

23rd IGRA Annual Convention
November 10, 2007
Membership Committee Report

1. Attendance. Fourteen people from 12 associations attended the Friday meeting.
2. Membership Counts. The following chart shows our total current membership count.

CGRA	180	HGRA	59
TGRA	163	ARGRA	376
GSGRA	276	MIGRA	118
AGRA	130	PNWGRA	64
OGRA	68	SSRA	102
KGRA	26	HSRA	98
MGRA	66	RRRA	34
NMGRA	66	SMRA	101
NSGRA	143	GWGRA	107
DSRA	85	FGRA	236
GGRA	79	LGRA	190
ASGRA	139	CCGRA	75
NGRA	141	LSGRA	80
ILGRA	94	SCCGRA	80
			3,376

The total membership only increased by 70 from 2006. However, only ARGRA showed considerable growth at 38%.

3. PONY. While it is always great to welcome new associations into the IGRA family, we must also recognize those that make the decision not to continue.

At the IGRA convention in Chicago in July 1995, the Pennsylvania Gay Rodeo Association (PGRA) was seated as a Member Association. Its geographical area was the state of Pennsylvania. Four years later at the IGRA convention in Long Beach, the state of Ohio was added to PGRA's geographical area, and subsequently moved its base of operations from Pittsburgh to Cleveland.

In 2000, PGRA was changed to PONYGRA and its geographical area included Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New York exclusive of metropolitan New York City, Westchester County, and Long Island. The very next year, PONYGRA officially shortened its name to just PONY. However, its incorporation remains the Pennsylvania Gay Rodeo Association.

One year ago, PONY relinquished 12 counties in Southeastern Pennsylvania in order for the Liberty Gay Rodeo Association to be seated. And just this past summer, the Executive Board received word that PONY had officially dissolved after 12 years.

4. New Associations. The chairman verbally presented the LSGRA membership application and reported that the board of directors and membership list had been updated. Rik Kelly moved to approve the application. The motion passed by a voice vote.

The chairman verbally presented the SCCGRA membership application and stated that it was in order. Dan Johnson moved to approve the application. The motion passed by a voice vote.

5. Membership Renewals. The chairman reported that all remaining applications were in order and all debts owed to the IGRA were paid at yesterday's Board of Directors meeting.
6. Territory Requests. The membership application from Liberty (LGRA) was reviewed at Friday's committee meeting. They requested to increase their territory to include the entire state of Pennsylvania. The request was denied when no documentation was provided indicating 10 members in the new geographical area.

The membership application from Michigan was then reviewed. They also requested to increase their territory by adding the state of Ohio. That request was also denied when no documentation was provided indicating 10 members in the new geographical area.

The membership application from NSGRA was then reviewed. They also requested to increase their territory by adding the portion of Iowa east of Highway 71. Heartland currently has the area west of Highway 71. That request was also denied when no documentation was provided indicating 10 members in the new geographical area.

7. Membership Guidelines. After last year's convention, Benjamin Avant and I put together a 2-page document to outline what is necessary for a new association to form. We came up with 12 steps and put them in chronological order starting with selecting a name and acronym and ending with paying the \$600 annual dues.
8. Future Associations? The membership committee is a year-round position. In addition to the two new associations seated today, I have also had inquiries from Alabama, Hawaii, Indiana, and New England. Outside North America, I have also been in contact with 3 men in different parts of Australia as well as one from Brazil.
9. Bylaw Changes. Attached is a two-page document with proposed changes from the Membership Committee.

Respectfully submitted,



Larry Lindstrom
IGRA Membership Chairman



GEOGRAPHY

- Slightly smaller than the U.S. 48 states
- Russia is the largest country – Canada the second largest
- Australia is made up of 6 states and 2 territories

POPULATION

U.S.	=	300 million
Canada	=	33 million
Australia	=	20 million

CURRENCY

USD	=	\$ 1.00
CAD	=	\$ 1.06
AUD	=	\$ 0.91

TRAVEL

- 7,500 miles each way
- 14½ hours outbound – 13½ hours return
- Leave LA or SF at 11 pm arrive 6 am **two** days later
- Leave Sydney at 2 pm arrive LA or SF 10 am same day

PROPOSAL MEM-01

Bylaws – Page 2

Section 4. Current Member Associations.

Paragraph D. Member Associations must have twenty (20) members in good standing and at least of the legal age of majority to sign contracts according to Guidelines of the Nation or the superseding principality where that Member Association is located. Ten (10) of the required members must be legal residents of the Member Association's geographic area.

1. Individual members may join as many Member or Recognized Associations as they wish providing they are in compliance with the respective association's membership policies.
2. Removal of a member from “good standing” status could be for, but is not limited to, the following reasons; any reason considered detrimental to the Association.
 - a. Passing a bad check to their or any other Member or Recognized Association without having made timely restitution.
 - b. Having an arrest warrant sworn out against them for an offense committed against their or any other Member or Recognized Association.
 - c. Making an “arrangement” with their or any other Member or Recognized Association in order to avoid issuance of an arrest warrant by said association.
3. If a member is removed from "good standing" status, the following actions shall be taken:
 - a. The involved association will notify the Secretary within seven (7) days. Such notification will include a copy of the bad check, of the arrest warrant, of the “arrangement”, if documentation is available, or a copy of the minutes of their Board of Directors, Executive Board, or other appropriate committee, wherein ratification of the “arrangement” has been noted or a letter of explanation for the reason for removal. The minutes and/or letter must include at least the following: documentation indicating removal from “good status.”
 1. Names of persons making arrangements.
 2. Terms and dates of arrangements.
 3. Means by which the individual was officially notified of the arrangement.
 - b. The Secretary must send a letter to notify the IGRA Board of Directors and all Member and Recognized Associations within seven (7) days of receipt of said notification. advising them of the member’s status with the reporting Member or Recognized Association. The Secretary will not disclose the reason for the member’s change of status to the Member and Recognized Associations.
 1. As of this point in time, the member will become ineligible to participate in IGRA sponsored/sanctioned events/rodeos.
 2. Rodeo Auditor will make the proper notations in the computer files.
 - c. The involved Association must notify the Secretary within seven (7) days of rectification of the problem, even if said association still does not wish the individual member to rejoin their association.
 - d. Within seven (7) days, the Secretary must advise the IGRA Board of Directors and all Member and Recognized Associations of the rescinding of the earlier notice, thus allowing the individual member and all associations to make further membership decisions as they might mutually desire.

PROPOSAL MEM-02

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Section 5. New Member Associations.

Paragraph D. New Member Associations shall be approved and seated only at the annual convention. Recognized Associations anticipating approval as a Member Association at the annual convention shall submit a letter to the Secretary listing the convention delegates and alternate delegates and a list of current officers, no less than sixty (60) days prior to annual convention.

Section 6. Membership Renewals.

Paragraph A. A Member Association's renewal request will be considered by the Membership Committee when the Secretary has received all of the following:

9. List of convention delegates and alternate delegates.