



BIGHORN GAZETTE

December 2009

David Hering, Editor

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I sit and write my monthly article, I find it hard to believe just how fast this year has flown by. NGRA has made it to the end of another great year and I am very grateful and thankful to each and every one of you that has helped us get through this year. As we look back we have had some challenging times, as well as a venture outside of the box with our one-go Night Rodeo. We take the lessons that have been learned to heart so that we can become an even stronger organization than we already are.

This month, NGRA is pleased to be dispersing the profits from BigHorn Rodeo Lucky 13 to do well, deserving organizations, The Gay & Lesbian Community Center and the Sin City Sisters. Both organizations are great supporters of NGRA and of our community. The Center serves as our meeting grounds so that we can conduct our organizations business, and the Sin City Sisters who always spread the word about NGRA and BigHorn Rodeo and help in anyway needed.

With 2010 right around the corner, we start moving into the year with some changes. NGRA has decided to take a year off from producing BigHorn Rodeo, so that we can concentrate our efforts toward IGRA World Finals Rodeo 2010 in Laughlin, Nevada. Our Royalty competition has been moved up a month to January 2010 to coincide with IGRA University, and the start of the 2010 rodeo season kicks off in February this year in Phoenix, AZ.

I would like to remind everyone that December starts the renewal process of your NGRA membership. You have until the end of January, 2010 to renew your membership without late fees. You can go to www.ngra.com and follow the link from the home page or navigate to the NGRA store section of the website to renew your membership.

From myself and the Board of Directors for NGRA, we wish you all a very safe and happy Holiday Season, and a very prosperous New Year!

Member of the Year Nominations:

According to the NGRA bylaws, we are to open up nominations for those members who you may feel qualify to be honored with the title of "Member of the Year". All those members who have been award the title of "Member of the Month" in 2009 qualify automatically. Those persons are: Chris Reynolds, Kirk Kanie, JD Jensen, Jeff Manning, "Pup" Ric Franklin, Michael Judkins, Bill Trunzo, Doug Graff, Jay Little and Bill Watkins.

If you would like to nominate another member, not listed above, please send information about this person as to why he or she should be considered to Vice President Colin Moulton at vicepresident@ngra.com by December 31st, 2009. Their name and qualification for the title of "Member of the Year" will be place on the ballot. The ballots will be out by February 15th with a return of February 28, 2009. The announcement of the "member of the Year" will be announced at NGRA's March General Membership Meeting.

TRUSTEE REPORT

Brian Rogers

The IGRA rodeo year is officially closed with the completion of the 25th Annual IGRA Convention in Toronto in November. NGRA was well represented by your delegation including myself, Lorry King, Jeffrey Neal, Bill Trunzo, Bill Watkins and Mitch Gill. Also attending from NGRA were Benjamin Avant as Parliamentarian and Andrew Goodman, IGRA Vice-President.

Toronto was a wonderfully clean and urban city. The weather was nice and we were all made to feel most welcome. As much fun as we had, there was a lot of work as well. Thursday the whole day was taken up with meetings. I attended the Executive IGRA Board meeting, the full IGRA Board meeting, a Trustees meeting and an Ethical Practices Review Board (EPRB) meeting. On Friday your delegation attended over 20 committee meetings, participating and helping to steer proposals for Rodeo Rule and Bylaw changes. On Saturday and Sunday we conducted IGRA's business as part of the general assembly on the convention floor.

During the evenings, the IGRA Royalty Competition unfolded. I am happy to announce the results:

Mr. IGRA 2010 - Roger Courtemanche, CGRA
Mr. IGRA 2010 1st Runner-up - Travis James, AGRA
Mr. IGRA 2010 2nd Runner-up - Gene Cheek, GWGRA

Miss IGRA 2010 - Ionna Doublewide, AGRA
Miss IGRA 2010 1st Runner-up - DeShannon, NGRA
Miss IGRA 2010 2nd Runner-up - Sally West, CGRA

Elections were also held for IGRA Vice-President and Secretary. The results were:

Vice President - Andrew Goodman, NGRA
Secretary - Larry Lindstrom, CGRA

HSRA Reno won the bid to host IGRA Convention in 2010. Hopefully the proximity and low prices will allow NGRA to field a full slate of delegates and alternates in 2010.

Some other items of note to report:

- NGRA won 2nd place in the annual Website Award. We came in one point under ARGRA who took first for the third year. Congratulations Darren Wernette. All your hard work sure paid off for us!
- I was re-elected as Division 1 Trustee Chair. This places me back on the IGRA Executive Board for another year.
- NGRA submitted a bid to host Finals in 2011 and 2012. The Executive Board is giving associations until the board meeting in Las Vegas in January to submit bids. They will recommend a location at that meeting for approval by the general board.
- Finals Chute and Buckles sponsorship prices were set at \$500 and \$250 respectively. HSRA pledged to sponsor Chute One.
- A major change to the Certified Officials certification program was approved. Annual performance appraisals and testing have been instituted and University has been added as a mandatory site for seminars and testing.
- The permissible dates for University, Finals and Convention were clarified and simplified.
- A Women's Outreach committee was established to seek ways to get more women involved in our leadership at the IGRA level and in the associations.
- The \$25 refundable stall reservation fee was dropped, but all contestants now have to pay a \$75 entry fee deposit that is non-refundable if they don't show up.
- New rules were enacted allowing new contestants to register through IGRA in advance of the rodeo.
- New rules were enacted allowing contestants the option of providing their own contestant numbers silk screened or embroidered on their shirts. The number will be their IGRA contestant number. Contestants can still get the paper numbers.
- Raking now must be by mechanical means. Hand-raking alone is not permitted.
- The end barrel in barrels and flags may not be in the same location as the 6th pole in pole bending

As Rodeo Director for the 2010 World Gay Rodeo Finals, I am asking NGRA to create an ad hoc committee for planning and executing NGRA's involvement in support of this great event. This committee will meet regularly and function as a sub-committee to the World Gay Rodeo Finals Committee, which is run by IGRA. Although many parts of the WGRF will be managed by other associations, there are also many parts that are best managed locally. The committee is open to all and will be a crucial part of the successful planning for Finals. Please watch for additional information soon.



NGRA



The Nevada Gay Rodeo Association would like to invite you to our two events this month.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 12

AT

CHARLIE'S LAS VEGAS

COUNTRY CHRISTMAS

EVENT STARTS AT 9:30

ENTERTAINMENT

RAFFLES PRIZES

GAMES

JELL-O SHOTS - \$1

BUD LIGHT BEER BUST - \$5 Starts at 9:00

SATURDAY DECEMBER 26

AT

BADLAND'S SALOON

CELEBRATE BOXING DAY

EVENT STARTS AT 9:30

Join us the day after Christmas in this fun social gathering. We can toast our friends to the north of us, in Canada, and socialize with our friends.

BUD LIGHT BEER BUST - \$6 Starts at 9:00



Kimberli Foxx Candidate for Miss NGRA 2010

Well howdy folks! I was asked to write a little bio all about me so here goes. I began doing female impersonation or drag way back when I was

17 and I have to admit that Kimberli is the one person that has been a constant in my life longest, other than my immediate family. I started out by doing a fundraiser for an HIV/AIDS service organization and the fundraising bug had bit; I was hooked. I've always prided myself on the fact that all totaled, I have helped raise well over half a million dollars for various charities ranging from local food banks to nationally recognized organizations such as AmFAR.

I first got involved with the gay and lesbian country and western lifestyle in my hometown of Kansas City, Missouri. Growing up on a hog farm, the country and western lifestyle always seemed like a natural glove, it just fit. My rodeo journey began back in 1999 when I joined the Missouri Gay Rodeo Association. After that and over the past 10 years, I have been involved with several different rodeo associations throughout IGRA. I have been a member of the Missouri Gay Rodeo Association, the Sooner State Rodeo Association in Tulsa, OK, and the North Star Gay Rodeo Association in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In NSGRA I held several Board positions including President as well as I was very lucky enough to represent that association as Mr. NSGRA 2008. As well as being a Board member for NSGRA I also competed and placed in Chute Dogging, Wild Drag, Goat Dressing and Steer Deco. The people and friendships that I have acquired throughout my journey within the rodeo family keep me coming back for more.

My involvement with the Nevada Gay Rodeo Association has included performing in most NGRA fundraisers since moving to Las Vegas in March of 2009 and volunteering as Party Coordinator and Hotel Coordinator for the Big Horn Rodeo Lucky 13 in September of 2009. But that has not been my only community involvement since living in Las Vegas. I am a member of the Imperial Court and have served on their elections committee as well as performed in several court fundraisers and currently represent the court as Queen of the Desert for 2009-2010. I have

attended and hosted fundraisers for the Sin Sity Sisters helping them raise money for their very much needed AIDS Drug Assistance Program. I guess one could say that I still have very strong ties to organizations that raise money for very worthy causes.

Gay Rodeo and the associations that perpetuate it and support it within the GLBT community have always had a very special place in my heart and that is why I want to represent NGRA to the surrounding community and organizations that we work so closely with. I am honored to be a candidate for Miss Nevada Gay Rodeo Association 2010.

**Official NGRA
Embroidered
Shirts at
Reduced
Cost!**

After researching various companies, we are pleased to announce that we will be offering our official NGRA shirt now in 2 different fabrics at a reduced cost! Both long sleeve stone colored shirts have the current design with the multicolored NGRA logo on the left chest and blue NGRA letters on the right sleeve. One shirt is a heavier 100% cotton twill identical to the current one and the other is a lighter weight wrinkle resistant 55/45 cotton/poly twill. The heavier shirt will be priced at \$39.99 compared with the current price of \$50.00. The lighter shirt will be priced at \$29.99. We will also provide the option to have your name embroidered above the left chest logo for an additional fee.

Please stay tuned as we update our NGRA online store to reflect these upcoming changes. Full detailed shirt specifications will be listed as well as purchase options. Get ready to replace your worn out shirts and stock up on our 2 new shirts at a more affordable price! Just in time for the new year... Yee-haw and happy holidays!



Joel Castillo Candidate for Mr NGRA 2010

Hello, NGRA membership. Please allow me to introduce myself to you. I am Joel Castillo and I am a contestant for Mr. NGRA 2010. I guess

I should begin by telling you a little about myself and follow it up with why I am running for Mr. NGRA.

I am a Las Vegas native and an active member of NGRA since March 2007. I have been actively involved in the Las Vegas GLBT community since 1992. In 1993, I had the distinction of winning the first Las Vegas Gay Pride pageant at the age of 21 and the title of Miss Gay Pride Las Vegas 1993. I subsequently won the title of Mr. Gay Pride Las Vegas in 1998.

I made a bet with my friend, Michael Judkins, that if he won Mr. NGRA 2008 I would finally join NGRA. But, it was my best friend, Guy Puglisi, that really introduced me to NGRA, IGRA, and Rodeo. He told me one day, "What are you doing next weekend?" To which I replied, "Nothing. Why?" Little did I know what he had in store for me... He was serving as Scorekeeper for BigHorn Rodeo. I was just drafted into being a Timer for my first time and also experiencing my first rodeo! I had no idea what to expect, but I was beyond pleasantly surprised. I had such an amazing time and more fun than I would have thought possible at a rodeo. Between watching the symbiotic relationships of riders and horses, the always-entertaining camp events, the drama of stock events, and sportsmanship of rope events, I was a nervous wreck paying attention to the events I was timing. I was both Spectator and Timer. A new appreciation for the sport of Rodeo had been born! I went on to be a Timer at Road Runner Regional Rodeo (Phoenix, AZ), Sunshine Stampede Rodeo (Fort Lauderdale, FL), Sierra Stampede Rodeo (Sacramento, CA), and, of course, BigHorn Rodeo (Las Vegas, NV). This past year, I had the honor and privilege of being asked to serve as Assistant Scorekeeper for BigHorn Rodeo Lucky 13.

In making the rounds at different rodeos and meeting new and exciting people, I began making new friends and strengthening my love for rodeo. Fast forward to Sierra Stampede Rodeo 2009, where the initial bug had been placed about my running for Mr. NGRA 2010 by Tom Sheridan (Mr. IGRA 2009 – 1st Runner-up). Mr. Sheridan and a small group of cowboys decided I should

run and gave me plenty of good reasons why I should. They would introduce me to people this way, "Have you met Joel yet? He is running for Mr. NGRA 2010." They subsequently enlisted Sharon Starks (Ms. IGRA 2009) to concur and further "the cause" of my running. I gave it much thought over the next few months. In this interim, Michael Judkins (Mr. NGRA 2008) also became a big supporter for me to run, as well as some members of NGRA. I know what a commitment it is to represent NGRA locally and abroad. I had to search within myself to see if I felt like I had not only what it takes, but the ability to follow in the footsteps of previous Mr. NGRA's. As you can tell, I did find it within myself to see what I can bring to NGRA and represent our association over the next year by being part of the 2010 Royalty Team. I am here with a desire to help NGRA reach the next level of Big Horn and promote rodeo to people like me just a few short years ago.

Once again, I am Joel Castillo and it is my privilege to have the opportunity to compete for the honor of being Mr. NGRA 2010. Let's rodeo!!!

NGRA Member of the Month Oct. 2009



Congratulations to Bill Watkins, the October Member of the Month. Bill is being recognized for his work at the Octoberfest fundraiser on October 24th at Badlands. Bill has been a member since 2001 and is a very important part of our NGRA family. From rodeo

posters, advertising, and fundraising, Bill is always there to help. We really can't thank him enough for all he does for us. The next time you see Bill (or his alter ego Fay Dewey) say hello and congratulate him.



Katrina Candidate for Miss NGRA 2010

Hello NGRA!

As most of you know, I'm an original 'Son of a Preacher Man' from Pittsburgh PA.

I'm a wild Steelers fan, and am proud of my 'roots' as well as my 'wings'. My background is a solid, family-based one, to which being 'Katrina' gives a great dose of creativity and the always present moral 'don't take yourself too seriously'. I have lived in Las Vegas now for over ten years, but long before coming here, I was heavily involved in other community and civic organizations including the Jaycees. Since living here in Nevada, I have kept up my regular participation with Opportunity Village, and I am glad to say I have formed wonderful bonds with the International Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire as well. Being out west has awakened my love of country music and of rodeo in general (I truly do want to 'Be a Cowboy's Sweetheart'... which my partner kindly indulges me on) I have been an active part of NGRA for five years now, and look forward to more. It's been my pleasure to serve as Treasurer on the NGRA Board of Directors, as Rodeo Finance Director, Fundraising Coordinator, planning and hosting events, as well as numerous other volunteer duties. In my years with NGRA I have formed unbreakable bonds of friendship and respect with others within our community, and have learned much over those years. Of course one of the greatest times of my life was spent as Miss NGRA 2008. That year of representing the organization, raising money, traveling to other rodeo associations, and hard work (both in 'face' and out), I hold deep in my heart and will treasure always.

I have more to do and am eager to take it on. I am looking forward to the coming year and continuing to work with the Las Vegas community, and building and keeping the reputation NGRA has founded itself on. It would be a great privilege to be part of the NGRA Royalty Team once again. This old girl, as you know, knows how to have fun, as well as buckle down and 'Git 'r Done!'

Let's Rodeo!
Katrina.



JD Jensen Candidate for Mr NGRA 2010

Born and raised in Los Angeles, JD moved to Las Vegas over three years ago. Wanting to do more in the community, JD discovered

NGRA and join last year. Since then JD has gone on to become a Board Member (Member at Large), Marketing Director for BigHorn Rodeo 13, as well as serving on the Fundraising Committee, and creating marketing materials for NGRA events. By running for Mr. NGRA, and hopefully getting it, JD hopes to help continue to raise funds for our charities, promote NGRA and its beliefs and help to bring and work with the other organization here in Las Vegas to help those who are in need of help, support others as well as ourselves, and lead better lives from it.

Upcoming Events:

**December 4-6, 2009
IRSCDE - Coronation XII**

**December 12, 2009
Cowboy Christmas @ Charlie's**

**December 26, 2009
Celebrate Boxing Day @ Badlands**

**January 9, 2009
Miss Nobody Competition**

**January 14, 2009
Back to School Party @ Badlands**

**January 15, 2009
NGRA 2010 Royalty Competition**

**January 15-17, 2009
IGRA University**

**January 23, 2009
NGRA Winter Break @ Badlands**

What happens in Vegas...



January 14-17, 2010



INTERNATIONAL DANCE COMPETITION

Registration: \$75

If postmarked by December 23
\$100 after December 24

Registration includes Sunday Luncheon

Host Hotel:

Tuscany Suites & Casino
\$35.00 Sunday – Thursday
\$95.00 Friday & Saturday
All Rooms are Suites
877-887-2261 ask for
IGRA University Rate

Deadline December 24, 2010

THURSDAY: January 14, 2010
Back to School Bash at Badlands Saloon

FRIDAY: January 15, 2010
University Registration
IGRA Executive & Board Meetings
First Track of Classes
NGRA 2009 Royalty Competition


SATURDAY: January 16, 2010
Late Registration
Morning and Afternoon Class Tracks
International Dance Competition

SUNDAY: January 17, 2010
Final Track of Classes
Awards Luncheon and Roundtable Discussion
Free Time on Sunday afternoon



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

December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 NGRA Fundraising Meeting	2	3	4 NGRA Appreciation Night	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Happy  Hanukkah	12 NGRA Country Christmas @ Charlie's
13	14 Board of Directors Meeting	15	16	17	18 NGRA Appreciation Night	19
20	21 NGRA General Membership Meeting	22	23	24	25  Seasons Greetings	26 NGRA Celebrate Boxing Day @ Badlands
27	28	29	30	31		

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
Aimee Payne
Chris Reynolds
Mitch Gill
Jim Kinney
Gary Belitza
Doug Graff
Jeff Bunting-Haggard
Brady Hollifield

December 1
December 7
December 12
December 15
December 18
December 24
December 27
December 28
December 29