

WRITE IN THE SADDLE



MARCH 2010

Highlights this month:

Membership Meeting –
March 13th, 7pm @ the
VFW

VFW Dance –
March 13th, 8pm

Country Returns to the
Townhouse –
March 20th

Inside this Issue:

Vice President	2
Fundraising	2
From the Editor	3
Palm Springs Rodeo Update	3
Membership Report	4
Dancing at Lee's	5
Rodeo List	5
VFW Dances	5
Public Relations	6
Calendar	7
Sheriffs and Marshalls	7
NSGRA Store	7

FROM THE PRESIDENT

MARK L

Howdy rodeo and dance fans!

A big thank you to all of you who attended NSGRA's 20th Anniversary dance on February 20th. A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped put this celebration together. It was a truly enjoyable evening. It was sure fun to see all of our friends from years past, as well as meet newcomers. Again, thanks everyone for making our celebration a success.

Thanks Dan, for building a new boot-shine and Gary, for shining boots all evening! Thanks Colin for arranging for the delicious cakes. I must admit, I had the great pleasure of sampling all of them.

I hope everyone in attendance had the opportunity to visit the wall of history and learn a little (or a lot) about the North Star Gay Rodeo Association, what we do and why we're here. One goal I have as your president is to continue our quest to bring a little bit of the country & western lifestyle to the Twin Cities. I also want to expand this to the outlying areas of Minnesota and Wisconsin and perhaps even to North & South Dakota, Iowa and, who knows, maybe even across the border into Canada. If you can help us in doing this, or have ideas as to how to achieve my goals, please, by all means let me or any of the board.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the March 13th dance. Please remember to fill out the surveys Patrick and Dan have developed. This will help us to continue to serve you and our community.

Truly yours,
Mark Larson, President-NSGRA

FROM THE VP

DAN V

Hello Everyone!

Well now we have two highly successful dances under our belt! It was great to see so many old familiar faces at the 20th Anniversary celebration. Thanks to everyone for all the hard work planning and setting up, and tearing down. It's a lot of work but I think we will have it perfected soon. We are still working with floor plans. Only a few people completed the music survey, so we will pass them out at the next dance and take it from there. I think it's been a long time since NSGRA had a year off to such an exciting start.

The NSGRA board will all be reviewing the webpage this month to help keep it one of the best sites in IGRA. If there is something you think needs to be included on the page, please mention it to a board member or come to the meeting on the 13th. You can find it at www.NSGRA.org.

Without a rodeo this year, we need to focus on other ways to fulfill our mission statement. AJ pointed out we are required to have a yearly dance competition, so this dovetails perfectly with hosting the dances. We will discuss this at the next meeting, stay tuned for details, or better yet, come and attend a membership meeting and share your thoughts!

I hope to see you on the 13th!
Dan V

FUNDRAISING

AJ V

Howdy All

WOW what a party! Our 20th Anniversary was soooooo much fun. Thanks to everyone who attended and also to all the volunteers for making it such a success. Our next Dance will be on March 13 and we will start at 8pm to give everyone another hour to dance! I also want to remind everyone that the cell phone, battery and ink cartridge recycling program is up and running. So please bring any of those items to the next dance. I have a question to ask all of you. "Do you think you have what it takes?" If you've got it flaunt it! Keep your eyes open for more information about the 2010 Dance competition this fall. Never too early to grab a partner and start practicing! Speaking of practicing ILGRA is hosting a Rodeo Boot Camp the weekend of Jun 5th & 6th at Six Guns Ranch and Arena in Crete, IL. For more information please visit ilgra.com.

Wishing you all the best for March.

Ride 'em Cowboy!
AJ

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!

Board of Directors

- Mark LPresident
- Dan V.....Vice President
- Jerome.....Secretary
- Ron B.....Treasurer
- Linda M.....Rodeo Director
- Jeff R.....Contestants
- Colin S.....Membership
- Carl S.....Trustee
- Patrick S...PR/Sponsorship
- AJ V.....Fundraising

Newsletter Team

- Dale CEditor
- Colin S.....Assistant Editor

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



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

DALE C

Howdy all,

I want to echo what everyone else has been saying about the 20th Anniversary dance. It was a great time and the history wall was great. Thanks to everyone who helped add to that. I had a friend with me that has not had any contact with the rodeo and is wanting to learn more about it and get more involved, even if it's just spectating (the boy can't dance...YET). Everyone who helped with set up and planning did a bang-up job and I just can't say it enough...THANK YOU.

If anyone was planning on going to Palm Springs for the 2010 GSGRA-PS Chapter Rodeo, please read below as, just like NSGRA, they have opted not to host one this year. I was contacted by Harley at Homorodeo.com with this information and his email is quoted below

I want to remind everyone that if they have aluminum cans that go in the recycling bin on garbage day, bring them to any event and we will take them to the recycling center and put the proceeds towards our fundraising. I myself have a grocery bag full of crushed cans that I will be bringing to the next dance.

Until next month! Cowboy up!

PALM SPRINGS RODEO UPDATE

"We've been contacted by the Golden State Gay Rodeo Association to inform our membership that the Palm Springs 2010 "Hot Rodeo" has been postponed this year.

The President of Golden State Gay Rodeo Association has expressed his appreciation for all the group of outstanding, hardworking and professional individuals who are now working to host the 2011 Hot Rodeo in Palm Springs.

"After several meetings, long hours and efforts from members of the entire GSGRA membership it is with regret that we have to announce the 2010 Palm Springs Rodeo will be canceled, but this does not mean that in 2011 the Palm Springs chapter of GSGRA will not have the hottest rodeo ever." - Chris Caufield GSGRA - President

We love to keep our HomoRodeo.com members informed as much as possible without creating SPAM and felt this was an important message to relay for those of you who might have (like us) been planning to attend this year's HOT RODEO in Palm Springs.

Best wishes to the 2011 Hot Rodeo crew!

There are a lot of wonderful rodeos going on this year so be sure to support them by planning to attend... for help on adding yourself to THE LIST please click the link below!

<http://www.homorodeo.com/members/faq.php#11>

MEMBERSHIP REPORT**BLACK BART**

Howdy, members!!

I would like to thank everyone who helped make our 20th anniversary celebration such a success! I don't want to make a list of individuals for fear that I will forget someone, so whether you brought items for the history wall, loaned us your DJ equipment, DJ'd our dance, shined shoes, helped with the silent auction, helped with set up or tear down, helped get the word out or just came out to support this association, I thank you all! Don't worry—I have already thanked my sister for setting the dessert table and her husband who provided all those wonderful cakes!

In addition to giving me a warm fuzzy feeling by participating, the history wall showed the two decades that have passed deserve preservation. Some of the items were promotional like programs and posters while others were poignant like the team shirt of a member who has since died. It really struck me that we need to do a better job of saving these traces of who we were and are as an association.

I would like us to seriously explore donating our historical items to the Jean-Nickolaus Tretter Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Studies at the University of Minnesota with duplicates going to the Autry National Center in Los Angeles. The Tretter collection would give us access to our items while keeping them in a safe climate controlled environment. The Autry National Center has agreed to preserve and display archival objects from every IGRA member association.

I hope from our celebration we gain a few new members and renewals from former members. In the meanwhile, I would like to welcome back Steve L as a returning member! 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 our editor Dale-- writeinthesaddle@gmail.com.

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!

Let's Rodeo!

"Black Bart"
2010 Membership chair

2010 RODEOS

- Apr 16-18 Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- ~~Apr 30 - May 2 Palm Springs, CA~~
CANCELED
- May 28-30 Oklahoma City, OK
- Jun 11-13 St. Louis, MO
- Jun 11-13 Sacramento, CA
- Jun 25-27 Detroit, MI
- Jul 2-4 Calgary, AB, Canada
- Jul 9-11 Denver, CO
- Jul 23-25 Albuquerque, NM
- Aug 13-15 San Francisco, CA
- Aug 20-22 Chicago, IL
- Sep 3-5 Kansas City, MO
- Sep 10-12 Dallas, TX
- Sep 10-12 San Diego, CA
- Oct 1-3 Tulsa, OK
- Oct 21-24 World Gay Rodeo
Finals
Laughlin, NV
- Nov 11-14 IGRA Convention
Reno, NV



DANCING AT LEE'S

Is there a line dance that you have seen and want to learn? Come out to Lee's to learn. Lessons start at 6pm and open dancing at 7pm (until the time change that is).

Don't know how to 2-step? The first Sunday of every month, BEGINNER DANCES are taught at Lee's Liquor Lounge

Lee's Liquor Lounge
101 N. Glenwood Avenue
(Corner of 12th & Glenwood)
Minneapolis

DANCING AT THE VFW

NSGRA - Invite Your Friends

As we move forward with the Country Western VFW dances, Patrick recognized that the most valuable form of advertising we have is you personally inviting people to come to event. Keep up the good work. It has been working great.

Patrick will be making a Facebook event for the March 13th dance and will place the link in the dance announcement on the www.nsgra.org website. If you get a chance, please link to it and invite all your Facebook friends.

If you have ideas about other ways of getting the word out, please let Patrick know. publicrelations@nsgra.org

Dance Schedule

- April 17th (third Saturday - same as Townhouse country western night)
- May 1st
- June 12th
- July 10th
- Aug 7th
- Sept 11th
- Oct 9th
- Nov. 13th
- Dec. 11th

NSGRA – Got Collateral? (Marketing Collateral)

Marketing collateral is the fancy name for brochures, etc. used to advertise a product. The NSGRA supports the country western dance community and we are currently building some resource literature (business cards and a small flyer) that can be used when you find someone or group that is interested in exploring country western dance, etc. These are not advertisements specifically for the next dance but instead provide websites and short descriptions to assist folk in finding the GLBT dance opportunities available in the Twin Cities. Look for these to be available soon.

NSGRA – Where Are the Sponsors? (Part 1)

I am going to review what I understand about event sponsors in a series of newsletter articles. Much of it is not specific to the NSGRA and could be used by any organization. I expect each article to be short. This is the first in the series.

When we talk about sponsors for an NSGRA event, there can be confusion about what that means. The confusion can result in requesting the wrong group to be sponsors. Companies often have two general sources of funds that can show up in community events. The two types might be best understood by labeling them charitable giving and marketing purchases.

- a) The charitable giving is probably meant to improve some societal problem and has lots of rules and regulations about how the funds are to be used.
- b) The marketing purchase is about spending money to get access. In the case of the NSGRA, the purchaser would be getting access to the people who attend the NSGRA event.

How can I tell the difference? That can initially be a problem because the charitable giving money may have a requirement that the NSGRA display their brand/logo in marketing literature, etc and at first glance it looks like marketing. One way to think about the difference is to ask (yourself), “could these funds be used to sponsor the flume ride at the local theme park?” If not, you are probably dealing with folk who are doing charitable giving.

The NSGRA is best suited for funds that result from a marketing purchase. We have a product, our events, and we can sell various kinds of access via sponsorship.

I am start on an effort to explore sponsorship training materials I have purchased and if you would like to join me in reviewing and discussing these training materials, I would work to arrange for that. Let me know if you are interested or have questions. publicrelations@nsgra.org (You could use this info. for with other organization as it is not specific to the NSGRA or rodeo.)

Thanks

Patrick S – NSGRA Public Relations and Sponsorship Director

**North
Star
Gay
Rodeo
Association**



PO Box 11199
St. Paul, MN
55111-0199

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

NSGRA CALENDAR

March -

Dancing at the VFW – March 13th

Country Dancing at the Townhouse – March 20th

April -

Dancing at the VFW – April 17th

Country Dancing at the Townhouse – April 17th

Sunshine Stampede - Ft. Lauderdale, FL – April 16-18

For future months, you can check the calendar at www.nsgra.org

2009 SHERIFFS AND MARSHALLS

Sheriffs (Individual Sponsors)

Mark L	Patrick S	Curt P
Jerome H	Black Bart	Linda R
Jack R	Mark D	Lawrence E

Marshals (Business Sponsors)

Blazing Saddle	Buddy's Corral	Dance Hall Creek Farm
----------------	----------------	-----------------------

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 STORE

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