



BIGHORN GAZETTE

April 2009

Eddy Krien, Editor

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

April starts the last full month of the current Board of Directors stint in leading NGRA and it is with full heart and appreciation from everyone of us, that we say Thank You to all of our members. It has been a wild, challenging, and rewarding time. It was not always easy, but we understood that the larger goal of the organization is wider and more important than our individual ego's, or likes and dislikes. You can't be friends with everyone all of the time, but you certainly can set differences aside, work together, raise money, and put on a tremendous rodeo. We, as board members hope that we have contributed great value to NGRA, and to NGRA's stature and relations within the wider GLBT community. This past year we saw our own share of drama, but alongside the 2008 RPC, pulled off one of the most respected and well-liked rodeos on the IGRA circuit. We also thank the fabulous 2008 Royalty Team for their active involvement

in all aspects of running the organizations, beyond their role as entertainers. Our transition from 2008 to 2009 with the new Royalty Team was not only seamless, but a darn good show too! We saw the great reshaping and improvements to our website. We developed much stronger ties to other GLBT organizations. Participated in the PRIDE parade, the PRIDE festival, Helldorado Days parade, AIDS Walk, Nation Coming Out Day, IRSCDE Coronation, and so much more. It is, again, in full gratitude that we say Thank You to our membership, for all their support and patience while we struggled to find our way, the payoffs with great events, and the rewards of getting to know you and your friendships.

Some of us will no doubt be moving onto serve on the new board, and we all look forward to supporting the 2009 Board of Directors while they continue the good work of leading NGRA.

Member of the Year

It with great pride that NGRA announces that, for the first time, we have a tie for the Member of the Year position.

The Men of Charlie's has been a tireless and consistent supporter of NGRA. Many of the Men of Charlie's donated hours of hard work during BigHorn Rodeo 2008, working the ever busy bar, night and day. Several members also volunteered to act as servers in our 'Brunch on the Range' event in July. We look forward to more good relations with them, and they are so very appreciated by all of NGRA.

Randy Meadows, otherwise known as Kandice Kane, was also elected Member of the Year. Randy had a great year as Miss NGRA 1st Runner Up, and served in that position with great pride. He contributed in all the royalty capacities, and was never afraid to buckle down and serve the organization, from entertaining, selling raffles, working the rodeo, attending meetings, and generally bringing great pride to the position, evident to all of us who know him.

Royalty Report

Greetings from your NGRA Royalty team!

We've hit the ground running and trust that we're representing NGRA well.

Miss NGRA, DeShannon (Mitch Gill) represented NGRA well in the month of March. Travelling throughout the Midwest, Mitch was able to publicize NGRA and BigHorn Rodeo at TGRA's Ft. Worth Rodeo, fundraisers for OGRA, MGRA, as well as helping out royalty candidates in Kansas City and Iowa.

Mr. NGRA, 1st Runner -Up Adam Johnson held down the fort here in Las Vegas, taking over the presentation of fundraisers at both Charlie's Las Vegas and Badlands Saloon.

As Mr. NGRA I was honored to attend the LSGRA Royalty Competition and General Membership meeting in New Orleans.

Your royalty team has taken over the fundraising committee, and we need your help to keep NGRA on track to pull off another successful BigHorn Rodeo for 2009. We've been lucky to get several more members actively involved with the venture – every member is invited to join in as well.

What can we do to get our membership involved and active in the association? Granted, fundraising is a huge part of our community involvement, however it doesn't have to be everything. We are a social organization and we need to get together and just have fun. Let us know what you'd like to do. Let us know what we're doing right or wrong. What would get you to come out and join us? Send your ideas and suggestions to me at webmaster@ngra.com and we'll put your suggestions to use.

Thanks to everyone for your support. We look forward to seeing you all soon and look forward to putting your ideas into effect.

NGRA Member of the Month



Member of the Month December 2008:

Johnny Bob Dalton.
Johnny Bob is relatively new to NGRA, but was elected December 2008 Member of the Month, for his tireless work during events, selling raffles tickets, jell-o shots, and regular presence and contributions to NGRA.



Member of the Month January 2009:

Chris Reynolds.
New member, (and co-incidentally, the current IRSCDE Emperor XI) is new to NGRA, but has been a long standing contributor to NGRA and other Las Vegas organizations for many years. During our January Badlands fundraiser, on a night he could have just chilled out over drinks, he jumped in and served as DJ, as well as has been performing for us on a regular basis.



Member of the Month February 2009:

Kirk Kanie.
Kirk, (more commonly known to the community as Empress XI, Ginger Grant), has been instrumental in building communications between NGRA The Court, and improving relations within the community. In February, she was a sparkling and generous presence, serving as co-host with Miss Katrina at the 2009 Royalty Competition. Our out of town IGRA guests were given a classy and fabulous taste of our organizations working so well together, and we set a proud example for everyone.



WE WANT YOU!

NGRA is in need of volunteers for the following events:

PRIDE 2009 - NGRA will once again be manning the entry gate at the Pride Festival. We are in need of volunteers who can work at least a four hour shift. Your entry into the festival is free once your shift is complete. Best of all, NGRA will earn \$10.00 for every volunteer hour worked. If you have the time to spare and would like to help us earn money to produce BigHorn Rodeo 2009, please visit our website at www.ngra.com to complete the volunteer application.

In addition to the front gate, NGRA will be selling our signature Hot Dogs at this years Pride Festival. If you have a valid Clark County Health Card and would like to help, please contact Tom Coleman at mrngra2007@yahoo.com

**The Pride Festival will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2009 at the Clark County Amphitheater
Noon - 10PM**



Did You Know?

NGRA General Membership Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month. The meetings take place at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center at 6:30PM. Please join us at the next meeting on April 20, 2009.

NGRA WELCOMES OUR NEWEST MEMBERS



**Ricky "Pup" Franklin
Brandon Johnson
Frank Maione**



**MISS
COW
Patty**
COMPETITION

\$5

**BEER
BUST**

**\$1 JELL-O
SHOTS**



NGRA's Craziest, Campiest Competition!
Saturday, April 11, 2009

Competition begins at 9:30 p.m.

Charlie's
Las Vegas

TRUSTEE REPORT

Brian Rogers

April and May are shaping up to be busy months for NGRA as we have lots of different kinds of events and activities on the community calendar.

We need NGRA volunteers for the following upcoming events. If you'd like to participate, please contact volunteer coordinator JD Jensen at volunteers@bighornrodeo.com.

Beauty and the Beast (Barrels & Bulls), Friday, April 4 from 7pm - 10pm at Horseman's Park: NGRA will be assisting the Western Heritage & Education Association in running this event. We will be selling tickets and providing security at the three gates.

SNAPI Pride Festival, Saturday, May 2 from 12 noon until 10pm at the Clark County Government Center: As part of our sponsorship agreement for BigHorn Rodeo 2008, NGRA will be staffing and managing the gate for the Pride Festival again this year. NGRA volunteers for Pride earn NGRA \$10 per hour, so come join us for a fun day and show your Pride to be County! SNAPI is really stepping it up this year with two stages, and new Diva's Cafe Lounge and many other surprises. We expect over 8,000 attendees this year. NGRA has also been invited to sell our signature hot dogs, so come try our weenies. Contact JD Jensen to sign up as a volunteer.



Other Upcoming Events of interest to NGRA members:

April 19 - 18th Annual Aids Walk: 10am - noon. World Market Center Bonneville and Grand Central Parkway. Individual Walkers and Walk Team numbers have grown significantly, sponsorships by local businesses and organizations continue to increase, and public awareness rises with every walk. More information at avanlv.kintera.org.

April 19 - HRC Family Picnic: 12 noon - 4pm. Rotary Park, 901 Hinson Street, (corner of Charleston and Hinson). Join the Human Rights Campaign for this fun filled family event. Food/Beer and Wine, Kids play area & Bounce House, Live DJ Mike Remedy, Kickball, Softball Matches, Water Balloon Toss, Horseshoes and other park games, GLBT and Community Organization information for families and equality. No RSVP needed, bring a blanket (and your own picnic basket, if you like). More information at www.lasvegas.hrc.org.

May 1: Pride Night Parade: 7pm - 9pm. Meet at 4th and Coolidge to walk with NGRA. Parade goes down 4th from Charleston to Ogden. This year's parade will be broadcast by Cox.

May 14: Helldorado Rodeo Kids & Kowboys produced by WHEI: 7pm - 9pm. - Helldorado rodeo arena at 7th and Stewart (NGRA volunteers needed)

May 15-17: Helldorado PRCA Rodeo: 7pm - 9pm. Helldorado Arena at 7th and Stewart

May 16: Helldorado Night Parade: 7pm - 9pm. Parade goes down 4th from Charleston to Ogden.

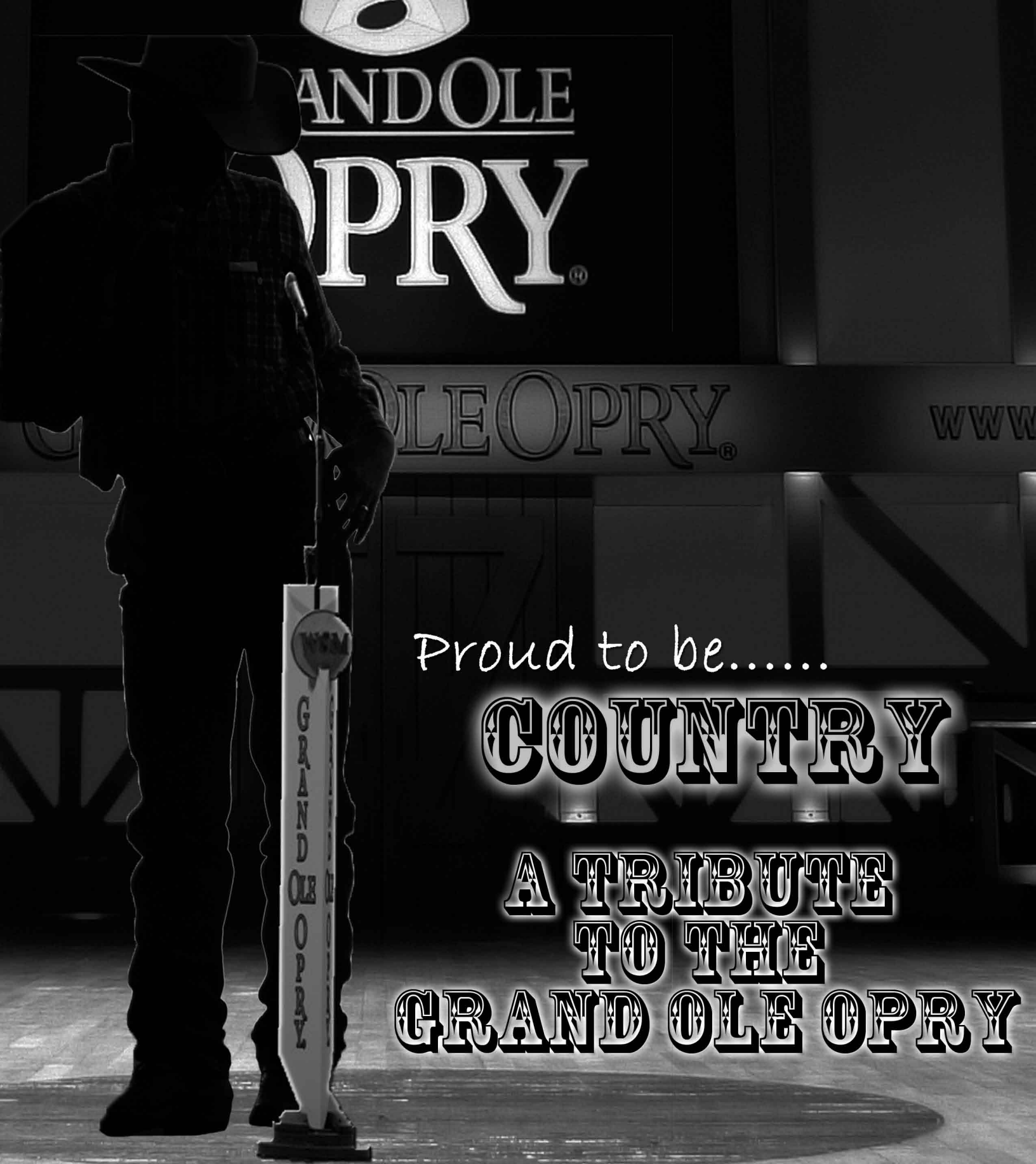
By now everyone should have received their ballots for the election of NGRA's Board of Directors for 2009 - 2010. Most of you have received your ballot online and can vote in a secure manner through Survey Monkey, our online survey and voting provider. A few of you have received your ballots in the mail. Remember that the deadline for voting electronically is Midnight, Sunday, April 12, 2009. If you are mailing in your ballot, it must be in NGRA's Post Office Box by Monday, April 13, 2009, or must be hand-carried to the Board Meeting that night. Both methods have a list of all candidates and their bios to help you choose who you feel is the best person for the job.

Thanks to all who have dedicated their time to serve and thanks to all who take the time to vote.



2009 IGRA Rodeo / Event Schedule

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Event:</u>	<u>Location:</u>
January 16-18, 2009	Road Runner Regional Rodeo	Phoenix, Arizona
February 20-22, 2009	IGRA University	Las Vegas, Nevada
February 27-March 1, 2009	Cowtown Rodeo	Ft. Worth, Texas
April 3-5, 2009	Sunshine Stampede	Fort Lauderdale, Florida
April 17-19, 2009	Rodeo in the Rock	Little Rock, Arkansas
May 1-3, 2009	Hot Rodeo	Palm Springs, California
May 22-24, 2009	Great Plains Rodeo	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
June 5-7, 2009	Sierra Stampede	Sacramento, California
June 25-28, 2009	Canadian Rockies International Rodeo	Calgary, Alberta Canada
June 26-28, 2009	Heartland Regional Rodeo	Omaha, Nebraska
July 10-12, 2009	Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo	Denver, Colorado
July 31-August 2, 2009	Liberty Stampede Rodeo	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
August 21-23, 2009	Windy City Rodeo	Chicago, Illinois
August 28-30, 2009	TGRA Rodeo	Sequin, Texas (San Antonio)
September 4-6, 2009	MGRA Show Me State Rodeo	Kansas City, Missouri
September 11-13, 2009	Greater San Diego Rodeo	San Diego, California
September 18-20, 2009	BigHorn Rodeo	Las Vegas, Nevada
October 23-25, 2009	23rd Annual Finals Rodeo	Albuquerque, New Mexico
November 12-15, 2009	25th Annual IGRA Convention	Toronto, Ontario Canada



Proud to be.....

COUNTRY

**A TRIBUTE
TO THE
GRAND OLE OPRY**



Join NGRA in saluting the Grand Ole Opry!
\$5 Beer Bust and Entertainment starting
at 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 25, 2009

April 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's	11 NGRA Miss Cow Patty Contest @ Charlie's
12 Happy Easter	13 Board of Directors Meeting	14	TAX DAY!	16	17 NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's	18
19	20 General Membership Meeting RPC Meeting	21	22	23	24 NGRA Appreciation Night @ Charlie's	25 Proud to be Country Fundraiser @ Badlands
26	27	28	29	30		

For times, locations and additional details, please visit the NGRA calendar on the web at www.ngra.com

NGRA Members Celebrating Birthdays in April:

Alika Borge
Patrick Schreier
Mark Remillard
Jon Wall
Mark Ackley
Adam Johnson
Tracy Skinner
Gary Weins
Winsor Cooper
Bill Watkin
Guy Puglisi

April 2
April 2
April 3
April 3
April 4
April 15
April 21
April 21
April 23
April 24
April 30

