

Annual Meeting, Sept. 19, 2009
 Dance Hall Creek Farm, 4:00pm

NSGRA is a proud member of



We thank our IGRA Sponsors:



We thank our 2009 local Sponsors:



GLBT Pride

 AND ALL OUR LOCAL NSGRA
 PARTNERS!

 Please visit:



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

September 2009

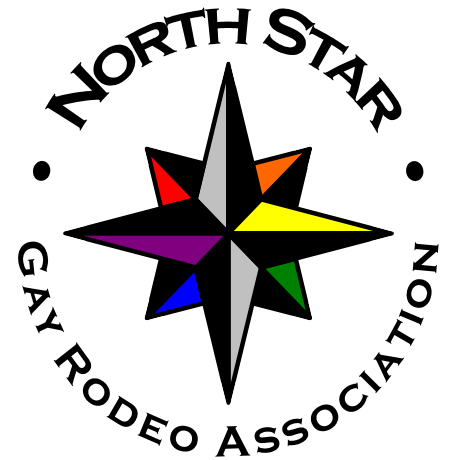
NSGRA Wants YOU!

It's that time once again. What time is that, you ask? It's time for the annual meeting to elect the 2010 board members. We need to have a full board for the 2010 rodeo season. The meeting will be held on September 19, 2009 at Dance Hall Creek Farm at 4:00pm. If you have ideas that will make our organization better, what better place to do that then as a board member. See the article on pages 7 and 8. There are many openings on the board as well as a proposed by-law change as mentioned last month.

The Annual IGRA convention will be taking place in November, see Bart's article for more information.

We are sending this issue in the US Postal Service since your membership has expired. Please take a few minutes to fill out a renewal form and send it in.

~Your friendly new editor



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**NORTH
STAR
GAY
RODEO
ASSOCIATION**



PO BOX 48039
COON RAPIDS, MN
55448

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



MGRA Show Me State Rodeo
Kansas City, MO 9/4-9/6
<http://mgra.us/>
Lone Wolf Ranch and Arena
near Cleveland, MO

Host Hotels:
For reservations, call:

1-800-222-TREE and give the
group code MGR or Missouri
Gay Rodeo Association.

You may also visit
www.overlandparkcorporatedoubletree.com

Put in the dates of your stay and
under the Special Accounts -
Group/Convention Code put in
the group code of MGR.



Greater San Diego Rodeo
San Diego, CA 9/11-9/13
<http://www.sandiegorodeo.org>

BigHorn Rodeo
Las Vegas, NV 9/18-9/20
<http://www.ngra.com>

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 M.....Rodeo Director



NEWSLETTER TEAM

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



Greater San Diego Rodeo
Host hotel:
The Handlery Hotel and Resort
950 Hotel Circle North
San Diego, CA 92108
<http://www.handlery.com/sd/>
1-619-298-0511

Big Horn Rodeo
Host hotel:
Eastside Cannery Casino & Hotel
5255 Boulder Highway, Las
Vegas, Nevada 89122
(702) 856-5300
To reserve, call toll free 866-999-
4899 or local 702-856-5300 and
mention the code "NGRA."

**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

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

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

Horseman's Park
5800 E Flamingo Rd
Las Vegas NV 89122-5502

Host Hotel:
Eastside Cannery Casino & Hotel
5255 Boulder Highway, Las
Vegas, Nevada 89122

Host Hotel:
Eastside Cannery Casino & Hotel

Sun-Thurs \$29.95 per night
Fri & Sat \$69.95 per night

To reserve, call toll free 866-999-
4899 or local 702-856-5300 and
mention the code "NGRA."

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Howdy Y'all!

September marks the end of the year for most who has two years remaining on his term and month as per our bylaws. It has been an honor to bearing with me despite my crazy work schedule.



officers of NSGRA except our faithful Trustee Carl our new Rodeo Chair Linda who was elected last serve as President this year and I thank everyone for

September is also the beginning of our 2010 calendar year with the election of new officers. Whether you have served on the board or not, there is a position that has your name on it. A growing issue with many non profit organizations is the difficulty of finding volunteers to fill needed positions and NSGRA is no exception. The best we can do is coast without an engaged board of directors and an engaged membership.

Despite not hosting a 2009 rodeo, NSGRA did play a leadership role at Twin Cities Pride with hosting the dance tent and we made an effort to have more non-fundraising membership events throughout the year. I'd like to think we could do much more and really grow in 2010 with a modest increase in participation. Our Annual Membership Meeting sets the stage for the following year and I strongly encourage everyone to come to the Dance Hall Creek Farm for this meeting and stay for the picnic and barn dance. This meeting IS important as we select our board, change our bylaws and decide whether will host a rodeo for the next year. Your participation is essential! I hope to see a big crowd on the 19th!

Your friendly President, proud to have served YOU!

=> Happy Jack - NSGRA President

NSGRA STORE

With the new rodeo season here, 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 you friendly neighborhood library to get online, or call our hotline at 763-78-NSGRA and we can mail you an order sheet.

MEMBERSHIP

CARL S

ATTENTION EVERYONE!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We all need to get on line and renew today!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We have all expired... Since we did not have a rodeo this year... a number of memberships have lapsed... So take a minute and let's renew!!!!!!!!!!!!!! It is easy.... Click on NSGRA.org and rejoin or use the attached form on page 12.

See you all on September 19th at the Fall Meeting and Dance

Carl S 2009 Membership Chair

Hi all, will I like to say first" lets rodeo. "For those of you how do not know me I am the grumpy old lady. It took me 67 years to get that way. It is the James Dobson's and Tony Perkins of this world that made me grumpy.

I am transsexual and I was married to Pauline before transition. We have been married for 11years. So much for that debate on gay people destroying marriage. I do not know any ones marriage that was destroyed by my marriage. I have a daughter that I have raised as a transsexual woman since birth. She is now 18, graduated from high school and started college in July at Le Cordon Bleu and is living at home with us.

The western lifestyle has been has always been a big apart my life. I am more comfortable in cowboy boots than in high heels. By the way Pauline and my daughter have cowboy boots and the both have had horses. I would rather be on horseback than in the front seat of a car. Maybe that is because from 1959 until 1992 I was a long haul trucker and truck seats are not as comfortable as saddle seats.

In the spring of 1967, I followed Horace Greenly's advice and went west to Arizona from rural Iowa. Living in Arizona it is imposible to escape western life style; you do not have to look very hard to find small local rodeo arenas. There is hardly a Friday or Saturday night that goes by that you do not see lights on and see someone roping calves or someone riding bulls or broncs. It was at one these local rodeos that I first rode a bull. I have and use to love to green brake horses so the next logical step was bulls. I got on, they opened the chute, and the bull stepped out and stood there for the 3 second. I tried again at a larger rodeo I did not even get out the chute before eating dirt. That ended my bull riding days. Anybody that rides bull has to be either the bravest person in the world or the craziest and I am not sure of which. As far as roping I have never tried it but again from a dead stand still to full run on the back of thousand pound horse and control a rope my hat goes off to you. As for those barrel race riders no one knows the faith and trust that both the rider and the horse has for each other until they try it for themselves.

Some of the best rodeos in this country are those sanctioned by the IGRA. I believe the Minnesota North Star Gay Rodeo Association has the ability to support charitable organizations by maintaining the western spirit. It is the western spirit of helping others while having fun, like in the days of barn raising and ranchers getting together for the round up and helping each other that sets us apart as cowboys and cowgirls. "LETS RODEO"

ANY one that would like to be on the Rodeo committee can contact me, I cannot do it by myself; it takes good old western team work.

grumpy old lady
Linda M

WOW it is time for our annual meeting and an opportunity for everyone to step up and support the NSGRA Rodeo 2010. Leadership is always important and it can also be a lot of fun, plus you get to hang out with good people. We have some busy activities approaching this fall. Annual meeting, September 19th. It is very important that we all renew our memberships and get a Kick out of being a proud country and western person. See you in September....

Carl S
2009 Trustee

Dear NSGRA Members,

A huge thanks to the performers and guests who helped to make our last fundraising party so much fun! Under the Big Top was held at Innuendo in St Paul MN and we raised the roof and some much needed funds for next years rodeo.

I have been thinking about the response each of us have to life, and our responsibility in making our lives make sense and be successful. I have learned that I can be good on my own, but I am capable of greatness with the help of my friends!

My personal friend Nate Vanway, Mr NSGRA 2009, and I want to be excellent public role models for our organization and help to hold an exciting rodeo event next year.

We have been doing a good job, but with everyone's help, we as a group are going to do great in the year ahead. I am personally calling on each of you to do what you can to make our organization a success.

I encourage you to come to a meeting, a dance, or a fundraising party. Call a friend and let them know we need help to bring the rodeo event back next year. Let's get off the couch and back in the saddle and ride into the future.

As Always,

Love,

Miss Gosh Alice Jones
Miss North Star Gay Rodeo 2009

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR**DALE C.**

Howdy y'all. I want to take this moment to say that I am looking forward to serving as the editor of Write in the Saddle. I have recently completed 4 ½ years of college (first my Bachelor of Science in Business/Management and then my MBA in Marketing). I've been involved, unofficially, with NSGRA since 2003 and felt it was time to get more intimately involved after volunteering at the 2008 North Start Regional Rodeo. I will be travelling to the San Diego Rodeo and helping them out as well. Scott Grant, Mr. San Diego Rodeo 2004, has helped us out as a timer in 2007 and 2008 as well as teaching dance lessons for many years for our rodeo. He also made the trip to MN for Twin Cities Pride and taught dance lessons. So, felt it was the right thing to do to pay it back.

I have some ideas bring a fresh look to your newsletter. Yes, I said *your* newsletter. If it weren't for you, we wouldn't have a need for Write in the Saddle.

I am open to any ideas you may have as far as what you would want to see/read. Feel free to drop me a note at writeinthesaddle@gmail.com.

Your editor,
Dale C.

→ United Way Time Again...

If your employer participates in a giving campaign, you can probably direct some of your contribution to the “MINNESOTA North Star Gay Rodeo Association” or “M-NSGRA” by writing it in during the pledge process (probably a web based thing these days). United Way is not the only employer giving program, but others will likely allow you to direct all or a portion of your giving to a specific organization like NSGRA.

By-the-way our legal name is **Minnesota North Star Gay Rodeo Assoc.** and when United Way sends us mail, they address it to **M-NSGRA**. We are a **501(c)(3)** non-profit corporation.

→ I Want to Hear Your Ideas

Beer Should've Cost a Buck More...

I was thinking about the last rodeo, 2008, and wondering what we could have done differently to put more money in the bank for the NSGRA's future and for the benefit of the non-profits we want to support. At first I thought about the difference it would have made if we had charged a dollar more for beer. It would have made a little difference and maybe put a few more dollars in the bank but it isn't the magic that is going to keep us funded. (Our rodeo costs about \$50,000.)

What do we need to keep rodeo fundraising alive and growing here in the Minnesota & Wisconsin area? I am certain that we need to get to an attendance at the event of at least 5,000 people. We need to add things that will attract people to our 4th of July event who are not totally rodeo fans. They need to be things that happen beside the rodeo but are complementary to the rodeo and western lifestyle.. Cowboys and Cowgirls do a lot of different things...

What are your ideas? Ask around and find out what your friends think. Let me know ASAP.

patrick.schreier@gmail.com or phone 651-252-4169 (my Google voice)

Also, [please make a donation to the NSGRA](#) to help get the 2010 rodeo get off the ground. The bank account needs it. You can do it on line at www.nsgra.org or mail it to the NSGRA P.O. Box.



→ Roping, Dancing, Flagging Ooh My.

(Things Cowboys and Cowgirls Might Do...)

I want to learn to do rope tricks. Soon there will be a page on the www.nsgra.org website (under the new dance area) that will provide some resources as I try to find people who are interested in getting involved in learning to perform rope tricks.

I want to learn Country Western Dancing (both line and couple). A page is under construction on the website to coordinate this opportunity.

I want to learn flag dancing (become a flagger). You may have seen men and women spinning brightly colored flags at dance parties or in parades in the past. The twin cities had a group called “Perpetual Motion” that I remember seeing at the Saloon when I first came out about eight years back. But I haven't seen much lately. It turns out you can “Flag” while wearing a cowboy hat and it's pretty cool (my opinion). Well guess what, I am adding a page at the www.nsgra.org website to try to organize people who want to learn this.



→ Going out with my boots on... My Grin has always been a little crooked...

Randy Hauser Music

I guess I need that circular shape worn into my back pocket to fulfill the image in the country western music. But I don't dip and currently I don't even have a dip can. I don't think I am going to start dipping but I did watch a lot of video on YouTube about it. I guess I will have to buy a dip can and remove the dip. What should I put in my empty dip can to maintain the country western image?
patrick.schreier@gmail.com

Have a great month –

Patrick S.

Public Relations and Sponsorship Committee Chairperson

DANCE NEWS

Lee's Liquor Lounge offers weekly country-dance to the GLBT community on Sunday evenings. Dance lessons 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/>.

MADISON BARN DANCE/CAMPOUT

SEPTEMBER 12TH

It is time for a road trip and only about 4 hours from the Twin Cities! We are all invited to the Dairyland Cowboys and Cowgirls barn dance/camp out near Madison, WI on Saturday, September 12th. The address is: N507 Fick Road, Wonewoc, WI 53968 Phone 608-464-3104 cell 608-215-3026
<http://www.dcandc.org/index.shtml>

Hike and picnic on Third Castle Rock at 1 PM (short hike from farm) Potluck dinner and 6:30 p.m. Bring food for dinner, they have coolers and microwaves and gas grills Barn Dance 7:00 p.m. until Midnight

There are plenty of spaces for people to pitch tents. There is a nice hotel in the town of Hillsboro (about 5 miles from the farm) Sleep Inn for people who don't want to rough it. Reservations are recommended. phone 608-489-3000 address 1235 Water St, Hillsboro, Wi Breakfast in Wonewoc (Mill Towne Restaurant) 9 AM Sunday morning June 21st.

Directions to the farm.

Take I 94 south to Wisconsin Dells. Get off on the Hwy 23 exit, take Hwy 23 west to Highway 33 and take Highway 33 west. Take Hwy 33 to Wonewoc. In Wonewoc take a left on County Rd FF (this is just past the canoe rental). Go 1/2 mile and take a right turn onto Fick Rd. Address is N507 Fick road. Dead ends into the farm. Rocky Ledge farm sign is on the stop sign on Fick Rd.

I want to repeat what I said in the July newsletter: I had a WONDERFUL time at the Madison area barn dance in June! The farm is a mile outside of a cute town called Wonewoc and a bike trail passes right through the town on an abandoned railroad line. I had a great ride then got dressed for a fabulous potluck dinner, a great dance and enjoyed seeing fireflies during the solstice. We took over a small café Sunday morning where the revelry continued. A handful of Twin Cities' dancers participated and we were treated with great hospitality. I highly recommend this event to our membership this month.

~Black Bart

NSGRA ANNUAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 19

Our Annual Membership meeting (followed by our membership picnic and our fall barn dance/camp out spectacular) is scheduled for Saturday, September 19th at 4 PM 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.

At this important meeting we will be electing our 2010 President, Vice President, Secretary, Contestant Chair, Fundraising/Entertainment Chair, Sponsorship Chair, Membership Chair and Public Relations Chair. (Our Trustee to IGRA has 2 years remaining in his term and we elected a new Rodeo Chair for 2010 last month—read their articles elsewhere.) The Annual Membership Meeting is the one meeting of the year where bylaws can be introduced, debated and passed without advance notice. It is also the meeting where we decide whether to host a rodeo for the upcoming year. In short, this is the most important membership meeting of the year—please attend!

NSGRA MEMBERSHIP PICNIC SEPTEMBER 19

After our Annual Membership meeting we will host a membership picnic also at the Dance Hall Creek Farm. (See address above) NSGRA will provide music, snacks and non alcoholic beverages to supplement the picnic you packed. Feel free to invite friends and have them stay for the barn dance. The picnic should start between 6-6:30 PM depending on when the membership meeting ends.

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. This makes 3 activities at the same location on the same day! Look for the Tiki lights beside the driveway if you are driving after dark and directions and address are above.

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)

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!

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.

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

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.

Oh Canada! November 12-15

The IGRA Silver Anniversary Convention is coming up November 12-15 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. NSGRA is allotted 5 delegates and 5 alternates for this historic event. It is also the first IGRA event hosted by the Central Canada Gay Rodeo Association (CCGRA).

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. Frankly, a trip to Toronto is fun regardless of when or why you visit and CCGRA has been working very hard for this to be a memorable weekend. The Canadian \$80.00 registration fee includes your lunches and is a great deal considering the strong US dollar and the same is true for the host hotel.

If you care to participate in this convention you will need a valid passport to gain entry to Canada and to get back home. The State Department has been swamped with passport applications, in response to the recent changes in the law regarding travel within the Western Hemisphere. A non-expedited application is now taking about 4-6 weeks to process. An expedited application is taking about 2 weeks to process.

If you are planning any international travel (including to Canada) in the foreseeable future, you are well advised to get your passport now, and avoid a last-minute panic. You can complete the passport form online by searching under "U.S. Passport Application" and visit the State Department website, or apply at a US Post Office or even many local government service centers.

On the off chance you have a DUI or other criminal record; you need to apply for rehabilitation at <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/rehabil.asp>.

Please visit <http://www.ccgca.ca> to learn more about this opportunity including schedule, easy public transportation (no need to rent a car!) and please contact Carl at trustee@nsgra.org or show up at the annual meeting to become a delegate or alternative delegate.

NSGRA CALENDAR**SEPT. AND OCT. 2009****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

October 2009

- Sat 10 Storm Beer Bust – Mpls Eagle 5-8 PM (www.mnstorm.com)
- Membership Meeting date and location TBD**
- Fri 23 IGRA Finals Rodeo Albuquerque, NM 10/23-10/25

Winter get away 3rd Annual GLBT Hoedown at Sea January 21-25 Miami-Cozumel

Rates as low as \$460.40 per person double occupancy

www.hoedownatsea.com

877-736-3880

RebeccaH@sandctravel.com



North Star Gay Rodeo Association Membership Application

NSGRA membership is open to all members of the GLBT and straight communities. Ownership of a horse and/or rodeo competition is not required. Application information is strictly confidential. Information that you provide is strictly for the personal use of the membership and may not be sold or used for business mailings. (Updated Oct. 2008)

Membership Type

- Cowpoke \$25.00 (individual)
- Sidekicks \$40.00 (2 members at the same address)
- Sheriff \$100+ (individual member sponsor)
- Deputy \$50+ (sheriffs partner at same address)
- Marshal \$100+ (member business sponsor)

Personal Information

Please *Print* Clearly

Name _____

E-Mail _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

I am applying for membership within NSGRA and I am at least 21yars of age.

Signature _____ Date _____

Sidekick Information

Name _____

E-mail _____

Cell Phone _____

I am applying for membership within NSGRA and I am at least 21 years of age.

Signature _____ Date _____

If you would like your information to be placed on the "General Membership" list to be viewed by other members, check the information (if any) to be listed.

Address Email Home Address Cell Phone

How would you like to receive your monthly newsletter?

Email US Postal I do not wish to receive a newsletter

Please turn this application in to any NSGRA Board Member or Mail to
NSGRA P.O. Box 48039 Coon Rapids, MN 55448