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 John Mason, Entertainment Chairman.....320-6728



December 1986

Seasons Greetings

FROM THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

With the holiday season now upon us in full force all of our lives become a bit more hectic; with the last minute Christmas shopping, Christmas Parties, New Years Eve Parties, get togethers with friends and family, etc. During these busy times let's not forget to take a few moments to reflect upon the many things that we are so thankful for. As an organization, CGRA is very lucky to have each and everyone of you as a member. As the year draws to an end we would like to take this opportunity to thank each member for the commitment, time and energy you have expended during the past year to make CGRA the success that it is today. The success of our organization cannot be attributed to just a few individuals, but is the result of the efforts of our entire membership and community. Thanks!

Our December General Membership meeting will be held Thursday, December 11th followed by the club Christmas Party on Friday, December 19th. We hope to see everyone at the meeting and the party. The board meeting regularly scheduled for Thursday, December 25th will be cancelled.

This truly is the season for giving. CGRA will be receiving a Christmas Present compliments of Charlie's as part of the bar's "13 Days Of Christmas". For the twelve days prior to Christmas, Charlie's will be donating 13% of the sales from 9:00 pm to midnight to the group of the day. The fun starts on Saturday, December 13th with CGRA's Mr., Ms. and Miss; Friday, December 19th will benefit The Denver Country Cloggers; Saturday December 20th will benefit CGRA; Sunday December 21st will benefit IGRA. Additionally, eight other community groups will benefit from Charlie's Christmas gift (check The Out Front or the bar for a complete list and support your favorite groups). Thanks, Charlie's!

November was a very busy month. Thanks to the many members (and non-members) that helped with the first phase of our poster mailing for The 5th Annual Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo. We had it completed in record time! Unfortunately due to the high volume of Christmas mail at the post office we have been forced to delay the actual mailing until January. CGRA's Mr., Ms. and Miss have been very active and busy in holding fundraisers to benefit the PWA Christmas Fund. This very worthwhile charity exemplifies the caring and thoughtfulness of our representatives. A special thank you goes to our "Miss" first runner up, Rosa. She has been great support to Pat, Johnny and Lee and an inspiration to all.

Richard and Michael

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

CGRA is dedicated to the furtherment of rodeo and country western related events. Membership is open to anyone, barring all prejudices. There is an initiation fee of \$20, and monthly dues of only \$4. All membership fees and dues should be paid by check or money order. Members with dues three months in arrears will be listed as inactive. To again become an active member you must pay all back dues, up to six months. After six months, you will have the option of paying back dues or submitting a new membership application and fee (\$20). After six months you will be dropped from the membership list. General Membership Meetings are held at 8:00 pm the second Thursday of each month at Charlie's, 7900 East Colfax Avenue. Please plan to attend each meeting, your involvement and input is solicited.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

This month I am not writing as the membership chairman with the usual column of who is new and are your dues due. This is from a friend, someone who cares about you and as a professional. Because of the content of this column it will most likely draw me a lot of heat (I would almost be disappointed if it didn't) as there are some that it will hit too close to home with guilty feelings.

Last month we all lost two old and good friends to AIDS. We all knew that it was going to happen, but that does not change the shock that is felt by this last, and normal, part of life. Just as everyone handles the little annoyances of everyday life differently, so it is with our infinitely complex emotions and that is where we stand now.

The custom of a funeral is not so much for the dead, but for the living, to allow us to work through our grief, accept the losses, to be able to let go and return our lives to status quo. During this time of stress and tension there are basically three types of personalities that are brought forth. The healthiest of these is the person that allows themselves to feel the loss of their friend and to cry, if they want, and generally grieve for the loss they feel. They are able to accept what has happened as a very natural event of life... and are able to continue with their life and enjoy the memories.

The next are those that will do almost anything for the person that is ill or the family of the deceased, almost, as there may be one thing that they can't do whatever that may be. They feel bad, chastise themselves, and apologize because they couldn't go to the hospital, or the house, or mortuary, or grave side... after all, "everyone" else did. This person has feelings that they are still working through and is just not able or I should say ready, to do "this" or "that". They will someday, but it will be in their own time, not when someone else thinks they should. They should however feel good about themselves for what they can do because they will be filling in for someone else.

The last is the person that we have trouble understanding and end up not wanting around, but probably needs others most. For whatever their reason they will try to hurt those that are grieving even more. They will find fault because this person didn't go here or there and will bad mouth them to anyone that they can get to listen. Yet they don't know nor do they care that the person may have just lost both parents or had been critically ill themselves. They will find fault with the arrangements, the flowers, even what others are wearing (if its clean and mended who should care?), even that someone is not grieving enough. This is the person I guess I'm really writing for to ask them to stop and think before they speak. Everyone is hurting to some degree because of the loss they are feeling. Please take just a moment to stop and think. Don't criticize someone because they are not grieving the way you think they should; you don't know all that has happened in their life. Don't degrade them because you don't think they are dressed nice enough, it may be all that they have to wear. Do however take just a moment and be honest with yourself... how would you feel if that person said to YOU what you are thinking of saying to them?

In the months ahead we are going to need each other, what say we all try 'n work together.

"Bear"

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Thursday, December 11th -- General Membership Meeting, 7:00 pm at Charlie's.
- Friday, December 12th -- Denver Country Cloggers go Christmas Clogging throughout the bars of Denver.
- Saturday, December 13th -- Charlie's "13 Days of Christmas" benefits Mr., Ms. and Miss CGRA.
- Friday, December 19th -- CGRA Christmas Party, 7-10pm at Roger and Lisa's, 2645 Ash St., Denver.
- Friday, December 19th -- Charlie's "13 Days of Christmas" benefits The Denver Country Cloggers
- Saturday, December 20th -- Charlie's "13 Days of Christmas" benefits CGRA.
- Sunday, December 21st -- Charlie's "13 Days of Christmas" benefits IGRA.

CGRA Christmas Party

The CGRA Christmas Party will be held on Friday, December 19th at the home of Roger and Lisa from 7-10pm. Members and guests are invited to attend. CGRA will furnish turkey and beer. Everyone will be asked to bring their favorite covered dish along with a Christmas Tree Ornament of your choice. Roger and Lisa's house is located at 2645 Ash Street, Denver (355-7567). Their home is two blocks east of Colorado Blvd. on Ash Street which is between Montview Blvd. and Martin Luther King Parkway (near City Park). Join us at the Christmas Party for good food, good friends and fun!

John Mason,
Entertainment Chairman

REMEMBERING...

Recently CGRA lost two longtime members and friends to AIDS. Ron Jesser passed away October 31st and Danny Bahr passed away November 6th. Both were founding members of CGRA and very active and instrumental in the growth of CGRA. They are sadly missed by their many friends. Memorial contributions for Ron may be made to The Colorado AIDS Project, 1577 Clarkson, Denver, CO 80218. Memorial contributions for Danny may be made to The Danny Bahr Memorial, c/o Rich Eisenbarth, 10451 Weld County Road #14 1/2, Ft. Lupton, CO 80621.

THANK YOU

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the CGRA Board and Membership for your friendship, support, caring and help. I could not have made it through Danny's illness without each and everyone of you. The flowers sent to the services were appreciated, as were the memorial contributions which will be used to erect a headstone for Danny. Again, all that I can say is "thanks" -- I could not have made it without you.

Richard

2ND ANNUAL AGRA RODEO

The Second Annual Arizona Gay Rodeo will be held January 16-18 in Phoenix. At the time the newsletter was printed the specifics of the rodeo were not available, but are expected soon. Put the dates on your calendar and make your plans now. Detailed information will be available at the General Membership Meeting on December 11th, or call a Board Member for detailed information on events, registration and lodging.



Remember, CGRA/Denver
Country Cloggers

"CLUB NIGHT"
The first Saturday of
each month
at **Alike's**



Seasons Greetings