

History

The Texas Gay Rodeo Association was founded in the summer of 1983. November 1984 heralded the first annual Texas Gay Rodeo near Houston, beginning the tradition of the TGRA Fall rodeo, which continues to this day.

TGRA is a member of the International Gay Rodeo Association (IGRA), which governs all sanctioned rodeos.

Chapters sprouted up across Texas over the years, and currently there are five – Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio.

In 2000, TGRA started a Spring Rodeo held in Fort Worth or Dallas each March. This rodeo event has become one of the most popular on the rodeo circuit. In addition, TGRA as a statewide organization currently holds a Fall Rodeo, which all chapters get an opportunity to host.

One facet of our many activities is Royalty, where candidates vie for the title of Mr., Miss, and Ms. TGRA. These ambassadors host fundraisers for TGRA during their candidacy and reign. They then have the opportunity to compete in the Mr., Miss, and Ms. IGRA contest. This honor has been bestowed upon several Texas titleholders over the years.

IGRA Finals Rodeo is held in October of each year. In 1993 TGRA hosted the Finals Rodeo in Fort Worth, then a mere two weeks later put on the 10th Annual TGRA Rodeo in San Antonio. That was a busy but rewarding year for all of our sponsors and membership.

The growth of TGRA coincided with the fight against HIV/AIDS. The founding members recognized the need for the community to pull together to raise money to combat this epidemic in light of limited government intervention and funding.

Present

TGRA is proud of its I.R.S. designation as a 501(c)3 tax-exempt and tax-deductible, not-for-profit charitable organization.

Since we got started in 1983, TGRA members (individual and commercial), Royalty, and local communities have raised and donated over two million dollars to Texas charities – primarily, though not exclusively, for AIDS-specific service support.

Other types of agencies are also supported by TGRA contributions: women's health projects, breast cancer, disaster relief, and children's programs to name just a few.

Each TGRA chapter decides how to donate its allotted funds, a direct function of how much was raised during the prior year. They may then address any acute needs in their own community.

TGRA is administered and run totally by volunteers – there are no paid employees.

The membership numbers in the hundreds.

The State Executive Board, with an Executive Board in each chapter, conducts day-to-day operations of the organization.

Officers are elected to an annual term.

There are many committees within each chapter that exist to meet the wide-range of challenges in hosting rodeos and maintaining a focused charitable concern.

Membership participation in TGRA activities, while not mandatory, is appreciated.

What Can I Do in TGRA?

- Volunteer to help at the rodeo
- Become a contestant
- Help fundraising

Future

This year, as TGRA celebrates 25 years of service, we look to many more years of active community involvement.

Our continued growth depends on the dedication of existing members (individual and commercial) as well as the talent, expertise, and insight of new members – commercial as well as individual.

There are many areas of TGRA and degrees of involvement available to its members.

Our success is entirely dependent on the support of the membership and the communities we serve. We are engaged in fighting a war on infectious diseases and terminal illnesses, but prefer the rodeo arena as our battleground.

The members of TGRA wish to thank you for your support, encouragement, and consideration in helping those who cannot help themselves.

How Do I Join?

Download

A membership application may be printed from our Web site – www.tgra.org. Select Documents, Forms, then TGRA Membership Application.

Write Us

Contact your preferred chapter. The USPS address and e-mail address are on the back page.

Call Us

Current local phone numbers are listed on the Web site, in regional publications throughout Texas, and are usually available from commercial member establishments.

Guests are cordially invited to attend any or all TGRA scheduled events, including monthly chapter meetings.

Mission

Objective

The objective of TGRA shall be to elevate the image of women and men in the sports field of rodeo.

Purposes

TGRA was organized to fulfill the following purposes:

- To promote and stage an annual rodeo at locations situated in the state of Texas.
- To promote communication and fellowship among its membership by encouraging the participation of members in western-related events.
- To engage in charitable activities, whether by volunteering the services of TGRA and/or its members or by the raising of money; with such activities and the proceeds derived thereof being donated to charitable organizations that the membership of the corporation may choose.
- To engage in any business and/or activity in which a non-profit corporation may engage within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Service code.

Prohibitions

TGRA shall not engage in any discrimination whether related to gender, physical handicap, race, religion, creed, sexual orientation, age*, or national origin.

*Individuals must be at least 21 years of age in order to join TGRA.

Chapters

Austin

P.O. Box 1511
Austin, TX 78767
E-mail: austin@tgra.org

Dallas

P.O. Box 191168
Dallas, TX 75219-8168
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Fort Worth

P.O. Box 786
Fort Worth, TX 76101
E-mail: fortworth@tgra.org

Houston

P.O. Box 130585
Houston, TX 77219
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San Antonio

P.O. Box 12651
San Antonio, TX 78212
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TGRA State Address

P.O. Box 1511
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Rodeo Information Line

214-346-2107

Who Are We



Texas Gay Rodeo Association

Web site: www.tgra.org

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