



WRITE IN THE SADDLE

ANNUAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 7TH



NSGRA WANTS YOU!

It's that time once again. What time is that, you ask? It's time for the annual meeting to elect the 2015 board members. We need to have a full board for the 2015 rodeo season. The meeting will be held at 4:30PM on Sunday September 7, 2014 at Lee's Liquor Lounge followed by a FREE dinner and dancing! If you have ideas that will make our organization better, what better place to do that then as a board member. The time commitment is not great, but the need is real. See the articles on pages 6-8 for duties. There are many openings on the board. Please attend whether you wish to run for office or not. We need you!!!

We are sending this issue in the US Postal Service so please "read all about it"
~Your friendly editor

Board of Directors

Dan V WPresident

Mark L.....Vice President

Troy L.....Secretary

Colin S.....Treasurer

Colin S.....Contestants

Colin S.....Membership

Carl S.....Trustee

David M.....Public Relations

John B.....Fundraising

Newsletter Team

Colin SEditor

Open.....Assistant Editor

Please Help Us By

Sending Your Updated
Address Info &Email Address
To:membership@nsgra.org

Or mail our PO Box

NSGRA
POBOX 11199
St. Paul, MN 55111



**AUGUST
2014**

2014 RODEOS

August 10-11
Gay Games 9 Rodeo
Cleveland, OH

August 16
GSGRA-BAC Rodeo School
SF Bay Area, CA

August 29-31
Show-Me State Rodeo
Kansas City, MO

September 5-7
Sierra Stampede
Sacramento, CA

September 12-14
Best Buck in the Bay
San Francisco, CA

October 16-19
World Gay Rodeo Finals
Ft Worth, TX

November 13-16
IGRA Annual Convention
Denver, CO

See www.igra.com for more
information

**SUNDAY DANCES
AT LEE'S**

www.2stepmsp.org

**OTHER DANCE
OPPORTUNITIES**

Saloon – 3rd SATURDAY
THIS MONTH August 16th

7-10PM
Free line dance lessons
6:30-7

www.nsgra.org

**WRITE IN THE
SADDLE**

NSGRA is a proud
member of



We thank our IGRA
Sponsors:



We thank our 2014 local



Twin Cities Pride

AND ALL OUR LOCAL
NSGRA PARTNERS!

Please visit:



WWW.IGRATRAVEL.COM

IGRA shares in the normal
commission rate instead of sites
like Travelocity and the funds
are used to support IGRA
Finals. It costs you nothing
extra to use it, too!

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MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to Eric and James for joining NSGRA as dual members! I always like to see fresh faces in the membership roster and we really need more participation.

Speaking of participation, I ask all members to invite your friends to join and please consider helping on the 2015 board. I am taking time off from the board next year although I offer my continued service as your editor. Our association has a rich history spanning 24 years and as we look to celebrate our silver anniversary, it is time look at new directions as well as returning to hosting rodeos as nothing drives our association forward more than presenting rodeos. All this is doable if we have the support of our membership. This is of critical importance. If we have slipped or become occasionally stale it is because we aren't getting participation. Please help us in 2015.

As always, PLEASE let us know if your mailing address or e-mail address has changed. We don't want to lose touch when you change addresses (either kind). Sending newsletters in electronic formats is faster than a printed version and saves postage and trees. Nevertheless, we will send a printed version to any member who requests it. If you are a current NSGRA member and have not been receiving the email versions of the monthly newsletter, please check your Spam guard. The emails are sent blind carbon copied to respect our members' privacy, and they will come from blackbart@blackbart.net. NSGRA encourages all members to contribute articles for Write in the Saddle. Ideas for articles and other submissions are always welcome! It is our connection with each other. Let us hear from you!

"Black Bart"
Membership chair

BEER BUST/DANCE

Rope & Ride 'EM' Beer Bust/Dance

7-10PM SATURDAY
August 16th, 2014
The SALOON
9th and Hennepin
Downtown Minneapolis
FREE admission for NSGRA members!
\$5 Beer or soda
FREE LINE DANCE LESSONS 6:30-7



(Membership meeting precedes beer bust at 6:00)

PRESIDENT

Howdy folks!

I still can't believe how the summer days fly by so fast (while the cold ones linger so). Two thirds of summer has flown by. We pulled off a very successful Pride, have instituted beginning line dance at the Saloon, and continue to move into the digital age. Sadly, it also means another Board year is rapidly drawing to a close. A few members have done the bulk of the heavy lifting for the last several years, and a couple are taking well deserved breaks. I am asking all of you who read this to PLEASE consider a term on the board starting in September. It really doesn't take much time, one meeting a month before the beer busts. Much of what remains is handled quickly and efficiently online through resources we have been building, so it's quite easy to take care of many things when it's easiest for YOU. We plan to see if we can partner with another IGRA association for a rodeo in 2015 or 2016, which means we need to do the work starting now. We could even pull it off alone if we have just a few more energetic, thoughtful people. We all WANT a rodeo, but not enough people want to DO a rodeo, yet! There are no contracts to sign, and if you find it truly isn't for you, you aren't obligated to stay (though I can't imagine if you are reading this you wouldn't want to). We are negotiating to have the meeting Sunday September 7 in the mid-afternoon so mark your calendars.

Speaking of, remember to order your boat dance cruise tickets online through NSGRA.org or Facebook, or pick a couple up at Rainbow Road or Leather and Latte. Advance sale saves you \$5 per person! We are limited to 100 folks so don't miss out. This is just one more example of how NSGRA is reaching out to provide you activities beyond the Saloon dances, like a live band and horses at Pride, calendar of western events in Minnesota on our website, (don't forget the MN High School rodeo finals!) and active use of social media where we can all stay in touch and learn about upcoming events any of us may enjoy.

I'll close with a simple request. 3 or 4 of us can't do this all alone, we need just a little more help to keep the ball rolling. PLEASE consider coming to the annual meeting, with an open mind, and let us show you how your skills can help us much more than you think!

See you on the dance floor,
Dan Van Wyk

CONTESTANTS

In Denver our very own former Trustee Carl took 4th on Saturday and 2nd on Sunday in Chute Dogging. His combined time of 7.66 seconds was the fastest so he won the buckle! Congratulations! Carl's team also took 8th place booth days in Goat dressing. The first IGRA sanctioned rodeo at the Gay Games comes in August in Cleveland, Details to follow next month.

Miss NSGRA REPORTS

Howdy you all,

I hope your Summer has been a great one. I would like to thank everyone for pride it was a great turn out and lots of fun. As my reign comes to an end I would like to thank everyone who has come out and helped me through out this year. We have a ways to go but are on a good track. Please check out our NSGRA page and Facebook page for all updates on the Boat Cruise. We have a date set for my Step down as Miss NSGRA 2014 of November 8th at the Saloon from 5pm til 10pm. Please keep up on our Calendar and mark yours for this day. If anyone would like to perform or is past royalty that would like to share in this event please get a hold of me and we will set this up for a great night.

On a sad note, I would like to send out my prayers for Sable D'zyre to her friends and family. Sable was able to crown me this year and was a great friend and much help to me. She will be sadly missed.

NGRA Mourns the Passing of Two Members of the 2012 Royalty Team. It is with great sadness that NGRA announces the recent passing of two members of our 2012 Royalty team: Miss NGRA 2012 and Miss IGRA 2013, Sabel D'Zyre , and Mr. NGRA 1st Runner-Up and Mr. IGRA 2013 2nd Runner-Up, Curtiss Lewis. Joel Castillo (aka Sabel D'Zyre)

A commingled Celebration of Life for both Joel & Curtiss will be held at Charlie's Las Vegas on Saturday, August 16 from 3pm-6pm. Full details at <http://www.igra.com/2014/07/castillo-lewis-passing/>

Please Keep everyone in your thoughts and prayers.

Miss NSGRA

FUNDRAISING

Howdy!

Please remember that we have a country dance/beer bust at the Saloon every 3rd Saturday of the month. Last month was poorly attended and if it keeps going like this it will not be able to continue. We need your bodies please. We would like to have a rodeo next year and without the participation of the Organization...the whole Organization it will be impossible to accomplish. The royalty pageant will be coming up soon and you still have a few days to get your applications in. NSGRA is also having a Country Boat Cruise along the Mississippi...cost is \$25 before the day of the cruise and \$30 the day of. You can buy your tickets at Twin Cities Leather and Latte or Rainbow Road! Capacity is 100 people so get your tickets asap...music will be provided for your dancing pleasure. Save the date of September 14th for the cruise. Be sure to check out our new rodeo fundraising page at <http://www.gofundme.com/c8otsw> and share on facebook and Tweet about it! Have a great month and see you at the country dance at the Saloon!!

With Respect,
John Bigger

**AUGUST
2014**

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2015 NSGRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION
SEPTEMBER 7, 2014

Editor's note: Please read the descriptions of the duties of our Board—we need a full slate for next year! The Annual Meeting is at 4:30PM at Lee's Liquor Lounge. Dinner and dance follows.

President.

1. Shall be the principal executive officer of the corporation.
2. Shall supervise and control all the affairs of the corporation.
3. Shall preside at all meetings of the general membership and Board of Directors.
4. May sign as the duly authorized agent of the corporation and Board of Directors (certificates, contracts, and other agreements).
5. May sign with any proper officer of the corporation authorized by the Board of Directors (checks, deeds, mortgages, and bonds).
6. Shall appoint chairpersons of special or temporary committees as necessary.
7. Shall perform all duties incident to the office and such other duties as may be prescribed from time to time.

Vice President.

1. In the absence of the President, inability of the president to perform, refusal of the President to act, or at the direction of the President shall perform duties of the President.
2. Shall appoint and supervise a Historical Committee and Pride Committee.
3. Shall supervise the Royalty Committee.
4. May sign with any proper officer of the corporation, authorized by the Board of Directors (checks, deeds, mortgages, and bonds)
5. Shall perform all duties incident to the office and such other duties as may be prescribed from time to time.

Secretary.

1. Shall keep or cause to be kept the minutes of general membership and Board of Directors meetings.
2. Shall maintain minutes in one or more books provided for that purpose.
3. Shall provide a hard copy of the minutes, of the previous meeting, at each general membership and board of directors meeting.
4. Shall be the custodian of corporate records and the corporate seal. This shall include one copy of all correspondence generated by any one person or group of people on behalf of or representing this organization. It is the responsibility of the person(s) generating the correspondence to forward a copy to the Secretary within 7 calendar days.
5. Shall perform all duties incident to the office and such other duties as may be prescribed from time to time.

Treasurer.

1. Shall have charge, custody of and be responsible for all funds of the corporation.
2. Shall receive and give receipts for the funds due and payable to the corporation.
3. Shall deposit all such funds in the name of the corporation in such bank account(s), trust company(s), or other depository(s) as shall be selected in accordance with the bylaws.
4. Shall make a full treasurer report, and provide a hard copy of that report at each general membership and Board of Directors meeting.
5. May sign with any proper officer of the corporation authorized by the Board of Directors: Checks, Deeds, and Mortgages.
6. Shall perform all duties incident to the office and such other duties as may be prescribed

2015 NSGRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION SEPTEMBER 7, 2012

Fundraising/Entertainment

1. Plan and coordinate execution of all fundraising and dance events.
 - a. Events designed to raise funds for NSGRA.
 - b. Events designed to raise funds for any charity chosen by the general membership and North Star Regional Rodeo.
2. Act as an impartial liaison to the dance and entertainment elements of NSGRA. Fundraising/Entertainment Chairperson shall promote unity among all groups and, whenever possible and appropriate, attempt to involve all groups as a part of social events.
3. Plan, promote and execute an annual couples and line dance competition in order to select NSGRA representatives to the IGRA Dance Finals Competition held each summer.
 - a. The competition will be held within the six months preceding the annual IGRA contest.
 - b. The Dance Chairperson shall not be a contestant in the competition unless he/she is clearly not directly involved in the primary preparations for the events (e.g., judge selection, voting policies, awards presentation)
4. Plan, promote and execute any group dance competition approved by the membership. Fundraising/Entertainment Committee to decide upon final allocation of any moneys received. It is recommended that a certain amount be retained to provide seed money for the following year's event with the rest going to charity.
5. Plan, promote and execute one major fundraising dance annually in conjunction with the Rodeo Committees. The Fundraising/Entertainment Committee will publish (in advance) where the proceeds from the event will go.
6. The Fundraising/Entertainment Chairperson will make a reasonable attempt to attend workshops and seminars as appropriate to this function.
7. Plan and coordinate all dance tent entertainment and activities for the rodeo, in cooperation with the Royalty Team.

Membership.

1. Maintain membership roster.
 - a. Provide a current membership list to the IGRA office as required by IGRA.
 - b. Maintain a Master membership list for the use of NSGRA Board of Directors and a General membership list for the personal use of the membership (consisting of only the members receiving a copy of said list)
 - c. Provide a sign-in sheet for members attending the general membership meeting and verify the voting status of the members signing in.
2. Maintain mailing lists.
 - a. Active members.
 - b. Social (non-members, inactive members).
 - c. Other organizations or individuals interested in receiving our information.
 - d. Newsletter. (See ARTICLE XIV - AWARDS 1. A.)
3. Solicit new members in all classes.
4. Publish a newsletter in cooperation with the Public Relations Committee.
5. Attempt to organize one social event per quarter. This could include a membership social or a community involvement activity.
6. Carry out other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors or general membership.

**2015 NSGRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION
SEPTEMBER 7, 2014**

Contestant

1. Designate training coordinator(s) to organize training events or gymkhana dates for the four types of rodeo events.
2. Create an educational/mentoring program for new contestants.
3. Report on rodeo results.
4. Coordinate North Star Saddle Club (see page 12, Rule 4)
5. The Chair shall be responsible for all rodeo equipment and for making policy for the use of said equipment. 'Policy' to be presented to the Treasurer and the Executive Board for approval.
6. The Contestant Chair shall coordinate Contestant Registration at the Rodeo

Public Relations.

1. The point of contact for all NSGRA press releases.
2. Plan and coordinate execution of all media correspondence, advertising, and press releases via radio, TV, newspapers, internet and NSGRA website. Responsible for updating web site.
3. Responsible for NSGRA Hotline, recording monthly greetings, checking for messages and answering messages.
4. Responsible for the rodeo poster contest and distribution of posters.
5. Responsible for the rodeo brochure and any other rodeo promotional items.
6. Shall handle or cause to be handled all correspondence and communication as deemed necessary.
7. Shall inform the Board of Directors and the general membership of any incoming and outgoing correspondence.
8. Shall insure that all incoming and outgoing correspondence and communication is completed as deemed necessary.
9. Shall see that all special notices are duly given in accordance with the bylaws.
10. Shall perform all duties incident to the office and such other duties as may be prescribed from time to time.

Sponsorships

1. The Sponsorships Chair shall work with corporations, businesses and individuals to generate sponsorships for the rodeo.
2. Keep a detailed accounting of sponsorships/donations received.
3. Keep track of buckles and officials awards sponsored/available.
4. Shall insure that sponsors get all promised sponsorship benefits.
5. Make sure all sponsorship information is up to date on web site and in newsletter.
6. Shall perform all duties incident to the office and such other duties as may be prescribe from time to time.

Trustee

The Trustee will serve a three-year term as defined by IGRA Bylaws.

AJ's term has not ended so this position is not open for election for 2015.

Remember that bylaws can be enacted by the majority of members present at the Annual Meeting so take a look at our bylaws at www.nsgra.org to see what might need tweaking.

**North
Star
Gay
Rodeo
Association**



PO Box 11199
St. Paul, MN
55111-0199

<http://www.nsgra.org>

NSGRA BOAT CRUISE SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14

Boarding at 2:45

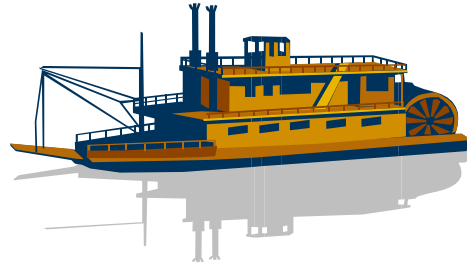
3-5PM Cruise

Snacks provided

\$25 in advance \$30 at the door

Buy on our website or at Rainbow Road

And at Leather & Latte



2014 SHERIFFS AND MARSHALL SHERIFFS (INDIVIDUAL SPONSORS)

Mark L

Linda R

Zane R

Jack R

Black Bart

Mark D

Todd P

Gary S

Del G

MARSHALS (BUSINESS SPONSORS)

Dance Hall Creek Farm

Parey Farms

Want to be listed above? Being an NSGRA Sheriff (Individual) or Marshal (business) is a type of membership where the amount over your normal membership dues is tax deductible. Your contribution helps us meet our goals "assisting our local community and charities through support, education, and fundraisers while providing a friendly environment for all persons to participate in and learn about the western lifestyle and skills." For those interested, you can upgrade your regular membership to either Sheriff or Marshal with an additional contribution of \$75.00 or more. Let anyone wonder, your contribution of time is also greatly valued by NSGRA. No matter your financial resources, everyone's participation is needed and appreciated! We also thank those who have donated time and financial support in other ways!

NSGRA CALENDAR

August 2014						
M	T	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 Membership meeting Free Line Dance lessons Beer Bust/Dance	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**OUR NEW FUNDRAISING PAGE TO HOST
A RODEO IS AT <http://www.gofundme.com/c8otsw>**

Please share on your FaceBook page or Tweet!

CHECK OUT NSGRA ON FACEBOOK!