

THE BARBED WIRE



PO BOX 3354 OMAHA NE 68103

WWW.HGRA.NET

February 2007

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT-KATHY WARD

As I begin my second year as President of the Heartland Gay Rodeo Association, I want to reassure you that HGRA is alive and well and ready to start planning the 9th Heartland Rodeo for 2008.

Although we have been going through changes, and there are many new faces that have assumed the role of running our organization, our goals and our purpose have not changed. HGRA is a charitable and social organization with 3 goals:

- Promote the country western lifestyle in the GLBT community
- Perform charitable duties
- Encourage our members to participate in rodeos throughout the US and Canada

The Heartland Gay Rodeo Association is one of 28 member associations of IGRA. HGRA has earned a reputation as an association that has made significant contributions to the International Gay Rodeo Association. Our members have been recognized as leaders within IGRA and continue to add to the overall growth. Several HGRA members are certified officials and have served in that capacity at many rodeo and several have been honored by invitations to officiate at the International Finals Rodeo. Other members compete in rodeos and several have won International Rodeo Titles. The Heartland Gay Rodeo Association is admired throughout IGRA for the significant contributions we have made to our charity partners. Since 1998 we have contributed over \$90,000 to many charities in Nebraska and Iowa.

We are starting to put together plans for a variety of events in 2007. One of the major events will be a Rodeo Day which will include seminars, event training, rodeo event competition, and concluding with a dinner and barn dance. This will give many of you the opportunity to learn more about rodeo and allow you to learn more about the events and a chance to give them a try during afternoon competition. I hope you will be able to attend. (more information about this event can be found on page 2)

In closing, I hope to see you at one of our upcoming events. All your support is appreciated.

Our next general membership meeting will be held at DC's on March 10 at 2pm.

**Leona's Famous
Chili & Cornbread**
**Everyone from the
community is
invited to join us at
DC's on March
10th from 5-7:30**
**SEE PAGE 4
FOR MORE DETAILS**

**ST PATRICK'S DAY
CONNECTIONS**
MARCH 17 FROM 2-9
**O'LEONA'S FAMOUS JELL-
O SHOTS RAFFLE PRIZES**
SEE PAGE 4 FOR MORE DETAILS

Articles of Interest

- Membership Update
- Rodeo Play Day
- IGRA Rodeo Schedule
- Upcoming Events

Inside this issue:

Rodeo Play Day	2
Online Membership Form	2
Trustee Notes of Interest	2
Looking back while moving forward	3
Advertising Opportunities Support Our Sponsors	3
2007 Rodeo Schedule RRRR Results	4
Upcoming Events	4

RODEO PLAY DAY JUNE 23rd LAKOTA STABLES

On June 23rd HGRA will be hosting a rodeo play day for anyone who wants to learn more about rodeo, horse care, competing in rodeo events, and line dancing.

We are still working on the details but we do know that there will be IGRA champions at the event giving you hands on training in roping, goat dressing, horse speed events, and several other fun categories. You will be able to put your training to the test on Saturday afternoon when we actually have rodeo competition in these events. We will also have Amber provide information on working with your horse using Pat

Parelli methods. Horse stalls and camping will be available.

After a long day in the arena, we'll kick back for an evening of dancing and entertainment. Food and beverages will be available during the day, so if you have had enough fun in the arena you can grab your lawn chair and your favorite beverage and watch the rest of the competition from the comfort of your own chair.

We hope to have some line dance instructors teaching the latest line dance moves.

Watch for more details in the Gayzette and future editions of the Barbed Wire.



Tim and Rich Goat Dressing

HGRA MEMBERSHIP

Becoming a member of HGRA has just been made easier. You can now go to www.hgra.net and complete your membership application online using Paypal or a credit card. You can still join without using the online feature by completing a membership application and sending a \$30 check to HGRA PO Box 3354 Omaha NE. If you have any questions about becoming a member of HGRA

please email us at membership07@hgra.net. Remember, members can receive discounts at HGRA events and on merchandise and your membership also allows you to compete in any IGRA sanctioned event.



COWBOY WISDOM
*Never Squat With
Your Spurs On!*

TRUSTEE NOTES OF INTEREST

After spending a weekend at the rodeo in sunny (19 degree) Phoenix, the IGRA board held its first board meeting for 2007. Our trustee Ty was in Denver digging out from another snowstorm therefore Al Wright stepped in to represent us at the meeting. Here are the highlights.

Two new associations were welcomed by IGRA, the CCGRA Central Canada

Gay Rodeo Association and LSGRA Louisiana State Gay Rodeo Association. Both associations will be seated at the 2007 IGRA convention in Kansas City.

Approval was given to DSRA and MGRA to change their rodeo dates. New dates are listed on the rodeo schedule on page 4.

Denver will be the host of the 2007 and 2008 IGRA Finals Rodeo. More informa-

tion can be found at www.igra.com. The next BOD meeting will be April 13th in Fort Lauderdale.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW ASSOCIATIONS

Inside Reflections ~ Looking Back While Moving Forward

When I started to think about writing my first article of 2007, I took some time to reflect on where I am at, how I got here and hopefully where I am going. I realized that I was very lucky to have landed here in the Heartland and join this community. Where I use to live it was not wise to openly profess your sexual orientation and there were not a lot of GLBT organizations you could go out and socialize. We are very lucky to have some great businesses and organizations that offer a wide range of activities that support and embrace our community. I was fortunate to find the Heartland Gay Rodeo Association.

My first year in Nebraska, I was feeling lonely, bored, and a little uneasy in my new surroundings. I decided to go to the Omaha Pride event where I discovered this great association , HGRA. From there I went to my first gay rodeo and had a blast! I spent another boring, lonely year until the next Pride celebration where I had decided to seek out the HGRA booth again and I considered joining the association. I knew that I needed to get involved in something or I would continue to be very lonely in Nebraska. Not only did I find the HGRA booth but was pleased to hear they were hosting the International Gay Rodeo Association Finals here in Omaha that year. I signed up to volunteer at Finals and decided that I would join the association as well. I started to discover more and more about our community in the Heartland and made new friends.

Between the friendships I have made and great work that HGRA does, I have been motivated to do things I never thought I would. I became HGRA secretary in 2005, HGRA President in 2006 (and now 2007) and I was co-rodeo director of the 8th Heartland Rodeo. I have made great friends, and also met my partner Terri through HGRA. We continue to make new friends through rodeo events. I stepped out of my comfort zone an got involved! Heck, they even got me to start performing at their fundraising events. It is an organization that I am proud to be part of and will continue to support. We are planning a Rodeo Play Day on June 23rd this year where I hope to start participating in rodeos as a contestant. It should be a blast!

I guess the point to me sharing this journey with you is to suggest to you that if you are feeling lonely or in a rut, you should look to our great community to help you out. Volunteer, join a club and become involved. There are great associations out there like Lincoln Pride, MCC, ICON, Rainbow Celebrations, and so many more that I could list, that would welcome you. HGRA is a great group of people who want to promote the country western life style while supporting the GLBT community. We meet once a month and all are welcome to attend to find out what we are about. Our Rodeo Play Day is for anyone who wants to practice or try for the first time some of the rodeo events. Why not check us out? Volunteer to help or join our association and explore the IGRA rodeo circuit or come out to one of our events and meet some great people. You don't have to be a member to participate in our social functions. Whether it is HGRA or some other group, why not start the New Year off right and help to build a strong and fun GLBT community. You can make a difference. Join in and make your community better.

Kathy

HGRA President

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

Are you in need to advertise your business, an upcoming garage sale, or possibly want to sell an old car you want to get rid of? Whatever your need, you can place an ad in the HGRA newsletter.

Business card size

Non-members \$12.00

Members \$ 7.00

Contact Bryn at bg15732@alltel.net for more details

Support Our Sponsors



RODEO RESULTS

Teeny C. headed out to Phoenix in mid January to get out of the cold and enjoy the warm of the Arizona sun. She was greeted with 19 degree temperatures and overcast skies. I hope she packed her long johns! Teeny captured the buckle in wild drag and placed 7th overall in goat dressing. Team Heartland placed 8th out of 14 teams. Congratulations Teeny!

The next rodeo is in Dallas TX on March 2-4th

LET'S RODEO!!!

Make sure you check the new dates for Little Rock and KC

UPCOMING EVENTS



LEONA'S FAMOUS CHILI AND CORNBREAD

MARCH 10th DC's Saloon 5pm-7:30

Chili and cornbread \$5.00 with refill

HGRA Members Receive 1 bowl free

Become a member and your meal is free.

Leo will be serving his fabulous jell-o shots all night



Come Out and Celebrate St Patrick's Day

March 17th Connections 2pm ~ 8pm

Irish Stew or Corn Beef and Cabbage \$5.00

HGRA Members receive \$2.00 discount

Become a Member and your meal is free.

Jell-o Shots and 50/50 Raffle

2007 IGRA RODEO & EVENT SCHEDULE



IGRA UNIVERSITY
BIG D RODEO
SUNSHINE STAMPEDE
RODEO IN THE ROCK
GATEWAY RODEO
GREAT PLAINS RODEO
SAN DIEGO RODEO
NORTH STAR
CANADIAN ROOKIES RODEO
ROCKY MOUNTAIN RODEO
LA RODEO
ZIA STAMPEDE
WINDY CITY RODEO
ATLANTIC STAMPEDE
SHOW ME STATE RODEO
BAY AREA RODEO
BIG HORN RODEO
CAPITAL CITY RODEO
IGRA FINALS RODEO
IGRA CONVENTION

LAS VEGAS NV
DALLAS TX
FT LAUDERDALE FL
LITTLE ROCK AR
ST LOUIS MO
OKLAHOMA CITY OK
SAN DIEGO CA
HUGO MN
CALGARY ALBERTA
DENVER CO
LOS ANGELES CA
ALBUQUERQUE NM
CHICAGO IL
WASHINGTON DC
KANSAS CITY MO
SAN FRANCISCO CA
LAS VEGAS NV
AUSTIN TX
DENVER CO
KANSAS CITY MO

FEBRUARY 23-26
MARCH 2-4
APRIL 13-15
APRIL 20-22 (*New Date*)
MAY 4-6
MAY 25-27
JUNE 1-3
JUNE 29- JULY 1
JUNE 20 - JULY1
JULY 13-15
AUGUST 3-5
AUGUST 17-19
AUGUST 24-26
SEPTEMBER 7-9
SEPT 14-16 (*New Date*)
SEPTEMBER 14-16
SEPTEMBER 21-23
SEPTEMBER 21-23
OCTOBER 11-14
NOVEMBER 7-11