

The CGRA Round-Up

CGRA

November 2013

Volume 1, Number 2

Editor's Note: We had issues with getting the new template up and running, but getting a newsletter out to the membership was more important than the style of it. As always, if you have any ideas or suggestions, please do not hesitate to let us know.

VP Update



Well here we are again, getting ready for that all important time for CGRA... Celebrating President Robert Thurtell's birthday! Or so he likes to think!

But seriously, the real thing we are all getting ready for and planning is CGRA's A Night of Sharing and Royalty Contest. Make sure you have your calendars marked for these two important dates!

On Friday, December 6, 2013, join CGRA at Charlie's Denver as we celebrate CGRA's past royalty and raise money for the Wayne Jakino Educational Scholarship Fund. Then make sure to be with us Saturday night, December 7, 2013, also at Charlie's Denver for CGRA's A Night of Sharing and the 2014 CGRA Royalty Contest.

We will be sharing the funds we have raised with our Charity Partners, celebrating with our 2013 Gymkhana champions, thanking our 2013 CGRA Royalty Team and cheering on the new contestants for the 2014 Royalty Team.

This year we have two contestants for the 2014 team: Andrew Johnson for Mr. CGRA 2014, and Stephanie Paul for Miss CGRA 2014.

Hope you all have a fantastic Thanksgiving with family and friends and we will see you all soon!

Rich Valdez
CGRA Vice President

President's Letter

My Extended Rodeo Family

Month after month I come to you via an e-mail such as this looking for all the right things to say. I sit at my office desk with what many times feels like my Cheerleading outfit on searching for my Pom-Poms. Wondering what will I do in this letter to encourage

procrastinate looking for the right topic. Then, just as though it was all planned out for me here it comes. Death is a funny thing. I don't mean that literally and I'm sure you didn't take it that way.

We have all disagreed from time to time. That's only to be expected. But let us find that common ground within this Community to rise and face the challenges before us.

the members to have faith in what we are doing and to get involved. There are months such as this that I procrastinate and

Today, early in the morning, I received word of yet another loss to the CGRA family.

(Cont. on page 2)

Yes, the passing of Mr. Bryan McKay. Some of you may not have even known him. But for those of us who did...

What a man! I'm not even sure I can get through this letter without many pauses. That's how much this one has affected me. You see Bryan was not just another loss. He was everything you could have asked for in a friend and volunteer to our Organization. He was the one who gave of himself asking nothing in return. He was the individual who was constantly offering his services not only to CGRA but to the Imperial Court and to The Center. It's like the entire LGBTQ community has lost a very dear friend and way too early. Words simply cannot express the shock and emptiness we all feel.



With the passing of Bryan came many wonderful thoughts. Thoughts that I knew would help me in talking to you today. You see one of the first things that came to mind knowing how much he had helped, not only our Organization but others,

was just how far we have all drifted apart as a Community. A Community of Friendship. A Family if you will. I began singing 'We Are Family'. WE have all become so wrapped up in our own lives that we tend to forget that WE have Friends. I think I would go as far to say that too often we, CGRA, get so absorbed with the next Rodeo, the next Royalty, that Big Contract and even how much can we donate back to the Community this year that WE overlook the simplest of things. FRIENDS.

Yes, WE are a very Proud Organization and rightfully so. I ask you today however, to channel some of that Pride and to share it with others. We have all disagreed from time to time. That's only to be expected. But let us find that common ground within this Community to rise and face the challenges before us. Whether you are a Democrat or a Republican, a Gay Man or a Lesbian, a Bi-Sexual or Trans-Gender or just Questioning yourself. WE are a Rodeo Family. We are the Colorado Gay Rodeo Association. Invite an old friend into our circle. Invite

someone new to join with us as we move forward. I know that you have friends throughout the LGBTQ Community who could use a great friend. 'We are FAMILY'. What Bryan showed us all is truly the 'Cowboy Way of Life'. To give onto others and ask for nothing in return. My thoughts and prayers go out to Mr. McKay's family and friends tonight. I hope that yours will too. He will be missed by many.

One other thing to note...I am a very Blessed Man. I have my family. My two Daughters, a Son-in-Law and three beautiful Grandchildren. Along with all of that I have you, My Extended Rodeo Family. Just as I did them, I give to each of you a BIG Hug. I ask that you hug those that you hold so dearly, also. I look forward to seeing each of you this Friday night at Charlie's for our Board of Directors Meeting followed by the General Membership Meeting. Please feel free to bring a Friend and remember 'WE are Family'. Show your PRIDE in that and own it.

'Let's Ride'
Robert Thurtell
CGRA President

Community Outreach

Food, Food, Food!

Howdy my rodeo family. This year is coming to an end soon. I want everyone who isn't going to convention to please come out and support our spaghetti and meatball dinner with salad and bread and a dessert. A plate will only cost you \$10 and proceeds will fund upgraded ribbons for gymkhana. Please join me for a great dinner and then go upstairs and dance it off. I hope to see you all at Charlie's on Nov 15th from 7-9pm.

In addition, I want to extend an invitation to all of you to help out at The Center. We(CGRA)

have been asked to serve dinner there again this Dec 21st @ 6pm, So I am asking people to step up and bring a dish and help out in having a great party. I went last year and we had a great time. The kids put on a show and the feast of great foods wasn't bad either. Please send email of what you will bring to

CommunityOutreach@cgra.us.

Paula Scougal

Community Outreach Chair

Recipe Box (courtesy of CGRA member Tom Lott)

Apple Crisp

Ingredients

1 can of 21 oz apple pie filling

Spray Oil

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup Brown Sugar

Sprinkle of Cinnamon

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup Quick Cooking Oats

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup Butter

1 tsp Vanilla Extract

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup Flour

Instructions

Grease a glass baking dish with spray oil such as a glass pie pan. Add apple pie filling. Pour Vanilla Extract on top and then sprinkle on some Cinnamon to your taste. Melt the butter in a sauce pan on the stove; add in brown sugar, flour & oats. Pour over pie filling. Bake for 35-40 minutes at 350 degrees.

Membership

Everything You Need to Know!

Since it's been awhile since you've heard from the Membership Committee, might be a good time to pass along some important information.

We have had several requests for name badges from both new and renewing members. I can order these for you if you wish; but, they are no longer a FREE item with your

membership (the membership CARDS are FREE).

The cost is \$10 for a name badge. You may specify either magnet or pin back. (Cont. on page 4)

Please contact me if you would like to place an order. Prepayment is REQUIRED and orders may take 2-4 weeks.

REMEMBER:

1) All memberships are based on calendar year quarters instead of months. This translates to just four (4) renewal dates per year- March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31.

2) Membership cards (for those who wish them) and reminder emails should make it easier for everyone to renew their membership when due. Members will be DEACTIVATED in the database 10 days after your expiration date if you have not renewed. ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS!

3) CGRA offers limited JR. memberships at a reduced annual fee of \$12. This is ONLY for those under the age of 18 – with parental approval, of course.

Please do take a moment and make sure your membership information is up-to-date. Prompt renewals are always greatly appreciated and be sure to let me know if you have a name, address, phone or email changes. Do check your emails closely for those renewal (cont. on page 4) reminders. For those of you needing to renew at the end of DECEMBER, you will start hearing from me soon.

Remember, staying on "Active" status is imperative for rodeo event registration - AND I NOW HAVE

MEMBERSHIP CARDS FOR ANYONE WHO WANTS ONE! If I don't run into you at our meetings or events, contact me & I'll snail mail one to you. It's a great reminder of your renewal date.

Feel free to email me: Membership@cgra.us if you have any questions or updates...and, as always, Membership Applications/Renewal forms are available through the website. Those can be snail mailed to DIRECTLY to me. Please contact me for my mailing address. Better yet...renew online @ www.cgra.us.

CD Slusser
Membership Chair

World Gay Rodeo Finals/Royalty Competition

We Have Winners!

It is my pleasure to pass on the news that both of our candidates for IGRA royalty returned home from Fort Worth with sashes! Ms CGRA 2013 Pauline Chavez brought home a black sash as Ms IGRA 2014, and Miss CGRA 2013 Katrina St Andrews won Miss IGRA 2014 2nd Runner



Up. Congratulations to both of our members on their well-deserved wins, and thanks to Board members Rich Valdez and Bruce Gros for all they did to support our Royalty team in Fort Worth. We can't wait to see these folks out on the circuit (Cont. on page 5)

next year representing both CGRA and IGRA!

With all of the buzz around our CGRA royalty bringing sashes home from Fort Worth, we need to make sure that our big winner from the World Gay Rodeo Finals gets the credit she truly deserves. Ashlee Lytle not only scored the Rookie Cowgirl of the Year title (no small feat), but she is also bringing home two buckles in Chute Dogging and

Wild Drag as well as Third Runner-Up for All-Around Cowgirl!



Ashlee has been all over the circuit this year, representing

not only for CGRA but for all rookies. As someone who got to compete alongside Ash in Phoenix in February and has seen her compete all season long, it's been an honor to call her a fellow member of CGRA. Please join me in congratulating her and everyone who competed this weekend in Texas at the World Gay Rodeo Finals!

John Hill
PR Chair, CGRA

Upcoming Events

Come Out and Play

Our next meeting for CGRA members and the Board of Directors is November 9th starting at 6PM for the BOD and 8PM for the General Membership at Charlie's Denver. Among the topics that will be discussed will be our 2014 charity selection. You can also speak with members of our delegation to the 2014 IGRA convention next week in San Diego and share with them any concerns or ideas you may have. December's meeting will be held on December 13th.

Also, don't forget about our Past Royalty show on December 6th and our 2014 Royalty Competition on December 7th. Both events will be held at Charlie's Denver and promise to be a great time!

The CGRA Round-Up is a newsletter designed to keep the members of the Colorado Gay Rodeo Association informed about news and events important to those participants and supporters of gay rodeo in Colorado and around North America.

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