



MINUTES

Board of Directors

May 9, 2025 10:00 AM

Hale Arena

1701 American Royal Court Kansas City, MO.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am by President Brian Helander. Secretary Gene Fraikes conducted roll call of Directors present.(roll call attached) A quorum was present to conduct business.

A motion was made by Chuck Browning CRGRA Trustee and seconded by Sherry Mullen AGRA Trustee to approve the minutes from the special meeting of the Board of Directors(BOD) on April 22, 2025. Motion passed.

Officer Reports:

President – Brian Helander gave a verbal report thanking those present for helping him after his accident at the Palm Springs rodeo.

Brian reported he felt most of our rodeos have been well attended. He stated he has been seeing more young people attending our rodeos. Brian reminded everyone that World Pride is coming up in DC. Brian also issued an “all hands on deck” call to support all the different events that IGRA has going on this year. It’s going to take all of us to support these events. He advised we have a lot of challenges coming up but we will get through it.

Brian reported that the Executive Board of Directors(EBOD) met to discuss the commemorative buckle and that it was referred to the BOD to handle.

Vice President – Michael Vrooman read a written report. Report is attached.

Secretary – Gene Fraikes read a written report. Report is attached.

Treasurer – David Hill advised that the financials for 2024 year end and the 1st quarter of 2025 had been distributed. (financials attached) David reviewed some of the information found in these reports.

Corporate Auditors Report – Tom Truitt sent written reports for his review of both the 2024 year end financials as well as the 1st quarter of 2025. These reports were previously distributed to the BOD and copies are attached.

A motion was made to approve the Corporate Auditors reports by Chuck Browning – CRGRA Trustee and seconded by Robert Thurtell – CGRA Trustee. Motion passed.

Brian Helander commented that he felt our positive financial situation is a direct result of our working together in several different areas and thanked everyone for this.



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Committee Reports:

IGRA Animal Welfare Report – Stefanie Garber – Report attached

IGRA Archives – Roger Bergmann – Report attached

IGRA Convention 2025 – Robert Thurtell reported that the hotel room rate for convention is \$109.00 per night. Planning of events during convention was still in process and more information will follow as soon as it's available. Robert advised that there have been some reports of people getting website errors and that these are currently being worked on. They should be fixed soon. Robert advised that because CGRA is putting on the 40th celebration they would like to have IGRA give some sort of sponsorship to CGRA to help with costs.

Executive Directors Report – Tommy Channel advised that when sending in the stock contractor's certificate of Liability all that is needed are the 2 pages showing IGRA and your home association as additionally insured. Tommy reported on the IGRA Store and advised there are several important items in the store for sale at this time. Tommy advised that he is getting reports of people not being able to find the link to the IGRA store on IGRA.COM. Tommy is wondering why it's so difficult to get the link for the IGRA Store in a lot easier to find location. Brian Helander advised that because Frank Harrell is unable to get the website updated, the problem is being worked on as best we can. Tommy advised that he is concerned about what to do to handle Convention concerning Frank Harrell's normal participation. Brian Helander advised that Frank Harrell will not be at convention and will need to plan accordingly. Tommy reported that there have been 21 buckles sold and paid for to date. Emaly Allison has volunteered to put together instructions to navigate to the store and make them available on our social media platforms.

IGRA Grant Writing Report – Michael Kaplan – Report attached

IGRA Hall of Fame – Roger Bergmann – Report attached

IGRA Judges Report – Tom Sheridan – Report attached

IGRA Rodeo Officials – Guy Puglisi – Report attached

IGRA World Pride/Smithsonian Project – Brian Helander reported that we are going to be in the World Pride parade in Washington DC. Roger Bergmann sent a written report concerning the pride booth and archives display for World Pride.(report attached) Michael Lentz gave a verbal report of the ASGRA Dance related events that are going to be happening in partnership with IGRA during World Pride. Brian Helander advised that there are some "political headwinds" that we are dealing with for these events. He advised that they are being addressed as best we can. Michael reported more on the political discomfort around this event. Most of the issues are



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around the media. Michael advised that he is not aware of any federal involvement in these concerns. Michael is really encouraging people to go to this event.

President Brian Helander recessed the meeting at 11:00am for a break. Meeting was reconvened at 11:16am

IGRA 50 Years of Gay Rodeo – Judy Munson sent a written report covering the reunion.(report attached) Brian Helander reported that a WGRF poster is being created and will be available soon. There has been a “50 Years of Gay Rodeo” poster created that many may have seen. There is an idea being considered to have signed copies of the posters available for sale as a fundraising effort. More information to follow. Several suggestions were offered to expand this idea. Brian advised he will communicate these suggestions back to the committee. Michael Vrooman reported on the WGRF site visit that was recently conducted. They toured the facility for Dances, Royalty Contest and meeting rooms. He advised that the hotel is great and being very helpful trying to meet our needs. There are over 1200 room nights sold at this time. Michael advised that they toured the rodeo facility and it is huge. All areas were discussed and will meet all our needs. Overall Michael believes it’s going to be a great reunion and WGRF event. Brian Helander added that we really need people to book their rooms now. The room cutoff date is 9/17/2025.

Dance Partnerships – Roger Bergmann sent a written report which is attached. Concerning the dance partnerships, Brian Helander advised that IGRA is responsible for all the expenses in these partnerships and also receives all the revenue. Tommy Channel stated he had heard talk about a possible donation IGRA was making to the dance group and expressed concern with such a donation. Brian Helander advised that after the event was over the board would make a decision concerning any sort of action involving a donation.

IGRA WGRF – Mark Christensen – Report attached

IGRA WGRF 2025 planning committee – Roger Bergmann – Report Attached

NEW BUSINESS

WGRF 2025 Committee requested several budget line adjustments as presented in their report. After some discussion, this was referred to the budget committee for clarification.

Archives & Hall of Fame – A motion was included in this committee report that for all expenses that exceed the Hall of Fame Budget of \$1,200.00, the IGRA Treasurer is authorized to charge those expenses to budget line 8850, Archives Expenses.



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It was determined that this request is out of order at this time, and will be dealt with at a later date. It was the BOD decision to refer this to the Budget committee to review and report on at the next BOD meeting. The BOD determined that in the future all budget items must come from the budget committee for the agenda. The Secretary will advise all committee chairs of this process.

Sanctioning of 2026 AGRA Rodeo Application - Emailed out on 4/24/25

A motion to approve the sanctioning of the 2026 AGRA rodeo was made by Chuck Browning – CRGRA Trustee and seconded by Sherry Mullen – AGRA Trustee. Chuck Browning expressed concern about the use of one of the chutes for rough stock riding events. Chuck offered an amendment to his original motion to state that the sanctioning was to be contingent on the most westerly chute being excluded from use for rough stock riding events. Amendment passed as well as the motion to sanction the rodeo as amended.

Political Concerns and Contingencies – Brian Helander advised that although due to our 501c3 status we cannot talk publically on behalf of IGRA about our political concerns, we do need to talk about them among ourselves and remain aware of the effect things could have on IGRA and our associations.

The meeting was recessed for lunch at 11:52am
The meeting was reconvened at 12:31pm

Update on status of IGRA.COM – Dave Henzel gave a verbal report concerning the progress and challenges he and his committee have faced with this project. A written summary is attached to these minutes summarizing this verbal report. After hearing Dave's report, President Brian Helander stated that he feels we need to reach out to an outside commercial resource to develop our websites and applications. There was a lot of discussion around how we go about moving forward with something like this. It was decided that Dave Henzel's team will seek out some companies to do a site and application review and will report back at the next BOD meeting concerning their findings.

Brian Helander informed the board that he has started a search to develop some sort of capital campaign. He does not currently have any details concerning this but he will report more at a later date.

Michael Lentz presented a draft version of the IGRA annual report. Tim Smith – TGRA Trustee made a motion to approve the draft of the annual report with editorial edits to be reviewed by the Executive Board before posting. Motion was seconded by



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Sherry Mullen – AGRA Trustee. Motion passed and was referred to the EBOD for final review.

Announcements from each association were heard at this time.

The meeting adjourned 1:58pm