

Report of the Finals Rodeo Committee to the 28th IGRA Annual Convention

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm and was attended by 19 members with 10 of them present being voting members from their respective associations.

Tommy Channel, 2012 Finals Chairman, opened the meeting with a slide presentation that garnered a lot of discussion about the future of WGRF and where it is heading. There was discussion about how to make World Gay Rodeo Finals more of a “show.”

Motion by Brian Helander, seconded by Ken Smith, MOTION PASSED:

WGRF will adopt a slack and performance format for 2013 with the top 5-6 individuals or teams, based on season standings, run in the performance portion on Saturday and the top 5-6 individuals or teams as determined by Saturday’s standings compete in the performance portion on Sunday with the provision that the Rodeo Director has the discretion to run an entire event at one time.

There was discussion as to adding more options for the spectators during the rodeo such as entertainment or additional vendors.

Janie Van Santen, 2012 Rodeo Director, did a brief recap of the 2012 WGRF.

The World Gay Rodeo Finals 2012 showed a net profit of \$548.25 with the expense portion coming in under budget. It was noted that WGRF was given a scaled down sponsorship budget from Bud Light for this year as it was determined by the IGRA board that the previous amount of \$15,000 being held for Finals could be used elsewhere earlier in the year if Finals Rodeo was expected to turn a profit anyway. The 2012 Finals budget was given \$9,250 which is \$5,750 less than previous years so with this in mind it was still a very profitable IGRA event.

Round Table Discussions by various 2012 Rodeo Committee Members:

Royalty. Overall, the combining of the 2013 Royalty Competition worked well in conjunction with 2012 WGRF. There were some logistical issues that will be resolved moving forward.

Travel & Hotel. Most things ran smoothly and came in under budget.

Sponsorship. There were no specific problems in sponsorship but it was noted that most of the sponsorship dollars came to us from the Dallas market.

Grand Entry. Although there were comments made by contestants and spectators that the “flag format” was incorrect during Grand Entry, it was noted that following strict “Flag Protocol” this was done correctly for the first time in IGRA history.

Registration. There were some issues at registration and they will be corrected going forward.

Volunteers & Security. We would like to see better guidelines in place as to how to handle volunteers and security. Signage was also a problem and we will look into the signage that is available to borrow from the home association (e.g. No Liquor Past This Point). We will also be looking at how to ensure “volunteer signup” is more visible, either through the IGRA Web site or through the home association.

Vendors. Made a profit. However, it was noted that the profit as well as the number of vendors has decreased consistently over the last 3 years.

Patrick Terry, 2013 Rodeo Director, presented the 2013 production plan.

The 2013 World Gay Rodeo Finals, as approved by the IGRA Board of Directors, will be held in Fort Worth, Texas. There are no dates confirmed as of yet for the 2013 WGRF. We are looking for the dates that are available at both the Watt Arena and the John Justin arena in Fort Worth.

There are numerous pros and cons from both of the arenas. The stalls at the John Justin are closer. However, camping is more expensive. The vendor space at the Watt arena is more “customer friendly.” However, the stalls and contestant camping are spread out.

Patrick and his team will be working hard in the next month to set the date and venue so they can move forward with the planning. We will also be checking to see what other events are being planned at the Will Rogers Center on our weekend and try to avoid the congestion problems encountered at the parking attendant areas.

Additional hotel options will also be checked out and a proposal brought forward to the planning committee in St. Louis in January.

Motion by Brian Helander, seconded by Scotty Shadix, MOTION PASSED:

That the World Gay Rodeo Finals Committee investigate moving to Albuquerque in 2014.

Motion by Brian Helander, seconded by Laura Scott, MOTION PASSED:

That the current Rodeo Director Team nominate and make a recommendation to the IGRA board for a new member to join the Rodeo Director program.

The next meeting of the committee will be in St Louis in January 2013.

Respectfully submitted,
Janie Van Santen, Rodeo Director
2012 World Gay Rodeo Finals