

Capital Crossroads Rejoins IGRA, Will Hold Rodeo in 2008

After several years of strained relationships with the International Gay Rodeo Association, Sacramento's Capital Crossroads Gay Rodeo Association has rejoined the group as a member association.

Fences had to be mended to win membership, both with the IGRA and with San Francisco's Golden State Gay Rodeo Association, host of the Best Buck in the Bay gay rodeo. To do that, a delegation from SCCGRA traveled to Kansas City the weekend of Nov. 9 - 11, to attend the IGRA annual meeting and plead their case for membership.

Traveling at their own expense, Skip Griffith, Scott Hinman, Rob Pierce, George Raya, Matt Salisbury, Sam Van Galder, Wes Wilkinson, Hank Williams and Association President Jeff Barr attended many committee meetings and worked relentlessly with other IGRA members to present the case for SCCGRA to rejoin the IGRA, pointing out the successful year that SCCGRA has had, including many community events and fund-raising efforts.

In addition to rejoining the IGRA, SCCGRA is now eligible to hold an IGRA sanctioned rodeo, and has already scheduled one for July 25 - 27, 2008, known as the Sierra Stampede. IGRA membership also allows SCCGRA members to participate in other IGRA rodeos.

"My main focus as president for the past year was obtaining IGRA membership," said Barr. "Golden State gave up their territory without any arm twisting, due in large part to the hard work of our members."

In addition to the Sierra Stampede Rodeo, Capital Crossroads provides many social and fun events for its 84 members and the community at large. They also provide rodeo event and safety training through their Dean Berkan Rodeo Safety and Education Fund.

More information about Sacramento's Capital Crossroads Gay Rodeo Association can be found at their Web site www.CapitalCrossroads.org

At their annual meeting and holiday party held Dec. 8, SCCGRA elected new officers, (clockwise starting with the white hat) Wes Wilkinson - Treasurer; Rob Pierce - President; David Dilley - Vice President of Administration; Jeff Barr - IGRA Trustee; and Sam Van Galder - Vice President of Rodeo Operations. Not pictured are Scott Hinman - Secretary and Mike Silva - Member-at-Large. George Raya will serve as Public relations Committee Chair.

