



WRITE IN THE SADDLE

ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH



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 2014 board members. We need to have a full board for the 2014 rodeo season. The meeting will be held at 5PM on Saturday September 28, 2013 at the Parey Farm in Elk River followed by a potluck dinner and our Fall Barn Dance! 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 7-8 for duties. 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

SEPTEMBER
2013

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PAGE 1

Board of Directors

Dan V WPresident

Joey B.....Vice President

Troy L.....Secretary

OPEN.....Rodeo Director

Colin S.....Acting Treasurer

Colin S.....Contestants

Colin S.....Membership

Carl S.....Trustee

David M.....PR/Sponsorship

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



**SEPTEMBER
2013**

2013 RODEOS

August 30-September 1
Show Me State Rodeo
Kansas City, MO

September 20-22
Best Buck in the Bay
San Francisco, CA

October 17-20
World Gay Rodeo Finals
Ft. Worth, TX

November 14-17
IGRA Convention
San Diego, CA

See www.igra.com for more
information

**SUNDAY DANCES
AT LEE'S**

www.2stepmsp.org

**OTHER DANCE
OPPORTUNITIES**

Saloon – **3rd Saturday
of the month** 7-10PM

(September 21st)

**WRITE IN THE
SADDLE**

NSGRA is a proud
member of



We thank our IGRA

Sponsors:



We thank our 2013 local

Sponsors:



GayCowboyCentral.com
the gay cowboy hang-out

Twin Cities Pride

AND ALL OUR LOCAL
NSGRA PARTNERS!



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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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Howdy folks! Well where has the year gone? (ok 11 months but it won't be long now!) I urge all of you to mark your calendar for the annual meeting and fall barn dance and picnic at the end of September. The meeting may seem a bit droll to you, but without your input, NSGRA is just a shell of what it can be. Please come and mingle with all of us and enjoy good food, music and help decide what our goals will be for the coming year. While I think of it, there are still open positions on the board. We made great progress over the last year building the board up, but there's still plenty of room for growth.

Over the last year, I am glad to mention we had made several improvements to make the most of the resources we have. We have established an online collaboration folder in Google docs to help us all stay on the same page and make necessary documents available as needed. We filled the open secretary, PR, VP, and fund raising positions. For the first time in years, we have established royalty candidates who have hosted multiple fundraisers to raise money for NSGRA. Related to that, our bank account is the healthiest it's been in years after we stopped subsidizing the VFW dances. We have established a great working relationship with the Saloon hosting multiple monthly events. We removed all out inventory from Dead Broke to prepare for a detailed list of what we actually have that is usable for a rodeo. There's more but I hope you get the gist. NSGRA is on the move again!

I want to thank everyone who has helped NSGRA and myself personally over the last year. I will run again for President and hope to build upon our progress. Everyone who helps lead NSGRA brings skills to the job. I hope my focus on streamlining things, and doing what we can do, and not wasting time on what we cannot do, has helped sharpen our focus and given us a platform to continue to build upon. I know there are skills I do not possess and if you feel NSGRA needs different leadership going forward, I ask you, step up and have your say. I would love nothing more than to step aside for someone who can make things happen better than me! Of course I intend to do everything I can to ensure a future rodeo as soon as possible, in any capacity that I can.

See you on the dance floor!

Dan Van Wyk

BILLIE'S ROUNDUP
SATURDAY, AUGUST 31
5-9PM AT THE SALOON
\$10 BEER BUST/

RAFFLE/ENTERTAINMENT

SEPTEMBER
2013

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FUNDRAISING/ENTERTAINMENT

Billie/Gary's NSGRA Candidate event, "Billie's Roundup", is at the Saloon on August 31st from 5-9pm with a beer bust 10.00 or a suggestion donation to enter at 5.00. Former Royalty will be present to perform and we will be holding a raffle for various prizes. We need all that can attend to please attend for this is a benefit for the rodeo fund. Without your help there will not be a Rodeo so please come and give to a great cause ☺.

The next Country Dance at the Saloon will be September 21st from 7-10pm with a beer bust. Free to members and 5.00 beer bust or 5.00 admissions to non-members and 5.00 beer bust. Joey will be holding Dixie's Stampede at the 90's from 5-9pm on Saturday October 26th. Please email him for details.

October 27th will be a benefit for the Rodeo Fund hosted by Helen Back. There will be a 5.00 Beer Bust for members with no admission and non-members 5.00 admission and 5.00 for beer bust. More details in the next newsletter.

I also want to thank everyone who has been coming to our Events to date and hopefully the Events will grow monthly. If anyone would like to hold a fundraiser or event please feel free to email me at bigger2320022@hotmail.com or call me at 612-306-5431.

Please put Saturday, November 2nd on your calendar for the NSGRA Royalty Pageant at the Saloon. Details to follow next month.

Respectfully,

John Bigger
Events/Fundraising Chair

BEER BUST/DANCE

Rope & Ride 'EM' Beer Bust/Dance

7-10PM SATURDAY

September 21st , 2013

The SALOON

9th and Hennepin

Downtown Minneapolis

(Membership meeting following Saturday before barn dance)



MEMBERSHIP

Howdy, all!

Can we really be at the end of our calendar year? September is a busy month with Saturday, September 28th being a membership extravaganza at Parey Farm in Elk River, MN! I want to urge everyone to mark this date in your calendar and have it be a “must do” day.

From an association point of view, the annual membership meeting at 5pm is perhaps the single most important event of the year: we elect new officers; we can amend bylaws on the spot and decide whether to pursue a rodeo in the upcoming year. Your participation is needed and encouraged. I urge you to take a few minutes and read about the board positions open for election. Feel free to e-mail any officer if you have interest in running for the 2014 board. Regardless of your desire to run, please attend so we can accurately gauge where we are as an association and where we want to go—you’ll be glad you did!

In addition to the annual meeting, Parey Farm has a lovely room for a potluck dinner and a beautiful dance loft above the milking parlor. I really recommend a visit and as there are horses there and North Star Saddle Club leaders and hosts Zane and Todd, it is a great opportunity to explore your equestrian interests.

If you feel like a road trip, NSGRA members are welcome to go to the Wisconsin Barn Dance on September 14th. It is an awesome day trip with camping onsite. Details at www.nsgra.org. Don’t forget our beer bust and country dance on Saturday, September 21st. It is a great bargain for NSGRA members with no cover charge and the beer/soda bust is a good deal at \$5 for NSGRA members.

You will note that this newsletter is going out via US postal service. This is to encourage everyone to read this very important issue. 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! Oh, and please invite your friends to join NSGRA and help us grow. Bring them on the 28th and they can sign up on the spot and vote! This is also a month where quite a few are due to renew—you can do so at the meeting and I’ll send notice to affected members.

Let’s Rodeo!
“Black Bart”

2013 Membership chair

ANNUAL MEETING/POT LUCK DINNER/BARN DANCE SEPTEMBER 28TH

It's time for a hoe down! NSGRA is holding three membership activities at the beautiful Parey Farm.

Parey Farm
21310 Brook Road NW
Elk River, MN 55330
www.pareyfarm.com
pareyfarm@yahoo.com
763-753-3646

Annual Meeting 5PM (PLEASE ATTEND!)
Potluck dinner 6:30-8PM
Dance 8-Midnight



Parey Farm is about the same distance from Minneapolis as Bob's farm where he has graciously hosted our previous dances. We will supply beverages and snacks as always for the encouraged donation of \$10.00. There are motels in the area and camping is available on the farm. Please contact Parey Farm in advance if you wish to camp. Come to the Potluck and bring your best grub to share! (outlets, sink, refrigerator and microwave available) If you e-mail info@nsgra.org and let us know what you are bringing, we will post it on our website so we don't get 20 desserts and no entrées!

Directions from Minneapolis:

94 West to Highway 101 North in Rogers
Continue North on Highway 169 N
After passing Menard's on your right on 169 take the exit for County Road 33.
At the stop sign turn right and make an immediate left onto 121 a.k.a. Brook Road NW
Parey Farm is 1.3 miles down on your left. Our farm has two big white barns on a hill and the gates will be open. Look for the sign "The Pantry at Parey Farm" and it is lit at night
We will also have signs with arrows on the roads to help guide you.

IGRA CONVENTION

The 2013 IGRA Convention will be in San Diego, CA November 14-17th. NSGRA is allotted 5 delegates and 5 alternates and this is an important event for us to attend. IGRA Convention is an excellent opportunity to learn about gay rodeo, represent the interests of our association within the larger umbrella organization, meet new friends and be entertained. San Diego is called America's Finest City: it is certainly a beautiful, sunny destination for conventions! GSGRA is working hard to bring an affordable, quality convention including the 28th IGRA Annual Royalty Competition. Please visit: <http://igraconvention2013.org/>.

2014 NSGRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION SEPTEMBER 28, 2013

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 5PM at the Pary Farm. Potluck dinner and barn 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

2014 NSGRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION SEPTEMBER 28, 2013

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.

**North
Star
Gay
Rodeo
Association**



PO Box 11199
St. Paul, MN
55111-0199

[HTTP://WWW.NSGRA.ORG](http://www.nsgra.org)

**NSGRA ANNUAL
MEETING/POTLUCK
DINNER/BARN DANCE
SEPTEMBER 28TH**

**2013 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. Lest 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

September 2013						
M	T	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun
					31 (AUGUST) Billie's Roundup 5-9PM (Saloon)	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 NSGRA Road Trip: Wisconsin Barn Dance Details at www.nsgra.org	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Beer Bust/Dance (Saloon)	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Annual Meeting 5 PM Potluck Dinner 6:30 PM Barn Dance 8 PM Parey Farm, Elk River	29
31						