

May 2016 BigHorn Gazette

Miss Closet Ball 2016



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From your President

We have a vacancy on the board — are you interested?

Ladies and Gentlemen, in our March Convention, the membership opted to remove the Rodeo Director as a member of the Board of Directors and revert back to the way we were set up prior to the June 2015 Convention. The reasoning for going back was because there is a requirement that a Director on the Board be a member of NGRA for at least 90 days. After the Aug 15 Convention, we realized that the 90-day restriction made it difficult to find a Rodeo Director because it prevented us from going outside of NGRA, if we couldn't find a Rodeo Director within NGRA. By removing that position from the Board of Directors, we can now look outside of NGRA for a qualified Rodeo Director. All of the above explains how we got here but now we have a position to fill. If you're a member and you're interested in being on the Board of Directors, please contact me at president@ngra.com. If you're considering putting your name in the hat, please understand that being on the Board is more than just showing up for a meeting, or two, a month. If the individual is appointed in May, then there would be 8 more Board Meetings in their term and personally, I'd like to find an individual that can commit to attending at least 6 or 7 of the monthly meetings remaining in that term. Additionally, I'd like to see somebody who is willing to become (if they aren't already) an active member of NGRA, meaning coming to the fundraisers, taking on projects, attending additional meetings and functions. If you're interested in doing this, please make sure it's for the right reasons. Please make sure it's because you want to help NGRA achieve greatness and because you want to give back to the Community. Please do not volunteer if you're just looking to pad your resume within the Southern Nevada Gay Community or because you have some sort of personal agenda — unless that personal agenda is to make NGRA Great and be part of an organization that gives back to the Community.

Ken Hruby NGRA President President @ngra.com

From your Vice President

Happy May everyone! I hope everyone is enjoying spring here in the desert! Many NGRA members are hitting the rodeo road soon to attend the Palm Springs Hot Rodeo, May 6th – 8th. We know the contestants from NGRA will make a good showing! Look for the Hot Rodeo results in the June issue.



Grand Opening, Lone Mountain Equestrian Park and Trail

On April 16th, Richard Armstrong, Kathy Alday, Brenda Alday and I helped Clark County celebrate the opening of the brand new Lone Mountain Equestrian Park and Trail. It was crazy windy but many others equestrian enthusiasts showed up to support this new equestrian facility. If you get a chance, take the trip out to Lone Mountain Equestrian Park and Trail, to see the trail around Lone Mountain and the new covered arena. The facility is located just off Lone Mountain Rd. and the 215.

NGRA President Ken Hruby and I attended a very informative meeting at The Center, where we learned many other organizations, just like NGRA, are looking to work together with others to get maximum benefit from everyone's efforts. The first step was to start a community calendar informing every one of the events happening each month. The calendar is located at <u>www.LGBTQ.vegas</u> and has many NGRA functions listed.

Chris Due NGRA Vice President vicepresident@ngra.com

2015 NGRA Member of the Year

Congratulations to Andrew Goodman

Chris Due NGRA Vice President vicepresident@ngra.com

Open Position at NGRA: Public Relations Spokesperson

NGRA is looking for a Public Relations Spokesperson. People interested in promoting NGRA, our events, and our people to the public should contact Ken Hruby at <u>president@ngra.com</u>.

Role of the Public Relations Spokesperson

The Public Relations Spokesperson shall:

- A. be responsible for arranging publicity for the Corporation's events, through the creation and timely issuance of news releases and through other activities;
- B. be responsible for the external dissemination of information, whether written or verbal, as directed by the needs of the Corporation, and
- C. keep complete and accurate lists of appropriate media for news releases, along with a complete and accurate list of the other IGRA associations.

Closet Ball Charlie's Saturday, April 9th

For over a decade NGRA has held its Closet Ball competition in April. This year was no exception. April 9 saw us at Charlie's readying ourselves for the contest. This is a contest to find a serious drag artiste who has not performed in drag for 12 months.

The show was hosted by Miss IGRA First Runner Up Taylor Trash and the performers were organised by Mr NGRA, Phil Lombardi.



A review of the rules had been carried out by Roger Bergman, the judges were briefed, the contestants stood ready. At 10:15 pm the contestants made their entry as their natural selves for the first stage of the judging. A quick parade round the floor, a wave or handshake to the judges and out in the back with a one-hour time limit to turn themselves around with the help of a supporter. Then back to stun the judges with the transformation and entertain them with their performance.

The Judges Charli Phillips; Katrina Davenport; Vivian Dumonde & David Wright



NGRA is most grateful for those who gave up their evening to take on the onerous task of being our judges. These were that well-known performer Vivianne DuMonde, the NGRA Historian and experienced theatrical dresser (not to mention a pretty good member of our arena crew) David Wright, a previous Mr Closet Ball Charli Philips (aka Mster IGRA 2015, Preston) and that well respected Miss IGRA 2014 Katrina Davenport.

The Contestants





Two contestants entered the dance floor. The first to be introduced to the judges in his everyday appearance was Troy Peters. After answering a few questions about himself he shook hands with all the judges and made way for that well know DJ, line dance teacher and barman, Joe Harter also known to many as Sunshine. He again answered questions and made a tour of the dance floor before joining Troy to begin their make-overs.

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The Transformation







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Both contestants reappeared at about 11.15 pm in their new personas. They both did an outstanding job and the scores were very close but Sunshine emerged as the winner with a score of 392 against 363.



Thanks once again to David Heckman (Bootsy) for making the winners sash.

After the contest Sunshine said "So here's something a little different. Last night I ran for Closet Ball and I WON! Huge thanks to Sergio Daae for all the help getting my look together and to everyone who came out and supported!"

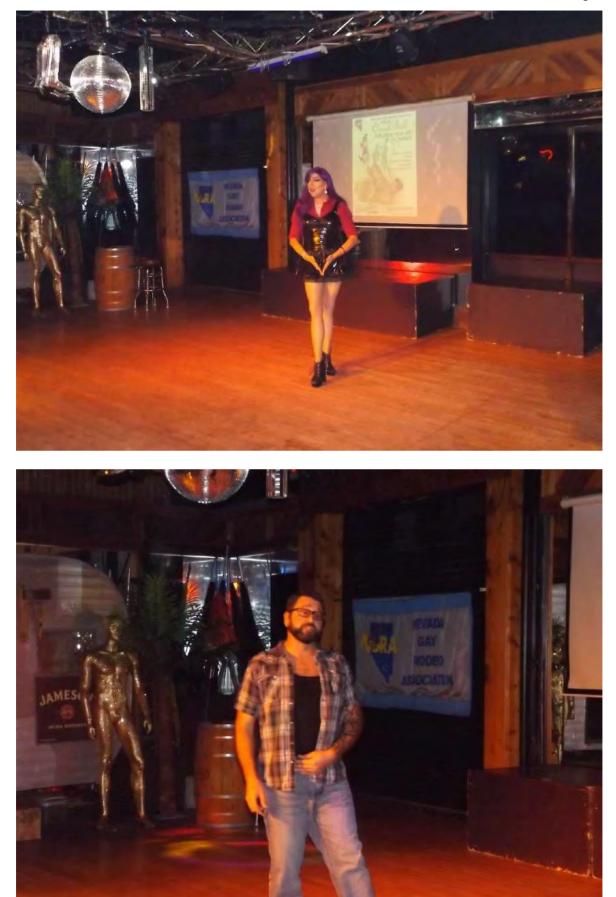


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The Performers

Charlie Philips and Miss NGRA - Traci Fox performed great numbers along with Vivianne Dumonde, Katrina – Miss IGRA 2014, Earl Coffman, Shaun Franklin Sewell and Brian Porras. Thanks to all of them.





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Game of Chance



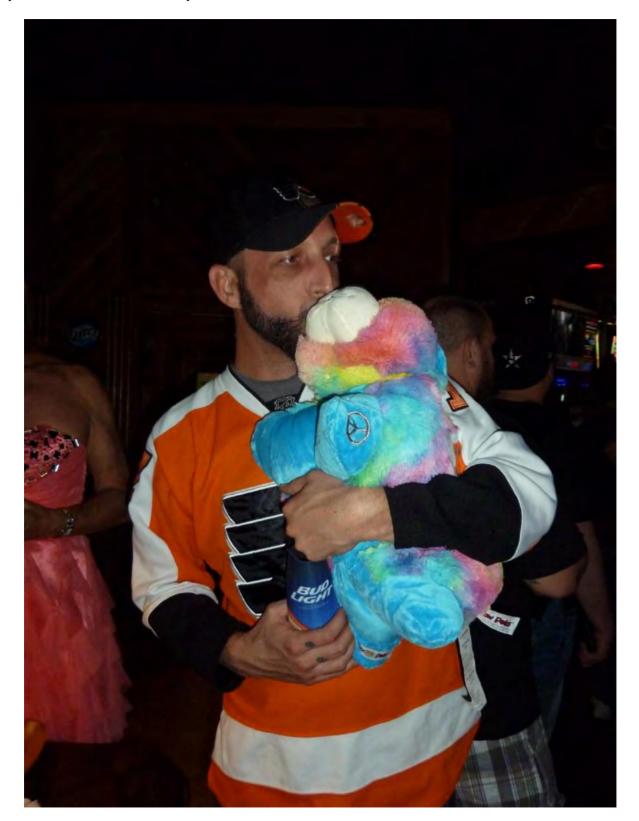
As well as judging the contest David Wright set out the prize table and handed out the prizes to our lucky winners.



Miss Kitty and Buzz sold Game of Chance cards

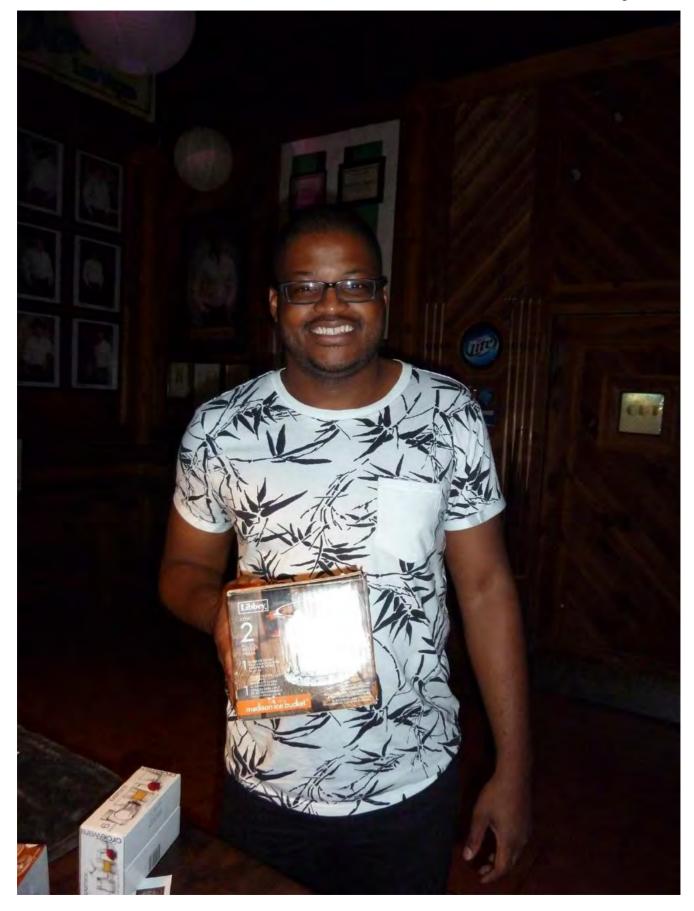
Happy Prize Winners

Here you see some of our lucky winners:



Peace bear is a well-loved favorite prize







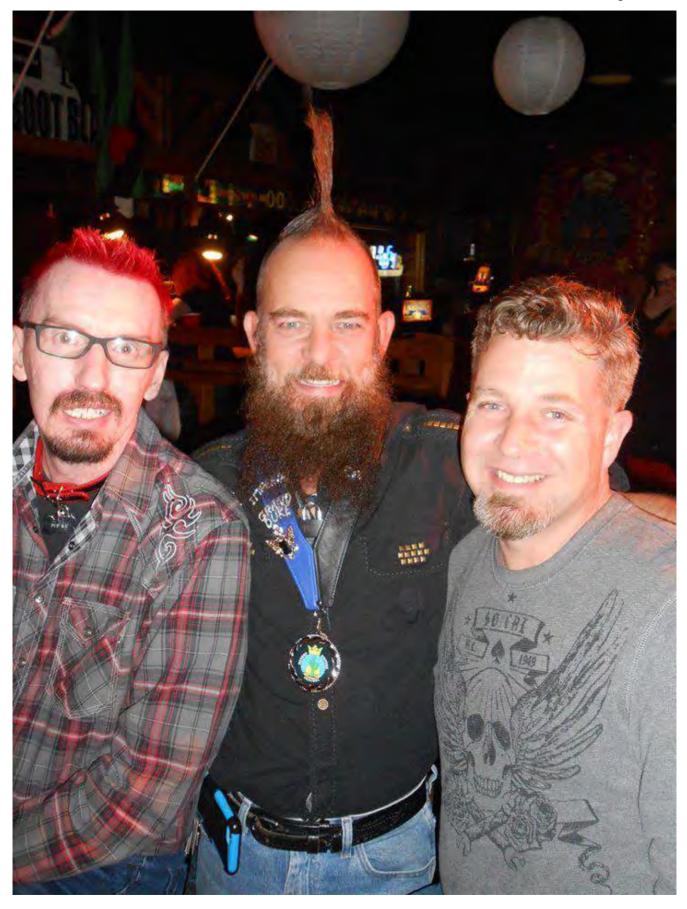
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Gallery of some of our Guests





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Carolyn [wo]manned the beer bust with half the takings going to NGRA.

Carolyn and Ken Wells took pictures so you all know what really happened. The camera never lies.

Thanks once again to all the staff at Charlie's for all the support they give to NGRA and to those members of the Court who came on to Charlie's when their own show finished.

Finally, our Fundraising Director, Marcus, said the following "Thank you to everyone for Saturday night @ Charlie's Las Vegas. Great turn out the bar was packed and the newest Closet Ball Queen goes to the one and only Sunshine Vegas great Job. Also I want to give a big Hug and thank you to Troy Peter. He always has one question - what can I do to help? and to Miles Hoffman girl you made no worries. The rain this weekend was a bitch. I am very happy you made it. Carolyn Jones - thank you manning the Beer Bust and Miss Kitty the Game of Change, Miss NGRA, Traci Foxx, and Mr NGRA, Phil Lombardi, and Ken Wells and Carolyn Jones for taking pictures and to the Imperial Court who came out as a group means a lot to me. It is turning out to be a great first quarter. Thank You to all, Hugs Kitty. Michael 'fefe' Tomlin, Cow Patty 2016, thank you Keeper of the Vodka and Beer - someone has to guard the riches

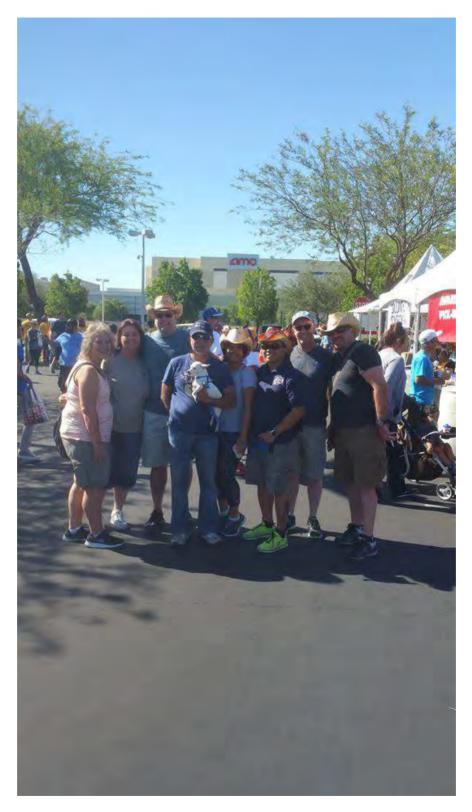
The Unexpected: Mr NGRA 2016 Event Flex Cocktail Lounge Saturday, April 16th



Wow, what a night. We raised 600 dollars for the Sin Sity Sisters. Tips, raffles, shots. I had some of the most amazing people out and supporting. Thank you to Nina Nisha Castaneda, Yasmin Diab, Arianna Esquivias, Tessa Ruelos, Justin Schindler, Brian Porras, Chad Hinerman, Amanda Greer, Taylor Trash, Misty Wayves, Koko Wayves, Earl A Coffman, Kayce' Carrasco, Neda Dufour and especially Nikita LaFemme for being my co-host. It was an amazing night and I saw so much love from so much of the community...regardless of gay or straight. Thank you everyone for all help and to the community for all of the support. Also thank you to Vera LaPorte for getting me ready for tonight and dealing with the pre-show crazy.

And a massive thank you to Flex Cocktail Lounge for hosting us and putting up with all my technical difficulties.

AFAN Las Vegas AIDS Walk



We were a small team but we were a mighty team. Thanks to everybody who came out today to help NGRA support AFAN by participating in the 2016 AIDS Walk. — with Kathy Alday and Brenda Lee Luce-Alday.

Broadway Melodies Flex Cocktail Lounge Saturday, April 30th





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Member of the Month

David Hering

David Hering was nominated as March Member of the Month for his work as Webmaster.

Congratulations and thanks to David.

Editors Bits and Pieces

How many times have you seen on a truck, website, store front or letterhead words to the effect of "Established 19## or 20##"? Does it mean anything? Does it count for anything that something was made a long time ago or that it started a long time ago? Certainly, in the world of antiques, it can mean the difference between something worth thousands of dollars or merely pocket change for a recent cheap imitation. Does a bottle of wine improve with keeping or has it deteriorated so that you spit it out? By now you should be getting a hint of where I am leading. My point is this: "Does it necessarily follow that something automatically improves with age, or that it will continue to be just as good as it always was without regular maintenance and tender loving care (TLC)?"

NGRA was established in 1992. That was 24 years ago. I would hope that anyone would agree with me that an organisation does not last for 24 years unless it is well supported and perceived by its members and sponsors to be doing a good job. But I ask myself: "Will I be able to say in 2020 that NGRA has been around for 28 years?

Do we use the old anecdote: "If it's not broke[n]. don't mend it", or do we think of one slightly cynical definition of life that something is living if it moves.

Blockbuster didn't adapt to the changing times and now it's dead. Is NGRA adapting?

Barry J Jones Newsletter Editor news@ngra.com

Benefits of being a Member of NGRA



25% off of all regularly priced drinks at Charlie's Las Vegas. Charlie's is offering 25% off, on regularly priced drinks, to all NGRA Members who are wearing their nametag in the bar. This special is 24/7, 365 so be sure to wear your nametag. (Drink specials such as beer bust, happy hour, shot specials, etc. are excluded).

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor;

I think it's time to talk about the future of NGRA. For those of you who don't know me, let me tell you of my past involvement in both GSGRA and NGRA, so you don't think I'm a crackpot (although you might think that anyway, but oh, well). I became a member of GSGRA in the early 1990s and worked as a volunteer at rodeos and conventions. I was one of the founding members of the Palm Springs Chapter and served on its Board. When I retired to Las Vegas in 2001, I joined NGRA, where I served as a Director, Vice President and Trustee. I was Assistant Rodeo Director and Dance Chair and for IGRA, Dance Chair for four years, Division I Trustee Chair for three and Dance, Entertainment and Bar Chair for Gay Games. I have worked as a Timer and Assistant Rodeo Secretary for 13 years and IGRA Royalty Competition Assistant Auditor for many years. I have attended 15 IGRA Conventions as a Delegate and was the Assistant Chancellor at IGRA University, as well as an Instructor for several years. OK, that's only to say I've been around and seen a lot in this organization. I know you're bored, but stay with me.

I have seen many members of NGRA drop out in the last several years. Some have let their membership lapse, some, like me, have simply stopped going to meetings and fund-raisers. Why is that? I think that one of the reasons is that we no longer are a truly charitable organization. I know some of you joined for social reasons, but many of us joined for charitable ones, and even those who joined for fun and games expect there to be a charitable aspect. I don't see that any more. Do you know that last year's rodeo lost money? And that the only money that went to charity was \$800 that the Sisters made in tips while tending bar? What happened to the days of our donating thousands to our charity partners? Why is it that virtually all of what the fund-raisers raise goes to the expenses of the Association?

Maybe it's time to re-think our goals. Has rodeo gotten too expensive for us to put on and still make a profit? Would we be better off to simply sponsor a barrel race three or four times a year? (We could add goat dressing for the non-horse people among us.) We could bid to hold the IGRA Convention or University here (as we will do next year) and if Finals stays in Vegas, volunteer at that. Are there ways to trim our Administrative expenses?

I believe it is time to hold a "retreat" to talk about these and related topics. I know it's been suggested before, but not acted upon. We could hold a one-day workshop here in town and have sections on expenses, fundraising, social issues, our future, rodeo, etc. The current Board members could attend, as well as any interested member and especially former members or those who have experience but who are no longer active.

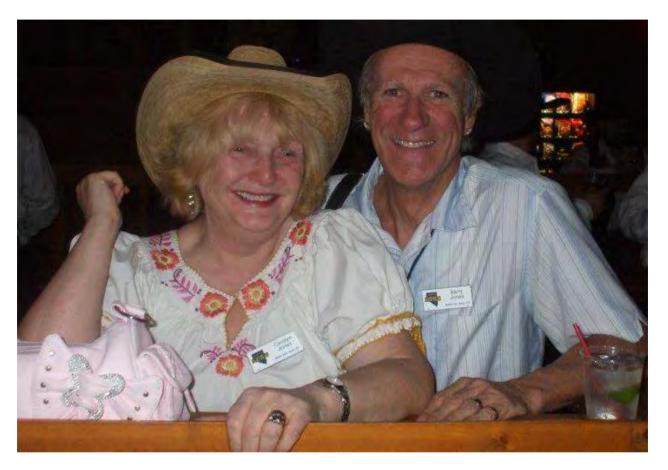
What do you think?

Respectfully,

Lorry King

NGRA Garden Party

For some time, many of you have been asking for an NGRA Event which is not in a bar, not late at night and not a fundraiser but which is in a relaxed, non-smoking environment. Well your wishes have been answered. On May 22 NGRA will be holding a Garden Party for members and their partners and friends.



It will be held at the home of your Newsletter Editor, Barry, and your Volunteer Coordinator, Carolyn.

We shall be having complimentary food, drink, games and maybe even dancing. All you need to do is wear your NGRA badge or bring your membership card along for entry.

If you have a friend or partner who is interested, please feel free to bring them along.

If you have any ideas for entertainment (no lip-syncing) food, or anything else, please let us know.

For further details and to register your interest please go to the NGRA website:

http://www.ngra.com/index.php/event-calendar/month.calendar/2016/05/28/

e-mail director1@ngra.com.

We look forward to seeing you for this very different NGRA event. If we get a good turnout and have a successful event, it will be the first of many non-bar based events.

Happy Birthday

To those Members with birthdays in May:

1	David Blackwood
1	Johann Kristinsson
1	Tandi Remy
5	Stacey Barnett
13	Will Wrangler
15	Britany Davis
16	David Heckman
24	Patricia Hicks
25	Victor Raquel

Welcome to the NGRA Corral

Shawnna Payntier Tandi Remy

From your President (continued)

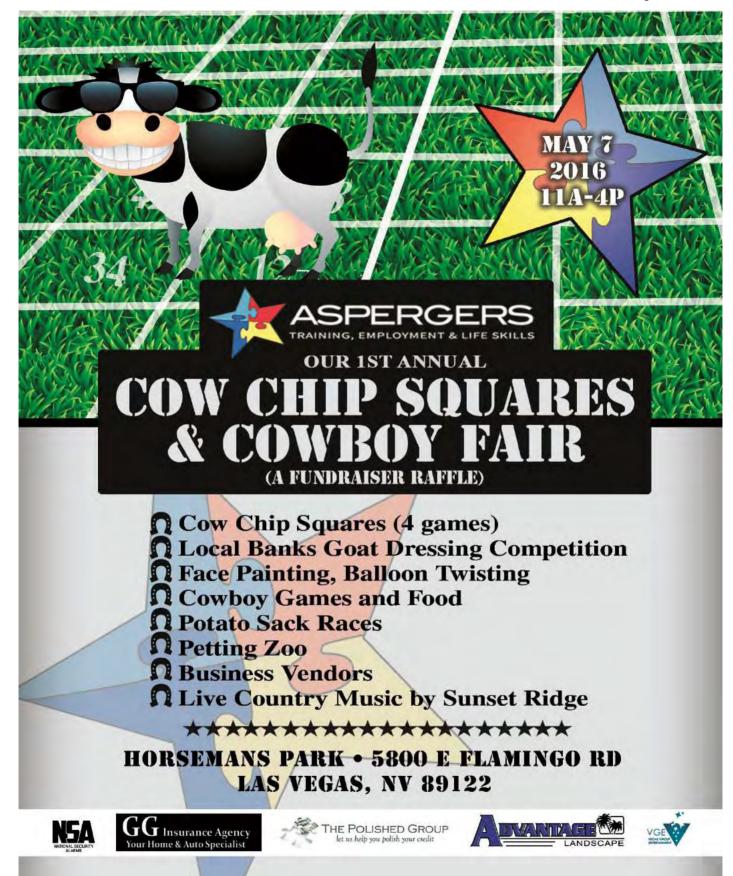
Please, stay in your lane.

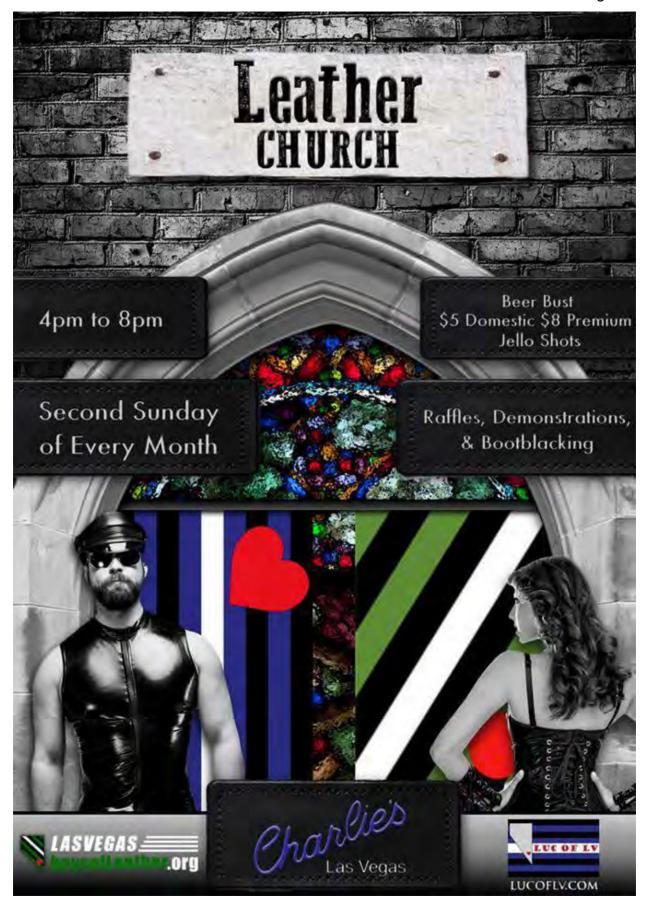
NGRA is full of well-intentioned people who sometimes get a bit carried away, trying to make sure NGRA is as great as we all want it to be. If you're out, at an NGRA Fundraising Event and see something that just doesn't seem right, please don't try to fix it yourself. There's a good chance that the bar staff is doing exactly what was agreed upon between them and the NGRA Fundraising Director. Similarly, there's a good chance that the entertainer that you think just screwed up is actually doing what they were asked to do and the same goes for the person selling shots, raffle tickets, beer bust etc. I love that so many people are looking out for NGRA's best interests; however, ultimately, each event only has one leader and unless he designates somebody else (in his absence), that leader is our Fundraising Director, Marcus. Please stay in your lane and if you see something that you think needs attention, talk to Marcus.

Ken Hruby NGRA President president@ngra.com



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Garden Party for Members & Friends

from 11 am, Sunday, May 22nd

A Social Event to meet your fellow Members Further details from director1@ngra.com

Join Us June 1st MBLA Ε G B N Great Priz Wear your best Beachwear and enter our costume contest. **Best Costume and Best Group** 6:00pm Alexis Park- www.lasvegaspride.org



Be FROUD! Show your Spirit -Decorate your favorite hat -Red White and Blue! Most creative hat ! Best use of Red, White and Blue! Funniest hat!

6:00pm Alexis Park- www.lasvegaspride.org

Calendar

May

Sun 1	Noon	Fundraising Meeting	Marcus' Home
Wed 4	6:00 pm	Las Vegas Pride "Happy Hour"	Alexis Park All-Suite Resort,
	7:00 pm	Las Vegas Pride Family Bingo Muy Caliente Bingo	375 East Harmon Avenue,
	7.00 pm		Las Vegas, NV 89169
6 - 8	11:00 am	Hot Rodeo (GSGRA) ASPERGERS 1 st Annual Cow Chip Squares & Cowboy Fair	A C Dysart Equestrian Center
			2101 West Victory Avenue,
			Banning, CA 92220 Horseman's Park
Sat			5800 East Flamingo Road
			Las Vegas, NV89122
7	10:30 pm	Men of Charlie's	Charlie's,
-		Man of the Month Contest	5012 South Arville Street,
	•	Benefits St Therese	Las Vegas, NV 89118
Sun	4:00 pm	Leather Church	Charlie's,
8			5012 South Arville Street,
0			Las Vegas, NV 89118
	11:00 am	NGRA's Sexy Drag Queen Car	QuadZ Bar, 4640 Paradise Road,
		Wash	Las Vegas, NV 89169
Sat	9:00 pm	Dance Party	Charlie's, 5012 South Arville Street,
5ai 14			Las Vegas, NV 89118
17	9:00 pm	King & Queen of Diamonds IRSCDE Inc. Event	Flex Cocktail Lounge,
			4371 West Charleston Boulevard,
			Las Vegas, NV 89102
Mon	6:30 pm	NGRA Board and General Membership Meeting	Gay & Lesbian Community Center,
16			401 South Maryland Parkway,
10		Membership Meeting	Las Vegas, NV 89101
Fri	4.00	Happy Hour	Phoenix Bar & Lounge,
20	4:30 pm	IRSCDE Inc. Event	4213 West Sahara Avenue,
			Las Vegas, NV 89102
Sat	10:00 pm	Sister's Oink Night	Fun Hog Ranch, 495 East Twain Avenue,
21	10.00 pm	Sister's Olink Night	Las Vegas, NV 89169
Sun	11:00 am	NGRA Garden Party	240 10940, 111 00100
22		-	2001 Concret Dereking Deutsurget
27 - 29		Great Plains Rodeo (OGRA)	3001 General Pershing Boulevard, Oklahoma City, OK 73107
			Phoenix Bar & Lounge,
Sat	9:00 pm	Video Game Night	4213 West Sahara Avenue,
28	P		Las Vegas, NV 89102

May (continued)

29 Noon Meet & Greet 975 E	ight Lounge, ast Sahara Avenue, ⁄egas, NV 89104
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June

Wed	6:00 pm	Las Vegas Pride "Happy Hour"	Alexis Park All-Suite Resort,
vved 1	7:00 pm	Las Vegas Pride Family Bingo	375 East Harmon Avenue,
	7:00 pm	Beach Blanket Bingo	Las Vegas, NV 89169
Fri			Las Vegas Eagle.
3		Homo Rodeo Fashion Show	3430 East Tropicana Avenue.
3			Suite 47, Las Vegas, NV 89121
		Homo Rodeo Pool Party	
			Spotlight Lounge,
Set		Homo Rodeo Auction of Outfits	975 East Sahara Avenue,
Sat 4			Las Vegas, NV 89104
4		Men of Charlie's	Charlie's,
	10:30 pm	Man of the Month Contest	5012 South Arville Street,
	·	Benefits The Sin Sity Sisters	Las Vegas, NV 89118
Sat			Charlie's,
11	9:00 pm	Hee Haw Night	5012 South Arville Street,
	-	_	Las Vegas, NV 89118
Sun			Charlie's,
12	4:00 pm	Leather Church	5012 South Arville Street,
12			Las Vegas, NV 89118
Sat			Fun Hog Ranch,
18	10:00 pm	Sister's Oink Night	495 East Twain Avenue,
10			Las Vegas, NV 89169
Mon		NGRA Board and General	Gay & Lesbian Community Center,
20	6:30 pm	Membership Meeting	401 South Maryland Parkway,
			Las Vegas, NV 89101
Fri		Happy Hour	The Garage,
24	4:30 pm	IRSCDE Inc. Event	1487 East Flamingo Road,
			Las Vegas, NV 89119
Fri	9:00 pm	Laugh Out Loud	???
24		<u> </u>	
Sun	Noon	Meet & Greet	Spotlight Lounge,
26			975 East Sahara Avenue,
			Las Vegas, NV 89104

Calendar (continued)

July

1 - 3		Canadian Rockies International Rodeo	33 Wheatland Trail, Strathmore, AB T1P 1X3
Sat 2	10:30 pm	Men of Charlie's Man of the Month Contest Benefits The St Therese Center	Charlie's, 5012 South Arville Street, Las Vegas, NV 89118
Wed	6:00 pm	Las Vegas Pride "Happy Hour"	Alexis Park All-Suite Resort,
6	7:00 pm	Las Vegas Pride Family Bingo Red, White and Blue Bingo	375 East Harmon Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89169
8 - 10		Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo (CGRA)	Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 15200 West 6th Avenue Golden CO 80401
Sat 9	9:00 pm	NGRA/USO Show	Charlie's, 5012 South Arville Street, Las Vegas, NV 89118
Sun 10	4:00 pm	Leather Church	Charlie's, 5012 South Arville Street, Las Vegas, NV 89118
Fri 15	4:30 pm	Happy Hour IRSCDE Inc. Event	Flex Cocktail Lounge, 4371 West Charleston Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89102
Sat 16	10:00 pm	Sister's Oink Night	Fun Hog Ranch, 495 East Twain Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89169
Mon 18	6:30 pm	NGRA Board and General Membership Meeting	Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 401 South Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89101
29 - 31		North Star Regional Rodeo (NSGRA)	Dead Broke Arena 5676 170th Street North, Hugo, MN 55038
Sat 30	9:00 pm	Meet the Center	Phoenix Bar & Lounge, 4213 West Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89102

NGRA Board of Directors Effective February 17th, 2016

NGRA Board

President

Ken Hruby

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

IGRA Trustee

Director

Director

Fundraising Director

Chris Due Jeffrey Neal

David Hering

Guy Puglisi

Carolyn Jones

Barry Jones

Marcus Grissom

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vicepresident@ngra.com

secretary@ngra.com

treasurer@ngra.com

trustee@ngra.com

director1@ngra.com

director2@ngra.com

fundraising@ngra.com

NGRA 2016 Royalty Effective November 28th, 2015

NGRA Royalty Team

Ms NGRA 2016

Mr NGRA

Traci Foxx

Phil Lombardi

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msngra@ngra.com

mrngra@ngra.com

May 2016 Newsletter

Other NGRA Contacts Effective February 17th, 2016

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Rodeo Education	Laura Scott	education@ngra.com
Corporate Sponsorship Representative	Laura Scott	sponsors@ngra.com
Volunteer Coordinator	Carolyn Jones	volunteers@ngra.com
Webmaster	David Hering	webmaster@ngra.com