

The Barbed Wire



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December 2007



News from the President

Board of Directors

President Charley Wade

Vice-President Shelley Foster

Secretary Harry Mourlam

Treasurer Paul Swofford

HGRA Trustee Dan Johnson

Rodeo Director Roger Peterson

Chairpersons

Membership Anthony Harris

Rodeo Events Dave Elliott

Public Relations Kurt Reid

Historical Dino Andrade

Newsletter Editor
Pete Canfield

On behalf of myself and the membership of the Heartland Gay Rodeo Association, I would like to extend deepest sympathies to Kathy Ward, HGRA President 2006, who recently lost her father. Our thoughts are with you, during this difficult time.

HGRA has been very busy over the past few weeks.

On October 20th the newly elected officers took office. They are listed in the column on the left of this page. I would like to offer my congratulations and I look forward to working with each of you over the next year. Also, I would like to thank the Rainbow Outreach Center for the use of their meeting room in the lower level and everyone who attended the meeting and brought very delicious food for our potluck dinner. The desserts were to die for.

On November 2nd, we held our royalty competition. Congratulations go to winners; Ms. HGRA, Tracey Foster, Miss HGRA, Trina Tabloid (Brady Hodge) and a special thank you to Pete Canfield for volunteering to step up and assume the position as Mr. HGRA again. I believe they will make a great team and put a positive light on HGRA within our community. I want to thank Shelley Foster and Leo Jarecke for organizing the competition and show.

November 3rd, HGRA held its general membership meeting. The major topic of discussion was whether we should host a rodeo in 2008. Due to the cost and short time to prepare, the decision was made not to hold a rodeo in 2008; however we plan to schedule a rodeo in 2009. This gives us a lot of time for organizing and fundraising to make it the biggest and best rodeo, HGRA can have. *continued*

Next, we're off to Kansas City, November 8-11, to attend the 23rd Annual IGRA Convention. HGRA was represented by the following; Dan Johnson, Shelley Foster, Kurt Ried, David Elliott, Ron Dreiling, Harry Mourlam, Trena Paczosa, Pete Canfield and me. Since IGRA has 26 committees, we met Thursday night to determine who would attend which meetings on Friday. The meetings ran from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Saturday and Sunday convention ran from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Believe it or not, we were working and not playing while in Kansas City.

I wanted my first article to lay out my goals as president of HGRA, but as you can see, I haven't had a chance due to the schedule since elections.

Since we are all volunteers, I feel we can't be all work and no play. So, my first and foremost target is to put FUN back into HGRA.

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and didn't over eat. I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Charley

Fundraising

Miss Trina Tabloid held a 50-50 raffle during the River City Mixed Bowling league in November. She raised \$97 for our general fund. Tracey, Pete, Tiffany, and Shelley sold tickets while Miss Trina bowled.

New Membership Chair

After several years serving as membership chair Jim Rinehart has passed the membership chair reins to Tony Harris. Over the years Tony has been involved with HGRA and HGRA activities. We welcome Tony to his new role as HGRA membership chair.

Cooking Up a New Fundraiser

I would like to announce Heartland's newest fundraiser: our own cookbook. This is something that everyone will buy and enjoy for years to come. Depending upon the volume of recipes that we receive, the current plan is for a spiral bound standard cookbook size, 170 to 200 pages in length.

To make this a success, we need your help. Please send us some of your family or favorite recipes.

Current proposed sections of the cookbook are: Appetizers, Beverages, Breads and Rolls, Sandwiches, Soups, Sauces, Salad Dressings, Salads, Meats, Vegetables, Casseroles, Desserts, Cakes and Frostings, Cookies, Pies and Pastry, Candy, maybe even a helpful hints and emergency substitutes section. All the committee asks is that you've tried the recipe before and it is tasty. Give credit to the source of your recipe, i.e. Grandma Morrison's Three Bean Salad, or Paula Dean's Old-fashioned Fudge Pie. If you do not want your name listed as the contributor, feel free to say so and we won't use it, else wise, the committee may use contributor names.

Send your recipes and questions to:
chutedoggerd@heartland.net

Thanks for your entries, and here's to good eating
Dave Elliott
HGRA Cookbook Chairman

A Word from Your Rodeo Director

Greetings:

As many of you already know, HGRA has decided not to have a 2008 Rodeo. The Heartland is going to focus on a rodeo in 2009. In the year to come, we need to promote the association and build the funds needed to produce a great rodeo. If any member has any ideas for fundraisers, let the board of directors know what you have in mind. Members may also bring their ideas to a meeting. Let's get the ball rolling!

I would also like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Roger P. – Rodeo Director 2008 & 2009

HGRA Trustee Report

Well, I must admit, I was a little apprehensive attending my first IGRA Board Meeting and Trustee Meeting in some years, but entering the room, I saw many familiar faces I have known for years and I relaxed immediately.

The 2007 IGRA Board Meeting was called to order by President Brian Helander at 1:00 PM on Thursday. A major discussion included moving IGRA Royalty Competition to IGRA Convention and moving IGRA Dance Competition to IGRA University. This change will allow IGRA Finals to concentrate on the rodeo.

The next Dance Competition will not take place until IGRA University in 2009, there will be workshops on dance at the 2008 University in Las Vegas, Nevada, February 22-24 at the Tuscany Hotel and Casino. Go to www.igra.com for rates and details on University. University is a valuable learning experience that includes workshops on acquiring sponsorships, recruiting members, managing and running a rodeo, to mention a few. What you learn can be invaluable to the building of HGRA. I would encourage everyone to attend IGRA University.

Two new associations were seated at convention; LSGRA (Louisiana State Gay Rodeo Association and SCCRA (Sacramento Capital Crossroads Gary Rodeo Association).

PONY (Pennsylvania Ohio New York) was dissolved and LGRA (Liberty Gay Rodeo Association now has all of Pennsylvania. HSRA (High Sierra Rodeo Association) in Reno, Nevada has not completed their package for membership, so they could not be considered for renewal. MIGRA (Michigan International Gay Rodeo Association) wanted to extend their territory into Ohio. Request was denied due to lack of required members living Ohio. NSGRA (North Star Gay Rodeo Association) wanted to annex the remainder of IOWA; however they too lacked the required number of members living in Iowa.

Note: We have discussed at the last couple of meetings getting the remainder of Iowa back into our association. This is something we need to start

working on immediately to insure we have as many members as possible living in the currently unclaimed portion of the state. I'm sure NSGRA will be working to increase their membership. The end result is we will be competing with NSGRA at the next convention. HGRA was incorporated in Nebraska and Iowa, one thing that may work in our favor is whether we legally removed Iowa from our incorporation.

LSGRA will host IGRA Convention next year in New Orleans (2008) at the Marriott in the French Quarter. I think convention attendees will be arriving late on Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings, since New Orleans is open 24/7. The dates for convention are October 30th to November 2nd. Can you imagine Halloween in New Orleans!!!

CCGRA (Central Canada Gay Rodeo Association) will host IGRA Convention in Toronto, Ontario in 2009.

The Board of Directors approved 22 rodeos for 2008. Rodeo cities, dates, finals and convention are posted on the IGRA website.

Anheuser Busch's Bud Light Division is sponsoring 2008 IGRA Finals Rodeo in Denver with a \$20,000 donation of cash and merchandise. Other major companies that IGRA is negotiating with for sponsorship are Walgreens, Bank of the West, Wells Fargo and Pendleton Canadian Whiskey.

President Brian Helander also discussed ideas to push IGRA marketing and sharing new and innovative fundraising ideas.

The new Vice President of IGRA is Andrew Goodman, MGRA and Secretary is Larry Lindstrom, CGRA.

The Trustee Meeting was relatively quiet, since most issues were discussed in the General Board meeting. Most attention was given to the EPRB (Ethical Practices Review Board) meeting, regarding an accusation of abuse of a horse by a member. It was determined that there was sufficient evidence to continue the hearing at the next Trustee meeting in Las Vegas.

I believe that brings me up to date and I look for-

ward to representing HGRA as your Trustee in the coming year. Looks like lots of travel in my future, with the four board meetings, plus division three rodeos, among other I will be attending. Let's RODEO!

Dan Johnson
HGRA Trustee

LEO JARECKE AND JO KNOTT HONORED BY IGRA

At the annual IGRA convention, once again HGRA was recognized for it's outstanding members. Leo and Jo were given awards from the International Gay Rodeo Association for their tremendous contributions to HGRA and IGRA.

The IGRA Board of Directors presented Jo with the Directors Award recognizing her for her support for IGRA. Over the last 12 years Jo has contributed many hours to both HGRA and IGRA. She served as MS HGRA for several years and raised thousands of dollars for charity. She has served on several committees for both the Heartland Rodeo and for the IGRA Finals. Whether Jo's making her famous loose meat sandwiches or serving as a volunteer at rodeos she has always helped in any way she was needed. Jo has also been invited to time at the last 5 Finals rodeos and has won several buckles in the rodeo arena.

Leo was honored by the IGRA Board when he was presented the International Award which recognized him for his continued dedication and hard work for IGRA. Leo is known all over the country for his famous jell-o shots and his Heartland hospitality. Leo has managed the rodeo bar for the past 10 years and he knows how to make his "cowboys" happy. At the Finals Rodeo in 2004, Leo had over \$10,000 in bar proceeds and has been responsible in raising thousands of dollars for charity. His famous "jell-o shots" was vocalized when he received his award. Leo has also

served as the vice president for several years and has always made himself available at many HGRA functions. He also competed in the arena 1 time and won his first steer deco buckle. Leo's smile will tell you everything and it will light up a room.

Two local businesses were also honored; The River City Star and Lakota Stables were given IGRA appreciation awards for their support of HGRA.

Lakota Stables has been a longtime supporter of HGRA and IGRA. They have had numerous barn dances and hay rides to help raise money for the rodeo and charity. They also provide a venue for contestants to learn more about rodeo during rodeo play days and several royalty contestants have used their horses to film their horsemanship videos. Lakota Stables has also sponsored buckles and contestants and has donated horse stalls, tractors and arena equipment for many of the Heartland Rodeos.

Ron Bradstreet and the River City Star have been very supportive of HGRA and the GLBT community. Ron has provided gift certificates and supported HGRA functions. Prior to his employment as the Director of Entertainment for the RCS, Ron served as Miss HGRA several times and has raised money for the association and charity.

Congratulations to Leo and Jo and thank you to the River City Star and Lakota Stables. You are all very deserving of your awards!

Tamara Marks

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is going to be at Dan & Charley's house in Omaha, December 8th at 7pm. Email Charley at:

CharleyHGRA@cox.net for directions. Everyone is to bring a dish (fingerfood) that they would like us to try, it will be a taste test of recipes for a future HGRA cookbook.

Royalty Report

I would like to welcome the 2008 Royalty team to the Heartland Gay Rodeo Association. The competition was fierce, I have never seen girls change wigs so fast. This year will hold a lot of surprises for us all, I invite you all to join us anytime you can. You will have a good time and see top entertainers. Our Mr., Miss, and Ms., are all Champions and have dedicated themselves to working in our community.

We look forward to working with our community leaders. So now that you have read all of this do you want to know who the 2008 HGRA Royalty Team is?

Well, it is:

Pete Canfield your Mr. HGRA 2008, Tracey Foster your Ms. HGRA 2008, and of course Brady Hodge whom you all know as Trina Tabloid your new Miss HGRA 2008.

Congratulations Team, I look forward to working with you . I am so proud to be a part of this team.

Pete Canfield
Mr. HGRA 2008

2007 IGRA Dance Results from Kansas City

Couples

- **Division IV** -- Jack Roach and Jacob Rocca (NSGRA)
- **Division III** -- Pamela Simmons and Leigh Broschat (LSGRA)
- **Division II** -- Hagan Ko and Sisto Flores (GSGRA)
- **Division I** -- Tyler Goolsby and Todd Casler (TGRA)

Line Dancers

- **Beginning** -- Cory Decuire (TGRA)
- **Advanced** -- Hagan Ko (GSGRA)

Looking to the Future

HGRA has been around for a very long time and has experienced ups and downs along the way. HGRA has reached a Critical Point in its history. As a member of HGRA, I choose to believe that the future of HGRA is now. The things we can take from the past are only lessons that we can learn from and carry into the present and beyond. Energy used to hold onto past issues is wasted energy. That energy might have been used for something good that HGRA could benefit from.

The Growth and strength of Heartland Gay Rodeo Association depends on each of the members and what we do collectively. Each member contributing a little bit would equal a large amount of growth. Take the single word "growth". Growth is made up of 6 independent letters. Let's give each of those letters the power to contribute something. The contribution of each letter would make the single word stronger in meaning and power. For example:

G- Look for the GOOD in the association and its members.

R- RESECT the needs and abilities of others in the association.

O- OPEN your mind to new ideas.

W- WORK for the good of the association.

T- TALK to each other. Communicate honest feelings and ideas.

H- HELP each other stay focused on the goals of the association.

The word growth has a lot more strength after each letter contributed to the single unit. HGRA can have the same strength if we each become like the letters in growth and contribute.

Kurt Ried
HGRA Public Relations Chair

Heartland Gay Rodeo Association Royalty Contest at DC's

By Shelley Foster

What a great time we had, what a crowd, what entertainers, what help from everyone. We crowned Trina Tabloid (seen below) as Miss HGRA 2008 and Tracey Foster (AKA Aretha Spanklin) as Ms. HGRA 2008. They both received excellent scores from the judges and lots of applause from the audience.

We started early in the evening with the Interview portion in the basement of DC's. Then moved up to the dance floor for the Western Wear, Public Presentation, and Talent contests. We'd like to give special thanks to our judges who were so helpful. Empress 27 Madeline Feinstein; Stan Brown, ICON Lord 27; Mr. Nebraska Gay Pride, Gary A.; Mr. HGRA 2002-03, Paco Perez; Mr. DC's 2006, Jon H.; Pete Canfield, Mr. HGRA 2005-2006; and of course the unforgettable Aphelia Butts-Feinstein, Czarina 27.

Then at our meeting on Saturday we voted to have Pete Canfield step up as Mr. HGRA 2008 to help our new royalty in their upcoming year. Be sure to watch out for fundraisers and shows and lots of other fun events



Rodeo Events

Attention: Chutedoggers! At the recent IGRA Convention in Kansas City, the event of Chute dogging has been changed. Here are the major changes;

7. The Line Judge will whistle once all four feet of the steer have crossed the ten foot (10') line, indicating contestant may begin to "dog" the steer.
8. Contestant must use their strength and skill in a manner to bring steer to a stop or change its direction.
9. Once Line Judge has whistled, contestant must then twist steer down by applying hold to head and/or horns without crossing the steer's path.
10. Steer will be considered legally down only when lying flat on its side with all four feet clear from underneath him. Contestant must maintain control of steer when flagged.

In calf roping on foot, snaring was further defined. Snaring is defined as holding loop in calf's path (in an attempt to have calf run into the loop) rather than skillfully throwing the loop to rope the calf.

Team Roping rules were basically rewritten in a logical order. The only change is the #15 Option: HEELER TIE ON RULE- Any heeler may "tie on" but must use a quick release device. Roper may not dally over tie on. Tie on Roper must finish the run as started.

2008 Rule books should be out just after the first of the year, please consult them for further details.

AGRA will be holding a rodeo school Thursday and Friday before their rodeo in January. Check their website for more information. www.agra-phx.com/

Hope you all have a safe and fun and prosperous 2008 Rodeo Season.

Dave Elliott
Rodeo Events Chairperson

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

**All memberships need to be renewed
NO later than December 31st
Application is at the end
of this newsletter**

Continued

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Hope you all have a safe, fun, and prosperous 2008 Rodeo Season.

Dave Elliott
Rodeo Events Chairperson

Our New Secretary

Being a new board member of HGRA I was asked to do a brief bio about myself. I was born and raised in north central Iowa in the small town of Alden. After high school graduation I attended cosmetology school in Fort Dodge, Iowa. I moved to Iowa Falls where I was employed by several salons and eventually opened my own business. I became a member of the National Cosmetology Association of Iowa where I served in various offices and as president from 1990 to 1992. After sixteen years in the salon business I worked as a sales consultant for two beauty supply companies based out of Omaha. In 2002 I moved to the Council Bluffs area where I left my cosmetology career in the dust and became employed with Marriott International Inc. in their group sales office. I have been to several gay rodeo events here with HGRA and went to the IGRA convention held in Kansas City this year. My partner Ron and I look forward to being involved in future HGRA and IGRA events. I look forward to serving you and the gay community in my new position as secretary of HGRA.

My First Time

Well let me tell you about my first time. It happened in Kansas City Nov. 8-11th. Wow what a weekend. When I checked in at the Crowne Plaza hotel I immediately got nervous. Was I doing the right thing? Would I have regrets? Would I have a good time?

Well in no time I knew I had done the right thing! All of a sudden the lobby was full of Hot Cowboys & Cowgirls! I had arrived at the International Gay Rodeo Association's Annual Convention and Dance Competition.

I learned a lot and had a good time. Friday night tradition lives on, I went on the Bar Crawl. Boy the bus was rocking, FUN, FUN, FUN!

Friday morning I attended several meetings starting at 8am. First I went to Growth & Planning, followed by Community Outreach & Diversity. Then we walked a few blocks to the Food Court for a wonderful lunch. Then back to work, my next stop was Fundraising and then a Royalty Question & Answer session. I learned a lot and met a lot of new friends.

Saturday night was the IGRA Dance Competition. WOW! I loved it, now I can't wait to learn C&W dancing! More about that later.

If you get the chance to be a delegate at the IGRA Convention...GO! GO! GO! I now look forward to attending the IGRA University.

Mr. HGRA 2008

Ms HGRA 2008 "Aretha Spanklin"

