



August, 2011 Issue

Ric Franklin-Sewell, Editor

BigHorn Gazette

Monthly Newsletter for the Nevada Gay Rodeo Association Membership

Letter from the President...

Dr. Shaun Franklin-Sewell
President NGRA 2011-2012



Howdy, Y'all.

I hope everyone's not suffering too much through the long, hot days of a Vegas summer!

I'd like to take this space this month for a few, very important items:

1. A hearty congratulations to Taylor Trash, Miss NGRA 2011, for meeting and exceeding her community fundraising requirement to run for the title of Miss International Gay Rodeo Association 2012.

2. If you're interested in running for Mr., Miss, MsTer, or Ms. NGRA 2012, please e-mail NGRARoyalty2012@yahoo.com with any questions you might have. The competition is set for Saturday, December 10 and an exciting weekend of events will be held that weekend. Applications to run for the title are due no later than Saturday, September 10. You must have been a member of NGRA since June 10.

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2011 NGRA
Royalty Contest
Weekend
December 9-11, 2011
20th Anniversary
Royalty Team

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NEWS FROM THE TRAVELING GNOME

Wow, here we are at the end of July beginning of Aug. Another month has flown by; I wish my recovery would fly by so quickly. I thought I would be back to my normal self by now, but am learning that recovery from lung infections takes longer than expected.

I did venture out to show my support to my Miss on the 16th for her IGRA required fundraiser, "Taylor's Temptation Island". I was not able to stay the whole night but had a blast the time I was there. The show was fun but have to say my favorite part was Taylor's unique take on lawn Flamingos.

She took lawn flamingos and then asked noted people in the community to decorate them and they would be auctioned off the night of the event. She had a great turnout for this portion of the event that was done as a silent auction. Since this was a fundraiser for the Sin City Sisters AIDS Drug Assistance Program, the Flamingos the sisters decorated were done as a live auction. All of them were so creative, but have to say some of my favorites were Action Red's "Lady Gawk Gawk", both of the ones from MR and Miss Las Vegas Gay Pride and of course the one done by our very own Jason C., which was the butch entry, the "Mr Charlie's Flamingo."



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My Life on the T List

July has been an amazing month. I had the privilege of judging the IRSCDEI Mr. and Miss Firecracker competition, which was a fun night at Spotlight. Then I was in full swing to get things ready for Denver's rodeo along with Taylor's Temptation Island and all the Fabulous Flamingos.

Denver was quite an adventure. You never realize just how much you have to take when you are traveling for two and not knowing what the weather is going to be like. Just ask Miss IGRA Kimberli Foxx. I traveled this time with a small little group of Kimberli Foxx, Shaun Franklin-Sewell and Steven Bennett. Nothing like a flight out of Las Vegas at 6 a.m., on a Thursday morning. Nice thing about that flight is very few passengers on that Southwest flight and we had the luxury of some good eye candy in the way of one flight

attendant. As we started getting ready for the show that was happening at Charlie's Denver it started pouring down rain, with thunder and lightning. We managed to get ready and make it to Charlie's which was a blast. I had the pleasure of meeting a number of former Miss IGRA's as well as some Denver locals and rodeo friends.

Friday's registration was filled with excitement. I thought I had been through enough rain when I went to Phoenix but I stood corrected. Everything started out nice and calm then a down pour hit, water coming down from the tent, mud, thunder and lightning and of course 4 associations Miss' in their crowns. Let's just say lightning rod on your head. Saturday and Sunday were nice warm days outside with of course the rain that came in.



Miss IGRA 2011 Kimberli Foxx flanked by Miss and Mr. TGRA 2011 Diva Devine and Rodd Smunk underneath the rainbow caused by the downpour during Denver Rodeo registration.

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T List.....

Well it is rodeo and along with that comes dirt and mud. Denver is very fortunate that they have both an outdoor and indoor arena that can be used. With the rain the rodeo was able to move forward using the indoor arena. I have to give Denver credit, they know how to put on a rodeo. Thank you to CGRA for making me and everyone else feel so welcome.

I can't begin to express how thankful I am to everyone that helped Taylor's Temptation Island become a big success. When the flamingo idea came about thought I would be lucky to get about 6 flamingos decorated. As it turned out I had over 2 dozen flamingos decorated for auction. My goal of getting everyone in the community to come together and help support this and the Sin Sity Sister's AIDS Drug Assistance Program and me with one of my IGRA requirements worked. It was fun event and I thank everyone that came to support. The highlight of my night was having Chris Reynolds, Mr. NGRA 2011 out in the audience supporting me on this event.

As I write this article I am still coming up with name of my next fundraiser, but please mark your calendars for Thursday, August 25th at 10 p.m. at Charlie's, Las Vegas. This event will benefit IGRA and BigHorn Rodeo 15 and will complete the second fundraising category I need to complete to run for Miss IGRA 2012. I hope to see everyone out and will have lots of fun and exciting things with that event.

Until next time, this is my life of the T-List.

Love,
Taylor

Presidents Letter Continued...

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3. NGRA Needs Your Help: The NGRA has several open positions (i.e. Historian, Property Manager, etc.), and we need you to fill them or just help out. We also NEED you to come to the monthly meetings. We no longer have two meetings a month - only one Board of Directors AND General Membership Meeting. The next one is Monday, August 15, 2011. The board makes lots of decisions at each of these meetings, and we ALWAYS invite members to share their ideas and opinions about agenda items. More than that, the general membership always votes on certain items as well! We hope to see you on August 15.

All my best and try to stay cool,
Shaun Franklin-Sewell
NGRA President



Above: Flamingo's created by community members for auction during "Taylor's Temptation Island" fundraiser. Proceeds benefitted the Sin Sity Sisters.
Below: Winnie Baygo performs during "Taylor's Temptation Island". This event fulfilled part of Taylor's requirements for IGRA Royalty Contest.
Photos courtesy of VegasDrag.com



PORKCHOP'S PIG PEN

Trustee's Report



Howdy Members!

I recently returned from the second IGRA Board of Directors meeting in Denver and from working as Rodeo Secretary in Detroit. I always wonder if there is a connection between bad weather and rodeo events. Denver had thunderstorms off and on throughout the weekend, which made things a little more interesting at times. I have never heard thunder cracking as loud as it did there. Fortunately, they have both an indoor and outdoor arena so they moved the rodeo competition inside. Unfortunately, their festival and vendor areas had to remain outside because there is no room to move those inside. All in all, it appeared to be a very successful rodeo in spite of the weather and we all had a great time!

The day I arrived in Detroit, the heat index was 113 when the 83% humidity was factored in with the 100 degree temperature. By the time I left on Monday, the weather dropped into the 80s and it was breezy—of course! One of my most memorable times will be announcing awards in the dinner hall without air-conditioning. Knowing this ahead of time, I wore shorts, sandals and a short-sleeved shirt to awards. It was truly a relief to get the awards ceremony out of the way and move outside where the dance and cocktails were! This is MIGRA's second year back putting on a rodeo and they did a fantastic job! The people were so incredibly friendly and outgoing; I was very impressed and humbled to say the least.

There was not much new business brought up at the board meeting. Most of the information presented was informational and required little discussion but I have included some highlights below so every one stays abreast of what is going on.

- The new IGRA website was delayed but was launched within the last few weeks. It looks very nice.
- There was concern by Doug Graff, IGRA president, about overall trustee representation at rodeos because there are often decisions to be made; therefore, representation is important. Doug asked that associations avoid schedule more than one rodeo on the same weekend because this is a contributing factor since trustees cannot be in two places at once.
- Opportunities for IGRA discussed were: the new website; emergency planning, which Brian Helander is currently working on; dance; rodeo schools; and royalty.
- Doug reported the royalty team is doing a great job this year, which includes our very own Kimberli Foxx, Miss IGRA 2011!
- The Membership Committee is being asked to look at the possibility of centralizing memberships through IGRA. This will probably bring about some interesting discussion because it could become a revenue issue for associations depending on what is recommended by the committee.
- Andrew Goodman, IGRA Vice President, reported the royalty team has raised \$9,335.22 so far this year. Of this, \$6,491.22 is earmarked for IGRA and the remaining \$2,844 goes to the Trevor Project.

The next three rodeos are: Zia Regional Rodeo in Santa Fe, New Mexico (August 12-14); The Windy City Rodeo in Chicago, Illinois (August 19-21); and The Show Me State Rodeo in Kansas City, MO (September 2-4).

I represented NGRA as Trustee at the Denver and Detroit rodeos. I will be at the Windy City Rodeo in Chicago representing as NGRA Trustee and as their Assistant Rodeo Secretary. I will be unable to attend the rodeos in Santa Fe and Kansas City. Jeffrey Neal will be the designated alternate in Santa Fe but I am unaware of any NGRA member planning to go to Kansas City at this time. If you plan to attend The Show Me State Rodeo, please send me an email at trustee@ngra.com if you wish for me to consider designating you as alternate trustee on my behalf. We have not had any NGRA contestants compete since my last report; therefore, I do not have any Top Eight Results to report on.

Until next time, this little Porkchop says, "Let's rodeo!!

Weeeeeeee,

Weeeeeeee,

Weeeeeeee!!!

Traveling Gnome Continued...

The following weekend, on Saturday the 23rd, I attended "ARTrageous", the annual fundraiser for the Gay and Lesbian Center of Southern Nevada. It was held at the spectacular Cosmopolitan hotel this year and they really out did themselves. It was an incredible time. There was such a mix of art styles from performance art, clothing design, mixed media, and photography. It was packed with the who's who of the art scene. The fashion show was a blast and our very own Sister Loosy was one of the models in a fabulous blue gown created by Jim McCoy reminiscent of the Gloria Swanson days of Hollywood. Some of the designers even had their creations up for silent auction. If you attend the ICPR ball for the Court this weekend (7/30) you will see one of them. After that event, we wandered over to Charlie's in support of SNAPI for their monthly event. This month's theme was "Under the Sea". It was very cute with the bar decorated in beach theme and everyone in board shorts and swim trunks. Diana Prince, the current Miss Gay Pride and JewDi Vine were the emcees for the night. There are a few events coming up this next month and I hope to see you out and about as I get better and back to normal. Until next time.....

Chris Reynolds
Mr. NGRA 2011
Aka The Traveling Gnome



August Birthdays



DAVID MURIE	8/12
ANDREW GOODMAN	8/14
JOE MCMULLEN	8/16
GARRY DOUGLAS	8/17
BRIAN MALEY	8/17
FRANK GARDNER	8/18
ERIC HUDSON	8/21
DAVID BLUNK	8/25
BRIAN ROGERS	8/26

NGRA HEATWAVE

Saturday August 13th, 2011

Charlie's
Las Vegas

Beer Bust at 9pm Show at
10pm
Benefitting the NGRA
and BigHorn 15

PLAYBILL

TEAM FOXK

Presents

Music from the Great White Way

A Benefit for
The International Gay Rodeo Association

100-0 Shows,
Raffle Tickets
and Fun, Fun,
Fun!



Kimberl Foxk
Miss IGRA 2011



Hosted By



Rockell Blu

Show at 10pm With
Songs from your
Favorite Rodeo
Shows, Post and
Present!

Charlie's
Las Vegas

Saturday August 20, 2011
10pm



August 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
						NGRA Heatwave 9pm Beer Bust 10pm Show Charlie's
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	NGRA MEETING 6:30PM GLBT Comm. Center					IGRA Fundraiser 10pm Charlie's
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
				Taylor Trash's Tic Toc IGRA Fundraiser 9pm Charlie's		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			