



International Gay Rodeo Association
Rodeo Directors 'Black Shirt Program' Questionnaire

Name: Charlie Colella Member Association: DSRA/TGRA

1. Tell the Committee about yourself including things that may be beneficial to your consideration? (i.e. Life, Accomplishments, Awards, Recognitions etc.)

I have been involved with IGRA for approx. 33 years. During this time I have been a contestant, competing in 12 events in the early years. In 2012, I won All-Around Cowboy at the Oklahoma rodeo. Early on, GSGRA-LA split into 2 Chapters and I became President of GSGRA-LAC. In 1992 I organized the LA Gay Pride parade entry for GSGRA-LAC which included 30 cowboys/cowgirls on horseback, wagon pulled by 2 Clydesdales with 20 members and a float. The offices I've held are 2014-15 TGRA State Contestant Rep, 2017 TGRA Dallas Chapter Rep., IGRA Sportsmanship Award (2007), Rodeo School Instructor for GSGRA, TGRA, DSRA, NMGRA, 2023 IGRA President's Award. One of my most proud moments is running a 20.97 in Pole Bending on my horse Dashin Peppy Jet in Oklahoma, 2009 (I believe that was the 2nd fastest time for IGRA), and also being part of the 2023 WGRF Committee. I was the 2024 IGRA Sponsor Chair and will be the 2025 IGRA Sponsor Chair. Also a member of the 2025 50 Year Reunion Committee.

2. What skills do you possess that you feel enhance your consideration as a qualified candidate as a WGRF Rodeo Director?

I have been on the WGRF Committee for 2 years now and have worked closely with the Rodeo Director and Assistant's. From this, plus being a contestant for 30+ years, I know how a rodeo runs and what is needed from the team to produce this event. My track record with obtaining sponsors should speak for itself. I am organized and follow-through with tasks needed to be done and also follow-up.

3. Your involvement as a 'Black Shirt', could at times, cause you to perform duties and tasks that you may have been opposed to, while working with the WGRF Committee. How would you deal with situations like this?

As a 'Black Shirt', or being part of any committee, my attitude is that I do this for the benefit of IGRA. I have a job to do and will do it to the best of my ability for the good of IGRA. In 2023, while working on the Season Champ awards, I knew prior to Finals who would win these awards. That did not deter me from obtaining nice awards. My position was representing IGRA.

4. Throughout this Program the ultimate goal is one of producing forward thinking, visionary Rodeo Directors who will one day be in charge of the production of World Gay Rodeo Finals, under their Leadership. Please explain what your vision (once you achieve this role) would look like. Expand on things

you have seen and things that you would love to see. What would your WGRF look like?

At WGRF, I would like to see the event winners paraded around the arena on horseback or in a 4x4, with the sponsor flag. I would also like to see entertainment in the arena, such as professional horse performers, color guard, etc.

Thank you for your interest in the IGRA 'Black Shirt' program. Please feel free to use additional paper, if necessary.