

NMGRA General Membership Meeting on Tuesday November 13th 2007
at Sidewinders Bar, Albuquerque New Mexico

Kelly Peebles, President of NMGRA, called the meeting to order at 7:05pm and informed all present that we had quorum.

Members Present: Ken Hogg, Jeff Lowe, Anthony Johnson, Lawrence Rendon, Michelle Davidson, Arnie Chavez, Bob Pimentel, Kelly Peebles, C. A. Boliver, Jonathan Stern, Tony Carson, Cassie Dawn, Dale Gomez, William Scott Nelson, Wade Kuenzi, Lori (skinny pants), Johnny Romero, Patricia Murphy, Mark Burdine, Keith Holtzclaw, Linn Marksbury, Dan Johnson, Mike Spencer, Drew (Scott) Nelson, Mike Howard, Skip Vandeslunt, James Kennedy, Victor M Dickerson, Jimmy Schrock, Ken Badsgard, and Lawrence Martinez.

Membership Report: Keith started by reading off the names of new members that needed to be discussed before they could be voted on, those names are Arthur Castillo, Scott Nelson, James Kennedy, Shawnee Hansen, Drew Nelson, Patrick Heckler, Skip Vandeslunt, Angel Gonzales, Lawrence Martinez, Mike Howard, Wade Kuenzi plus 2 renewing members whose membership was past due (over 3 months) and therefore they also needed to be voted on as well, those members were Bill Eyler and Dale Gomez. Jeff Lowe and Ken Hogg renewed their membership. The new members passed with no problem, Bill Eyler passed but Dale Gomez had some discussion about his wanting to rejoin. The issues were dealt with and Dale was voted back. The list of past members that have not renewed was presented and it was decided that if they have renewed by now that we should not keep sending letters to them. There were 2 members that contacted NMGRA and informed membership that they did not want to renew, those members were Herbert Althiemer and Andee Henderson.

----- report was voted on and passed-----

Secretary's Report: Ken handed out copies of last months minutes prior to the start of the meeting so that people could read over them and see there were any changes or misspellings or things that might need to be added.

----- report was voted on and passed -----

Treasurer's Report: Keith was happy to inform the membership that our account is balanced and all checks are accounted for leaving us with a balance of \$5,751.23.

Trustee's Report: Bob started with convention news, we had a full delegation and alternates. On Thursday around 1:42pm Bob received an email from Jessie Contreras informing him that he would not be able to attend the convention because of work related issues. This was hard for Jessie because he was going to get his Chute Coordinators Certification. He apologized for the late notice. The rest of the delegation arrived on time and in my opinion fulfilled their obligation to NMGRA even though 3 people were not present at all times.

I want to thank the ten delegates that attended for their dedication to the convention and for representing NMGRA so well. I also want to recognize Dan Johnson for taking on the chairperson roll in the Marketing Committee.

I would like to recommend that NMGRA bill our delegate that was not able to attend for his delegate registration fees that NMGRA paid.

On Thursday at the BOD meeting we adopted a new rodeo check list. We set the dates for the BOD meetings in 2008, they are Las Vegas during University, OKC rodeo, Chicago rodeo, the convention in New Orleans.

We talked about Finals Rodeo to which Brian talked about the long term vision and ongoing evaluation for finals. He then announced the leadership for finals going forward starting in 2008, the rodeo director is Roger Coutemanche, Asst Rodeo Director Bob Pimentel, Asst Rodeo Director Brian Rogers, Event Director Jim Mitchell, Asst Event Director Mitch Gill, and Asst Event Director Richard Legge. A finals poster was voted on and adopted. A sponsorship from Anheuser Bush was announced for \$20,000.00 for

2008.

Every Trustee has been asked to seek a national sponsor, Bob said he is courting Qwest.

If anyone has a thought or contact let Bob know.

The BOD went over and approved all the remaining rodeo's for 2008, GSGRA Bay Area is putting on a rodeo the same weekend as NMGRA. Twenty rodeo's (including Finals Rodeo) approved for 2008 with five in the state of California.

A motion was made and passed that all associations use the standard budget form provided by IGRA when applying for a rodeo (NMGRA already uses this form).

Bob said that Larry Lindstrom talked about membership matters such as High Sierra Gay Rodeo Association was moved to a recognized status because they did not meet the required criteria for renewal. PONY did not renew their application for membership and will not be seated in 2008.

Online registration is going well and will be enhanced as times goes on. We talked about the need to get all membership associations on board with a merchant account. Merchants accounts are also helpful for membership dues, donations, fundraisers, and our own rodeo.

A proposal was discussed and voted on to join the YTB Travel Network, IGRA will be getting a percentage from this deal.

Reports and recommendations from the Chair of the Certified Programs meet and the Trustee's voted yes to all the committee's recommendations certifying or recertifying individuals. The biggest note here is that we now have only four certified Arena Directors to choose from. NMGRA has asked Russell Bleakney to work ZIA Rodeo in 2008.

Bob mentioned some of the main things that happened at convention. Louisiana State Gay Assn (LSGRA) and Sacramento Capital Crossroads Gay Rodeo Assn (SCCGRA) were voted in and seated as 2 of our newest associations. IGRA Royalty Competition was moved to become part of the Annual Convention beginning in 2008. IGRA Dance Competition was moved to IGRA University beginning in 2009 (2008

will be skipped). Bob wanted to let everyone who wasn't at convention know that although there wont be a formal competition in dance at the 2008 IGRA University, there WILL be classes, workshops and fun contest. Its a perfect way for those of you who are thinking of competing but are not sure how to do it or what it takes, to find out more and get your feet wet then this is a great reason to come to IGRA University in Fabulous Las Vegas in February.

The convention for 2008 will be New Orleans during Halloween and the 2009 convention will be in Toronto in the Church Street Area.

There were two board positions to be voted on this year and they were Vice President and Secretary. After all the speech's and the vote's counted the winners were Andrew Goodman for Vice President (a 2 year term) and Larry Lindstrom was re-elected Secretary (also a 2 year term)

There was a change that now allows rodeo's to be a three day event. IGRA will be giving each association the option to sell IGRA merchandise at their rodeo's, The association having the rodeo will get a percent of what they sell.
----- report was voted on and passed -----

VicePresident's Report: Bo was filling in for who was having a bout with the flu. Bo reminded everyone about the Royalty show on Saturday the 17th of November at 7pm at Sidewinders Bar (there is also a beer blast starting at 4pm- 7pm same day same place). Judges were picked by Larry and Tony to preside over the event. There is a meeting setup to work on the questions and they will be asked during the pageant.
----- report was voted on and passed -----

Rodeo Committee Report: Jeff informed the members that we still need a Rodeo Director for the Zia Rodeo, he will be glad to mentor someone if they decide to take the position

(he has done it for 2 years). He reminded everyone that Russell Bleakney will be the Arena Director in 2008. We have 2 of the 3 judges that we will need, they are Amy Griffin and Rick Jones.

-----report was voted on and passed -----

Election Committee Report: Arnie Chavez was given information concerning partners being on the board. Benjamin, Ron Trustley, and Russell Bleakney were asked this question and they said the membership could set aside the bylaw for the election.

----- report was voted on and passed -----

New Business-----Election of board members

Arnie Chavez, C. A. Boliver, and Bo Tipton are on the Election Committee. A role call was taken to make sure only current members were voting, Bo read the list checking off names as he went. After this was done each of the candidates for each office were given a chance to tell a little bit about themselves.

First up was Kelly Peebles who is running for President, he has been President for 2 years and would like to continue some of the work he has started. He is also a contestant and enjoys competing in rodeo's and has helped setup playdays.

Brendon Gonzales and Mike Spencer are running for Vice President. Mike has worked with the royalty in Palm Springs in past years, He would like us to be more visible in IGRA and known and respected by other associations for our willingness to help. Brendon has worked with the United Court for many years and has enjoyed working with NMGRA Royalty.

Keith Holtzclaw and Linn Marksbury are running for Secretary. Keith has been Treasurer for 2 years but because he has moved to Belen it is difficult to go to the bank when he needs to. Linn is new to our rodeo but is willing to work hard to do the job, he suggested that if he did not get this position he would like to work with the

Secretary to
learn the job and help anyway he can.

Dan Johnson is running for Treasurer , he has been dealing with rodeo and the gay community for 30 years plus he has been running a bar for almost that long.

Jeff Lowe and Bob Pimentel are running for Trustee. Jeff has been Rodeo Director for 2 years and wants to keep NMGRA a viable member of IGRA. He has in that time volunteered to help at other rodeo's doing arena crew and/or chute crew. Bob has been in rodeo since the 80's, he has in that time done just about everything from President to Trustee and other board positions.

Ballots were handed out by the Election Committee for each office, in the case where only person was running it was a motion was made to vote them without a ballot, this was done. Below are the winners of the voting.

The New NMGRA Officers for 2008

President: Kelly Peebles

VicePresident: Mike Spencer

Treasurer: Dan Johnson

Secretary: Keith Holtclaw

Trustee: Bob Pimentel

Lin Marksbury has agreed to work closely with the 2008 Secretary sharing the duties and essentially working as an understudy.

Other things going on at NMGRA is the history of our organization is still being worked on. Everyone was asked again to check with their friends to see if they knew of anyone who wanted to be Rodeo Director in 2008. There are several committee's that will be needed next year such as Finals Committee, Bylaws Committee, and Audit Committee just to name a few.

Contestants were asked if they got the Royalty packets which were handed out at one of the mandatory meetings they were to attend. C. A. Boliver reminded Royalty that they will need to work on their horsemanship. Royalty will need to work with and help our rodeo and others.

There were some changes to our bylaws concerning Royalty. The first part dealt with horsemanship, the new change was discussed and voted on. It passed with one abstention. The next part dealt with requirements but there were no changes, an amendment was made, it was discussed and voted on and passed with 2 abstentions

The motion was made to end the meeting and seconded..... motion passed
The meeting ended at 9:18 pm the next General Membership Meeting will be December 10th at 7:pm at Sidewinders Bar.