

THE BRANDING IRON

Contributions

The process and schedule that will be used for making contributions to charitable organizations are as follows. As in previous years, the "Jay Lovejoy Formula" will be used.

- 1) June membership meeting—members vote on the total amount for contributions (remember, without members no vote!)
- 2) July membership meeting—members nominate organizations to receive contributions.
- 3) August membership meeting—Charitable Contributions Committee makes their recommendation of which organizations should receive contributions. The committee will meet before the August meeting and review all paperwork received to ensure that all requirements have been met.
- 4) August membership meeting—members vote to accept the committee recommendation, or make another motions as to which organizations will receive contributions.
- 5) September membership meeting—organizations that were voted to receive contributions will make brief presentations about their organization and respective activities.
- 6) September membership meeting—members vote on the percentage amounts for each organization to receive contributions.
- 7) October membership meeting—checks will be presented to all organizations.

The Charitable Contributions Committee members are John King, Kay Browning, and Glen May.

Ron Trusley, Phoenix Chapter President

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...and much more

MANY SPECIAL THANKS AND MUCH APPRECIATION

WE WANT TO GIVE A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WHO VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME AND HELPED AT PRIDE FESTIVAL 2000. THESE INDIVIDUALS REPRESENTED A.G.R.A. VERY WELL AND DID AN OUTSTANDING JOB. THE INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE IN TOWN AND WERE ABLE TO VOLUNTEER ARE:

STEVE MACK

CHRIS R. CRINGLE

JOHN CLARKE

KEITH WALLENGER

PETER IRONS

JIM LESTER

CHUCK MARQUIS

AGAIN, THANK YOU, WE APPRECIATE YOU VERY MUCH!

RON TRUSLEY

A Quick Note From The

I want to take a minute to thank one of our newest members for taking on the responsibilities and duties of putting together the BRANDING IRON. Anna's enthusiasm and ideas are sure to be a big asset to our association. I hope more members will find an interest and want to help A.G.R.A. with the duties of running this organization. Thanks, Anna.

I am starting to see a positive trend seen more involvement and activity last two months than I have in a long I look at the last two newsletters and reported, and the general membership board members and/or committee

The membership elected
Ron Trusley
Member of the Year 1999.

CONGRATULATIONS, RON!

Members, take time to let us know

what you think. It is important to have a quorum at the Phoenix chapter meetings so we can vote on issues and changes. We can't make changes if we can't vote. If you have any suggestions or concerns, feel free to e-mail or call Ron or myself.

A.G.R.A. has some fun events coming up, hope to see you then.

Bob Pimentel, State President

A WORD FROM THE CHAPTER VICE PRESIDENT

All right, folks! We've once again had to have an "informational meeting" during our scheduled May membership meeting due to the needed quorum being short by three people. Just because it is warm outside doesn't mean you should be hiding! We are trying to begin the process of donating our \$ 16,000.00 + to the community—and need your help. If you make a nomination for an organization: IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO OBTAIN FINANCIAL REPORTS AND 501 (c) 3 PAPERS!

Also, keep your BRANDING IRON posted on the refrigerator to keep you updated on current fundraisers and happenings.

Upcoming Rodeos

Salt Lake City: may 26,27,28
 San José: June 2,3,4
 Omaha: June 23,24,25
 Calgary: June 30, July 1,2
 Denver: July 7,8,9
 Atlanta: July 21,22,23
 Convention: August 3,4,5,6
 Sacramento: August 18,19,20

We are only seven months away from RRRR 2001. Brian Helander and myself will be soon working on the buckle design for the 2001 rodeo buckles! I am certain they will be just as "hot" and popular as the past three years. Thanks to GIST, our producer! Those of you attending rodeos will see that the RRRR rodeo buckles are the most prominent and "displayed".

**Chuck Browning, Phoenix Chapter
Vice President & State Trustee**

A Warm Welcome To Phoenix

It's been almost exactly three months since a friendly United jet took two excited females, Anna and Diane Shannon, and three fine children from the Windy City to the hot desert. A lot has happened during these months and even though our boxes are still unpacked, I am now the new editor of the BRANDING IRON!

For this reason, I would like to introduce myself officially at this point and tell you all about my rodeo background and experience. I started the rodeos in Europe in the mid-eighties. I found an E.R.C.A. (European Rodeo and Cowboy Ass.) in Berlin, my home town. Tired of my old hobby, a Star Trek fan club, it didn't take me long to find a country and western bar not too far from my apartment, where I found out that there is more than just one rodeo in the country. With this in mind, I joined the "Berlin Rodeo Team" and before I knew it I was on a horse, trying to ride circles around barrels...

After life cast me up on a little island called "Kentucky" my first thought was "cool, rodeos". However, as Mr. Murphy likes to point out, you cannot rely on a sure thing and I never saw one horse in my two years there. After a short stay in Germany, I hopped on a plane to Chicago where it only took me a week to decide to pack up again and try another new adventure. The fact that I found a little bar called "Charlie's" and with it contact to the local gay rodeo association certainly helped to make that decision.

Now, five years later, I have been a contestant in Steer Riding, Chute Dogging, Wild Drag Race, Steer Deco, and I even dressed one unfortunate goat. I also successfully ran for IL.G.R.A. Royalty twice. This new position certainly will give me an entirely new aspect in my rodeo life and I am looking forward to the challenge!

Anna Shannon

NOTES FROM THE MAILBAG

Okay rodeo fans, this is just a quick note from "the mail bag". More than anything, I think I just want to remind everyone that we receive a lot of newsletter from the different rodeo associations. Previously, as an AGRA member, I did not know that. Now, as the secretary, one of my responsibilities is to pick up the Phoenix Chapter mail, and I can't tell you how much I enjoy reading about

what the other associations are doing!
 Sometimes it's just the fun, social DIRT, which is always entertaining; other times it's nice to read what kind of different fund-raising events are taking place; and, as always, all the updates on rodeos throughout the country.
 Currently, we don't receive newsletters from everyone, but I'd like

for us to look into the possibility of receiving as many as we can. I encourage everyone to come up and see me at the meetings, or to go back and check the blue notebook in the back of the meeting room, and flip through the pages and see what's up in the other rodeo associations and areas! I think you'll find it both fund and entertaining!

Claire Miller, Secretary

ODDS AND ENDS FROM THE STATE

New Editor
t te e er i eeti tete i tio t t o rer ite d te er w o i tio or
t te o rd oi ted Anna Shannon (a.k. ew e er re ie o do r tee wi ere ei ed tte oe i
a. Burp) editor o E N N ted White Buffalo Trading Co. wi ter e er i eeti i
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Get Ready or Grand Old Opry

Be sure to make plans to each bring four friends to our most significant fund-raiser for the chapter association this year, Grand Old Opry. We are booking talent even as you read this.

Grand Old Opry has been traditionally the kick-off of the A.G.R.A. Royalty competition, because it is at this event that candidates are announced officially for the first time. If you have a favorite Mr., Miss, or Ms., this is an important opportunity to show your support.

In addition to entertainment, we are expecting to open up the jail and have the Men of Charlie s as our deputies. Don t miss out on your chance to handcuff your favorite cowboy or cowgirl, especially if he/she is on a date with your ex.

Walt, Ron Trusley s husband, and EJ will provide some vittles for you to wet your appetite and fill your tummies.

Various vendors and community organizations will be on hand to offer the latest in cute queer necessities and information.

All this will happen Saturday and Sunday, June 9 & 10 at Charlie s. Showtime for Sunday night is 8:00 pm. Woody oward , und-Raising Director

THE B C STOPS HERE

The A.G.R.A. Phoenix Chapter is proud to announce a closing balance from the Road Runner Regional Rodeo of \$ 16,468.82. Congratulations to everyone who made a contribution to this event in any capacity! After motion to membership, allotting 10% (\$ 1,646.88) to the State Treasury, our available profit from RRRR2000 is \$ 14,821.94. Unfortunately, a lack of quorum at the May meeting prevented us from taking the formal step of closing the books and beginning the disbursement process.

The two primary functions of our organization are to raise funds for those in need and to disburse these funds as prescribed by our by-laws and the decisions made by the membership. Please, be an important part of this decision-making process by attending our June membership meeting!

On the State level, we have disbursed funds for the I.G.R.A. Convention as well as our annual dues, and with anticipation of the funds from Phoenix Chapter RRRR 2000, we are in a positive financial position.

I would like to extend a tremendous "thank you" to all who assisted with keeping our booth at the Arizona Central Pride Festival staffed. You took what was available for you and made the absolute most of it and represented A.G.R.A. with dignity and pride, which was what it was all about.

Final figures of the Pride Festival, RRRR 2000 profit and RRRR 2000 disbursement policies will be available at the June membership meeting. Please plan to attend.

Ed Powers, Treasurer

THE KITCHEN COUNTER

Did you know that in Argentina a burger is boiled and served with a fried egg on top of a piece of pumpnickel bread and that in Germany ground beef is mixed with pieces of wet bread, onions, mustard and an egg, while Koreans add kimchee, a mixture of pickled cabbage, and very hot peppers? No matter what recipe you use, all of them cook faster when you puncture them before cooking. Before you buy the meat, make sure you check your options: Reindeer meat from Finland, for example, may be contaminated by radiation due to the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster. And compare the price, as boneless cuts are usually cheaper per serving! Those tips and interesting recipes will be the subject of the decision whether to put kimchee or egg in "Beate's Burning Barbeque", instead.

Ingredients: 6 tablespoons honey, 1 teaspoon curry, 1 teaspoon pepper, 1 teaspoon rosemary, 2 tablespoons vinegar, 2 teaspoons Tabasco, and 2 shots of Jack Daniel's. First you mix the honey and ketchup, then the spices. Jack Daniel's is added last. It is recommended to use a hand mixer! The sauce tastes best when it is left in the fridge for a few hours. That give the ingredients time to settle and unfold. Also, you may want to marinate the meat and let it sit over night. The best results, however, are achieved if the meat is coated repeatedly while on the grill!



this new column. And before you go crazy over your burger, try the recipe of this month,

small bottle ketchup, 1 tablespoon paprika, 1 spoon marjoram, 1 teaspoon thyme, 1 teaspoon spoons salt, 1 lemon, 8 cloves of garlic, a few

you add the ground garlic, salt, and the rest of

Anna Shannon

OVER THE FENCE

The Greater Palm Springs Chapter held a very successful fund-raiser at Hunter's Dance and Video Bar in Palm Springs recently. For three hours it was non-stop entertainment. Several businesses had donated raffle prizes, and the auctioning of hunky cowboys and beautiful cowgirls attracted a great number of lonely folks. All in all 500 people attended the event and were not disappointed by A.G.R.A.'s very own Miss Victoria London who did a fabulous job as the MC. The entertainers were J.G. Avilla, Digital Soldiers,

Doug Graff (Mr. I.G.R.A. 1999), Erika Kay, Irene Soderberg, & Randy Riggs. Special guest was none other than I.G.R.A. president Craig Rouse, who pro-

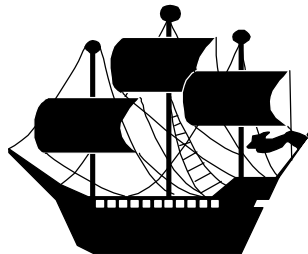
vided wonderful support and encouragement throughout the evening. However, if it had not been for the incredible generosity of the crowd, the evening would not have been nearly as successful. \$4700.00 were raised for the Greater Palm Springs Chapter and over 50 new members were signed up. A week later, G.S.R.A. officially welcomed the new chapter at their state convention in San Diego. Already plans are in the works for a G.P.S.C. bid for I.G.R.A. Finals 2001.

*The Greater Palm
Springs Chapter now
officially part of
G.S.G.R.A..*

Barry Hamm, P.S. Chapter President

Poster Contest Nears The Deadline

The poster contest for Road Runner Regional Rodeo 2001 "A Rodeo Odyssey" is coming to an end. The entries will be displayed 10th at Charlie's and the attend-winner of the \$ 200.00 cash prize. thinking about participating, do is to bring your entry to the also the first day of "Grand Old following the meeting. It will be a even those members who don't nor-on their calendars and consider fun with fellow rodeo members!



at the membership meeting on June ing members will be selecting the All those of you who may still be please remember: All you have to meeting at Charlie's that day! It is Opry", which will begin immediately very busy weekend for A.G.R.A. and mally attend meetings should mark it stopping by for a good time and some

Brian Helander, Public Relations Director

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

e

- **6/2/2000:**
Contestants send in your registration for San José!
- **6/2/00 through 6/4/2000:**
First Utah rodeo! Don't miss it, y'all!!
- **6/9/2000:**
Contestants, did you remember your registration forms for Omaha and Calgary?
- **6/10 & 6/11/2000:**
A.G.R.A. celebrates "Grand Old Opry" weekend at Charlie's, Phoenix. Come and join us for a great time!
5:00 pm Membership Meeting at Charlie's.
- **6-23-2000**
Pre-registration deadline for Denver Rodeo!

o e ed ri t						
				1	2	3
					Contestant Deadline for San José Rodeo	1st U.G.R.A. Rodeo
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1st U.G.R.A. Rodeo					Contestant Deadline for Omaha & Calgary	Grand Old OpryCharlie's Phx. & A.G.R. A. Meeting
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Grand Old Opry Charlie's Phx.						Bay Area Rodeo
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Bay Area Rodeo					Contestant Dead- line for Denver	H.G.R.A. Rodeo
25	26	27	28	29	30	
H.G.R.A. Rodeo						

A.G.R.A. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

STATE BOARD

BOB PIMENTEL PRESIDENT
 DIANN IMMEL VICE PRES.
 RON TR SLE SECRETAR
 ED POWERS TREAS RER
 LACE EDWARDS CHAPTER REP.
 H C BROWNING TR STEE

PHOENIX CHAPTER BOARD

RON TR SLE PRESIDENT
 H C BROWNING ICE PRES.
 LAIRE MILLER SECRETAR
 ED POWERS TREAS RER
 BRAIN HELANDER P.R. DIRECTOR
 THOM ROWLE DANCE ENTERT.
 WOOD HOWARD F ND RAISING DIR.
 WILL LANN RODEO EVENTS DIR.
 LACE EDWARDS CHAPTER REP.

A.G.R.A. RO ALT

STEVE AC R. A.G.R.A.
 SCOTT TIC LER A. .A. VICTORIA LONDON ISS A.G.R.A.

A.G.R.A. State Board Meetings
 State Board meetings will be held immediately following the Phoenix Chapter membership meetings in August, November & February. All meetings will be in the A.G.R.A. meeting room at Charlie's.

A LETTER FROM A MEMBER

Dear AGRA Membership,

I would like to thank each and every member for their recognition of Mr. Ron Trusley as the 1999 Member of the Year. For those of you who are new, or who just haven't been around (like at a meeting!) Ron Trusley is not only the A.G.R.A. State Secretary, and the A.G.R.A. Phoenix Chapter President, he also has held the I. G.R.A. Secretary Position for more than 10 years, and acts as Rodeo Secretary at many of the I.G.R.A. rodeos, not to mention being our Rodeo Director many times!

Last year was a tumultuous year for the board, as we had a few transitions that occurred. Namely, a resignation in two positions that we were unable to replace due to the lack of a quorum at three consecutive membership meetings. Rather than let things remain undone, the board kept it together with team-work!

I do want the members to know that Ron Trusley accepted the majority of the Secretary's responsibilities, as well as the fundraiser's responsibilities right up to the 2000 Road Runner Regional Rodeo! This on top of being the Phoenix Chapter Vice President, and the Rodeo Director! Talk about filling a boat load of shoes.

It is in my opinion that this gentleman not only deserves this award, but that each member needs to recognize his commit-

ment to not only A.G.R.A., but IGRA, and his selfless way of accomplishing everything that needs to be done!

This organization would not be the same without this gentleman. He may be "strong headed" at times, but he has kept this organization on its toes, and out of trouble for many years. It is incredible to me that this man continues to do so much for rodeo and the spirit of rodeo, and has even suffered a few "punches" from some of our own members. I



find his inspiration intoxicating, and strive to myself be as organized and versed on not only A.G.R.A. By-laws, but I.G.R.A.'s as well. If I could do half of what this man does, I could be measured as a great man! He is remarkable! Ron, I do recognize your hard work, effort, and selflessness. You have been an incredible role model for me, and I

look forward to many years of being a team player with you! I can only hope that the membership sees this too. Judging by the result of their votes, I feel this membership recognizes and has deep gratitude for your efforts. Congratulations Ron Trusley - you deserve this award!

I would also like to recognize Ron's lover Walt, who, very much like Ron, has given so much of himself to our fund-raisers by baking and preparing food, and helping with the RRRR 2000 post rodeo brunch, and "Meet-and-Greets". Walt has never asked for anything in return for his hard work, time, and effort. I hope we all take a moment to thank him - less we loose a valuable resource to our organization.

Last point - I promise! A great thank you to Ron (Rodeo Director), and the 1999 Phoenix Chapter board for their efforts to produce a very profitable rodeo for A.G.R.A. Phoenix Chapter! It has been a few years since we have returned to those profitable times - and I think the community will appreciate and respect AGRA for it's accomplishment in assisting the many needy organizations of Arizona. Ron cut in the right spots - and kept everyone's budgets in line! That means "Cha-Ching!"

Chuck Browning, Member

A WORD FROM OUR NEW EDITOR

Assuming you read your newsletter front to back and not vice versa, you know a little bit about me by now. However, there are a few "official" things I would like to discuss.

First of all, I owe you an apology for certain inconsistencies that I was not able to fix on time for this issue of the BRANDING IRON, but will hopefully have taken care of by next month. This assignment came at a fairly short notice and I could not put as much work into it as I had hoped to; after all, we

you all to receive this issue before the month is over!

As you've noticed by now, there have been some changes made already. The different fonts have the purpose of lightening it up and making it even more fun to read and some of the new features will hopefully give you even more information about the rodeo circuit in general and its activities.

There are a lot more things that could change, but for that we need your input. Maybe some of you would

like to send us a short story about your rodeo experience, or even a little poem. It would be nice to read more from and about you, the members, in future issues.

We will still keep you updated on all our local activities and follow our contestants around the circuit.

Hopefully, these changes will help to bring all of us closer together and get even more of you interested in getting actively involved.

Anna Shannon, Editor

IGRA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS AND RODEOS 2000A.G.R.A.

P.O. Box 40465
Phoenix AZ 85067-0465
(602) 265 8166

Phoenix Chapter
P.O. Box 16363
Phoenix AZ 85011-6363
(602) 265 0618
Rodeo date: 1/14-1/16/2000

A.R.G.R.A.

#208 223-12 Ave. SW
Calgary AB T2R 0G9
Canada
(403) 541 8140
Rodeo date: 6/30-7/2/2000

A.S.G.R.A.

P.O. Box 14308
Washington D.C. 20044-4308
(202) 547 9590
Rodeo date: 9/8-9/10/2000

C.G.R.A.

P.O. Box 18878
Denver CO 80218-0878
(303) 839 8810
Rodeo date: 7/7-7/9/2000

Colorado Springs Chapter
P.O. Box 15504
Colorado Springs CO 80935-5504
(719) 576 2472

Mile High Chapter
P.O. Box 18728
Denver CO 80218-0728
(303) 839 8810

Northern Colorado Chapter
15293 Higgins Ave.
Ft. Lupton CO 80621
(303) 857 6005

D.S.R.A.

P.O. Box 56503
Little Rock AR 72215
(501) 562 4466

G.S.G.R.A.

4226 E 15th Street
Long Beach CA 90804
(916) 978 4040

Bay Area Chapter
2953 Aetna Way
San José CA 95121
(415) 561 9228

Rodeo date: 6/16-6/18/2000

Capitol Crossroads Chapter
P.O. Box 189305
Sacramento CA 95818-9305
Rodeo date: 8/18-8/20/2000

Greater L.A. Chapter
15633 Horace Street
Granada Hills CA 91344-5431
(562) 498 1675
Rodeo date: 4/14-14/16/2000

Greater San Diego Chapter
3768 30th Street
San Diego CA 92104
(619) 298 4709
Rodeo date: 9/22-9/24/2000

H.G.R.A.

P.O. Box 3354
Omaha NE 68103-3354
(800) 561 6918
Rodeo date: 6/22-6/25/2000

ID.G.R.A.

P.O. Box 6115
Boise ID 83708
(208) 467 2033

IL.G.R.A.

P.O. Box 14878
Chicago IL 60614-4878
(773) 529 4962
Rodeo date: 8/25-8/27/2000

K.G.R.A.

P.O. Box 16793
Wichita KS 67216-0703
(316) 687 6004

M.G.R.A.

P.O. Box 1965
Springfield MO 65801-1965
for rodeo information, please contact:
Mrs. Bobbie St. Jeor
428 NW 1771 Road
Kingsville MO 64061
(816) 697 3269
Rodeo date: 9/1/-9/3/2000

Joplin Chapter
P.O. Box 3234
Joplin MO 64803-3234

Kansas City Chapter
P.O. Box 45073
Kansas City MO 6411-5073
(816) 697 3269

Springfield Chapter
P.O. Box 9432
Springfield MO 65801-9432

MI.G.R.A.

3319 Greenfield Rd. # 264
Dearborn MI 48120
(313) 438 1305 Ext. 2

N.G.R.A.

1982 N Rainbow Blvd., PMB 198
Las Vegas NV 89108
(888) 643 NGRA
Rodeo date: 3/3-3/5/2000

N.M.G.R.A.

P.O. Box 35381
Albuquerque NM 87176-5381
(550) 255 5045
Rodeo date: 10/19-10/22/2000 (Finals)

N.S.G.R.A.

P.O. Box 11199
St. Paul MN 55111-0199
(612) 641 0069

P.O.N.Y.G.R.A.

P.O. Box 99321
Pittsburgh PA 15233-9321
(412) 370 1548

S.E.G.R.A.

P.O. Box 7881
Atlanta GA 30357-0881
(770) 662 9510
Rodeo date: 7/21-7/23/2000

T.G.R.A.

P.O. Box 460875
San Antonio TX 78246-0875
(210) 946 7787

Austin Chapter
P.O. Box 1511
Austin TX 78767-1511
(512) 933 0315

Dallas Chapter
P.O. Box 191168
Dallas TX 75219-8168
(214) 526 1115

Ft. Worth Chapter
P.O. Box 786
Ft. Worth TX 76101-0786
(817) 645 0579
Rodeo date: 11/10-11/12/2000

U.G.R.A.

P.O. Box 511255
Salt Lake City UT 84151-1255
(801) 468 6283
Rodeo date: 6/2-6/4/2000

A.G.R.A.
P.O. Box 40465
Phoenix AZ 85067-0465
Ph.: (602) 265 8166

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The Branding Iron
515 E Carefree Hwy., PMB 465
Phoenix AZ 85085

Or e-mail to:
burp@idt.net

The deadline for the July issue is **June 24th**

How will the first ever U.G.R.A. rodeo in Mormon country be received?

How successful will "Grand Old Opry" turn out to be this year?

How about the quorum at the June membership meeting?

Find out the answers to all these questions and more in the July issue of THE BRANDING IRON!



Upcoming I.G.R.A. Seminars

Should anybody be interested in learning more about any of the official I.G.R.A. positions, a good way to start would be to take part in a seminar. Here are some upcoming seminars that are held by I.G.R.A. officials:

Arena Directors: August 3 & September 8

Auditors/Secretary & Scorekeepers: August 3 & September 8

Chute Coordinators: June 17, August 3, & August 26

Judges: June 30, August 3, & September 8

PR/Marketing: June 23 & August 3.

For more information, please contact Patrick Terry at (303) 832 IGRA or e-mail him at patrick.terry@igra.com

Quote of the Month:

"How odd, you both traveled here all the way from Phoenix and broke a bone at the same time?"

E.R. nurse at Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City upon two A.G.R.A. contestants walking in with a broken wrist and collarbone, respectively.

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