

March 2016 BigHorn Gazette

Your New Fundraising Director Getting the Low Down



Marcus and Carolyn enjoy the best way ever to handover a job

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From your President

Show your NGRA Pride — Please Consider Wearing a Cowboy Hat

At our most recent show, at Charlie's, one of our members, David Wright, made a pretty good observation. For all the NGRA Members in attendance, only one or two were wearing cowboy hats. I'm the President of this rodeo organization and I wasn't even wearing a cowboy hat. So, I'm asking that from now on, whenever you attend an NGRA Event (or if you attend another organization's event, representing NGRA) please consider wearing a cowboy hat. It doesn't need to be expensive; it just needs to be a cowboy hat and you can buy them all over town. Boot Barn has a nice selection but so do gift shops throughout the valley. I'm not asking you to change your personal style, or to "cowboy it up." I'll probably be wearing shorts, a T-Shirt, sneakers - and now a cowboy hat. The way I see it, wearing a cowboy hat will accomplish two things. First of all, it will show the memberships' pride in NGRA and it will also allow the bar owners and managers to see just exactly how many of us are in attendance. If we want their continued support - and we do - it can't hurt for them to look out at the crowd and get a quick idea of how many NGRA members are in attendance, just by seeing the cowboy hats. So, in short, when you come out to NGRA Events, or when you attend other events, as a member of NGRA, please consider putting on a cowboy hat just to let people know that NGRA is in the house!

Ken Hruby NGRA President president@ngra.com

NGRA Annual Convention 2016

If any NGRA Member has been considering a change to the NGRA Bylaws or Standing Rules, this is the time of year to let your idea be heard. The NGRA Annual Convention is the only time of the year that the Bylaws can be modified, and it is also an opportune time to consider changes to the Standing Rules. The convention is scheduled for March 12th.

I invite you to submit your proposals to me as soon as possible, so that all proposed changes can be compiled and sent out to all members to review prior to the convention date.

When preparing any recommended changes, please copy the existing section of the Bylaw or Standing Rule. Then <u>UNDERLINE</u> any proposed deletion, and **BOLD** any proposed addition. By doing this it makes it easier for everyone to quickly understand what you are trying to achieve with your proposal.

If you need help in writing up your proposal, please send me your idea and I will work with you to get your idea into the proper wording and format. The sooner the better, as it takes some time to properly write any proposed changes. Send to Roger via email at canyontryl@aol.com.

The current NGRA Bylaws and Standing Rules are available on the NGRA website: www.ngra.com.

Convention Date: March 12th, 2016 **Time:** 10:00 am until completion

Location: Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 401 South Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89101

Thank you!

Roger Bergmann Convention Committee Chair canyontryl@aol.com

Open Position at NGRA: Public Relations Spokesperson

NGRA is looking for a Public Relations Spokesperson. People interested in promoting NGRA, our events, and our people to the public should contact Ken Hruby at president@ngra.com.

Rôle of the Public Relations Spokesperson

The Public Relations Spokesperson shall:

- A. be responsible for arranging publicity for the Corporation's events, through the creation and timely issuance of news releases and through other activities;
- B. be responsible for the external dissemination of information, whether written or verbal, as directed by the needs of the Corporation, and
- C. keep complete and accurate lists of appropriate media for news releases, along with a complete and accurate list of the other IGRA associations.

From your Vice President

February has started with a bang! The Arizona Gay Rodeo Association held the 31st Annual Road Runner Regional Rodeo on February 12th – 14th at the Corona Ranch in Laveen, AZ. NGRA was well represented at the rodeo with Traci Fox, Courtney Cole, Stephanie Malone, Stacey Barnett, Richard Armstrong and I all competing. Traci and her super wild drag team had a great showing just coming up a little short in the event on both days. I can personally say those steers were not friendly! Richard and I had a crazy steer in the steer decorating event both days and received a no time. Sometimes it's just the luck of the draw. In the speed events, NGRA made its presence known. In Pole Bending, Courtney and Pippin sped their way to a 2nd place finish on Saturday and a 1st place finish on Sunday, winning the Pole Bending Buckle for the weekend! Great job Courtney! In the men's division, Richard and Olive placed 7th and 6th good enough to take 2nd in the average. Barrel racing was the next event and our ladies kept the pressure on. While Saturday saw the NGRA ladies just off the leader board, Sunday was a different story. Stephanie Malone and Lena ran the fastest time of the entire rodeo with a 14.41 wining 1st place Sunday with Courtney winning 4th and Stacey rounding out the leader board with an 8th place finish. In the men's division, Richard and Olive placed 6th on Saturday, but a tipped barrel on Sunday took them out of the average. The men of NGRA represented in the Flag race. On Saturday, Richard and Diamond missed the bucket to win the go round. Diamond and I stuck on Saturday but was just off the leader board with a 9th place finish. The next day was a different story. While Diamond and I were still off the leader board, we did stick and placed 6th in the average, while Richard and Diamond took the top spot with an 8.08, the fastest run of the entire rodeo! Not bad for a 19-year-old horse!

Thank you to all who came out to support and cheer for the contestants. We do truly appreciate you in the stands cheering us on!



Richard Armstrong & Diamond On Command – Flags

Chris Due NGRA Vice President vicepresident@ngra.com

Arizona Gay Rodeo Corona Ranch and Rodeo Grounds, Laveen, Arizona February 12-14

The full contestant list for NGRA comprised:

Richard Armstrong; Stacey Barnett; Courtney Cole; Chris Due; Traci Foxx, and Stephanie Malone.

Well Done NGRA!

Buckle Winners

All Around

Cowboy Greg B Cowgirl Renita E

Bull Riding

Cowboy Wade E Cowgirl Amanda E

Steer Riding

Cowboy Wade E Cowgirl Amanda E

Chute Dogging

Cowboy Chuck B Cowgirl Ronda Y

Calf Roping on Foot

Cowboy Steve G Cowgirl Bernice R

Mounted Breakaway Roping

Cowboy Greg B
Cowgirl Bernice R

Barrel Racing

Cowboy David R
Cowgirl Lisamarie M

Pole Bending

Cowboy David R
Cowgirl Courtney C

Flag Race

Cowboy David L Cowgirl Renee R

Team Roping

Team Pepe L & David R

Steer Decorating

Team Phil L & Drew O

Wild Drag Race

Team Greg B, David L & Cynbad P

Goat Dressing

Team Rob S & Bob B





Make It So Sir AKA Perry the Superhorse! — at Corona Ranch & Rodeo Grounds.



Diamond On Command AKA Big D! — at Corona Ranch & Rodeo Grounds.



Make It So Sir AKA Perry the Superhorse! — at Corona Ranch & Rodeo Grounds.



Way to go Madison!



Arena Crew getting ready to compete in Wild Drag! — at Corona Ranch & Rodeo Grounds.

Phab Phifties Phoenix Bar & Lounge Saturday, February 13th

We held our first event at the Phoenix Bar and Lounge on February 13th. This new venue on West Sahara Avenue gave us a very warm welcome.

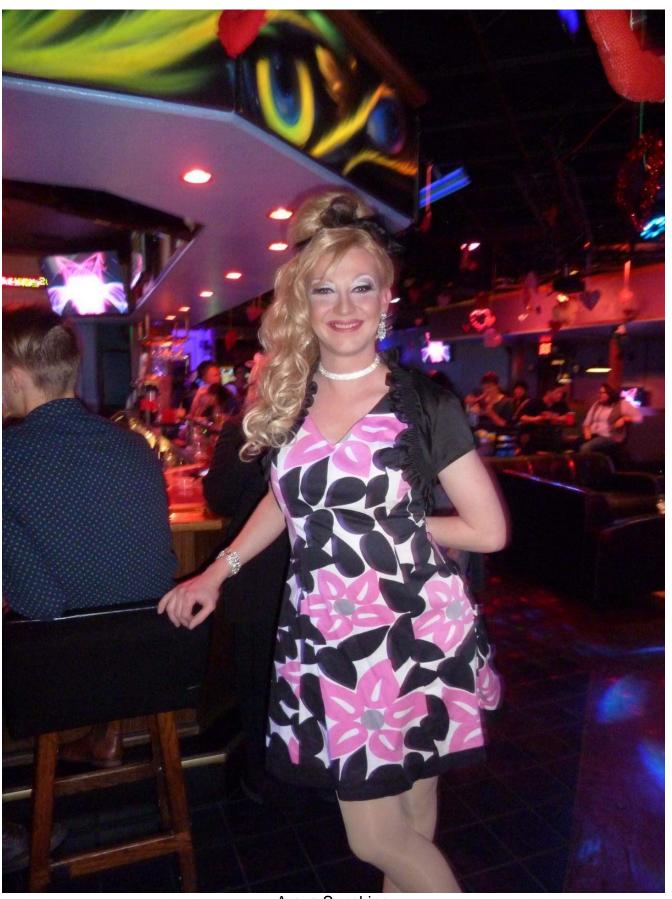
Vivianne Dumonde hosted and opened the show with "I Love You Baltimore" from Hairspray.



The show contained a mixture of live and sync singing with Vivianne being joined by Jason White in a live rendition of "Suddenly Seymour" from the Little Shop of Horrors. They were joined on the stage by Araya Sunshine and Alisha Jacobson. And how else could it all end but with Kitty Litter being her own inimitable self.



Jason White



Araya Sunshine

With Miss Kitty selling game of chance cards with Buzz Green as her assistant, Carolyn on the beer bust and Ken and David Wells minding the prize table we were well pleased with our first visit.

Those members who had not visited the bar before, including a former Miss Cow Patty visiting all the way from Utah, expressed their liking for the venue. Their only complaint was that they had not realized a wide range of in-house food was on offer and they had eaten before they came out.

Once again thanks to all who entertained and helped out and to Landen for opening his bar to us.



David sets out the prize table with a great selection to be won during the night.



We almost made Vivianne's night with this prize but she really wanted the gay Peace Bear. Luckily her husband Matthew (Miss Cow Patty 2015) manages to win it for her.







Well there's a happy lady. Love the smiles we bring to people's faces



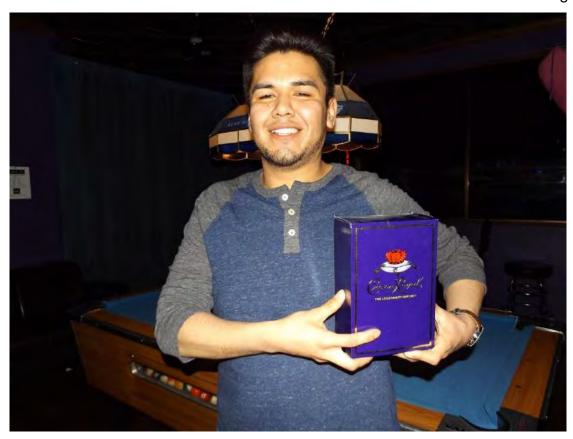
Something to wet Jason's whistle after all that singing.

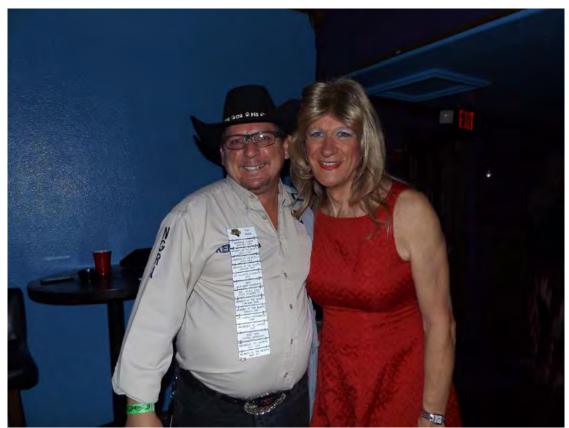


Looks like they're set for a happy evening when they get home.

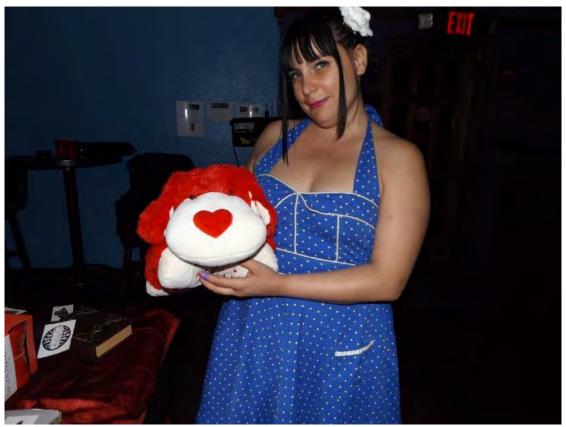








Thanks to Miss Kitty for selling the cards and to Ken for doing the important work of taking the money and handing out the consolation prizes of snacks.



This lady really fell for this Valentines Bear. She was seen stroking it all around the bar for the rest of the night.



A final shot at the end of the evening.

February Fairytales Charlie's Saturday, February 20th

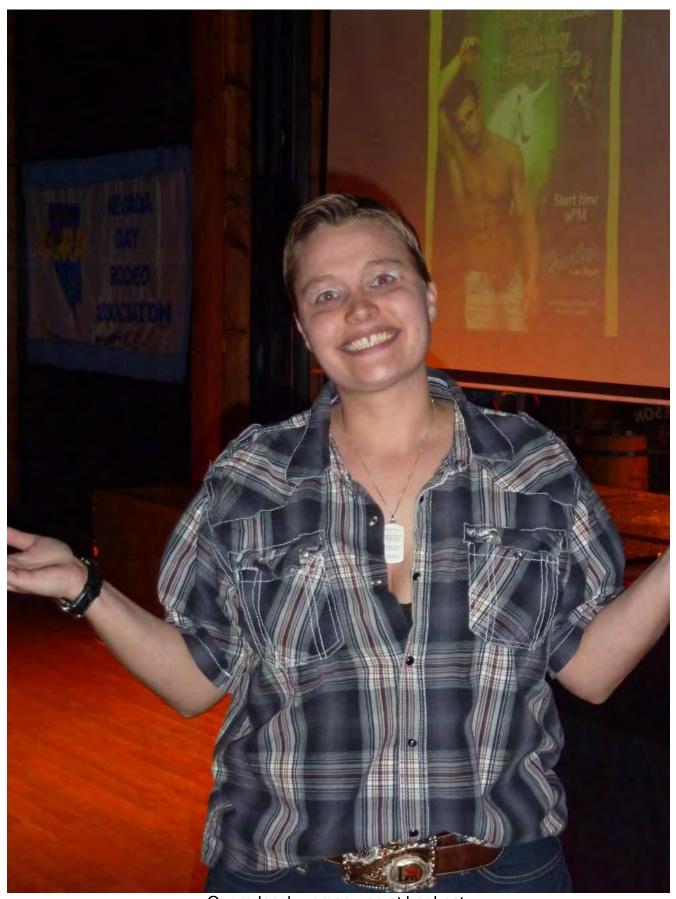
On Saturday the 20th NGRA returned to Charlie's to explore the Fairy in us all. Once again the evening swung to country music.

We were entertained by Ms NGRA Traci Foxx still nursing a gammy knee from her turn at Wild Drag at the Arizona rodeo, Charli who sang two numbers including her signature number "Redneck Woman" as well as by Kitty Litter, Troy and Brian.

Miss Kitty and Buzz sold chance cards, David Wright manned the prize table, Brian and Chad passed around selling shots and Carolyn [wo]manned the beer bust.



A regular member of our fundraising team, David Wright really getting down to it.



Our redneck woman was at her best.



And a new entertainer to our events was Troy who put on a great performance.



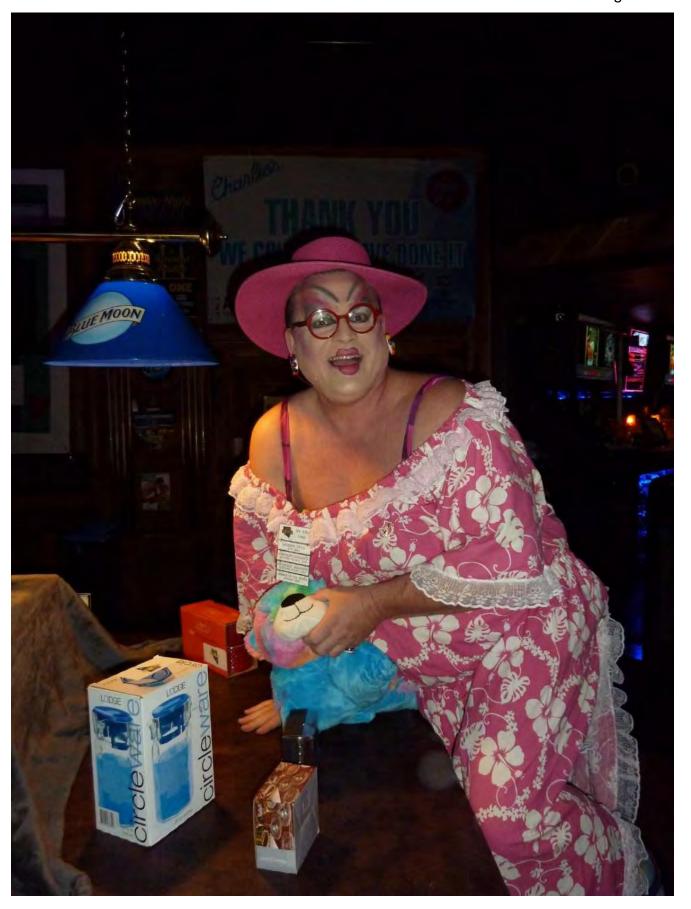
That well know bear Brian had his hand out as usual and thanks to the people that filled it.



Miss NGRA Traci Foxx swung into action even on a dicky knee from wild drag at Phoenix.









Ken, our President, picked a lucky card and made off with a bottle of vodka.



We do get big smiles from our prize winners, don't we?



Now this guy looks stunned at his good luck snagging a bottle of rum.

AFAN Las Vegas AIDS Walk

The AFAN Las Vegas AIDS Walk is Sunday, April 17th.

This year, there will be an NGRA Team and we'd love to have as many NGRA Members, and guests, walking with our Team as possible. To register, please visit AFAN's Registration Page: http://afanlv.donordrive.com/ Click on "Register Now." Then click on "I am walking with a team" and "Join a team." Click on "Search," type "NGRA" then click on the "NGRA" that appears and then continue the registration process. Trust me, it's much easier than it sounds here, with me typing it out. When you walk, please consider wearing a cowboy hat to show your NGRA Pride and to show AFAN that we're there to support them. If you have any questions, or need help, please email me at President@ngra.com.

Thanks,

Ken Hruby NGRA President president@ngra.com

Member of the Month

Victor Raquel

Victor Raquel was nominated as November Member of the Month for his steady support of fundraising efforts over the past 12 months together with his willingness to volunteer to support NGRA at every opportunity.

Congratulations and thanks to Victor.

Andrew Goodman

Andrew Goodman was nominated as December Member of the Month for his outstanding work getting ready for IGRA-University.

Congratulations and thanks to Andrew.

David Wright

David Wright was nominated as January Member of the Month for his steady support of fundraising efforts over the past 12 months together with his willingness to volunteer to support NGRA at every opportunity as well as his maintenance of the NGRA cabinet at Charlie's.

Congratulations and thanks to David.

Fundraising

NGRA Fundraising Director

On behalf of the NGRA Board of Directors, I am extremely happy to announce that the new Fundraising Director for NGRA is Marcus Grissom. If Marcus' name doesn't sound familiar to you, perhaps you know his alter ego "Kitty Litter." Marcus has a long relationship with NGRA and a lot of experience in the fundraising arena. We are extremely happy to welcome him to the Board of Directors and especially in such a crucial role. I'd also like to take this time to thank Carolyn Jones for all of her hard work as our outgoing Fundraising Coordinator. Over the last year and a half, Carolyn has done an amazing job in that role. I'm happy to say that we aren't losing Carolyn. She'll still be a member of the Board of Directors and is still the NGRA Volunteer Coordinator.

Marcus, welcome to the Board of Directors and Carolyn, thank you for all you've done for NGRA fundraising.

Ken Hruby NGRA President president@ngra.com

By now many of you will know I have stepped down as Chairman of the Fundraising Committee. I have held the post since November 2014. When I took over fundraising was at a low ebb with little leadership for many months before that. I was both flattered and a bit scared when the then President Doug Graff asked me to take this on and the rest of the Board agreed. But I knew it was an important job which needed doing and I was the only one willing to take it on at that time.

In the months since then I have learned a lot and have reason to be grateful to many people for the help and encouragement they have given me. To the bar managers who have supported us, to all the entertainers who have performed for us and to the amazing team of people who have formed the Fundraising Committee. The money raised by their efforts has kept NGRA going through 2015 and into 2016.

I became aware of Marcus' interest in actively helping NGRA a few months ago and I was delighted when he agreed to meet me to discuss the possibility of his taking over as Fundraising Chair. I was even more pleased when he applied to the Board in January and was voted into position as Fundraising Director at the last Board meeting.

I believe that Marcus will do a fine job and lead NGRA from financial strength to strength allowing us to both have fun and make money for our rodeo and for our community.

So once again thank you all for your support and I am sure you will carry that forward and support Marcus and the events he organizes for us.

Finally, you might like to know (or then again you might not) that I remain on the Board and as Volunteer Coordinator and plan to work just as hard to help NGRA in other ways.

Carolyn Jones

Happy Birthday

To those Members with birthdays in March:

4	James Morgan
4	Charli Phillips
6	John King
13	Laurie Banks
16	Carlos Garcia
22	Will Glenn
28	Darren Wernette

Welcome to the NGRA Corral

Will Wrangler

Benefits of being a Member of NGRA



25% off of all regularly priced drinks at Charlie's Las Vegas. Charlie's is offering 25% off, on regularly priced drinks, to all NGRA Members who are wearing their nametag in the bar. This special is 24/7, 365 so be sure to wear your nametag. (Drink specials such as beer bust, happy hour, shot specials, etc. are excluded).

2015 NGRA Member of the Year Nominees

Every year, our fabulous Members of the Month are automatically entered as candidates for NGRA Member of the Year. Nominations for other outstanding members are also accepted. The following people are the candidates for NGRA 2014 Member of the Year:

Carolyn Jones	January 2015 Member of the Month
Bill Watkins	February 2015 Member of the Month
Gary Wiens	March 2015 Member of the Month
Gary Segal	April 2015 Member of the Month
David Wells	May 2015 Member of the Month
Barry Jones	June 2015 Member of the Month
Mathew Martinez	July 2015 Member of the Month
Efrain Cervantes	August 2015 Mambara of the Month
Julio Cesar	August 2015 Members of the Month
Matthew Todd	September 2015 Member of the Month
Buzz Green	October 2015 Member of the Month
Victor Raquel	November 2015 Member of the Month
Andrew Goodman	December 2015 Member of the Month

Look for your ballots via email in the coming weeks! Please remember to vote. Each of these 13 people has given a lot of their time and energy to NGRA this past year. Reward them by congratulating them on their nominations and vote for one of them today. The winner will be announced at the March 2016 Board and General Membership Meeting.

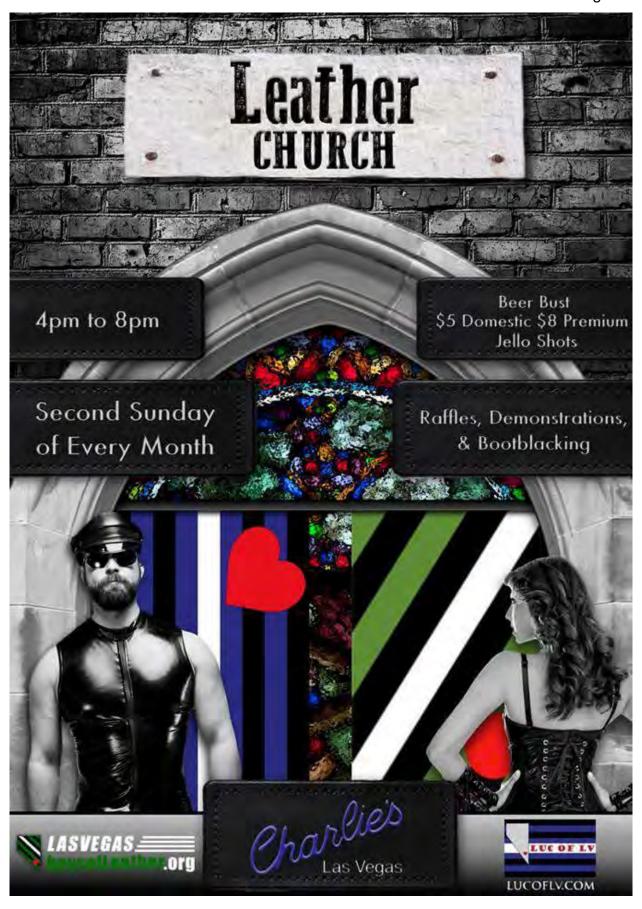
Be on the lookout for the 2015 NGRA Member of the Year Ballot which will be sent via email at the beginning of March.

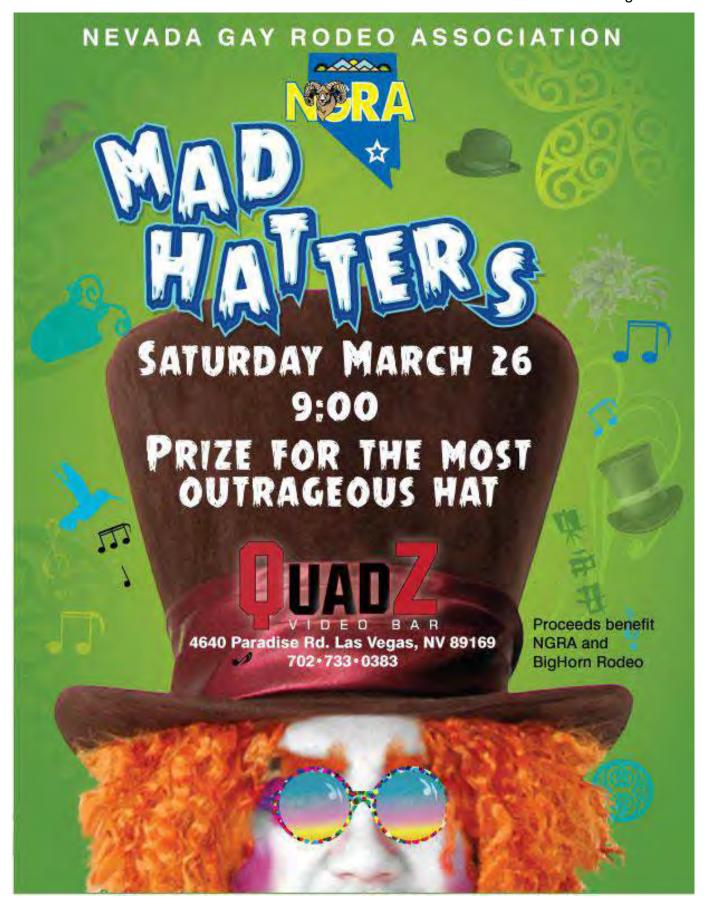
As always, thank you for your continued support of NGRA.

Chris Due NGRA Vice President vicepresident@ngra.com



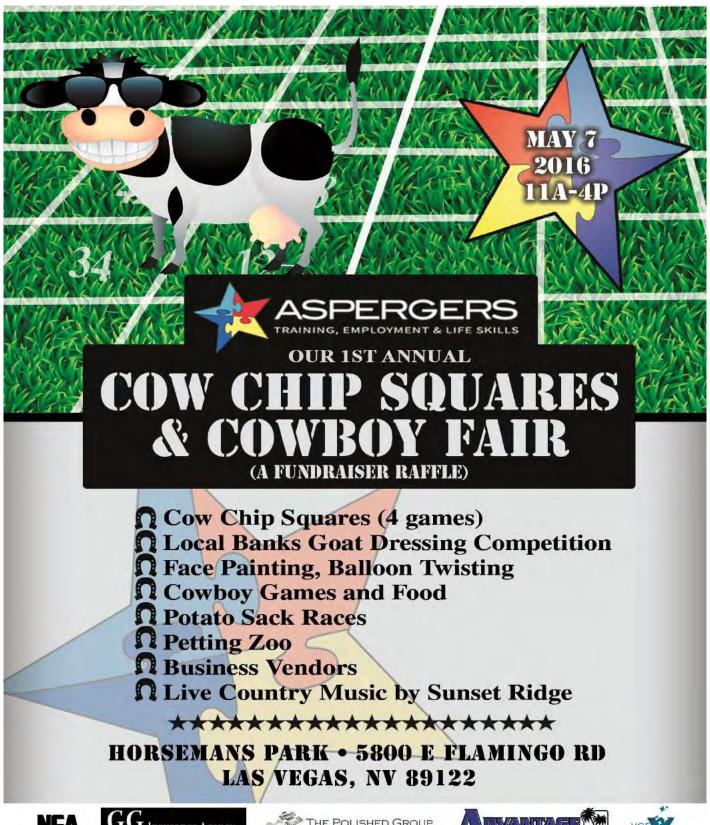












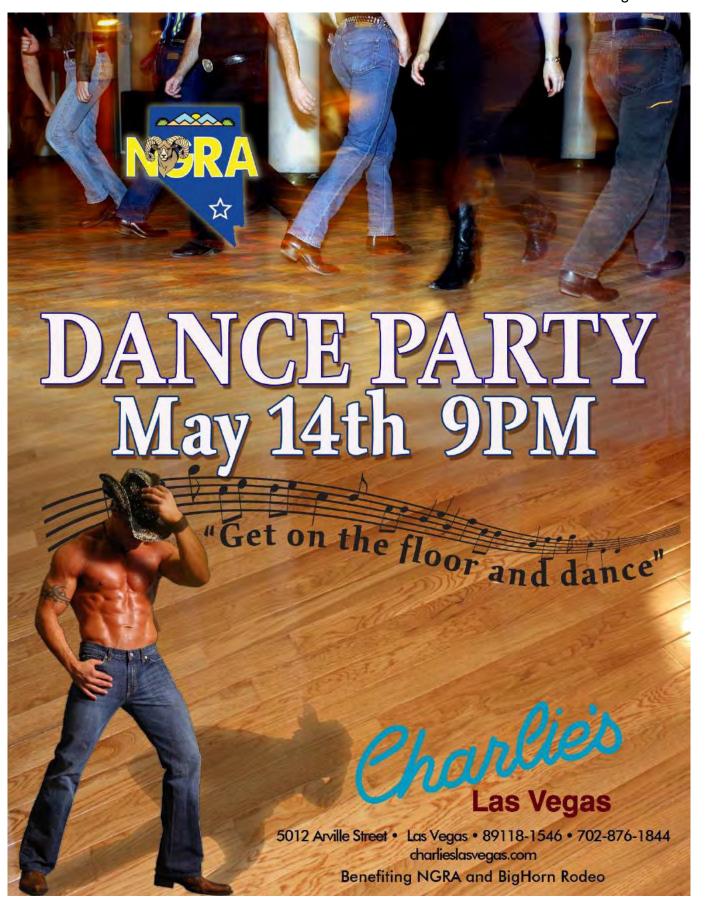












Calendar

March

Wed	6:00 pm	Las Vegas Pride "Happy Hour"	Alexis Park All-Suite Resort,
vved 2		Las Vegas Pride Family Bingo	375 East Harmon Avenue,
Sat	7:00 pm	Flamingo Bingo	Las Vegas, NV 89169
		Men of Charlie's	Charlie's,
5	9:00 pm	Man of the Month Contest	5012 South Arville Street,
<u> </u>		Benefits the NGRA	Las Vegas, NV 89118
Sat	10:00 am	NGRA Annual Convention 2016	Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 401 South Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89101
12			Charlie's,
	9:00 pm	Miss Cow Patty	5012 South Arville Street,
	•		Las Vegas, NV 89118
Sun	Com		Charlie's,
13	4:00 pm	Leather Church	5012 South Arville Street,
13		Happy Hour	Las Vegas, NV 89118
Fri			Fun Hog Ranch,
18	4:30 pm	IRSCDE Inc. Event	495 East Twain Avenue,
10		INSCIDE IIIC. EVEIR	Las Vegas, NV 89169
Sat			Fun Hog Ranch,
19	10:00 pm	Sister's Oink Night	495 East Twain Avenue,
19			Las Vegas, NV 89169
Mon		NGRA Board and General	Gay & Lesbian Community Center,
21	6:30 pm	Membership Meeting	401 South Maryland Parkway,
		Membership Meeting	Las Vegas, NV 89101
Sat 26	10:00 pm	Mad Hatter	Quadz Bar, 4640 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, NV 89169

Calendar (continued)

April

Fri 1	4:30 pm	Happy Hour IRSCDE Inc. Event	Bastille on 3 rd 1402 South 3 rd Street Las Vegas, NV 89104
Sat 2	9:00 pm	Men of Charlie's Man of the Month Contest Benefits the Gay & Lesbian Community Center	Charlie's, 5012 South Arville Street, Las Vegas, NV 89118
Sat 9	9:00 pm	Closet Ball	Charlie's, 5012 South Arville Street, Las Vegas, NV 89118
Sun 10	4:00 pm	Leather Church	Charlie's, 5012 South Arville Street, Las Vegas, NV 89118
Sat 16	10:00 pm	Sister's Oink Night	Fun Hog Ranch, 495 East Twain Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89169
Sun 17	8:00 am	AIDS Walk Las Vegas	
Mon 18	6:30 pm	NGRA Board and General Membership Meeting	Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 401 South Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89101
Fri 22	4:30 pm	Happy Hour IRSCDE Inc. Event	Charlie's, 5012 South Arville Street, Las Vegas, NV 89118
29 - 1		A Texas Tradition Rodeo (TGRA)	Texas Horse Park Inc., 811 Pemberton Hill Road, Dallas, TX 75217
Sat 30	9:00 pm	Broadway Melodies	Flex Cocktail Lounge, 4371 West Charleston Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89102

Calendar (continued)

May

6 - 8		Hot Rodeo (GSGRA)	A C Dysart Equestrian Center 2101 West Victory Avenue, Banning, CA 92220
Sat	11:00 am	ASPERGERS 1 st Annual Cow Chip Squares & Cowboy Fair	Horseman's Park 5800 East Flamingo Road Las Vegas, NV89122
7	9:00 pm	Men of Charlie's Man of the Month Contest Benefits the St Therese Center	Charlie's, 5012 South Arville Street, Las Vegas, NV 89118
Sun 8	4:00 pm	Leather Church	Charlie's, 5012 South Arville Street, Las Vegas, NV 89118
Sat 14	9:00 pm	Dance Party	Charlie's, 5012 South Arville Street, Las Vegas, NV 89118
Mon 16	6:30 pm	NGRA Board and General Membership Meeting	Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 401 South Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89101
Fri 20	4:30 pm	Happy Hour IRSCDE Inc. Event	Phoenix Bar & Lounge, 4213 West Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89102
Sat 21	10:00 pm	Sister's Oink Night	Fun Hog Ranch, 495 East Twain Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89169
27 - 29		Great Plains Rodeo (OGRA)	Oklahoma City, OK
Sat 28	9:00 pm	NGRA Event	Phoenix Bar & Lounge, 4213 West Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89102

NGRA Board of Directors

Effective February 17th, 2016

NGRA Board ngrabod@ngra.com

President Ken Hruby <u>president@ngra.com</u>

Vice President Chris Due <u>vicepresident@ngra.com</u>

Secretary Jeffrey Neal <u>secretary@ngra.com</u>

Treasurer David Hering <u>treasurer@ngra.com</u>

IGRA Trustee Guy Puglisi <u>trustee@ngra.com</u>

Director Carolyn Jones <u>director1@ngra.com</u>

Director Barry Jones <u>director2@ngra.com</u>

Fundraising Director Marcus Grissom <u>fundraising@ngra.com</u>

NGRA 2016 Royalty

Effective November 28th, 2015

NGRA Royalty Team <u>royaltyteam@ngra.com</u>

Ms NGRA 2016 Traci Foxx <u>msngra@ngra.com</u>

Mr NGRA Phil Lombardi <u>mrngra@ngra.com</u>

Other NGRA Contacts

Effective February 17th, 2016

Historian	David Wright	history@ngra.com
Public Relations Spokesperson		pr@ngra.com
Membership Secretary	Chris Due	membership@ngra.com
Newsletter Editor	Barry Jones	news@ngra.com
Property Manager	Jeffrey Neal	
Rodeo Education	Laura Scott	education@ngra.com
Corporate Sponsorship Representative	Laura Scott	sponsors@ngra.com
Volunteer Coordinator	Carolyn Jones	volunteers@ngra.com
Webmaster	David Hering	webmaster@ngra.com