

2/28/2017

IGRA Executive Board special meeting regarding Joshua Goyne, Australian bull rider

Roll call:

Bruce Gros

Lorry King

Gene Fraikes

Roger Japp

Candy Pratt

Ryan Reed (guest)

Brian Helander (guest)

Public Relations Director recommends authorizing a GoFundMe fundraiser to raise travel funds to bring Australian bull rider Joshua Goyne to the US to compete in IGRA rodeos.

Aye from Lorry and Roger

Nay from Candy and Gene

Bruce casts a tie-breaking vote: Aye

The motion is passed.

Ron Trusley

From: "Bruce Gros igrabruce@gmail.com [IGRA_Exec_BOD]" <IGRA_Exec_BOD@yahoogroups.com>
Date: Sunday, February 26, 2017 6:23 PM
To: <IGRA_Exec_BOD@yahoogroups.com>
Cc: "Ryan Reed" <philosophercowboy@gmail.com>
Subject: [IGRA_Exec_BOD] Request for EBOD Action, Joshua Goyne, "The Gay Cowboy"

Good evening EBOD members,

I am asking that you take action on the following matter, deemed time sensitive, so presented for immediate consideration without prior notice.

Therefore, I will ask each member if they are willing to waive the required 5 day notice so we can take it up. Your explicit response must be recorded as it requires unanimous consent to proceed and consider the matter.

I agree to waive advance notice so the Executive Board may consider action on the matter presented below.

Bruce Gros
 IGRA President

In a conversation with IGRA Public Relations Chair Ryan Reed in which he briefed me on developments regarding an international brand that has contacted him through their marketing representatives seeking to use IGRA in an upcoming marketing campaign, he called to my attention the recent story of an out gay cowboy in Australia, Joshua Goyne, who has experienced explicit homophobia and threats of violence as he competes in rodeos there. Ryan suggested the possibility of approaching the marketing company to gauge their interest in incorporating him in their campaign, and whether they may give additional support to help get him to one of our sanctioned rodeos. The company is already going to offer IGRA compensation if/when we complete our arrangements with them, which we will handle in separate action once the terms are presented.

For those on facebook, you can find Joshua Goyne or The Gay Cowboy through search, or Josh in my friends list. You can then look for yourselves at his posts and his advocacy efforts. For those who are not, here is a link to a video he recently posted which is what brought him to our attention. It has been seen by over 30,000 viewers.

<https://www.facebook.com/josh.goyne/videos/1578116612206153/>

I have chatted with Josh at length about his experiences, his goals both as a competitor and an advocate, and of the visibility and support he currently has in Australia, as well as past or pending media opportunities.

His expressed goal as a competitor is to compete in the IGRA circuit, and to develop into a pro-level bull rider in PBR/PRCA, including qualifying to compete in the respective Finals, and doing so as an openly gay cowboy. As an advocate, he seeks to stand up to and challenge homophobia in rodeo, and to develop opportunities for gay cowboys, particularly in rural Australia, free of homophobia and threats of violence. He also has an established four year record of philanthropy for stroke patient support, most recently completing a 20 day bicycle ride and raising \$15,000.

In further conversations, Ryan and I have discussed the value of supporting him particularly while his story is topical and newsworthy, not just for his personal benefit, but the opportunity to partner with him while advancing the goals of IGRA including by raising awareness, advocating for men and women in Australia (and elsewhere) who share these experiences, and supporting, in so far as we are able, the development of new opportunities for cowboys and cowgirls in that part of the world.

The question then is, will IGRA agree to undertake and administer a campaign to raise funds to make it possible

for Josh, and potentially competitive teammates he might develop, to travel to one or more IGRA sanctioned rodeos, including WGRF should he qualify this year, within the limits the funds raised will allow, and shall IGRA support this effort by media contacts and other promotion avenues, to see what follow up opportunities can be developed?

The proposal, as presented, has no direct budgetary impact to IGRA. We simply act as agent to raise and administer the funds, essentially in something of an escrow account, more or less as fund trustee.

You have the question. Once waivers of notice have been recorded and we may proceed, a motion will be called for, along with debate and a vote.

Bruce

Posted by: Bruce Gros <igrabruce@gmail.com>

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