



July 2011 Issue

Ric Franklin-Sewell, Editor

Big Horn Gazette

Monthly Newsletter for the Nevada Gay Rodeo Association

Letter From the President

Howdy! I hope you're all staying cool as the temperatures rise here in Las Vegas.

June was a busy month for NGRA. We were sorry to hear of the passing of our good friend and Miss NGRA1999, Truly LaFemme early in June, and we joined with our sister organization – The Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire – to honor her memory with a celebration of life.

At our June meetings, Darren Wernette, Mr. NGRA 2010, was reappointed as NGRA Webmaster; Michael Judkins, Mr. NGRA 2008, was appointed as Royalty Competition Coordinator; and Bradley Steffens was appointed as Member at Large to fill the open position.



My Life on the "T" List

Just when you think you can take a break, look again. After taking a much needed week out of drag, I hit the pavement running full force for during the month of June. I have been out every Friday and Saturday night helping out where I can and making sure that NGRA is fully represented.

July is going to be full yet another full month. I will be back on the road again this time to Colorado's Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo. I can't wait.

Upon returning from Colorado I will be hosting my first IGRA required fundraiser to compete for the title of Miss International Gay Rodeo Association 2012. Taylor's Temptation Island will be happening on Saturday, July 16th at Charlie's Las Vegas. All the money raised that night will go to the Sin City Sister Aids Drug Assistance Program (SADAP). This is definitely going to be a fun event. There will be a show, tropical leis and Jell-O shots, and the highlight for the evening is the decorated flamingo auction. I have a number of people from different organizations within our community to decorate a flamingo for auction. These will be done as a silent auction during the night. To help top off the flamingo auction, the Sisters are also decorating a number of flamingos that will be auctioned off live as a flock of flamingos that night. Upon receiving the flamingo's I will be posting them on my Facebook page for everyone to see.

Mark your calendar for Thursday, August 4th for my second required fundraiser. This will take place at Charlie's with a show at 10 p.m. and will benefit IGRA and BigHorn Rodeo 15. More details to come on this event.

Well that's my life on the T-list.

Love,
Taylor



Taylor Trash, Miss NGRA 2011, performing in front of Charlie's "infamous" trailer during their 2011 Trailer Trash week.



On June 6, 2011 The Nevada Gay Rodeo Association was saddened by the loss of David Max Miller aka Truly LaFemme, Miss NGRA 1999.

Truly was one of the brightest shining stones in the NGRA Crown and now she is a shining star in heaven.

R.I.P.
Truly LaFemme
October 9, 1973 – June 6, 2011

Out & About With the Traveling Gnome

Well, it has been awhile since you all heard from me and I wish I could tell you I have been seeing the world to report back to you. But, unfortunately, my traveling for the last two months has been confined to the halls of UMC, back and forth for tests and x-rays, and the last month was just in my 12x12 room there. I do have to say I have gained a new understanding and respect for anyone that has been placed in solitary confinement. Talk about One who flew over the Cuckoo's nest! LOL

I have missed hanging out with everyone. I especially miss my fabulous teammates, Miss NGRA Taylor Trash and Mormanizer, Miss NGRA 1st Runner-up, who have been doing an incredible job representing all of us. Thank God for Facebook.

I am home now recuperating and hope to be seeing you all out and about soon. There is still a ways to go before I am completely back to normal (if I ever was normal), so, I may be moving a little slower than the last time you saw me, which makes this gnome a little easier to catch. Besides being out and about around town, I hope to be out and about on the rodeo circuit, as well. We have 7 rodeos left before World Gay Finals in Ft Worth in October. IGRA Convention is in November in San Diego and I hope to see a good contingency from Las Vegas in attendance this year.

Don't forget our monthly NGRA events at Charlie's Las Vegas, the 2nd Saturday of the month. Even though BigHorn 14 is done, we have start gearing up and raising money for BigHorn 15.

Come bid on your favorite Flamingo on Saturday, July 16th at Taylor's Temptation Island event, which is one of her requirements to compete in November for Miss IGRA 2012. You know, Lawn Flamingos go great with Gnomes in your yard.

Until next time, Journey On,

Chris Reynolds aka
The Traveling Gnome
Mr. NGRA 2011



to

July Birthdays

Joel Castillo 7/4
Ed Hamtil 7/5
Laura Scott 7/27

New Members **June 2011**

Craig Smith

NGRA ANNUAL CONVENTION

By Brian Rogers

The NGRA annual convention took place on Saturday, June 25 at The Center. Lunch and doughnuts (thanks Guy) were served and the members present participated in lively debate of a range of topics.

A summary of changes adopted:

- No individual may be a member of the Royalty team and serve as President or Vice President at the same time without prior approval of the current board of directors.
- Language was added to Article X on Meetings specifically authorizing combined Board and Membership meetings. The language spells out that distinct blocks of time will be provided for the exercise of the rights and responsibilities of the both the Board of Directors and the General Membership. In matters where approval is needed by the Board of Directors followed by ratification by the General Membership, two votes will be required.
- Corrections and additions were crafted to Article XI which covers Corporate Name, Logos And Intellectual Property
- Clarification was made regarding the requirement for Royalty titleholders to attend BigHorn Rodeo in sash and attend NGRA Convention if physically and financially able.
- Enforcement language was added to the residency requirement for NGRA Royalty title holders.
- Language was added encouraging first NGRA Royalty runners-up to run for the IGRA Royalty competition. This mirrors changes made at the last IGRA convention.
- Language was clarified addressing Royalty contestants and titleholders which defines what titles are considered in conflict with duties as NGRA Royalty.
- Current Bylaws require board candidates to be an active member for 180 days. New language was added creating a 90 day requirement for Members at Large.

As chair, I'd like to thank all the members who attended and participated. Discussion and debate was conducted in a thoughtful and respectful manner and we were able to conduct the business of the organization professionally and in a timely manner.

President Letter Cont.

The board voted to nominate Pendleton Whiskey and Equine Event Management, LLC for IGRA Appreciation Awards and to nominate Patrick Terry for an IGRA International Award, and approved the purchase of a half-page ad in the *Las Vegas Pride Guide*.

The NGRA membership voted for Ken Wells and David Blunk for Members-of-the-Month for May, 2011 and nominated Pam Kazmarek, Brenda Ben, Justin Liming, and Michael Charleboix for honorary memberships. The membership will vote on these nominations at the July meeting.



No Article In PorkChops
Pig Pen
(Trustee's Report)

He Was Out Playing With His
Pinwheel!

WHEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!



NGRA Members of the Month

April



**Darren
Wernette**

May



**Ken Wells
David Blunk**

CONGRATULATIONS!

Presidents Letter Conclusion

NGRA Convention was an excellent exercise in the democracy of NGRA! The convention made some changes to the bylaws and standing rules. See Brian Rogers' article later in the newsletter for a summary. My sincere thanks goes to Brian for chairing the convention. Great work!

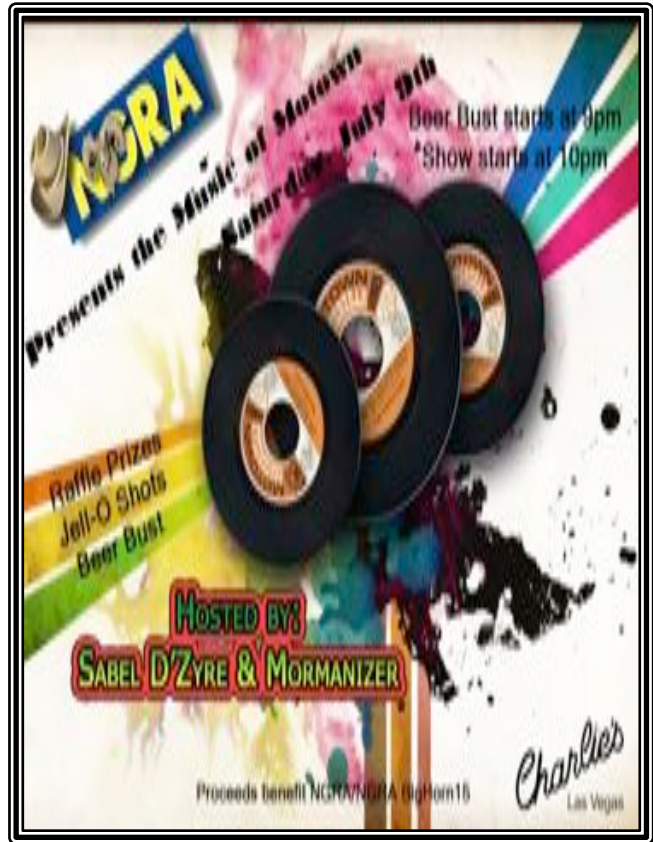
The next, and now Combined, Board and General Membership meeting will be Monday, July 18 at 6:30 p.m. (Third Monday of the month). The new format should make it easier for the association to conduct business without having to have two distinct meetings every month, while still encouraging participation from the members. ALL NGRA MEMBERS are invited to the combined meeting, and everyone will be given a chance to speak on any issues that arise! Please join us.

All my best,
Dr. Shaun Franklin-Sewell
NGRA President



Remaining 2011 IGRA Schedule

Candian Rockies International Rodeo July 1-3 Calgary, AB
Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo July 8-9 Denver, CO
Greater Motown International Rodeo July 22-24 Detroit, MI
Zia Regional Rodeo Aug 12-14 Santa Fe, NM
Windy City Rodeo Aug 19-21 Chicago, IL
Show Me State Rodeo Sept 2-4 Kansas City, MO
Best Buck In the Bay Sept 9-11 San Fransisco, CA
World Gay Rodeo Finals Oct 7-9 Fort Worth, TX
IGRA Convention/2012 Royalty Contest Nov 9-13 San Diego, CA



Get To Know Your 2011 NGRABoard of Directors

Starting this month the BigHorn Gazette will interview a member of the NGRA Board in hopes that it will allow the members who are unable to attend the monthly membership meetings a chance to get to know who is running and making the decisions that will be molding our organization.

This month the Gazette would like you to meet Bradley Steffens. Bradley was appointed to the Member at Large position left vacant at the 2011 elections. He is a 29yr old who hails from not one but two different states, Louisiana and Washington state; however, he is proud to call Nevada home.

Bradley's other community involvement includes the Las Vegas Chapter of the Men of Charlie's, where in September of 2010 he ran for Man of the Month. After helping to raise more than \$800 that evening for the Sin City Sisters, and unfortunately not winning the title, he realized how much of an impact an organization can have on its surrounding community. So in the following month he ran again, and this time was successful in becoming Charlie's Man of the Month for October 2010, and helped raise over \$700 for the St. Therese Center. The following month he joined NGRA.

When asked why NGRA he said, "I became a member because of three things; 1-many members were talking about how much they enjoy it and being a part of it. 2-I wanted to be more involved in the LGBT community. 3-Hot cowboys!"

As a member of the NGRA Board of Directors he says he would love to help to increase membership. "I would love to really see NGRA grow to over 500 members! I also want to show appreciation to our members. Really just go to them and say "thank you for being a member and being a vital role in raising money for this great city!"

If you have any questions for or would like to contact Bradley you can email him at
 Memberatlarge4@ngra.com.



July 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Imperial Court Halftime Show 9pm Badlands	2 Imperial Court Firecracker Pageant 9pm Spotlight Lounge
3	4 	5	6	7	8 IGRA Board Meeting	9 NGRA Music of Motown 9pm Charlies Denver Rodeo
10 Sin City Sisters Birthday Party 10pm Revolution Lounge @ The Mirage Denver Rodeo	11	12	13	14	15	16 Taylor's Temptation Island 10pm Charlie's
17	18 NGRA Board & Membership Meeting 6:30pm GLBT Center	19	20	21	22 Detroit Rodeo	23
24 Detroit Rodeo	25	26	27	28	29 5 th Annual Men of Charlies Christmas in July 10pm Charlies	30 Imperial Court ICPR Ball 9pm Charlies
31						