

Membership Meeting
 Saturday, August 15th, 2009
 Innuendo 4:00 p.m.

NSGRA is a proud member of



We thank our IGRA Sponsors:



We thank our 2009 local Sponsors:



GLBT Pride

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 PARTNERS!

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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!

Write ⁱⁿ the Saddle

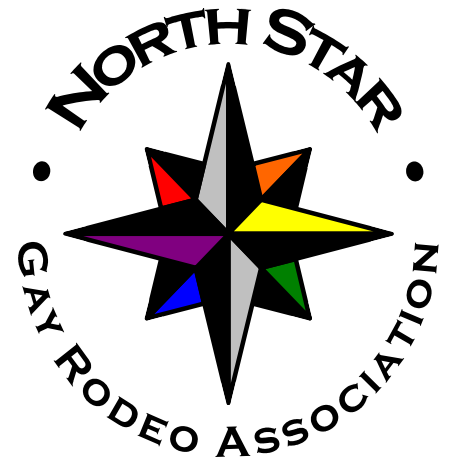
August 2009

Election of Rodeo Chair

Our bylaws specify that the Rodeo Chairperson election shall be held in August—one month before the rest of the Board of Directors. This is to allow initial planning for next year’s rodeo to proceed. If you are interested in running for this position please attend the August membership meeting on the 15th and please e-mail info@nsgra.org or call the hotline if you cannot attend the meeting but wish to be considered. We have a rodeo planning manual so if you can follow a “to do” list and have the desire to learn, YOU can be our next Rodeo Director!

Although we won’t make a final decision on whether to host a 2010 rodeo until after the August meeting, the 2009 board is doing the initial planning work now. We also need a full board for 2010 so whether we host a rodeo or not, there are other activities that can be planned and your input is valued. Details on page 6.

~Your friendly editor



IN THIS ISSUE:

ELECTION OF RODEO CHAIR 1

RODEO INFO PAGE..... 2

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE/
 NSGRA STORE/MEMBERSHIP
 MEETING..... 3

MEMBERSHIP DINNER/
 FUNDRAISER/MEMBERSHIP/BARN
 DANCE 4

DANCE NEWS//TRUSTEE 5

RODEO CHAIR ELECTION/
 2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 ELECTION 6

2010 STANDING COMMITTEE
 CHAIR ELECTIONS/ RODEO CHAIR
 ELECTION 7

2010 ELECTIONS
 CONTINUED/SHERIFFS
 MARSHALS/CALENDAR 8

**NORTH
STAR
GAY
RODEO
ASSOCIATION**



PO BOX 48039
COON RAPIDS, MN
55448

HTTP://WWW.NSGRA.ORG
(763)-78-NSGRA



Liberty Stampede Rodeo
Philadelphia, PA
July 31-August 2
www.libertygra.org

Lulu Shrine Rodeo Arena
5140 Butler Pike
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

Liberty Stampede Rodeo
Host Hotel:

Loew's Hotel,
12th and Market streets
Center City Philadelphia, PA
Reservations: 215-627-1200
"In House Reservations"
Liberty Stampede Rate
\$124.00



Windy City Rodeo
Chicago, IL
August 21-23
<http://www.ilgra.com/>

6 Guns Ranch and Arena
26926 State Line Rd
Crete IL 60417-4858

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jack R.....President
.....Vice President
Jerome H.....Secretary
LeAnn V..... Treasurer
Carl STrustee
Frankie SContestants
Steve O.Fundraising/Entertainment
Patrick SSponsorship
Carl S Membership
Patrick S Public Relations
Linda R.....Rodeo Director



NEWSLETTER TEAM

Black Bart.....Editor
Dale C.....Editor-in-training
Carl S.....Assistant



Windy City Rodeo
Host Hotel:

Doubletree Hotel
5000 West 127th Street
Alsip, Illinois
USA 60803
Rates from \$91.00 +tax
Tel: +1-708-371-7300



**Please Help Us By
Sending Your Updated
Address Info &
Email Address To:
membership@nsgra.org
or call us at
(763) 78 - NSGRA**

2009 Rodeo List

Liberty Stampede Rodeo
Philadelphia, PA 7/31 – 8/2

Windy City Rodeo
Chicago, IL 8/21 – 8/23

TGRA Rodeo
San Antonio, TX 8/28 – 8/30

MGRA Show Me State Rodeo
Kansas City, MO 9/4-9/6

Greater San Diego Rodeo
San Diego, CA 9/11-9/13

BigHorn Rodeo
Las Vegas, NV 9/18-9/20

IGRA Finals Rodeo
Albuquerque, NM 10/23-10/25

IGRA Silver Anniversary
Convention
Toronto, Ontario, Canada 11/12-
11/15

**For More Rodeo Action,
go to this website:**

WWW.IGRA.COM

TGRA Rodeo
San Antonio, TX
August 28-30

<http://www.tgra.org/>

Guadalupe County Fairgrounds
Seguin, TX 78156

Host Hotel:
Quality Inn
2950 N Hwy 123 Bypass
Seguin, TX
TGRA Rate of \$69.95
830-372-08

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Howdy Y'all!

Wow—I actually made a meeting and we had a quorum! I am glad the stars aligned and my work got me to Saint Paul on time. I am also glad that we had members present to pass the bylaw proposal to allow members who cannot be at a meeting to participate virtually via cell phone/internet presuming it is brought up to the membership chair in advance and we have the technical means to do so at a regularly scheduled meeting. This ought to help me when I am on the road!



August is an important month for NSGRA as we elect our Rodeo Chairperson at this membership meeting. I don't have a crystal ball so I can't say if we will have a rodeo next year, but I think there is the desire among our membership. We need a full board for 2010 regardless of whether we go forth and host a rodeo next summer or not. I really encourage those who have not held office to step to the plate and be on the board. We need new blood and it is not rocket science to hold such a position. If we don't have a full slate of board members at the annual membership meeting in September, that will likely mean no rodeo in 2010. Let's start things right with a rodeo director this month, please.

Speaking of the Annual Membership Meeting, we are combining our fall barn dance with the meeting and a picnic beforehand to maximize participation. Carl and a few helpers should be calling on former members and those whose memberships will soon expire and ask them to renew. We will be mailing the September newsletter via the USPS just to make sure everyone reads that important issue. We are doing these things to set the stage for a successful 2010. It is up to you, our members, to decide the future direction of our association. Please participate and to paraphrase what they say in the army, help us to "be all that we can be".

Your friendly President, here to serve YOU!

=) Happy Jack - NSGRA President

NSGRA STORE

With the rodeo season moving along, please keep in mind that NSGRA has an online store open 24 hours a day every day--just go to www.nsgra.org and click "store". You will find our team shirts, lapel/hat pin, name badges just a few clicks away. You can even join or renew your membership there! If you click the hyperlink "you can get more merchandise here" you will be sent to <http://www.cafepress.com/nsgra> opening the door to t-shirts, tote bags, coffee mugs and more! For those of you without an Internet connection, you can either go to your friendly neighborhood library to get online, or call our hotline at 763-78-NSGRA and we can mail you an order sheet.

NSGRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

AUGUST 15TH

Please attend the membership meeting at **4 PM on Saturday, August 15th** at Innuendo/Rumours. It is located at 213 4th St E (Lower town) downtown Saint Paul across from the old train station. Participation makes our association strong and we need a quorum of 10 people or we cannot do any business! We are also electing our 2010 Rodeo Director at this meeting. Our goal is to have our meetings completed in about an hour—please attend! A dinner follows.

MEMBERSHIP DINNER

AUGUST 15

Following the membership meeting at Innuendo we will head to Cossetta's at 211 7th St W St. Paul (Near the Excel Center) 651-222-3476 <http://cossettaevent.com/> featuring inexpensive and delicious Italian food since 1911—be there at 6PM. We had a GREAT time there last month so we thought we should try it again.

NSGRA FUNDRAISER—UNDER THE BIG TOP

AUGUST 22

Howdy NSGRA Members!!!

Cirque du Soleil is not the only event going on in Saint Paul under the big top! Come to the NSGRA Royalty “Under the Big Top” event at Innuendo from 9pm – midnight on August 22nd. There is no cover although donations are gratefully accepted. Your support will help benefit our 2010 rodeo! Bring your friends!

Gosh Alice Jones—Miss NSGRA 2009

MEMBERSHIP

CARL S

Howdy NSGRA Members!!!

All members--get excited that you are all about to receive your annual email to invite you to renew and attend the Fall Annual Membership Meeting. Please take the time to renew and help us kick off this fall so next July will be a breeze!!!!!!!!!! The months are ticking by and it is time to reach out and give a hand to each other to bring NSGRA back. See you in September at the annual meeting.

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 currently 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!

Carl S
2009 Membership Chair

MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: NSGRA BARN DANCE SEPTEMBER 19

After our Annual Membership meeting and picnic, our fall barn dance/camp out spectacular is scheduled for Saturday, September 19th from 8 PM-12 AM at the Dance Hall Creek Farm located at 6075 highway 55 in Greenfield, Minnesota--30 minutes West of downtown Minneapolis. For those who don't know the area, that is 12.2 miles West of I-494 on highway 55. Look for the Tiki lights beside the driveway.

The Barn Dance includes free beverages and snacks with your admission, although donations are encouraged! Fire conditions permitting, we will have a bonfire for making S'mores, too! Since parking is limited, we suggest car-pooling and please invite your friends to attend! A big thank you goes out to Bob B who owns the Dance Hall Creek Farm and is a NSGRA Marshal! Camp setup starts at 4 PM. Checkout is by 1 PM Sunday. (We have limited campsites)

DANCE NEWS

Editors Note: I received this notice about the cancellation of future VFW Dances. While I wish we had been alerted to David's break even point, this does hold a lesson to all of us that if we like a particular activity; we need to support it via our participation.

Dear Dancing Friends,

This letter is to announce the end of the alternate Saturday night dances at the Ballentine VFW. The dance on the Riverboat was the last dance I will sponsor. Thanks to all who turned out on July 18, it was a great evening! The attendance was 123 people and everyone seemed to have a good time.

The cancellation of the other dances was due to a lack of attendance. The break-even point at the VFW was 92 people. We were over the figure fairly often, but not often enough: the majority of times we at 75 to 85 people. I had hoped we could at least break-even.

I wish it were otherwise because the dancing community is made up of the finest people I have ever known.

Thank you for your support,

David Buchkosky

+++++

Lee's Liquor Lounge continues to offer weekly country-dance to the GLBT community on Sunday evenings. With the warmer weather, dance lessons now begin at 7 pm with open dancing starting at 8 pm. Also as a reminder, beginning 2 step lessons are held on the first Sunday of the month. If you don't know how to 2 step, this would be a great time to learn! Lee's is located 4 blocks from downtown Minneapolis at 12th Street and Glenwood Ave. (101 N. Glenwood Avenue) Additional dance information is at <http://www.2stepmsp.org/>.

TRUSTEE REPORT

CARL S

Howdy NSGRA Members!!!

WOW--it is August and all my bags are packed... I am off to the Liberty Bell Rodeo in Philadelphia, PA. I am excited once again to crawl in to the arena to see what kind of dirt I can get into this time....

I will also be attending our Third of the Year IGRA Board of Directors Meeting and Trustee's Meeting on Friday. I look forward to hear the finals plans for convention and World Gay Rodeo Finals. I will bring back a full report at our next membership meeting.

Also please keep it on your minds that our Annual Membership Meeting is coming in September and WE (the Board) would love to see you all attend and dress in your best pair of boots. We also need a full Board of Directors for 2010. IF we want a rodeo next year it is time to dust of the boots and dig our heals in...

Carl S
2009 Trustee

2010 NSGRA RODEO CHAIRPERSON ELECTION AUGUST 15TH

Our featured article on page one gives an overview of this position. The following are the specific duties of the Rodeo Chairperson as described in our bylaws and past experience. **Location details on page 3.**

The rodeo chairperson will be the rodeo director for the NSGRA rodeo. The rodeo chairperson must attend at least one IGRA sanctioned rodeo prior to his or her own during the current IGRA year. Shall establish and maintain a roster of active committee members. Shall establish a regular schedule and notify the Board of Directors and general membership of meeting times and places. Shall present a report of committee actions to each general membership meeting. Shall serve on the Board of Directors, coordinate all activities of the committee, shall establish subcommittees as needed, coordinate activities of their committee with the other committees. Rodeo Director shall plan and coordinate execution of the rodeo and/or rodeo related events. This includes major and/or unit rodeos, training or gymkhana dates for rodeo events, and shall carry out any other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors or general membership.

2010 NSGRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION SEPTEMBER 19TH

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 4PM at Dance Hall Creek Farm and a picnic 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.

D. 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 from time to time.

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.

Rodeo

See Page 6

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.

Contestant

1. Designate training coordinator(s) to organize training events or gymkhana dates for the four types of rodeo events.
2. Create an educational/mentoring program for new contestants.
3. Report on rodeo results.
4. Coordinate North Star Saddle Club (see page 12, Rule 4)
5. The Chair shall be responsible for all rodeo equipment and for making policy for the use of said equipment. 'Policy' to be presented to the Treasurer and the Executive Board for approval.
6. The Contestant Chair shall coordinate Contestant Registration at the Rodeo

Trustee.

Carl has 2 years remaining of his 3 year term

2010 NSGRA STANDING COMMITTEES ELECTION SEPTEMBER 19TH

Public Relations.

1. The point of contact for all NSGRA press releases. 2. Plan and coordinate execution of all media correspondence, advertising, and press releases via radio, TV, newspapers, internet and NSGRA website. Responsible for updating web site. 3. Responsible for NSGRA Hotline, recording monthly greetings, checking for messages and answering messages. 4. Responsible for the rodeo poster contest and distribution of posters. 5. Responsible for the rodeo brochure and any other rodeo promotional items. 6. Shall handle or cause to be handled all correspondence and communication as deemed necessary. 7. Shall inform the Board of Directors and the general membership of any incoming and outgoing correspondence. 8. Shall insure that all incoming and outgoing correspondence and communication is completed as deemed necessary. 9. Shall see that all special notices are duly given in accordance with the bylaws. 10. Shall perform all duties incident to the office and such other duties as may be prescribed from time to time.

Sponsorships

1. The Sponsorships Chair shall work with corporations, businesses and individuals to generate sponsorships for the rodeo. 2. Keep a detailed accounting of sponsorships/donations received. 3. Keep track of buckles and officials awards sponsored/available. 4. Shall insure that sponsors get all promised sponsorship benefits. 5. Make sure all sponsorship information is up to date on web site and in newsletter. 6. Shall perform all duties incident to the office and such other duties as may be prescribed from time to time.

NSGRA 2009 SHERIFFS AND MARSHALS

Sheriffs (Individual Sponsors)

Mark D
Lawrence E
Mark L

Bud L
Curt P
Linda R

Jack R
Black Bart
McCallun P

Marshals (Business Sponsors)

Blazing Saddle

Buddy's Corral
Patrick S

Dance Hall Creek Farm

Our sincere thanks to these generous individuals and businesses!

Please support our business sponsors and let them know your appreciate their support of NSGRA.

We also thank those who have donated time and financial support in other ways!

NSGRA CALENDAR

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2009

August 2009

Sat 8 Storm Beer Bust – Mpls Eagle 5-8 PM (www.mnstorm.com)
Sat 15 NSGRA Membership Meeting—Innuendo 4pm (Election of 2010 Rodeo Director)
Sat 15 NSGRA Membership Dinner—6PM Cossetta's, St. Paul
Sat 22 NSGRA Fundraiser “Under the Big Top” –Innuendo 9pm-midnight

September 2009

Sat 12 Storm Beer Bust – Mpls Eagle 5-8 PM (www.mnstorm.com)
Sat 12 Madison Barn Dance
Sat 19 NSGRA Annual Membership Meeting—Greenfield, MN 4pm (Election of 2010 Board)
Sat 19 NSGRA Picnic 6PM, Barn Dance 8pm-12am —Greenfield, MN