

**FGRA, Inc.**

P. O. Box 13001

St. Petersburg, Florida 33733-3001

Visit our website: [www.fgra.org](http://www.fgra.org)



**Candidate Biography & Qualifications for Office**

Revised 08.10.2010

First Name: Gaither Last Name: Pennington

Address: 423 48th Street North

City: St. Petersburg State: Florida Zip [5 digit]: 33713

*I, the above named member of FGRA, Inc., declare that I intend to seek election as, or appointment to, the position of:*

Secretary

Please provide relevant background information, including past experience and qualifications

My involvement in gay rodeo began in 1990 when I attended my first gay rodeo in Phoenix, Arizona. I am a Charter Member of ASGRA and served as a member of its Board of Directors from the Association's founding in 1992 until 2006. My service on the Board included 2 terms as Entertainment Chairman, 3 terms as Association Secretary and 3 terms as the Association's President. I have likewise been active as a member of IGRA, serving 3 terms as the IGRA Dance Chairman and participating in 6 IGRA Conventions as an ASGRA Delegate. In 1996, I was honored with the IGRA Directors Award "for special recognition for the contributions of time and effort to the benefit of the International Gay Rodeo Association."

I joined FGRA as soon as I moved to Saint Petersburg in 2006. After a period of "settling in", I decided to become more actively involved in FGRA. I currently serve as the Association's Secretary, completing the final year in the term of office of our previous Secretary. During this time, I have worked to improve communication and coordination of work by the Executive Board. I implemented a document control process that included reformatting our By-Laws and Policy Manual, the standardization of existing forms, and the development new forms intended to improve tracking and accountability. I worked collaboratively with members of the Board and the Membership to implement changes in the membership process, standardizing the membership year to run from January through December. This change has resulted in a more efficient and predictable membership process. It has also reduced the likelihood of lapsed memberships which could prevent our Members from competing at IGRA rodeo events. I strongly believe in both hard work and in the benefits of consensus building. I have worked collaboratively with my colleagues on the Board to achieve a unified common purpose and direction. I have excellent verbal and writing skills, am well versed in information technology and am highly skilled in the use of Microsoft Office products and other software applications relevant to this position. I am highly organized and have excellent people skills. If elected, I will continue to work to advance FGRA's interests and to enable the Association to grow and prosper. It has been a privilege to serve as your Secretary this past year. It is my hope that you will afford me the opportunity to continue service to the Association as your Secretary for the next two years.

Date: 08/10/2010