

The Branding Iron

A message from the Phoenix Chapter President

I hope that every member of this association is as excited about our forward momentum as I am. We already have our Rodeo Director in place and moving forward with plans for Rodeo 2002. Congratulations go out to Bob Pimentel on his appointment to that position. As a point of interest I would like to let all of you know that the Chapter Board voted Bob as our next rodeo director by acclamation. It's not always easy to get seven independent people to agree on something this important so I believe that this appointment shows our commitment to the common goal of forward positive growth. Our last meeting was well attended and also productive. I appreciate all of you committing your time and energy to AGRA. The next meeting (March 11) will be an important one as we will be completing our nomination process for delegates & alternates for the I.G.R.A. Convention. There was a great deal of interest in these positions and it's nice to see that. I encourage every one of you to attend the convention. This event decides the rules which we will follow throughout the next rodeo season. It is one of the best possible ways to learn and appreciate the operation of our entire organization. I.G.R.A. University was last weekend in Omaha and AGRA was well represented by Miss IGRA Victoria London, Bob Pimentel, Richard Talley, and John King. I would like to say a special thank you to each of these members for believing in AGRA enough to want to learn more. I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting on March 11, at Charlie's. Until then, Happy Trails.

Woody Howard, Phx, Chapter President

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Members With Birthdays In March

**Paul Nicholson
Glen May
Vernon Williams MD
Phil Seamster
Allen White
Paul Dubray
Lacy Edwards
Marque Bobier**

Happy Birthday!

CONTESTANTS

Remember you can now view your current standings at any time by logging onto
WWW.IGRA.com

Again, we apologize for the delay in getting this publication out to you. However, after conferring with several computer experts and re-installing the program several times, all the problems should now be solved and future publications should be sent out on time! Thank you for your patience!

The Editor

I.G.R.A. Convention and Delegates

Nominations for IGRA Convention delegates and alternates to represent AGRA were held at the February Membership meeting, and will again be open in the March Meeting. The State Board will mail ballots out to the Membership to vote. Historically, AGRA has had and will continue to have, a full delegation at the IGRA Convention. What exactly does the convention consist of?

Friday of that weekend is meetings of the many different committees and officials of IGRA. Saturday and Sunday is the Convention and it requires all day attendance. AGRA is privileged to have three (3) IGRA Committee Chairs among its membership. John King is the Chair of the IGRA Audit Committee, Brian Helander is the Chair for the IGRA Health & Safety Committee, and Chuck Browning is the Committee Chair for the IGRA Contestant Liaison Committee. These three individuals will be attending the convention for their IGRA Committees. I am writing this article for two reasons. It is imperative that the nominees know, be advised, and accept their responsibilities for this honor. They must be available for the entire days of Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 8:00 a.m. through its entirety which can be and has been as late as 8:00 and even 9:00 p.m. We are encouraged, and have made a point, to have a representative at all committee meetings on Friday. This requires each Delegate & Alternate to attend many different committee meetings on that day. Those committee meetings include: Animal Issues & Concerns, IGRA Budget, By-laws & Standing Rules, Annual Convention, Community Outreach / Fundraising, Contestant Liaison, Health & Safety, Corporate Partnerships, Dance Rules, Entertainment, Finals Rodeo, Growth & Development, Information Systems & Internet, Marketing & Media Relations, Membership Credentials, Newsletter, Nominations, Arena Directors, Chute Coordinators, Rodeo Judges, Rodeo Resources, Rodeo Rules, Auditors/Secretaries/Scorekeepers, & Special Projects. All of these committees meet on Friday, and then make a presentation to the Convention Floor on Saturday or Sunday. You will be assigned by the Trustee, certain Committee meetings to attend. You are expected to represent AGRA concerns and Desires, and report to the rest of the AGRA delegation, and also represent AGRA on the convention floor when that Committee gives its report. Those involved on the committee meetings are expected to be on the floor in case an issue is revised or amended, the committee must then vote on those revisions, or amendments.

Saturday and Sunday usually begin around 8:00 am, and can go as long as 8:00 pm, although the last few years we have finished as early as 6:00 pm. As an AGRA delegate and alternate, you are expected to be on the floor on time for your association. Having a full delegation allows for the "AGRA table" to always have our six delegates, and allows for breaks for everyone. I will point out that many of our delegates and alternates in the past have been as late as 12:00 noon in showing up to the convention floor. This is highly unfair to AGRA, and your fellow delegates and alternates. If for some reason you cannot commit to the requirements, then do not let AGRA down. I have asked the State Board for guidance in how to handle these circumstances without naming those individuals, but they have not given me any direction. Some of them are again nominated for delegate & alternate positions for this year's Convention. Do AGRA a favor - if you cannot commit to the requirements, then do not accept the nomination. I ask the Membership to use great thought when voting for delegates & alternates. The delegates should be for seasoned AGRA members who have Convention experience. The alternate is a good place for "newcomers" to learn about IGRA and its functions and committees. Both of them require a commitment to AGRA & IGRA.

I would encourage you to vote for Brian Helander as he is the IGRA Chair for the Health & Safety Committee, and has produced numerous articles for the contestants and the IGRA newsletter. He will be attending the Convention to chair his committee meeting on Friday, and has represented IGRA at Convention for the last 6 years. Brian brings to AGRA 6+ years experience as a contestant, four years on the AGRA Phoenix chapter board from Vice President to Public Relations. He currently is on his second term as the IGRA Health & Safety Committee Chair.

Also, please keep Chuck Browning in mind as he will also be attending the IGRA Convention as the Contestant Liaison Committee Chair. He will also be attending his committee's meeting on Friday. Chuck brings 6+ years of experience as a contestant, four years on the chapter board, three years on the state board, two years as the IGRA Division 2 Trustee Chair, one year as the IGRA Trustee Chairperson, and on his second year term as the IGRA Contestant Liaison Committee

Chair.

Claire Miller has done a two year stint with the Rodeo Rules Committee, which is historically the longest meeting on Friday. Chuck & Brian also started their Convention experience with this committee. Claire has done an excellent job representing AGRA in the past two years. She has many years of experience as a contestant, and is in her second year on the Chapter Board. Lacey Edwards did an exceptional job at last year's Convention representing the Fundraising/Community Outreach with many Royalty members. She also has a vast experience as Royalty, and is also now on the Chapter and State Boards for her second term! You go Girl! Those Nails! Those Nails!

Finally, I would also endorse Scott Tickler, who has done AGRA very PROUD! His involvement in AGRA is a scratch on the surface for all he has done for GSGRA as MC for the Sacramento, LA, and San Diego Rodeos and probably a lot more, not to mention his current title as Miss IGRA 2001 - The official Miss IGRA Millennium! I feel his involvement with the Community Outreach & Fundraising Committee will also prove a benefit to AGRA. Thanks Scott (Vicky Ticky)! You have worked your butt off for AGRA & IGRA. You would do AGRA proud at convention. I would like to thank the membership for their attention to this very important AGRA & IGRA Convention information.

Chuck Browning

MISS AGRA 2001 on the Road

Hey kids! I hope this little piece of journalistic bubble gum finds you all in good spirits. You know, like bourbon and coke kind of spirits.

I have been one busy Amazon of late. I've worn my six inch heels down to flats, I've been running around in them so much lately. Victoria, Noel, Ashley Michaels and I just got back from the military leg of our never ending Drag Tour. We all piled up in a van and hauled more glamour than Mary Kaye has ever sold, and DAZZLED the mighty metropolis of Yuma. Honey, that town and those Marines ain't never gonna be the same again. Especially a cute little bartender by the name of Jay who, I believe, may go straight after spending a weekend with the twisted bunch of sissies I was traveling with. If he does go straight I have dibs on his cute little marine boyfriend! If you ever make it to Yuma, please stop in at Alternatives. It's a great little place that you'll be glad you found. I swear the only girl in this business that works harder than I do is Victoria London. She has already been out of town sporting that crown five times and it's only March. It never stops to amaze me how she gets that thing through security. I mean that thing is a biggie and could smuggle a lot of explosives as one of the locals in Yuma almost found out. Fortunately our Security stepped in and saved a life. Thank you, Michael.

I will be headed to Vegas next weekend with the absolutely fabulous combo of Miss Pussy LeHoot (Miss AGRA 1995) and Adrian Adair (Miss AGRA 1997). NGRA is hosting a fundraiser to help with their Big Horn Rodeo 2002. Vegas is just a quick trip and a lot of fun. I hope to see as many of you as can get away to help support our sister association. The girls and I will be performing at Keys on Friday night March 9th, and then the fund-raiser is Saturday starting at 2:00 p.m. Me in the daylight, lord that's worth the trip right there. Well kids, I'd better wrap this up and get packing or Pussy will drive off without me. Until next time remember, your born naked and after that, it's all just drag.

**Kisses,
Suzanne Targe't
Miss AGRA 2001**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- **3/9/2001:**
9:00 p.m. Kick-off party for Wild'n Wooly Wodeo in Vegas at Keys, 1000 E. Sahara
- **3/10/2001:**
2:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. Wild'n Wooly Wodeo in Vegas at Backstreet, 5012 S. Arville.
- **3/11/2001:**
7:00 p. m. general membership meeting at Charlie's

March 2001

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Kick-Off Party for W.W.W. at Keys in Vegas	10 2:00 pm: Wild'n Wooly Wodeo in Vegas
11 A.G.R.A. Mem- bership meeting at 7:00	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Over The Fence: News From Nevada

As you all know Las Vegas is not having a rodeo this year due to many different factors. If you were here for Big Horn 2000, you know why. Sunday's weather was not cooperating, and with NASCAR in town that same weekend, hotel and travel prices went up. So we did suffer some loss. We are taking this year off to regroup.

I am very happy to say that, yes, there will be a Big Horn 2002 in Las Vegas. What I am writing to you about is a fundraiser we are doing this March 10th. It is what we call the Wild and Wooley Wodeo. It is usually just a small bar rodeo we do, but a lot of fun. We give ribbons and all-around champion buckles to the best cowboys and cowgirls. We decided to make this a bigger event this year in lieu of our annual Big Horn Rodeo. The event starts at 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon at Backstreet, our home bar which is located at 5012 S. Arville. We are having a beer bust from 2-11 p.m. for \$5.00. We are also having entertainment and dancing all day until 7:00 p.m. There will be vendors outside, including food. At around 7:00 p.m. we will have a mini Grand Entry presenting the flags and the National Anthem. Then we will have the Wild And Wooley Rodeo. This promises to be a fun event. And we hope you will try to make it out here and help NGRA bring BigHorn Rodeo back to Las Vegas bigger and better in 2002.

So mark your calendars For March 10th 2001 at the Backstreet Saloon and Dance Hall.

**Sincerely,
Laura Scott
Rodeo Director, Big Horn 2002**

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A.G.R.A. Royalty

Miss AGRA 2001

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Miss AGRA 1st RunnerUp

Ms Marcus
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Phone: (602) 937-6303

Miss AGRA 2nd RunnerUp

Miss Noel Christine
a.k.a. Tommy Pena
Phone: (480) 964-5932
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Ms AGRA 2001

Gaylia Young
Phone: (623) 915-1404

The 1st AGRA State board meeting of 2001 with the newly elected board was held on Sunday Feb 11th, 2001. The board decided that meeting on a quarterly basis was too infrequent.

The AGRA State Board meetings will be held on the second Sunday of every other month at 2:00 p.m., before the Chapter Board meeting at 4:30 p.m. and the 7:00 p.m. general Chapter meeting.

If the regular general chapter meeting date or time should change, the AGRA State Board meeting will change accordingly to meet on the same day and before that meeting.

The next AGRA State Board meeting will be held on April 8th, 2001 at 2:00 p.m.

Ric Leone, AGRA State Secretary

From the AGRA State President and Trus-

I.G.R.A. University

IGRA University was held in Omaha, Nebraska on February 16th, 17th, and 18th. AGRA had four members attending in various capacities.

Scott Tickler was one of the instructors and he did a great job along with some other members of other GRA Royalty. Scott (Vicky at this point) managed to grab the attention of those at registration on Friday night by accessorizing herself with articles from around the pool area including palm leafs, pink towels and a big rubber ball. Needless to say the kids at the pool that night got quite an education. Thank you Scott for all your hard work, AGRA is proud to have you as part of IGRA.

Richard Tally, one of our newer members, attended a variety of classes in his search for overall knowledge of Gay Rodeo. Richard was hungry for information and he got it. He jumped in, got involved and came away pumped up and ready to work with AGRA and its members. Thank you Richard for your enthusiasm and aggressive search for ways to help better AGRA.

John King and I attended the Rodeo Directors Classes wich dealt with all aspects of putting on a rodeo from the Arena to the Entertainment. This class of about fifteen, was made up of some people that have been a Rodeo Director and some that have not. It was an excellent way to share experiences and thought process. We also got a condensed version of each of the other classes that were going on that weekend. John was a great asset to the discussions with his willingness to share his knowledge of the history of IGRA and his experiences in being a Rodeo Director (several times) and as the IGRA Auditor. Thank you John for your continued support.

It was a proud weekend for AGRA with many of the instructors referring to RRRR as one of the best rodeos on the circuit and using our rodeo for an example when explaining a good way to do things.

I encourage our members to talk to these folks and tap into a positive way of thinking and thoughts on how to better our association through our members.

2001 IGRA Convention

At the March 11th Chapter meeting Woody will again be taking nominations for individuals to represent AGRA as delegates to the IGRA Convention. I would like to remind those that are thinking of excepting a nomination for this opportunity that it is a commitment that needs to be taken very seriously. Not only will you be expected to represent AGRA for the entire weekend, I will also be expecting ALL delegates and Alternates to attend short meetings before and during convention to learn about the hot topics, work out schedules, and discuss items that come from the committees and/or go to convention floor. This approach to convention has not been taken serious the past few years and need to be to ensure our members that they are well represented at the international level.. Please contact me if you have any questions about convention and its structure.

Bob Pimentel Jr.

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The Branding Iron is a publication of A.G.R.A. Please send press releases and article submissions directly to:
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Or e-mail to:
SteerRdr@hotmail.com
Deadline for the April issue is
March 26th

Will we get more submissions for the B.I. next month?
What are we going to do during our rodeo free time?
Any news on this year's IGRA Convention?
Find out the answers to all these questions and more in the April issue of THE BRANDING IRON!

Check out our website:
www.agra-phx.com

Upcoming I.G.R.A. Seminars

Arena Directors (contact: Jeanne McLoud)
June, 30th in Omaha
July 26th in Long Beach
August 18th in Sacramento
September 8th in Washington, D.C.

Chute Coordinators (contact: Kim Dawson)
June 29th in Omaha
July 26th in Long Beach
August 18th in Sacramento
September 8th in Washington, D.C.

Judges (contact: Patrick Terry)
July 26th in Long Beach

Secretaries and Scorekeepers (contact: Larry Lindstrom)
April 27th in Los Angeles at the Burbank Hilton, 10:00 a.m.
June 1st in Atlanta at the Marriott, 1:00 p.m.
July 26th in Long Beach at 9:00 a.m.
September 1st in Kansas City at the Fairgrounds, 1:00 p.m.

PR and Media (contact: Doug Graff)
June 1st in Atlanta at the Marriott, 10:30 a.m.
July 26th in Long Beach

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