



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Crowne Plaza Hotel – St. Louis Downtown
Friday, January 13, 2012
1:00 pm

AGENDA

Call to Order

Welcome and Introductions

Roll Call

Approval of Previous Minutes
San Diego – November 10 & 13, 2011

Executive Reports

President

Douglas Graff

Vice President

Gene Fraikes

Secretary

Larry Lindstrom

Treasurer

David Hill

Trustees Chair

Ed Barry

Administrative Assistant

Tommy Channel

Corporate Auditor

Ed Barry

Standing Committees

Membership	–	Larry Lindstrom
Bylaws	–	Benjamin Avant
Rodeo Rules	–	Chuck Browning & Ty Teigen
Community Outreach–Fundraising– Gender Diversity	–	2012 Royalty Team
Budget	–	David Hill
Marketing/Media Relations	–	
Nominating	–	Justin Waldner
Dance Competition Rules	–	Wade Earp
Finals Rodeo	–	Tommy Channel
Women’s Outreach	–	Kimberley Kay
IGRA University	–	Patrick Terry
Annual Convention	–	Brian Rogers
Hall of Fame	–	Roger Bergmann
Arena Director	–	Heather Murray
Chute Coordinator	–	Jay Beck
Judges	–	Michael Lentz
Auditor, Secretary, Scorekeeper	–	Ron Trusley

Ad Hoc Committees

Animal Issues & Concerns	–	Kelly Peebles
Archives	–	Brian Rogers
Bylaws Implementation Group	–	Chuck Browning
Health & Safety	–	Linda Frazier
Internet Technology	–	Don Harris
Joint Certification	–	Ron Trusley
Social Media	–	Peter Calabrese & Laura Scott
Web Site Content	–	Don Harris

Old Business

Trademark Usage
YTB Travel Store

New Business

2012 Bud Light Sponsorship
2012 Event Date Changes
Selection of Corporate Auditor
Selection of Marketing/Media Relations Position

Announcements

CGRA, TGRA, GSGRA, AGRA, OGRA, MGRA, NMGRA, NSGRA, DSRA,
ASGRA, NGRA, ILGRA, ARGRA, MIGRA, SSRA, HSRA, RRRRA, SMRA,
GWGRA, FGRA, CCGRA, SCCGRA, IAGRA, KGRA, LSGRA

Adjournment

MINUTES

The regular quarterly meeting of the International Gay Rodeo Association (IGRA) was held on Friday, January 13, 2012 at 1:00 pm at the Crowne Plaza Hotel – St. Louis Downtown; the President being in the chair and the Secretary being present. The minutes of the previous meeting in San Diego were approved with no corrections.

The following board members and guests were present. Quorum was established at 72%.

President	Douglas Graff	CGRA	Frank Harrell
Vice President	Gene Fraikes	CGRA	Paula Scougal
Secretary	Larry Lindstrom	CGRA	Ty Teigen
Treasurer	David Hill	CGRA	Robert Thurtell
AGRA	Ron Trusley	FGRA	Don Harris
ARGRA	Janie Van Santen	FGRA	Nikol Hillman
ASGRA	Tom Lott	GSGRA	Bruce Roby
CCGRA	Peter Calabrese	GWGRA	Steve Schultz
CGRA	John Beck	ILGRA	Tom Sheridan
DSRA	Jacky Green	MIGRA	Herb Seamons
GSGRA	Scotty Shadix	MGRA	Kami Boles
GWGRA	Ray Ostmann	MGRA	Dennis Kitchen
IAGRA	Mitch Gill	MGRA	Chirl Nachbar
ILGRA	Ed Barry	MGRA	Angela Parker
MGRA	Linda Frazier	NGRA	Jeffrey Neal
MIGRA	David Hallwood	NMGRA	Brian Helander
NGRA	Guy Puglisi (Porkchop)	TGRA	Wade Earp
NMGRA	Kelly Peebles	TGRA	Mark Gurrola
SCCGRA	Gary Eddy	TGRA	Gary Jones
SMRA	Chad Billings (Smurf)	TGRA	Dan Nagel
TGRA	Rik Kelly	TGRA	Rodd Smunk

The chair requested that all board members introduce themselves as this was the first board meeting of a new year.

Executive Board Reports.

President. Doug Graff gave a PowerPoint presentation and started with the following:

Successes

- 2011 Royalty Team raised over \$15,000 for IGRA
- \$25,000 Bud Light commitment for 2012 IGRA-produced events
- Finished 2011 without recognizing any Deferred Income

At this point he asked the board members to do a short exercise on what it takes to have a good rodeo school. The following points were raised:

- Safety
- Education/Classroom setting
- Instructors
- One-on-one instruction
- Non-threatening environment
- Commitment
- Event mix
- New contestants/seasoned contestants
- Organization
- Volunteers
- Marketing
- Decent stock
- Inexpensive to produce
- An IGRA presence
- Time of year

Doug continued with his report with the following:

Challenges

- Loss of Member Associations
- Continued Decline of Contestant Goes
- Aging Contestant Base
- IGRA Dance Competition
- Succession/Progression Plan for Pivotal Committees

Opportunities

- IGRA Rodeo Schools
- 2012 Royalty Team
- Gay Games 2014
- Transition Convention to an IGRA property
- IGRA Shopping Store
- IGRA Travel Site

Priorities

- Increase New and Younger Contestant Participation
- More Outreach to Struggling Associations
- The “BIG” Committee

Vice President. Gene Fraikes gave his first report as Vice President (see attached). As the board liaison for the Dance Rules Committee, he requested a ruling on the dance competition and the 30-day/15-day rule since there were no entries received.

RULE XV INTERNATIONAL COUNTRY/WESTERN DANCE COMPETITION

Section 4. Entry forms (Exhibit D2) and registration fees of thirty five dollars (\$35.00) per individual line dancer, seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) for couples, or one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per open dance team, nonrefundable, and payable to IGRA, per couple, will be mailed to the dance competition coordinator, and must be postmarked no later than thirty (30) days prior to the beginning of the competition. Entry forms and registration fees received up to fifteen (15) days past deadline will result in a twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) late fee per entry. Registrations received within fifteen (15) days prior to the competition will be refused. Only the official IGRA Registration Form shall be used. All registration fees collected shall be applied to the production of the dance competition.

Supposedly this rule has not been followed since 2005. Gene felt the solution was to hold the event but not call it the “International Country/Western Dance Competition.” Others felt that this solution would degrade past winners and along with the titles.

Gene moved that the event on Saturday night at IGRA University be called the IGRA University dance contest and that IGRA donate the buckles and trophies.

The chair called for a 10–minute caucus.

Gene withdrew his motion. IGRA Bylaws Article V Section 3 Powers of the Board of Directors Paragraph A was referenced where the Board of Directors shall have the power to take any action not inconsistent with Law. Ron Trusley read the following excerpts from Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised 10th Edition.

25. SUSPEND THE RULES

Standard Descriptive Characteristics

1. Can be made at any time that no question is pending. When business is pending, *Suspend the Rules* takes precedence over any motion if it is for a purpose connected with that motion.

Further Rules and Explanations

In making the incidental motion to *Suspend the Rules*, the particular rule of rules to be suspended are not mentioned but the motion must state its specific purpose and its adoption permits nothing else to be done under the suspension.

Linda Frazier moved that Rule XV Section 4 with regards to entry forms and registration fees be suspended. Ed Barry offered a friendly amendment that the suspension be in regards to the date and late fees only. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Secretary. Larry Lindstrom reported that the agenda has a new look where committee reports are split between standing committees and ad hoc committees. The standing committees are listed in the order they appear in the bylaws. Larry also reported that the 2012 rodeo rulebook has been printed and an order form is available on the IGRA Web site. And finally, Exhibit A3 (the rodeo checklist) was updated by Chuck Browning to match recent changes in rodeo rules. This would be presented for approval in the Trustees meeting.

Trustees Chair. New Trustees Chairman Ed Barry welcomed all of the new Trustees and asked that all Trustees read the Trustee duties and also know the rules. With that said, he expects a great year ahead.

Corporate Auditor. Ed Barry submitted a written report (see attached) and reported that he had completed the audit for November and December, 2011. Mitch Gill questioned whether Ed, being the corporate auditor and the financial officer for Finals Rodeo, could be seen as a conflict of interest. Ed explained that he is a certified CPA, has a code of ethics to follow, and would not put his certification at risk. Ed added that he does not keep the books of IGRA and therefore is not auditing his own work. He does not have access to nor is a signer on the checking account.

Committee Reports.

Membership. Ron Trusley reported on a group in Tucson interested in restarting SGRA. Since SGRA was not seated at convention, the entire state of Arizona reverted back to AGRA. Ron stated that AGRA cannot get communication back from SGRA and the last known membership list is from September 2010.

AGRA is willing to offer a complementary membership through February 2013 to any SGRA member wanting to compete at the upcoming Road Runner Regional Rodeo. The chair suggested that AGRA supply a letter and IGRA will mail the letter to the SGRA members in the contestant database.

Community Outreach–Fundraising–Gender Diversity. Rodd Smunk reported for the Royalty Team (see attached report). For their 2012 charities, the committee recommended the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition (NOCC) and the Trevor Project. The recommendation was approved by a voice vote.

In addition, Miss IGRA 2012 Victoria Weston is working on a modified logo as well as corporate sponsorship. Patrick Terry reminded the team that the finished logo would need to have board approval for usage.

Budget. David Hill reported on revision 1 that included the following amounts from the Bud Light sponsorship money. The breakdown was a recommendation from the Executive Board.

<u>Event</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>\$25000</u>
Finals	37	9250
Royalty	0	0
University	12	3000
Dance	8	2000
Convention	14	3500
Rodeo School 1	8	2000
Rodeo School 2	8	2000
Judges Video	5	1250
NYC Trade Show	8	2000
	100	\$25000

Dave moved to approve budget revision 2a. It was suggested to table the motion since the Board of Directors had not yet approved the Bud Light sponsorship.

Dance. Competition starts at 8 pm on Saturday night. The chair would sponsor a buckle if any of the Trustees enter the competition.

Finals Rodeo. Janie Van Santen reported that her committee met earlier in the day from 9–11:30 am. The committee had an offer to move to the larger Justin Arena, but this would cost an additional \$1,250, move the rodeo one week later, and we would lose the Crowne Plaza Hotel. There are two other properties that could serve as the host hotel and Janie and Gene Fraikes would make that selection. The Watt Arena would require a variance on the arena size and the barn situation would still be bad there. There are new RV sites being built near the Justin Arena. The committee also proposed staying in Fort Worth for 2013.

Janie presented the chain of command for the finals rodeo:

- Tommy Channel, Committee Chair
- Janie Van Santen, Rodeo Director
- Patrick Terry, Assistant Rodeo Director
- Clark Monk, Assistant Rodeo Director
- Dan Nagel, Assistant Rodeo Director
- Laura Scott, Assistant Rodeo Director

Janie also highlighted the following items:

- Sub-committees being formed,
- Looking for contestant ambassadors,
- Seeking Grand Marshal nominations,
- Selected rodeo officials to be announced later,
- Gene is working on the royalty schedule, and
- Requests half or full-page program ads to promote finals and royalty

David Hill moved to move convention to November 8–11, 2012. The motion passed by a voice vote. The Finals Rodeo Committee recommendation was to switch to the larger Justin Arena, change the dates of finals to October 18–21, 2012, and to increase the budget by \$1,250. The recommendation passed by a voice vote.

A 10-minute break was taken at 3:25 pm.

IGRA University 2014. Three associations presented proposals.

GWGRA presented the Crowne Plaza St. Louis Downtown with the following highlights:

- Dates: January 16–19, 2014
- Room block: 190 room nights
- Room rate: \$87 standard room
- Space rental: \$800 one-time setup fee

IAGRA presented the Holiday Inn Downtown Des Moines with the following highlights:

- Dates: January 16–19, 2014
- Room block: none given
- Room rate: \$95 standard room
- Space rental: \$1,300 per day

GSGRA presented the Hilton Long Beach with the following highlights:

- Dates: January 15–19, 2014
- Room block: 152 room nights
- Room rate: \$108 single/double
- Space rental: waived if \$10K food & beverage is met

Linda Frazier requested a ballot vote. A ballot vote was taken with the following results.

- GSGRA in Long Beach, 10 votes
- GWGRA in St. Louis, 9 votes
- IAGRA in Des Moines, 2 votes

A second ballot was taken with the following results.

- GWGRA in St. Louis, 11 votes
- GSGRA in Long Beach, 10 votes

IGRA University 2014 will be held in St. Louis in January 2014.

Annual Convention. GSGRA thanked everyone for supporting last year's convention where they were able to meet their minimum requirements and end up in the black.

Auditor, Secretary, Scorekeeper. Ron Trusley announced one new person, John Ahrens, in the Scorekeeper certification program.

Animal Issues. Kelly Peebles submitted a written report regarding paravetics (see attached).

Archives. Frank Harrell gave a brief update on the archives project.

Bylaws Implementation Group (BIG) Committee. The chair created this committee consisting of Chuck Browning, Tom Lott, Jabby Lowe, and Forrest Mason to look at how our bylaws are structured versus how we are operating as an organization.

Social Media. Peter Calabrese reported that over 2,600 people are linked to the IGRA page while 700 more are waiting to be added. Frank Harrell asked why non-Facebook users could not access the IGRA page. Peter said he would look into this. He did say that E-mail events are restricted to Facebook members.

The chair called for a 10-minute break.

Old Business.

Trademark Usage. Some people indicated they have had problems retrieving the modified logos from the IGRA Web site.

YTB Travel Store. Ed Barry reported that YTB has not been responsive to his requests. The chair suggested that we search for a new travel partner between now and the Oklahoma City board meeting.

New Business.

Bud Light Sponsorship. Scotty Shadix moved that Bud Light be the official IGRA–event sponsor. Linda Frazier asked if IGRA would receive a contract from James Ramey. Ed Barry said that Bud Light had issued a letter of intent but we should also ask for a formal contract. Doug Graff read the e–mail that he had received from James Ramey indicating the agreed upon sponsorship. Ed added that InBev, now owner of Anheuser–Busch, could take from 90–120 days to make payment. After additional discussion, the motion passed by a voice vote.

2012 Event Date Changes. ILGRA requested a date change to August 24–26, 2012. Ed Barry moved to move the dates as well as the board meeting. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Scotty Shadix moved to move the Best Buck in the Bay dates from September 21–23, 2012 to September 14–16, 2012. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Budget. Tom Lott moved to approve the budget version 2. The motion passed by a voice vote.

2012 Corporate Auditor. David Hill moved to approve Ed Barry as the IGRA Corporate Auditor for 2012. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Rodeo Schools. The following 9 associations presented their case to receive funding. Both ARGRA and FGRA would be holding rodeo schools, but were requesting no funds. The chair suggested that the board select 4 rodeo schools to fund.

Association: GSGRA

Location: Lakeside, CA
Date: April 28, 2012
Events: Chute Dogging, Calf Roping, Steer Deco, Wild Drag
Instructors: Kirk Carter, Phil Lucier, Drew Oberbeck, and David Renier
Income: \$6,000
Expense: \$6,155
Asking: \$2,000
Cost: \$25/go, up to 4 goes
Participants: 40

Association: ILGRA

Location: Midwest
Dates: June 16–17, 2012
Events: Junior Bull Riding, Chute Dogging, Calf Roping
Instructors: Derek Bevington and Tom Sheridan
Expense: \$250
Asking: \$500
Cost: \$40/entry
Participants: 10–12

Association: IAGRA

Location: Des Moines
Dates: May 19–20, 2012
Events: Chute Dogging, Calf Roping, camp events, Sunday speed events
Instructors: John Beck, Chuck Browning, and Clark Monk
Expense: \$550
Asking: \$1,500
Cost: \$25/person
Participants: 40

Association: SCCGRA

Location: Rio Linda, CA
Date: June 8, 2012
Events: Bull Riding, Bronc Riding, Junior Bull Riding, Chute Dogging, Calf Roping, Steer Deco
Instructors: Bill Lyle and one judge
Income: \$2,000
Expense: \$1,500
Asking: \$500
Participants: 20

Association: NMGRA

Location: Santa Fe
Date: August 3, 2012
Events: Junior Bull Riding, Chute Dogging, Calf Roping
Instructors: Craze, Chuck Browning, Brian Helander, Will Lann, and Rick Manucy
Expense: \$1,000
Asking: \$1,000
Cost: \$25/class
Participants: 10–20

Association: CGRA

Location: Denver
Date: July 13, 2012
Events: Junior Bull Riding, Chute Dogging, Calf Roping, Break–Away, camp events, horsemanship classes
Instructors: Rob Somers, others
Income: \$1,600
Asking: \$1,500
Cost: \$40
Participants: 40

Association: **AGRA**
Location: Phoenix
Date: February 17, 2012
Events: Junior Bull Riding, Chute Dogging, Calf Roping, camp events
Instructors: Contestants
Income: \$750
Expense: \$1,500
Asking: \$1,000
Cost: \$10–\$15
Participants: 50

Association: **NGRA**
Location: Las Vegas
Date: May 11, 2012
Events: Chute Dogging, Calf Roping, Steer Deco, Goat Dressing
Instructor: Bill Lyle
Income: \$1,000
Expense: \$1,570
Asking: \$500
Cost: \$20/\$65
Participant s: 40

Association: **TGRA**
Location: Fort Worth
Date: March 2, 2012
Events: Junior Bull Riding, Chute Dogging, Calf Roping, Steer Deco, Goat Dressing
Instructors: Jay Beck, John Beck, Wade Earp, Randy Edlin, and Gene Fraikes
Income: \$1,000
Expense: \$4,300
Asking: \$2,000
Cost: \$15/go
Participants: 20–40

The chair called for a 10–minute caucus.

TGRA withdrew their request due to their rodeo being sponsored by Coors Light.

John Beck moved to hold one rodeo school in each division and only those Trustees within their division vote on their rodeo school. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Division 1. The Trustees present selected GSGRA–San Diego.

Division 2. The Trustees present selected NMGRA–Santa Fe.

Division 3. The only proposal was from IAGRA with their rodeo school in Des Moines.

Division 4. The only proposal was from ILGRA with their rodeo school in the Midwest.

2012 Insurance Policy. Treasurer David Hill moved to go with the following breakdown. The motion passed by a voice vote.

PREMIUM BREAK-DOWN

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
General Liability	\$7,667.00	\$7,667.00
Sales Tax	120.00	245.00
Commission	500.00	500.00
Directors & Officers	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total Amount	\$9,287.00	\$9,412.00

POINT SYSTEM

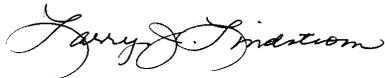
IGRA		(1 pt each)	1.0
Associations	27.0	(1 pt each)	25.0
Rodeos	16.0	(1 pt each)	15.0
University	0.5	(.5 pt each)	0.5
Convention	0.5	(.5 pt each)	0.5
Rodeo Schools	<u>1.0</u>	(.5 pt each)	<u>1.5</u>
	<u>45.0</u>		<u>43.5</u>
Price per point	\$ 206.39		\$ 216.37
Price per half point	\$ 103.20		\$ 108.19
Assn w/o a rodeo	\$ 206.39		\$ 216.37
Assn with a rodeo	\$ 412.78		\$ 432.74

Marketing/Media Relations. The position is still open. Ron Trusley suggested sending out the job description and a request for resumes.

Announcements

ILGRA reported they incurred a loss at last year's rodeo due to the rain on Saturday, but NGRA stepped up and sent them a check for \$500.

Upon no further business to be conducted, the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 pm.



Larry Lindstrom, IGRA Secretary

Larry Lindstrom

From: "Randy Edlin" <rse63@austin.rr.com>
To: "Larry Lindstrom" <larry.lindstrom@igra.com>
Cc: "Gene Fraikes" <genefraikes@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2012 8:06 PM
Subject: TGRA Trustee Position
Larry,

As of today, I have appointed Rik Kelly to the position of TGRA Trustee until the special election can be finished per the TGRA Bylaws.

Thank you,

Randy Edlin
TGRA President

Vice President Report

1st Quarter BOD Meeting

St. Louis, Missouri

January 13, 2012

“Well, it’s been quite the ride.” Wait! I am supposed to say that when my term in office is over in 23 months and 17 days.

I officially took office January 1st and hit the ground running. As for the 2012 IGRA Royalty Team, they are well on their way to a very successful year. All 10 of the reigning team will be attending the Road Runner Regional Rodeo and based on commitments by all the members of the team, the IGRA will have a royalty presence at all IGRA rodeo’s this year. Yes, including Canada!

I am working very closely with the World Gay Rodeo Finals committee to bring together the IGRA Royalty contest with the 2012 WGR Finals as one spectacular show. We have a bit of work to do, but I am finding we have a great team of people doing it. “It’s all going to be fine.” That’s what Janie keeps telling me.

As a new officer, I felt that familiarizing myself with our Bylaws and Standing Rules was an important part of my self-training for this position. Well, who would know that in doing so, I would find so many interesting things? One such thing was that I found out that I am the board liaison to the Marketing and PR committee. How wonderful to know that. Wonder what the hell that committee does? Interestingly, none of my fellow officers were aware of this duty either, so we all celebrated together. I have added those duties to my “bucket list” to figure out soon.

In working with the International Dance committee, I have found that there have been some issues with the general operation of the contest that needs some improving. All these issues will be identified and resolved at convention this year. However, the event that will be held here at IGRA University on Saturday night will need some issues addressed in this BOD meeting.

On a final note, in preparing for the class I am teaching on Royalty Use or Abuse, I sent out a request to have each Trustee to send me a copy of the rules and expectations they currently use for their individual royalty program. I wanted to say “Thank you” to the 4-5 of you that actually responded to this request. I did find a few others out on the association Web site. However, I would have had no idea that’s where they were if not for just “digging around” the Web sites and stumbling onto them. I by no means want anyone to feel as if they are being publicly “spanked” for this (all though I know there are some in this room that might enjoy the spanking part), but I would like to ask that you work with me to help me bring not only the best IGRA Royalty program to you, but also, to be able to use IGRA’s Royalty team to help YOU as an association achieve your goals, of fundraising, community outreach, and education in your respective communities.

Respectfully submitted,
Gene Fraikes
IGRA Vice President



COMMITTEE REPORTING FORM

Committee Name: Corporate Auditor

Committee Chair(s): Ed Barry

Committee Members: _____

Date & Time of Last Meeting: Convention 2011

Brief Overview of Last Meeting: Oral and written report given at convention, no issues noted.

I had full access to the complete set of IGRA books, records, and related reconciliations as necessary.

There were 70 cash related transactions. I used a random number generator to identify 10% of the population of transactions to examine. Deposits were disqualified as they represent what is known as negative risk. All of the reviewed transactions appeared to be properly supported and within the norm.

Items of Critical Importance (to be discussed at the next BOD meeting):

The examination period before convention was 10/1/2010 thru 10/31/2011. Currently, this examination examination covered November and December 2011. Therefore I am pleased to report to the IGRA Board of Directors that the books and records appear to be in order and thank our Treasurer David Hill for his meticulous service. Submitted to BOD at St. Louis Board meeting.

Items Requiring Action (to be voted on at the next BOD meeting):

None

No report at this time

Respectfully submitted, Ed Barry, 2011 Corporate Auditor on 1/13/2012

Community Outreach–Fundraising–Gender Diversity

IGRA Royalty Report – Team 2012

The 2012 team has hit the ground running and has made some group decisions for this year.

The group has decided to continue the “It Get’s Better” campaign in support of the Trevor Project. We have also decided to add the suggested “Get Real with Teal” campaign and chose the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition (NOCC) in honor of current and past friends of IGRA battling with this disease. Our goal is to turn the rodeo TEAL on Saturdays and PURPLE on Sundays. We hope to get the word out as soon as possible so we can kick off this season with Teal and Purple at the Road Runner Regional Rodeo in Phoenix. Most of the group has ordered 2012 Royalty Team shirts in teal and purple for the sake of consistency and in recognition of our beneficiaries for the year.

We have been in discussion about the branding of our team and will continue that discussion here at University this weekend.

We have also looked at the rodeo calendar for the year, and plan to have some royalty representation at each and every one of the rodeos on the circuit.

Our Team fundraising goal for the year is \$25,000. Various group and individual fundraisers have been planned or are currently in the planning stages. We look forward to giving you all another update at the next board meeting.

Here is some information on the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition. Since its inception in 1995, the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition (NOCC) has been committed to raising awareness of ovarian cancer in communities across the country and to providing education, support, and hope for women with ovarian cancer and for their families. NOCC has established itself as an important national advocate for patients and families struggling with ovarian cancer. The Coalition is committed to improving the survival rate and quality of life for women with ovarian cancer. More information can be found on their website: www.ovarian.org.

Looking forward to seeing you all out and about as we work together to make this a most memorable year in IGRA history.

Warm Regards,
The 2012 IGRA Royalty Team

“Paravetics”

Paraveterinary workers are likely to assist the vet, or perform by themselves on behalf of the vet, medical skills such as:

- observations: taking and recording pulse, temperature, respiration
- wound and trauma management: cleaning and dressing wounds, applying splints
- physical interventions e.g. catheterizations, ear flushes and venipuncture
- preparing and analysing biological samples: performing skin scrapings, microbiology, urinalysis, and microscopy

The level of education of a paraveterinary worker will depend on the role they are performing, and the veterinary medico-legal framework for the area in which they are working. Many areas employ veterinary assistants, who have a simple role to directly assist the vet under direction, and may hold no formal qualification or training, or have been trained on the job.

At the higher levels, veterinary nurses or technicians may be able to practice skills autonomously, including examinations and minor surgery on animals, without the direct supervision of a veterinarian. They are likely to have both formal qualifications and in many jurisdictions will also require a formal registration with a monitoring body.

Beyond credentialing as a veterinary technician specialty certification is also available to technicians with advanced skills. To date there are specialty recognitions in:

- anesthesiology
- behavior
- cardiology
- clinical practice (canine/feline, exotic companion animal, and production animal sub-specialties)
- dentistry
- emergency & critical care
- equine veterinary nursing
- neurology
- nutrition
- oncology
- small or large animal internal medicine
- surgery
- zoological medicine

Veterinary Technician Specialists carry the additional post-nominal letters "VTS" with their particular specialties indicated in parentheses. As veterinary technology evolves more specialty academy recognitions are anticipated.