



December 2008

Eddy Krien, Editor

BIGHORN GAZETTE

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Happy Holidays to one and all. Well, NGRA has made it to the end of another year, and all of us on the Board would like to thank each and every one of you for your contributions, large and small, to making 2008 a wonderful year. We had our hoops to jump through, but that hoop jumping has only made us stronger and a more united force.

This month, NGRA will be dispersing the profits from BigHorn Rodeo 2008. We are pleased and proud to state that we can contribute \$9,000 to our chosen local charities. There have been those who disparaged our rodeo of making any money at all, or even breaking even.... But with all the accounting from this year, and years past, all gathered, analyzed, and structured as it should be, we have come out with a great result. We are proud to be donating \$4,500 to each of our charities, The Sin City Sisters, and to The Winged Dragon Society's FOCUS Hot Meal program. If you donated anytime to rodeo this year... please know that your hard

work and volunteerism was the foundation of this achievement.

Next year's BigHorn Rodeo planning has already started, and we would love for you to get involved. If you want to help plan and organize a rodeo from the ground up, now is the time to start. The Board is also proud to announce that our elected Rodeo Director for next year is none other than Shaun Sewell, our current President. Shaun brings a tremendous wealth of experience to this position. He has worked on rodeo as Assistant Rodeo Director for the past few years, (both 'cow' and 'non-cow' aspects), and has great management experience in his personal career as well. He is knowledgeable of IGRA workings, rodeo contacts and local resources. What's more, he brings a fresh outlook on the whole rodeo event, and we can guarantee you that BigHorn Rodeo 2009 will have more than a few wonderful surprises in store! Watch the website and stay in touch with us as to the upcoming Rodeo Planning Committee dates.

We also are please to announce that we have three candidates running for our royalty titles in February. Running for Mr. NGRA is Darren Wernette, and Adam Johnson. Running for Miss NGRA is Mitch Gill, aka 'DeShannen'. In order to 'place' on the royalty team, the candidate must receive at least 75% of the possible scores. The different aspects of the competition are judged by chosen members of NGRA and IGRA, and local community representatives. All three of these candidates have amply demonstrated their commitment to NGRA through years of volunteering for NGRA and other groups as well, and all of them share a wealth of knowledge about NGRA, its history, its mission, and active part within the Las Vegas Gay/Lesbian/Bi/Transgender community. Be watching for Royalty Candidate fundraisers in the near future, and we wish all three candidates the best of luck.

From all the board members of NGRA, we wish you all a happy, blessed, and wonder-filled Holiday Season, and a prosperous and fulfilling New Year!

TRUSTEE REPORT

Brian Rogers

It's hard to believe the holiday season is already here. 2008 has been a tough year for a lot of us. Let's hope the new administration in Washington can bring the Change we need to make 2009 a better year for all Americans.

The IGRA rodeo year doesn't start until January, so I get a month off from all things IGRA. I am working on IGRA University in the background though so that everything will be perfect in February when we welcome all our guests to town to learn and party.

IGRA University is the annual event IGRA runs to train rodeo producers, association leaders and royalty in the latest rules and regulations as well as techniques and principles for rodeos and associations. Students attend classes from a menu of 35 offerings covering subjects like Rodeo Production, Website Development, Community Service, Association Development and Rodeo Announcing.

This will be the third year running that NGRA has hosted this event. Please visit the University page at IGRA.com for a complete list of classes with content descriptions.

The weekend starts off with our "Back to School" bash at Badlands on Thursday, February 19. This event is in development,

but you can count on seeing your 2009 NGRA Royalty contestants there.

On Friday we host the IGRA Executive Board meeting, The IGRA General Board meeting, the Trustee's meeting and the first Track of classes. Friday evening come enjoy the excitement of the 2009 NGRA Royalty competition.

Saturday we have four tracks of classes and Saturday night we host the International Country / Western Dance Competition at the Tuscany. This competition features individuals, couples and teams from throughout IGRA as they compete for the coveted award buckles, ribbons and trophies. Admission is FREE so be sure to bring your friends and come cheer them on. There will be open dancing before and after the competition.

IGRA University's Dance Institute is offering dance classes all that weekend for beginners and for experienced dancers. Classes are only \$5 each and you don't have to be registered for IGRA-U to participate. These classes are open to the general public. See the advertisement in this newsletter.

Sunday we wrap up IGRA University with the final track of classes, followed by the graduation luncheon for the class of 2009. Afterwards we all head off to Charlie's for the Academy Awards.

Big Horn Rodeo 2008



Kandace Kane & Jason Dwyer



Katrina, Darren Wernette & the Sin City Sisters



Sacramento Rodeo Raw-Rahs & The Git-R-Dun Boyz



Rodeo Director, Mitch Gill with Assistant Rodeo Directors; Shaun Sewell, David Blackwood and Jeffrey Neal



Presented by the



International Gay Rodeo Association

Saturday, February 21, 2009

Tuscany Hotel Ballroom 8:00 pm - Midnight

Admission Free - Cash Bar

**IGRA's best Individual dancers, couples and dance teams
from across the US and Canada compete in Waltz, Two-Step,
Free Style and Line Dance.**

Are You a Dancer? Do You Want to Be?

**Country Western Dance Lessons at the IGRA Dance Institute
are open to the public for \$5 per class.**

- Fri, Feb. 20: 4:30pm - 6:30 pm: Line Dancing for Competition for experienced dancers
- Sat, Feb. 21: 10:30am - 12:30 pm: Two-Step and Waltz for Competition for experienced dancers
- Sat, Feb. 21: 2:00pm - 4:00 pm: Musicality and Beginners - Beginning Waltz and Two-Step
- Sun, Feb. 22: 10:00am - 12:00 pm: Musicality and Beginners - Beginning Line Dancing

**For more information email the IGRA Dance Committee Chair at
twostep.cub@verizon.net**

Royalty and Fundraising

Katrina, Miss NGRA 2008



Merry Merry Christmas and may all of your dreams come true! You all deserve to have your dreams and wishes granted, as you worked so hard this past year to help NGRA reach it goals. It is a wonderful time of the year and it is such a pleasure to be part of a group that worked so

diligently in raising \$4,500 for each of our spotlighted charities. The Sin Sity Sisters and the Winged Dragon Society are both organizations working hard to serve parts of our community which are greatly in need of help. It is very gratifying to know that YOUR hard work over the past year will help them in their cause.

It is very encouraging to see our rodeo planning committee begin to formally start processing for BigHorn Rodeo 2009. It is never too early to start planning and I encourage you to please take part in the process this year. There can never be to many hands in the pot and I know our Rodeo Director, Shaun Sewell, welcomes ALL to the table to make the coming year successful.

I won't be seeing you at our Charlie's event on December 13th, my eldest son is graduating from the University of Pittsburgh so I will be back there for the ceremony. I do though hope you come out and enjoy the fun and frivolity that the fundraising committee has planned for the evening. I will see you at our event on December 27th at Badland though. This will be a time for us to share in just the great camaraderie that makes this organization so alive and a pleasure to be involved with.

To each and every one of you, have a blessed holiday season and may the New Year bring you nothing but joy and happiness.

Merry Christmas with love
Katrina
Miss NGRA 2008

Member of the Month October 2008

Congratulations to our October Member of the Month, Barry Cluff. Barry has been very visible with NGRA for many months now. He started out supporting us by marching with us back in the PRIDE parade, and since then, has been working



at many events, helping them to be the success that they were. Barry's participation was especially evident during BigHorn Rodeo 2008, where he worked long days in the office with Rodeo Treasurer Bill Trunzo, and with Vice-President Bill Watkins, on the down and dirty, accounting end of rodeo. His help has been very appreciated by us, and he is a great addition to our 'Member of the Month' honorees.



NGRA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



This month's spotlighted member is Lize Mac Donald. Lize has the Honor of holding not only the title of Ms. NGRA for 2001, but also holds the Black Sash of Ms IGRA 2002. If you ever have the great opportunity of speaking with Lize you might question the enduring accent she reveals. Lize was born in Scotland but considers Alberta Canada to be her home, hence the accent. Lize moved to Las Vegas in 1997. Shortly thereafter, Lize joined NGRA. During her membership with NGRA Lize was very active in the organization and in the rodeo. Not only is she an NGRA/IGRA sash holder, but Lize is also a certified Rodeo Timer on the circuit. In addition, Lize held the position of NGRA President until a job opportunity took her to Phoenix, Arizona. We are happy that Lize has come back home to Las Vegas and to NGRA.

JOIN IN ON THE FUN

HOLIDAY HOEDOWN SATURDAY DEC. 13



- Mrs. Claus Race
- Trail Swap Raffle
- North Pole Race
- Jell-O Shot and Beer Bust
- 2009 Royalty candidates presented to the community
- Jack and Jill Contest



Come celebrate the Year End with a **POTLUCK SOCIAL**

Saturday December 27 at 9 PM
at



Assortment of yummy
vittles to graze on

Bud Light Beer Bust

Jell-O Shots

Jack and Jill Dance Contest



What happens in Vegas...



February 19-22, 2009



INTERNATIONAL DANCE COMPETITION

Registration: \$60

If postmarked by February 1.

\$75 after February 1

Registration includes Sunday Luncheon

Host Hotel:

Tuscany Suites & Casino

\$75.00 Sunday – Thursday

\$110.00 Friday & Saturday

All Rooms are Suites

877-887-2261 ask for

IGRA University Rate

Deadline January 29, 2009

THURSDAY: February 19, 2009

Meet the NGRA 2009 Royalty Contestants Show

FRIDAY: February 20, 2009

University Registration

IGRA Executive & Board Meetings

First Track of Classes

NGRA 2009 Royalty Competition

SATURDAY: February 21, 2009

Late Registration

Morning and Afternoon Class Tracks

International Dance Competition

SUNDAY: February 22, 2009

Final Track of Classes

Awards Luncheon and Roundtable Discussion

Free Time on Sunday afternoon




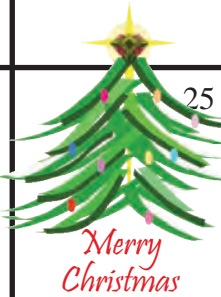
Welcome to the City of Lights!
No Last Call - Ever!



2009 IGRA Rodeo / Event Schedule

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Event:</u>	<u>Location:</u>
January 16-18, 2009	Road Runner Regional Rodeo	Phoenix, Arizona
February 20-22, 2009	IGRA University	Las Vegas, Nevada
February 27-March 1, 2009	Cowtown Rodeo	Ft. Worth, Texas
April 3-5, 2009	Sunshine Stampede	Fort Lauderdale, Florida
April 17-19, 2009	Rodeo in the Rock	Little Rock, Arkansas
May 1-3, 2009	Hot Rodeo	Palm Springs, California
May 22-24, 2009	Great Plains Rodeo	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
June 5-7, 2009	Sierra Stampede	Sacramento, California
June 25-28, 2009	Canadian Rockies International Rodeo	Calgary, Alberta Canada
June 26-28, 2009	Heartland Regional Rodeo	Omaha, Nebraska
July 10-12, 2009	Rockey Mountain Regional Rodeo	Denver, Colorado
July 31-August 2, 2009	Liberty Stampede Rodeo	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
August 21-23, 2009	Windy City Rodeo	Chicago, Illinois
August 28-30, 2009	TGRA Rodeo	Sequin, Texas (San Antonio)
September 4-6, 2009	MGRA Show Me State Rodeo	Kansas City, Missouri
September 11-13, 2009	Greater San Diego Rodeo	San Diego, California
September 18-20, 2009	BigHorn Rodeo	Las Vegas, Nevada
October 23-25, 2009	23rd Annual Finals Rodeo	Albuquerque, New Mexico
November 12-15, 2009	25th Annual IGRA Convention	Toronto, Ontario Canada

December 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's	6
7	8 Board of Directors Meeting	9	10 RPC Meeting	11	12 NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's	13 NGRA Holiday Hoedown @ Charlie's
14	15 General Membership Meeting	16	17	18	19 NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's	20
21  Happy Hanukkah	22	23	24	25  Merry Christmas	26 NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's	27 Celebrating Year's End @ Badlands

For times, locations and additional details, please visit the NGRA calendar on the web at www.ngra.com

NGRA Members Celebrating Birthdays in December:

Brian Richardson
Gary Mendyka
Chris Reynolds
Randy Eldridge
Mitch Gill
Jerry Rosenberg
Jim Kinney
Gary Belitza
Jeff Bunting-Haggard
Brady Hollifield

December 1
December 2
December 12
December 13
December 15
December 18
December 18
December 24
December 28
December 29



NGRA

Thanks our sponsors for their support for BigHorn Rodeo 2008

Fellow members when the opportunities
arises please support them.

