



*International Gay Rodeo Association
Meeting Minutes*

IGRA 4th Quarter Board of Directors Meeting

Date: November 14, 2024

Time: 11:00am

Place: Rice Embassy Suites – Grand Rapids MI

Recorder: Gene Fraikes - Secretary

Call to Order **Brian Helander called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM**

Roll Call **Roll call taken by Secretary Gene Fraikes. Sign in sheet and roll call sheet attached**

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Quorum **A quorum was present**

Business Proceedings

APPROVAL OF MINUTES SEPTEMBER VIRTUAL BOD 9/25/24

- **Motion by Chuck Browning and second by Robert Thurtell to approve the minutes as received. Motion Passed.**

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- **President: Brian gave verbal report commenting on the good things he saw this past year at the rodeos he attended. This included new young people he hopes will soon help to lead the program. He's looking forward to the next year and the exciting events that are planned. He mentioned we are celebrating the 30th anniversary of MIGRA this weekend. He thanked everyone for their participation.**
- **Vice President: Michael Vrooman - Report attached A Motion was made by Michael Vrooman and second by Tim Smith to distribute the Royalty contestant funds as outlined in his report. Discussion was held and motion passed.**
- **Secretary: Gene Fraikes had no report.**
- **Treasurer: David Hill reported that the September financials have been posted to the website and he was still working on the October financials. He hopes to have the October financials sometime this weekend. Currently 2 associations owe money to IGRA. ILGRA owes \$200.00 for a late fee and UGRA owes \$800.00 for membership dues and late fee. Discussion was held concerning UGRA monies owed. The issue was resolved with cash payment to David Hill. Michael Lentz reported that the 2023 taxes were filed and they were sent out to the Board of Directors. Discussion was held concerning the over all financial standing of IGRA.**



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- **Corporate Auditor report was deferred to be given on the convention floor on Saturday.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **All committee reports were deferred to the convention floor this weekend.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Chuck Browning motioned and Guy Puglisi seconded to sanction the follow rodeos for the 2025 season. Motion Passed**
 - **UGRA June 21-22, 2025**
 - **CGRA July 11-13, 2025**
 - **NSGRA July 25-27, 2025**
 - **GPRA August 8-10, 2025**
 - **NMGRA August 22-24, 2025**
 - **GSGRA-BAC September 12-14, 2025**

NEW BUSINESS

Order of business: Rodeo Schools:

- **Guy Puglisi made a motion to approve the follow rodeo schools for the 2025 season and was seconded by Robert Thurtell. Motion passed**
 - **TGRA April 11, 2025 – emailed 9/27/24**
 - **ASGRA August 16-17, 2025**

Order of business: Emergency Action Plan:

- **Mark Christensen presented a recommendation of a Emergency Action Plan for Associations to use at their events. Discussion of this plan took place and the Secretary will send a soft copy of the plan to each of the Trustees and make the form available on the IGRA Website.**

Order of business: Road to 50 Promotional Patches

- **Motion was made by Robert Thurtell and seconded by Chuck Browning to order 250 promotional patches to replenish our supply that has sold out. Motion passed.**



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Order of business: Finals Rodeo Location 2026-2030:

- **Candy Pratt presented the proposal to hold WGRF in El Reno OK in 2026-2030. A motion was made by Chuck Browning and seconded by Robert Thurtell to approve the proposal. Discussion began on the proposals. At 11:54am President Brian Helander gave control of the meeting to VP Michael Vrooman to allow himself to speak on the subject. Brian Helander took back control of the meeting at 12:00noon. The vote was taken and the motion passed. President Brian Helander requested that GPRA Trustee Candy Pratt clarify a couple things on the proposal and return the answers to the Executive Board.**

Order of Business: WGRF 2025 Hotel Contract Room nights/

- **Roger Bergmann gave a report concerning the events around WGRF 2025. Roger reported that the hotel has agreed to remove the IGRA responsibility to pay for unused rooms in the room block and to increase the room block number to accommodate our needs. A motion was made by Gene Fraikes and seconded by Mark Christensen to allow Roger Bergmann to make the room night block changes in the contract as necessary as long as IGRA is not responsible for un-booked room nights. Motion passed.**

Order of Business: Association Announcements

- **Associations announcements were deferred until Sunday on the convention floor.**

Convention Co-Chair Tommy Channel made announcements concerning convention this weekend and thanked Scott Korff and Roger Bergmann for their help. Tommy advised the committee breakout rooms and the room for the convention floor are all located on the 2nd floor.

Meeting adjourned at 12:29pm

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

11/14/24

1/2 of 2025 IGRA Royalty Contestant Entry Fees (18 x 500.00 = 9000.00) divided 50% (4500.00) to IGRA and 50% donation suggested to IGRA BOD by the 2024 IGRA Royalty Team (2250.00 to the Trevor Project and 2250.00 to the Transgender Law Center).

The 2025 IGRA Royalty Competition in El Reno proved to be a big success with moving the full scale production to the grounds, giving the IGRA and community the full, well rounded 4-Day WGRF Event we were hoping for. The participation of 18 contestants provided 3 nights of solid entertainment and yielded a talented and large 12 member 2025 IGRA Royalty Team. This team has hit the ground running with great communication, fundraising already happening and more in the planning stages. My heart was full in El Reno on Sunday evening at WGRF when the new and current teams jumped up to help serve dinner at awards as well as stay until the very end of the evening, striking the set, breaking down the room, loading vehicles and making sure all was left well. We should all be excited with what this excellent group has in store for the IGRA.

The new Mx. IGRA royalty category is pronounced "mix". This can vary in different communities but the overall consensus from our own contestants and community research has provided the pronunciation "Mix" to be preferred.

A big thank you to the Canadian County Expo and Event Center, the IGRA Royalty Competition Production Team and the IGRA Alumni Fund for helping me execute a vision for the competition I've had for many years. As all members of the production team have signed on for another year, we look forward to rising to the challenge in providing another exciting royalty competition, special for our celebration in Reno, Nevada.

Please remind the Vice President or Royalty Coordinator in your Member Associations that I am available should they have any questions about mentoring, fundraising or organizing events. Continuity in competitions and criteria is up to you. Success in these programs starts at home and we all want everyone involved in our organizations

to prosper. Thank you to Shaun Shaffer, Vice President of the Missouri Gay Rodeo Assoc. for coming to El Reno and assisting with the IGRA Royalty Competition to gain working knowledge and perspective to bring back to MGRA Royalty Program.

Michael Vrooman

IGRA Vice President