**IGRA Board of Directors Meeting**

**Palm Springs, CA**

**May 6, 2022**

**IGRA Archives Committee Report**

There has not been a Committee Meeting since the 2019 IGRA Convention, though I do try to keep committee members informed of what is happening.

The following is regarding something I first heard about in November 2021. The California State Library System published a news release that they were accepting applications for $750,000 of Grant money to improve Californians’ Ability to Help Preserve California’s LGBTQ+ History. Grants were to be awarded between $5,000 and $150,000. The Autry Museum wanted to apply for a grant and contacted GSGRA President Steve Wollert to write a letter of support for the Autry Museum’s grant application. The Autry was notified in early March that they did receive a grant.

Steve Wollert had notified me that if The Autry received the grant GSGRA wanted to support their effort in preserving GSGRA history with donation of the remaining 3 boxes of items in GSGRA storage from the dissolved L.A. and San Diego GSGRA Chapters. I had picked up those boxes on January 1st and found that most all of the files were items that had already been donated to ONE. There were also several GSGRA and LA Chapter flags that had duplicates to be kept in the IGRA Archives. The Autry already has numerous items that have been donated since 2009. On March 11, 2022, I delivered items to The Autry. That list is attached to this report.

The Autry has several years to complete their project using the grant monies, and they have already begun their planning and budgeting. The project is specifically for California LGBTQ+ organizations, but in order to explain the history of GSGRA there will need to be the connection to the original National Reno Gay Rodeo and the organization of IGRA. The Autry’s project, titled the *California Gay Rodeo History* project, aims to provide expanded access and use as well as highlight the museum’s gay rodeo material through archival discovery, public programming, and exhibition. The project is expected to include photographing or scanning the many items that are GSGRA related and making those items more readily available to researchers. The Autry also plans to have a GSGRA Exhibit probably running from May through December of 2023.

On March 11, 2022, I also delivered a number of items to “ONE.” Included were magazine and newspaper articles, rodeo programs and convention programs, association newsletters, clothing, and approximately 4,500 photos that were donated to IGRA by the photographer, Bill Morris of Albuquerque. An itemized list is included with this report.

On April 14, 2022, Candy Pratt received an email from United Pendleton Pride, a 2SLGBTQ+ group. The “2S” signifies “Two Spirit” which is to include members of the indigenous population. Candy asked me to contact the group which was hoping that IGRA could participate in their parade.

The organization is led by 3 teenagers, one who is Native American trans and was crowned Prom Queen at her high school on the local reservation. The organization was formed in 2020 and had 75 people march in their 1st parade. In 2021 there were 240 marchers, as well as a few hecklers on the street. Pendleton is known for it’s “Pendleton Roundup”, and some of the locals have told them: “At least there are no gay cowboys!”

One of their mentors is involved with the local Indian Cultural Museum, and was aware of the Blake Little Gay Rodeo Photo Exhibit that traveled around the country, and also saw photos of some of the IGRA Archives that were displayed with that exhibit at museums in Roseburg, Oregon and St. Petersburg, FL.

In my first email to them I let them know that it was very short notice to try and get IGRA members to travel that distance, especially with horses. It is also on June 11th, which is the same weekend as the Show Me State Rodeo. I did offer to bring them an IGRA Archive Display if they had something after the parade. They quickly replied with excitement and offered to pay all of my travel expenses, but with their limited budget, the Gay and Lesbian Rodeo Heritage Foundation has offered to help with some of the travel expenses. I am hoping to include a presentation of 1987’s First IGRA Finals Rodeo on a 32-inch TV with built-in DVD player. Pendleton will learn that there are gay cowboys and cowgirls!

Thank You!

Sincerely,

Roger Bergmann

IGRA Archives Committee Chair