

The Barbed Wire



PO Box 3354
Omaha, NE 68103
www.hgra.net



May 2008

Letter from the President

Members, Past Members and Prospective New Members:

I hope everyone is beginning to feel the warmth of spring. It has been a long time in coming this year. I'm not one who does a lot of work in the yard, but I'm getting anxious to get out in the yard and plant something.

This article is to address a couple of issues that have come to my attention. They aren't problems, but I felt they should be brought to the attention of all who were addressed above, so they have a full understanding of how our organization and others within our community are structured.

This organization, like most within our community is run by volunteers. The definition of a Volunteer is; an individual, individuals or groups who give their time, talent and abilities to a cause they believe in, without pay. We have a lot of individuals within HGRA who give a lot of their time, some when they can spare the time and we have individuals who aren't able to give any of their time. This isn't meant to be a critical comment, but a statement of how things are within an All Volunteer organization. I do have a point to make in this statement! The issue that was brought to my attention is that more could be done or done differently. I would suggest if you have some time, volunteer in the area you feel needs attention; if that isn't a possibility you can address the issue by sending an e-mail to any of the elected or appointed positions that are listed on our website www.hgra.net. I would ask that you copy me on the e-mail at CharleyHGRA@cox.net. All suggestions or recommendations will be taken into consideration.

continued

Board of Directors

President Charley Wade
Vice-President Shelley Foster
Secretary Harry Mourlam
Treasurer Paul Swofford
IGRA Trustee Dan Johnson
Rodeo Director Roger Peterson

Chairpersons

Membership Anthony Harris
Rodeo Events Dave Elliott
Public Relations Kurt Reid
Historical Dino Andrade
Bylaws David Brady

Newsletter Editor

Pete Canfield

I have heard the comment, that members have no say in the organization. This statement couldn't be further from the truth. This board took office in late October and all of our meetings are open to the public. Anyone (member or non-member) that wishes to attend and speak on any issue that involves HGRA is welcome. A clarification, non-members do not have voting rights on issues, within our bylaws. We have tried to vary our meeting dates and time to accommodate all of our members. If you aren't sure of the meeting date, time and location, they are posted on our website calendar. They are usually set up on the first or second weekend of the month, depending on rodeo events that may be occurring within our region or local events. I realize we have members who work or live a distance from the meeting location and can't attend. If anyone has an issue they would like addressed at a meeting, send an e-mail to me CharleyHGRA@cox.net, with all the details and I will present the issue or motion to the membership. I will follow up with an e-mail on the status after the meeting. The outcome of your motion will be made by the membership of the association and not by an individual.

In closing I look forward to seeing everyone at our meetings or upcoming events hosted by our great Royalty Team.

Charley Wade

Upcoming Birthdays

Kim D May 13th

Jim R. May 24th

Charley Wade June 6th

Past and Future Royalty Events

We went to the Panic! in Lincoln on Sunday April 20th for a B-B-Q and Meet and Greet. Wow! Did we have a good time there! They had a Pitch game going on when we arrived, which I have never heard of. They were all so nice...and hungry! Those featherbones and brats just disappeared. I think they like Tracey's cooking. We got to meet the vice president for Star City Pride and had some discussions about our involvement on pride weekend.

The next Sunday we did a spaghetti dinner and show at DC's Saloon in Omaha. This was a fundraiser for the MCC food pantry and we also got non-perishable food donated that evening. We almost sold out of dinner and dessert before the show even began! We had a nice crowd and raised a lot of money for the church. I even got to meet Pastor Tom.

We have some big events planned for this month. We are going to church on the 11th to set up a table with information about HGRA. We will visit with church members after both services.

Then HGRA will be holding it's monthly raffle at DC's on Saturday the 17th. The next day we have our private skating party at SkateDaze, see the ad on page 4. This looks like it will be a whole lot of fun, please join us!

Friday May 30th we will be going to the Panic! again, this time for a show at 9:30pm. Tracey will be fixin' up some more great vittles to eat before the show, we will start serving at 8:00 pm.

Then we have a really big show at DC's Saloon on Saturday May 31st from 8:00 pm till 11:00 pm. We have the current reigning Mr, Miss, Ms,& MsTer Colorado Gay Rodeo Association performing for us. And in addition we have Mr & Miss Missouri Gay Rodeo Association 2008 and JD Fulk who is a contestant for Mr MGRA 2009. Along with Randy Edlin, Mr IGRA 2008 1st runner-up. And last but not least we have managed to get Tangarine out of retirement for the night!!!

HGRA is Back in the Saddle

Kurt Ried HGRA Public Relations

HGRA has had a relatively eventful beginning so far this year. Heartlands membership is growing and things are falling into place. The Goal of hosting a rodeo in 2009 is still a strong key note to the efforts of the association. Despite a few obstacles along the way, HGRA is moving forward. It is very important to be aware that the Rodeo Association is still volatile and needs a lot of nurturing.

The Board and members of HGRA have a lot of work to do to get The Heartland back on track for hosting a rodeo. I believe that we can do it. All we have to do is Cowboy up!!!! Waiting around for HGRA to make a come back happen won't cut it. We have to Make that come back happen. It takes a tiny spark to fire up engine.

One of the things that may be a stumbling block for HGRA right now is that we are not having a rodeo this year. There seems to be a mind set of out of site, out of mind. It is hard to find that rodeo spirit as well as project that spirit to the public when there is not a rodeo. It's human nature to seek that instant gratification. As the Public Relations Chair, I'd like to invite all of the members of HGRA to come together and share all of the unique and special talents and ideas that you have so that we might spark a re-birth of rodeo enthusiasm in the community.

Horsey Hee Haw

Slim went into a bar and saw a cowboy with his feet propped up on a table. He had the biggest boots Slim had ever seen. Slim asked the cowboy if it was true what they say about men with big feet. The cowboy grinned and said, "Shore is, why don't you come on out to the bunkhouse and let me prove it to you."

Slim spent the night with him and the next morning Slim handed him a \$100 bill. The cowboy said, "Thanks I'm real flattered." "Don't be," said Slim, "take the money and buy yourself some boots that really fit."

Did You Eat Today?

I did. I have been blessed with a good job and a wonderful place to live, and I am so thankful. However we all know people that are not as fortunate as we are, times are hard.

It is my intention to bring hunger to the Front Page, we need your help. I will start with a special thank you to all of you that can help. As Mr. H.G.R.A. I have chosen the Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha Food Pantry as my personal charity.

Let's overfill the pantry with food so no one misses a meal. I will be doing fundraisers all year to provide money to the cause. If you can, you could start by donating canned or boxed goods at any of my fundraisers or directly to the church. *Pete Canfield*

From our Rodeo Director

I would like to extend warm greetings to everyone in the heartland. I hope things are going well for all of you and that spring may get here at some point in time. "I'm sick of this cold weahrer". I just wanted to let everyone know that plans are still being made to hold HGRA Rodeo 2009. I would like to mention a couple of things we all need to keep in mind and get done.

First is the money issue. We all know it takes a few bucks to produce a rodeo. If anyone has any ideas that may pop into your mind for fundraising, bring them to us and we will gladly listen to them and put your ideas to good use.

Second, we all need to work on making HGRA an organization that people would like to be interested in joining or working with in joint functions. Once again if a light pops on in your head, pass it on. Have a great spring and we hope to hear from you all.

Roger P.



Sponsored by :

The Heartland Gay Rodeo Association

Date: Sunday May 18, 2008
Time: 6:00—9:00 pm

Bring your partner, family,
friends, and kids for:

UNLIMITED:
Roller skating Lazer Tag

Rock Climbing Bumper Cars

Roller Coaster

Playdazium (kids under 13)

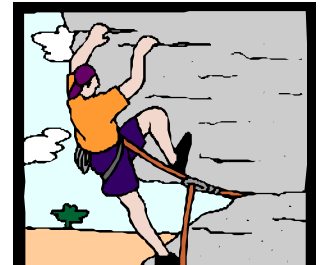
As Well As UNLIMITED:
Hot Dogs/ Pizza/Soft Drinks



Can you believe...

**ALL these Unlimited
activities and food for
the amazing low price
of just \$20 person, if
purchased by May
16th!!!**

**\$25 per person at the
door!**



**TO PURCHASE
TICKETS IN
ADVANCE CALL:**

Shelley: 402-658-2922

or

Email: Bradybunch1970

@hotmail.com or

Purchase thru PayPal at
www.hgra.net for \$21

We will have pole
Bending & barrel
racing contests...
ON SKATES

Roping contests...
ON SKATES

Kids under 1 are
FREE

Miss HG RA Trina Tabloid
will be donating the proceeds
to the:

**Metropolitan Community
Church—Benevolence Fund**

Location:

SkateDaze

3616 South 132nd St

West Omaha

402-333-3555

Rodeo Events Chairperson

Howdy everyone, the weather has finally turned around and is causing all the cowboys and cowgirls to think of rodeo. This spring and summer should help to fill their thoughts and desires. Coming up are the following:

May 2-4	Hot Rodeo	Palm Springs, CA
May 9-11	Liberty Stampede Rodeo	Philadelphia, PA
May 23-25	Great Plains Rodeo Registration is April 18 thru May 9	Oklahoma City, OK
June 20-22	LA Rodeo Registration is May 16 thru June 6	Los Angeles, CA
June 27-29	Canadian Rockies International Rodeo Registration is May 16 thru June 13	Alberta, Canada
July 4-6	North Star Regional Rodeo Registration May 30 thru June 20	Minneapolis, MN
July 11-13	Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo Registration is June 6 thru June 27	Denver, CO
July 25-27	Sierra Stampede Rodeo Registration is June 20 thru July 11	Sacramento, CA

Also of note: As you may have heard, the Show Me State Rodeo has been cancelled this Labor Day Weekend, BUT, Gateway Association has stepped up to the plate and will be having a rodeo!

More details can be found for any of these rodeos at IGRA.COM If any of you are thinking about competing in a rodeo for the first time and have any questions, feel free to contact me. I've been on the gay rodeo circuit for 15 years now and if I don't know the answer to your question, I do know others that can.

We've come a long way from the early days when just I or a couple others competed for HGRA and I would love to see more of us competing. Yes it can cost a lot of money (if you get into the horse events), but the feeling of self-pride and accomplishment is priceless.

Also, if you have moved...it is your responsibility to contact IGRA with your new address so you can get your contestant mailings.

Dave Elliott chutedoggerd@heartland.net

Hello H.G.R.A

I hope this note finds everyone happy, healthy, and enjoying this new year. I have chosen to represent the Rainbow Outreach Center for my charity in 2008, and I am so proud to be doing so! Being part of this community and seeing how sometimes family and friends can adversely effect gay youths just coming out, I have decided to do my part and support an organization that has done so much for young and old alike as they come to terms with themselves and the world around them. Being the mother of four children I look forward to a fruitful year and continued success with HGRA and Rainbow Outreach. *Tracey*