

# THE BARBED WIRE

PO BOX 3354 OMAHA NE 68103

WWW.HGRA.NET



July 2007

## REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT-KATHY WARD

### Looking Forward...

To everyone we saw at the Celebrate Unity event in Lincoln, Nebraska Pride in Omaha, and at our Rodeo Play day, thank you for saying hi and supporting HGRA's efforts to raise money for MCC Accessibility Fund, and Camp Kindle. We had a great month of showing what Heartland Gay Rodeo is all about... supporting our community while having some cowboy fun.

What is your favorite memory of rodeo or your favorite childhood memory of wanting to be a cowboy? We would love to hear your thoughts ([northgirl65@yahoo.com](mailto:northgirl65@yahoo.com)). Last issue I shared about my childhood red rubber boots that substituted for my desire to own a pair of real cowboy boots. At the rodeo play day I got to start to realize that childhood dream of being a cowgirl. It was a blast and has inspired me to look to the next steps to become rodeo competitor.

Inspiration comes from all places. I arrived in Nebraska in September 2002 just having come out two years previously. I used to live in remote Alberta Canada and did not have a lot of options for exploring my new world. I heard about the Nebraska Pride event in Omaha in June 2003 and decided I needed to explore what Nebraska had to offer as a community. I found a booth toward the edge of the street fair that had some cute embroidered socks. As I talked with the lovely lady that sold me a pair of pride kitty socks I learned about the Heartland Gay Rodeo. She offered to sell me a ticket to the rodeo. I thought...what the heck, I loved going to the straight rodeos so why not try the gay rodeo. I tried to stay under the radar when I went; just take my time and see what HGRA was all about. I had enjoyed rodeo before...I loved gay rodeo because I felt like it was where I belonged, where my childhood dream of being a cowgirl could be a reality. What really impressed me was the group of volunteers who put on a rodeo that would rival any straight rodeo for organization and entertainment. I was inspired to meet and know these people who walked the walk and talked the talk of the cowboy way of life. At our recent Rodeo Play day a gal doing a documentary asked Terri and me what made Gay Rodeo special...if I had to put my finger on one thing it would be that there is acceptance for who you are...newby, expert, questioning, straight... everyone is family.

We at HGRA now are turning to look to the future and what lies ahead... 9<sup>th</sup> Heartland Rodeo in 2008? Well not without you. No great event just happens. It takes a lot of work and group of dedicated people to pull off a successful rodeo. We are looking for some people who are interested in promoting the cowboy way of life for both the Rodeo and for our Board of Directors. Would you like to lead the team to put on our next rodeo or keep HGRA strong? If you are interested in being part of the direction of HGRA's future please contact me at [northgirl65@yahoo.com](mailto:northgirl65@yahoo.com). There are still several rodeos around the country to finish off the year. Please visit our website for more information on IGRA and gay rodeo. [www.hgra.net](http://www.hgra.net)

Rodeo On!  
Kathy – HGRA President



### Inside this issue:

PR REPORT	2
Rodeo Roundup	3
PLAY DAY PICTURES	4

Howdy!

I wanted to share with you a bit of my experience of being part of HGRA. My first experience was as a spectator of Gay Rodeo at the Heartland Gay Rodeo in 2003. I was impressed with the organization and first class event that HGRA put on in Springfield. I attended both days and was left wanting more. That year I changed my vacation plans and went to IGRA Finals in Tulsa OK. I met and made a lot of friends at the rodeos. Everyone was so genuine and real that I was left wanting to be a part of this thing called Gay Rodeo. In 2004 I volunteered and competed at IGRA Finals in Omaha and was inspired to volunteer to work for HGRA. The best way to make sure something is there for the future is to be part of it... I competed and became Ms HGRA 2005 and carried on my reign to 2006; attended IGRA Rodeo University in 2006 to assist me with the duties of being co-Rodeo Director of the 8<sup>th</sup> Heartland Rodeo in 2006. Now I am assisting HGRA as Public Relations Person for the association. I continue to volunteer and help because this is home for me and I have a great rodeo family.

As a kid I always wore cowboy boot, jeans and a cowboy hat because it was my dream to be a cowgirl. My parents gave me my first pony when I was 7 years old. That pony was my world and nothing else mattered. Spotty, my horse was my best friend until I left for college and I still miss him. As an adult I have traveled the USA and lived in the “Real Cowboy” States of Texas and Wyoming only later to return to the Heartland of Nebraska. Most people in the Gay World would not think that Nebraska is a great place for a lesbian to live but with groups like HGRA this is one of the best places to live. Remember... cowgirls do it better!

Cowgirl Up! Come join the family.

Terri – HGRA Public Relations



GOAT DRESSING AT THE HEARTLAND RODEO PLAYDAY



TAMARA PERFORMED DURING  
OUR PLAY DAY

## RODEO ROUNDUP

### RODEO RESULTS

#### OVER ALL RODEO RESULTS FROM MINNESOTA TEAM HEARTLAND 4 OUT OF 10 TEAMS

ROGER P- BARREL RACING 4TH AND POLE BENDING 5TH,

BRYN G- TRIPLE CROWN IN SPEED EVENTS WINNING BARRELS, POLES AND FLAGS. SHE ALSO WON THE ALL AROUND COWGIRL

THE NEXT RODEO IS JULY 15-17 IN DENVER COLORADO



BRYN AND RED RAN PERSONAL BEST TIMES IN POLES AND BARRELS IN MN



ROGER AND BLAZER PLACED 5TH OVERALL IN POLE BENDING

### RODEO PLAYDAY

A big thanks goes out to all those who attended our rodeo play day and to Leo, Kathy, Terri, and Holly for all your help setting up and running the event. A special thanks to the River City Star, Taxi's, Hectors, and DC's for the great raffle prizes. The day was filled with many activities including an afternoon of competition in the arena.

We had contestants competing in calf roping, goat dressing, pole bending, goat deco, egg and spoon race, and egg toss. Gary W. captured the All Around title.

We also want to welcome our new members Trena and Jen who joined HGRA during the play day. The net proceeds from our play day will be donated to MCC and Camp Kindle.

## PICTURES FROM THE PLAY DAY



**ROPING LESSONS**



**GETTING READY TO ROPE**



**EGG AND SPOON RACE**



**HORSE SEMINAR AMBER AND DOLLY**



**PRESIDENT KATHY MANUEVERS  
THROUGH THE POLES**



**CHICKEN BINGO**