

The Barbed Wire



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March 2008



Letter from the President

To The Membership

Since our last newsletter, we have gone from 2007 to 2008! I hope everyone made the transition without issue and I would like to wish everyone a prosperous new year.

In my last letter I said that I would put forth my goals as President of HGRA. I have established the following as my goals.

- Growth – This includes first and foremost, growing our membership.
- Involvement – Becoming an integral organization within our GLBT community. We can achieve this goal by supporting and establishing joint functions, with other organizations within our diverse community.
- Socializing – I would like to see our membership socializing as a group. This offers all of our members the opportunity to know one another. We are establishing dates to “Meet and Greet” at several establishments. There’s nothing more impressive than a group of Cowboy’s and Cowgirl’s walking into a non country western establishment. We are working on a variety of ideas to hold events at our local bars, as well as events, which do not include the bars.

I believe we can accomplish these goals and become a respected entity within our community or where ever we go. Our Royalty Team has already been in the community putting a positive face on our association. They have also been busy scheduling events for the next several months.

I want to thank all of our members and officers for their active involvement in our association. With this type of dedication, reaching the goals will prove to be at our fingertips.

Charley

Board of Directors

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Vice-President Shelley Foster

Secretary Harry Mourlam

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IGRA Trustee Dan Johnson

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Bylaws David Brady

Newsletter Editor
Pete Canfield



Ms. Heartland Gay Rodeo Association celebrates Valentine's Day at DC's

Hello Rodeo Fans

This is your Ms. HGRA 2008 Aretha Spanklin just telling everyone thank you so much for your warm reception and your awesome support since coronation. Our 50-30-20 raffles have been a great success and our shows are doing well! A special thanks goes out to my fellow royalty members who have helped this rodeo royalty virgin find her place. I hope that our membership continues to grow and that HGRA will be better than ever in 2008-2009!

A Native American elder once described his own inner struggles in this manner:

"Inside of me there are two dogs. One of the dogs is mean and evil. The other dog is good. The mean dog fights the good dog all the time."

When asked which dog wins, he reflected for a moment and replied, "The one I feed the most."

Omaha Pride has changed their dates this year. Pride weekend will be June 20-22nd.

Rest in Peace

All of us at Heartland send our condolences to the family of Patrick W. Murphy, a.k.a, Patricia the 2008 Miss for New Mexico Gay Rodeo Association. She was the first African-American to hold this title. She died January 9th at the young age of 39.

Helping out other GLBT Organizations

Mr. HGRA performed in the "T-Birds Fly Free" show at the Max Benefiting the Fall Harvest for the River City Gender Alliance. I was in the audience along with Brady, Miss HGRA. Starla is their new vice president and we just wanted to wish her good luck this year.

Mr. and Miss HGRA performed at the "Cocktails and Cowpokes" show for Rainbow Celebrations. Ms HGRA and our VP sold 50-50 raffle tickets for the event.



Miss Trina Tabloid and Pete Canfield

Congratulations to 34 years of Metropolitan Community Church in Omaha!!

2008 IGRA Rodeo Schedule

Cowtown Rodeo Feb 29—March 2
Ft Worth, TX
214-346-2107

Sunshine Stampede April 4-6
Ft Lauderdale, FL

Hot Rodeo 2008 May 2-4
Palm Springs, CA
760-328-2019

Liberty Stampede May 9-11
Philadelphia, PA
888-321-3603

Great Plains Rodeo May 23-25
Oklahoma City, OK
405-408-6140

LA Rodeo 2008 June 20-22
Los Angeles, CA
562-498-1675

Canadian Rockies Int'l Rodeo
June 27-29 Calgary, Alberta
403-541-8140

North Star Regional Rodeo July 4-6
Minneapolis/St Paul, MN
612-827-6336

Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo
July 11-13
Denver, CO

Sierra Stampede Rodeo
Sacramento, CA
July 25-27

Zia Regional Rodeo

Albuquerque, NM
July 25-27

San Francisco Bay Area Gay Rodeo
August 15-17
San Francisco, CA

Windy City Rodeo
August 22-24
Chicago, IL

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

Atlantic Stampede 2008
September 5-7
Washington, DC

Texas 25
September 5-7
Austin, TX

Greater San Diego Rodeo
September 12-14
San Diego, CA

Big Horn Rodeo
September 19-21
Las Vegas, NV

22nd Annual IGRA Finals Rodeo
October 10-12
Denver, CO

IGRA Convention 2008
October 30—Nov 2
New Orleans, LA

Recent Fundraising Activities

Pete and Tracey held our first 50-30-20 raffle on New Years Eve at DC's Saloon.

Ron & Harry have been helping to raise money for HGRA by hosting the Coat Rack at DC's once or twice a month.



Anita and Louie

On January 20th Miss Trina Tabloid invited friends from all over to celebrate her birthday with us by performing in a show.

Velvet Rose and Jazmine came down from Sioux City; while Anita Vi Brador and Drag King, Louie drove up from Wichita. Great performances were given by our MC's Salsa and Aphellia Butts-Fienstien.

Shelley Foster



Don't Be Realistic - Robin Sharma

In my mind, realistic people are human beings afraid to dream large dreams because they fear disappointment. I celebrate/honor/admire the unrealistic ones amongst us. Those who see possibilities where others only see limitations.

Sure, I get we have to be practical (at least a little) and that one needs to have common sense. But to me conventional wisdom is pretty unwise. Where would Apple be if they listened to conventional wisdom? Or what would the world look like if Ford or Disney or Gandhi or Salk listened to the chattering voices of the "realistic" critics.

So be unreasonable. Set wildly brave dreams for the influence you can have at work and the excellence you can achieve and the personal life you can craft. Set big goals - and then make them ten times bigger. Amazing how much a human being can do once she leads without title and begins to believe in herself.

To Continued Partnerships and Setting Wildly Brave Dreams!!

I read this quote and thought - WOW - if we were all brave enough to set "wildly brave dreams" and celebrate that fact that it's ok to be unrealistic sometimes - where would we all be. This plays both in our personal lives as well as our business lives.

Harry Mourlam, HGRA Secretary



Salsa & Aphellia

Royalty Shows in February

We held two Valentine shows this year. The first was Feb 10th at DC's Saloon. We had all three of our Royalty members performing, plus Mr. Pride 2008 doing some interesting new numbers.

Then on Friday the 15th we moved the show to Connections and added a Taco Bar before the show. Jeremy came down from Sioux City and sang live, Macy Riley, Dan Knobbe, Cupid, and many more performed.

Looking to the Future

We have a St Patrick's' show at Connections on Friday March 14th at 9pm. And we will get you all in the Irish mood with Corned Beef and Cabbage starting at 8pm. We will also be back on St Paddy's Day, Monday the 17th from 5-9 pm with more Irish food.

We are going to be doing a wine and cheese tasting at Broadway Joes in Council Bluffs on a Saturday from 7-9 pm in March. Watch for flyers or check the Gayzette for the date.

Pete and Miss Trina are going to be judging and/or performing for the Mr. and Miss DC's contests in March.

April 20th we will be cooking up a storm for a "Meet & Greet" at the Panic! in Lincoln. If the weather permits we will B-B-Q on the patio, if not, we will whip up some food indoors. Either way we will be cooking from 4-7 pm.

We are in the planning stages for another "Meet & Greet" at Flixx on a Saturday in March. Watch the Gayzette for the exact date and time.

We are also in the planning stages for a fun filled night at Skate Daze in April or May. If you are interested in roller skating, letting your kids run through the Playdazium, or play LazerTag, talk to Shelley Foster. We need a minimum number of participants so she wants to get an idea of how many of you would be interested in attending. All ages may attend, so if any of you teenagers would like to go out for an evening where you could actually hold hands, here is your chance. If you don't know Shelley you can contact her on our website www.hgra.net, look for the link to vice president.

And if you enjoy swimming in the country air, we are hoping to host a pool party this summer. If you've ever joined us for an indoor rodeo, you will want to attend. We are planning an indoor rodeo in the pool!!! Should be hilarious!.



**Cupid & Friend
at Connections**

HGRA Cook Book

Tentative working title is "Cowboys & Cowgirls Cooking on the Range". We still need more recipes, folks. Send as many of your favorite recipes as you can to chutedoggerd@heartland.net

Dave Elliott

Next Meeting

Saturday March 1st we will be at Connections at 4 pm for our General Membership meeting. Hopefully we will have some news from Springfield about next years rodeo by then!