



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF G.S.G.R.A.



GOLDEN STATE GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT: [STEVE WOLLERT](#)

VP ADMIN: [FRANK DELGADO](#)

VP RODEO: [SYLVIA MOWER](#)

SECRETARY: [CHRISTINA MANCUSO](#)

TREASURER: [SAMMY VAN GALDER](#)

TRUSTEE TO IGRA: [DAVID LAWSON](#)

In this issue:

- A Note from the President Steve Wollert
- G.S.G.R.A. Update Association Secretary
- Bay Area Update Christina Mancuso
- Palm Springs Update Buck Beal
- What's Next in Rodeo? Buck Beal
- Involvement Opportunities

A Note from the President

Steve Wollert

I hope ya'll are doing well as we approach a year since the beginning of this horrible Pandemic. While there appears to be an end in sight with the advance of the vaccines, there are still many challenges ahead.

As for GSGRA, we are holding on and making the best of a difficult situation. As we enter the second year of restrictions we continue to operate almost entirely virtually. On Saturday the 30th of January we held our first ever virtual convention or Annual Meeting of the Membership. The meeting went well and we conducted the necessary business of the organization successfully.

I would like to congratulate and welcome to the Executive team our two new officers:

Syliva Mower - Vice President, Rodeo Operations and

Christina Mancuso – Secretary

I look forward to working with them and am especially excited to once again have women on the Executive team. I would also like to thank outgoing officers Ken Smith and Terry Russ for their hard work and contributions to the executive team during their terms.

At convention, I appointed Christina Mancuso to chair the Communications Committee for 2021 and she has committed to produce a newsletter - and more specifically for those who remember - she will be reviving an old friend - The Chute!

Lastly, in Rodeo news - you have probably heard that the Greater Palm Springs Chapter has postponed the 2021 Hot Rodeo until 2022. Once again the team was faced with a very difficult decision and in the end they made the right call with the full support of the Board. As of our January board meeting, the Bay Area Chapter is hopeful that their 2021 rodeo will go on as planned. Stay tuned for updates and plan to join us in September.

Stay safe and be well until we meet again...as always please let me know if you have any questions or need anything from the board.

Best,

Steve Wollert

President

Golden State Gay Rodeo Association

president@gsgra.org

G.S.G.R.A. Update

Association Secretary

G.S.G.R.A held the annual conference and Q1 board meeting virtually 30 January 2021. While it has been an uneventful year in terms of rodeos, much has happened within the association.

Let's begin with our 2021 representation:

We have two new board members for 2021, Sylvia Mower and Christina Mancuso. Sylvia Mower was elected to the two-year term of Vice President of Rodeo Operations. Sylvia brings many years and a wide range of knowledge & practical experience to her new position. She succeeds Ken Smith, who served as VPR the past two years as well as president of the Greater Palm Springs chapter a number of years. Christina Mancuso from the Bay Area was elected GSGRA secretary replacing Terry Russ. In her role as GSGRA Royalty, during the past several months Christina has undertaken a number of fundraising events and even introduced a neat line of rodeo apparel - including a hoodie! A nice thing to have during the chilly weeks of winter.

Executive Board:

President: Steve Wollert
 VP – Administration: Frank Delgado
 VP- Rodeo Operations: Sylvia Mower
 Secretary: Christina Mancuso
 Treasurer: Sammy Van Galder
 Trustee to IGRA: David Lawson

Chapter Representatives:

Bay Area

Bruce Roby
 Tomas Luzod
 Vacant

Palm Springs

Jeff Rosenberg
 Rick Paul
 Tessa Trujillo
 Brett Smith – Alternate

Non-Affiliated

Roger Bergmann
 Paul Alvarez

Committees:

Membership Committee: Chris Caufield
 Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee: Sammy Van Galder
 Royalty Committee: Frank Delgado
 Dance Committee: Frank Delgado
 Branding Committee: Vacant
 Webmaster: Herb Smith
 Sponsorship Committee: Vacant
 Education Committee: Sylvia Mower

Other:

Nominations Committee: Christina Mancuso
 Communications Committee: Christina Mancuso

EPRC: Frank Delgado

Chapter Reps:

Bay Area: Bruce Roby
 Palm Springs: Jeff Rosenberg

Board members have spent quarantine reviewing our by-laws and standing rules. During this meeting the suggestions they submitted were considered and voted on by the board. Copies of the updated by-laws and standing rules are available by contacting the state association secretary or on the association website, www.grsgra.org.

Bay Area Update

Christina Mancuso

Here's what's happening in the Bay Area Area...

Sonoma County has approved outdoor events. The Bay Area Chapter is taking advantage of this opportunity by hosting Barrel Races. Precautions are being taken to ensure the safety of our participants and volunteers. All attendees are asked the generic 'do you have Covid symptoms' and temperatures are being checked at the gate. These are non-spectator events, only competitors, and those who reside in their home are admitted. At this point eight races have occurred, with two more scheduled for the 17 February and the 3 March. Due to the popularity and success of these events, we are considering adding two more.

Are you considering becoming more involved in your chapter? Now is a perfect time! We are looking for volunteers (and added money sponsors) for the upcoming Barrel Races. Perhaps you wish to be involved but can't make it to the races. BAC currently has a chapter representative vacancy. If you are interested contact David, Kirsten, Grumpy or Christina.

As the government is expecting to have a vast majority of the population vaccinated by the end of August, BAC currently feels that it is safe to continue plans to host Best Buck in the Bay 2021 September 10-12. We are looking forward to seeing our friends and playing in the dirt again!

#Let's Rodeo

Palm Springs Update

Buck Beal

Here's what's happening in the Greater Palm Springs Area...

A collection of pictures featuring highlights from our popular **Cowboy Dance** since 2016, and **Cowboy Night (Cowgirls, too!)** introduced last January will be posted later in the month. The pictures show the energy, fun, and success of these fundraising events and what we hope to achieve once again as soon as public health is sufficiently improved for us to gather safely indoors once again. To that end, dance and fundraising plans have been developed and are ready to go. Fun social events are planned for introduction this year also. A gymkhana probably in the fall also is under consideration. We'll keep you apprised of developments. As with anything, the time for this event (and others) will be determined by the general public health climate.

You might be interested in knowing **The Roost** in Cathedral City has reopened under the health guidelines of Riverside County. The Roost, a supporter of Palm Springs Hot Rodeo, was the host venue for a number of chapter social & fundraising events 2019 and early 2020 (including a fundraiser for the last World Gay Rodeo Finals). A few of our chapter members have been to the Roost since its reopening to rave reviews. If you're out & about as the weather warms up, check it out. It's great for lunch and you're likely to see familiar & friendly faces.

The past eleven months have been hard for many. And in different ways. Importantly, the Greater Palm Springs Chapter is together and eager to resume public activity as soon as possible. In the meantime, and in the face of possible new threats from variants of the original Coronavirus of a year ago, we encourage members & friends to be careful and not take any unnecessary risks.

Lastly, in Rodeo news - you have probably heard that the Greater Palm Springs Chapter has postponed the 2021 Hot Rodeo until 2022. Once again the team was faced with a very difficult decision and chose to prioritize the health and safety of our members.

Stay fit, stay healthy.

What's Next in Rodeo?

Buck Beal

Next on the books is the Great Plains Rodeo in Oklahoma City the weekend of May 28-30th. Following that is the Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo the weekend of July 9-11th at Denver. There are others on the schedule, too. As these and other events are subject to change, please check the association website for confirmation information.

The full IGRA rodeo schedule is available at igra.com.
Click on "rodeos" under Calendar and scroll from there.

Involvement Opportunities

G.S.G.R.A. Committees: We currently have two committee chair openings, Branding and Sponsorship. If you are interested in either of these opportunities, please contact Steve Wollert or Christina Mancuso.

Committee members: An active membership is what keeps us thriving and allows us to produce the events we all enjoy. If you see a committee that you feel you can contribute to, please contact the committee chair.

The Chute: If you have any article or regular column you wish to have in The Chute, please submit the idea/article/column to Christina. At this point, we are planning for a quarterly publication. This is likely to change during rodeo season, when rodeos are taking place.