I have noticed this year that sportsmanship is not our best trait. We worry a lot about what is best for number one, not what is best for the association as a whole. The NHSRA has a mission statement in the front of the rule book. If we as a parent do not show good sportsmanship and good attitude, how can we expect our kids to do the same? If we as parents do not try to preserve the western heritage, why should our kids? The privilege of family, boy do we lose track on that one sometimes, and we do have a rodeo family even if we don't want to admit it. Just let one of our own at the state or national level get hurt and see how the family reacts. By the way, our prayers go out to Austin for a fast recovery. See you at the state finals Austin. If we do not encourage good grades and encourage our kids to excel in whatever they do in life, why should they? If we as adults don't respect the livestock our kids compete with and live with how will our kids?

The NHSRA wants to grow and expand so that others can participate and enjoy the rodeo family and watch our kids excel in life, not just rodeo. My mission as National Director for KY is for every parent to recoup all of the time and expense invested in our kids, by having all of our kids excel after rodeo. My job as National Director is stated on page 10, section 10,11,12,13 of the rule book. I interpret my job as an overseer at rodeos, meetings, or any other business of our association, I don't have time to do it all, anymore than anyone else in our association. It is obvious to me that our members do not want me to try and do it all, that is why we have a board of directors. Most of all I want to promote the NHSRA's mission statement for the good of all the contestants, not just a few. After all, if we can keep one kid in school and maybe go on to college because of rodeo, I'm In!

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