

The Branding Iron



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A Letter of Resignation

It is with great personal sadness and regret that I confirm to each of you my intentions stated at the general membership meeting October 14, 2001. I do, in fact, resign my position as Chapter President.

I have made every effort to foster positive ideals and hope for an association I care deeply for. I believe in gay rodeo and its purposes and will continue to do so. I wish the remaining Board members every possible success in all their future endeavors.

Most sincerely,

Steven "Woody" Howard, AGRA Member

A Good Bye From Your Editor

When I took over this newsletter last year, I had lots of ideas how to make the publication competitive and more interesting to the members. I had worked for a professional newspaper for several years in Chicago and tried to apply as many of the things I had learned as possible. Unfortunately, it appeared as if my efforts were not appreciated and over the past few months I have felt that some of the Board members were not happy with my work. I never received any feedback from the membership, but I was told just after the deadline for this issue that the Board is looking for bid to replace me.

I know that I am not the only person who is currently discouraged with the way AGRA is run and I hope that soon the membership will realize that the only way to fix this situation is to vote for and entirely NEW Board of Directors. We need fresh blood and ideas. However, I know from experience how hard it is to get voted into an established "society", for I tried last year. Nonetheless, I hope that the events of the past couple of months will change some minds and that changes will be made next year.

Please, everybody, remember that our mission is to pursue the country & western lifestyle and to raise funds for charity. We all agreed to give up some of our time for that purpose. No one is getting paid, no one has any personal gain other than the satisfaction to help local charities. If we could put as much effort into this as we have put into fighting each other, the charities would come out a big winner. All of you: please learn to respect and live with each other!

Anna Shannon, Member

Editor Wanted

Would you like to spend some time once a month to help this organization?

Do you have publishing skills or enjoy working on your computer?

If you answered either one of these questions with "yes", please call any State Board Member to let them know!

November Birthdays:

Visconti, Mike	4.
Jones, Larry Allen	6.
Power, Andrew	7.
Browning, Chuck	11.
Studli, Dave	12.
Elliot, Roger	13.
Griffin, Amy	14.
Rivera, Jr., Rafael	14.
Carpenter, Neil	26.
Anaya, Sandra	29.
Dahl, David	29.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



I G R A F i n a l s R o d e o

Chute Dogging, Women

Darnell, Angie, 4th Saturday

Chute Dogging, Men

Browning, Chuck, 3rd Saturday, 1st Sunday, 1st Weekend—**Congratulations!**

Calf Roping on Foot, Women

Anaya, Sandra, 4th Sunday

Krieg, Flavia, 6th Sunday

Calf Roping of Foot, Men

Browning, Chuck, 6th Saturday, 5th Sunday, 4th Weekend

Break Away Roping, Women

Anaya, Sandra, 2nd Saturday, 2nd Sunday, 2nd Weekend

Darnell, Angie, 7th Sunday

Break Away Roping, Men

Helander, Brian, 6th Saturday, 6th Sunday, 5th Weekend

Bareback Bronc Riding

Patrick, Sean, 2nd Saturday

Browning, Chuck, 4th Saturday

White, Allan, 2nd Sunday

Barrel Racing, Men

Dubray, Poppa, 3rd Sunday

Pole Bending, Men

Browning, Chuck, 8th Sunday, 8th Weekend

Flag Racing, Men

Browning, Chuck, 8th Saturday, 6th Weekend

Team Roping

Anaya Sandra & Encinias, Renita (NMGRA), 2nd Sat., 4th Sunday, 2nd Weekend

Steer Decorating

Browning, Chuck & Helander, Brian, 5th Saturday, 7th Sunday, 3rd Weekend

Wild Drag Race

Browning, C., Helander, B. & Miller, Claire, 1st Sat., 8th Sun., 3rd Weekend

Anaya, Sandra, Anaya, Andy (TGRA) & Terrell, Dennis (ASGRA), 8th Sat., 2nd Sun., 2nd Weekend

Goat Dressing

Browning, Chuck, Helander, Brian, 6th Saturday

All Around Cowboy

Browning, Chuck 4th

Team Arizona

3rd Overall

Hi fellow Arizona Gay Rodeo Association Members

As you are all aware, Woody Howard resigned last meeting as president. Now it's time for me to step up to the plate. We have a rodeo coming up very soon and a lot of work ahead for all of us. We have had so much negative attitudes in the membership meeting over these past months. The Chapter Board has never tried to keep any information from the membership. When we were nominated and after elections had taken place we were so excited about the new Board's upcoming year. We have had a quorum throughout this year where in the year 2000 there were months when there were not enough members present to constitute a quorum.

I want so much for the negative attitudes to stop and get this great organization back on track. I realize the majority of the membership supports the current Board and the recommendations from the Board but a few members do not and have very negative attitudes and this must come to a halt so we can move forward to building a bigger, better and stronger AGRA.


I also wanted to bring before the membership Service Award Buckles for the year 1999, 2000 and this past year. I have checked with Gist Silversmiths and got a price quote for approximately sixteen buckles for a total price of \$1800.00. The State and Chapter would be paying for these buckles. When I announced it at the last membership meeting it was my intention to have a motion made and seconded and have it voted on by the membership. I thought maybe we should wait till next year to place an order but if we do, the number of buckles will increase as well as the cost. Also if you would like to sponsor a Service Award Buckle, the cost is \$112.00.

Glen May, Acting Chapter President & VP

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

November 2001

- **11/5/2001**
Miss Sassy's Fund-Raiser at JC's Fun One, 9:30 pm
- **11/07/2001**
John Usher's Fund-Raiser at JC's Fun One, 9:30 pm
- **11/9—11/2001**
TGRA Rodeo in Dallas
- **11/11/2001**
Royalty Meeting at 6:00 pm at Charlie's, followed by the Gen. Membership Meeting at 7:30 pm
- **11/16/2001**
Miss Sassy's and John Usher's Fund-Raiser at Cash Inn Country, 9:00—11:00 pm
- **11/17/2001**
John Usher's Fund-Raiser at JC's Fun One, 9:30 pm
- **11/21/2001**
Miss Sassy's Fund-Raiser at JC's Fun One, 9:30 pm

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Miss Sassy's Fund-Raiser at JC's Fun One, 9:30 pm
4	5	6	7 John Usher's Fund-Raiser at JC's Fun One, 9:30 pm	8	9 TGRA Rodeo, Dallas	10 TGRA Rodeo, Dallas
11 6:00 pm; Royalty Meeting 7:00 pm Membership Meeting	12	13	14	15	16 Miss Sassy & John Usher at Cash Inn Country, 9—11 pm	17 John Usher's Fund-Raiser at JC's Fun One, 9:30 pm
18	19	20	21 Miss Sassy's Fund-Raiser at JC's Fun One, 9:30 pm			24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

RRRR 2002 Honors

At the Rodeo Committee meeting held on October 16th, the following names were discussed for Program Dedication and for AGRA's Grand Marshall for the 2002 Road Runner Regional Rodeo. The list merely consists of possible candidates that were discussed and by no means the only names to be considered. If any member has other persons they want considered, please contact Rodeo Director Bob Pimentel, Jr. at azrlp@qwest.net. We want all members to have input in these two decisions, as the membership will vote on the Program Dedication and the Grand Marshall.

For Program Dedication:

Bill Darnel, who was a founding member of the AGRA Tucson Chapter and outgoing president. He passed away in 2001.

Clarence Bates, a stock contractor out of Oklahoma for so many years for so many rodeos. He was brutally murdered in 2000.

Bob Elton of UGRA.

For Grand Marshall:

Neil Giuliano, Tempe's openly gay mayor, who faced a much publicized recall election and won to retain his 3rd term in office.

Rev Charles Coppinger, the state employed chaplain who lost his position due to his sexual orientation and now continues the fight for justice both in AZ and nationwide.

Again, these are just some of the names that were discussed. Your input is important so don't hesitate to submit the name of someone you know who is deserving.

Ric Leone, PR Director

A.G.R.A. Board Of Directors

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Phone: (602) 265-2430

Will Lann, Rodeo Events Director

Phone: (623) 535-2189
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A.G.R.A. Royalty 2001

Miss AGRA 2001

Miss Suzanne Targe't
a.k.a. Woody Howard
Phone: (602) 373-5528
E-Mail:
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**Miss AGRA 1st
Runner Up**

Miss Noel Christine
a.k.a. Tommy Pena
Phone: (480) 964-5932
E-Mail: belu10@aol.com

Ms AGRA 2001

Gaylia Young
Phone: (623) 915-1404

Dear Members,

Yes, once again - A Letter From Chuck!

We have been through a very trying year with AGRA. I have been the source of many situations that are not easy or "popular" for me to divulge to you as members. If you have the belief in AGRA as I have, then you know how imperative it is to keep this organization strong. I so much appreciate your involvement, and support of AGRA. I also thank you for listening to me. I also thank you for remaining as members, as it is not always like "this". AGRA is incredibly important to me! I won't get frustrated and walk away, I won't join another membership organization.

The last membership meeting was a very heated and explosive one. It is one reason I have for this last year felt it is unprofessional for AGRA to have their membership meetings in a bar. Yes, John King has been wonderful to AGRA and always will be, for he is a founding member. Charlie's has been one of the most consistent and enduring community bars for

years, and we are honored to be able to conduct our fund-raising efforts at Charlie's. Having meetings there is not professional. We will always utilize our relationship with John King to benefit his bar and our organization. They have always worked together.

I will bring to your attention that once again, proper protocol from the Chapter Board was not followed in my motion to dissolve the Phoenix Chapter effective February 01, 2001. They should have given notice to the Membership 21 days prior to the vote. The vote should have occurred at the October Meeting. Neither was the case.

The problem is now the interpretation of the by-laws. The motion given on September 09, 2001, was tabled, and according to the meeting minutes, my motion was edited severely. I had asked for the motion to be tabled to the next meeting in hopes that members would discuss the options, and allow articles to be written in the *Branding Iron*, and then vote on this issue in the next regularly scheduled meeting. All of this information was not in the minutes. The motion was not brought up and properly discussed, and therefore is being delayed again.

Dianne Kimmel motioned for a committee to research the challenges this change would have on the by-laws, with Bob Pimentel as the Chair, and Chuck volunteering to be on this committee. Dianne asked to be on the committee later that evening. My interpretation of the purpose was for the committee to meet prior to next month's meeting and give a report before the motion was brought to the floor. The committee did not meet at any time prior to that meeting.

However, a written report that was not from the committee was submitted and read, yet gave feelings, thoughts, and interpretations of this change. How fair was this?

The vote on dissolving the chapters did not occur in October, nor will it occur in November, as the Chapter Board has still not sent notification, but hopefully will 21 days prior to the December Meeting. The committee did finally meet on October 17, 2001, and the Chair stated he would publish the results in this issue of the *Branding Iron*.

The many improper delays of this very necessary vote will directly affect the elections of the State Board. Two persons have not accepted nor have they declined their nominations, as they have chosen to see the results of this vote. Nominations for State Board were to close after the October meeting, and the vote is to take place in December. Now, we - as members - need to decide what to do with the State Elections. We have positions with no nominations accepted. Do we motion to delay them due to the chapter dissolution vote? I say definitely.

This entire mess is reflective of two boards trying to manage one organization. Miscommunication, disorganization, and more. We had no Royalty representatives at IGRA Finals due to irresponsibility of the State Board Trustee. We have received no minimum 90 day notification of the annual corporation meeting which is to be held in December. We have committees that take 38 days before they decide to organize and discuss very important organizational issues. We have a Chapter Board not giving proper notification for votes, and board members attacking champion members in public meetings. Folks, this is not how AGRA has been, and if you're a new member -- please realize this isn't common.

What will it take for this membership to recognize that there is a major need of reorganization, and the development of an organization based on camaraderie and common cause? I think you have all seen more than enough!

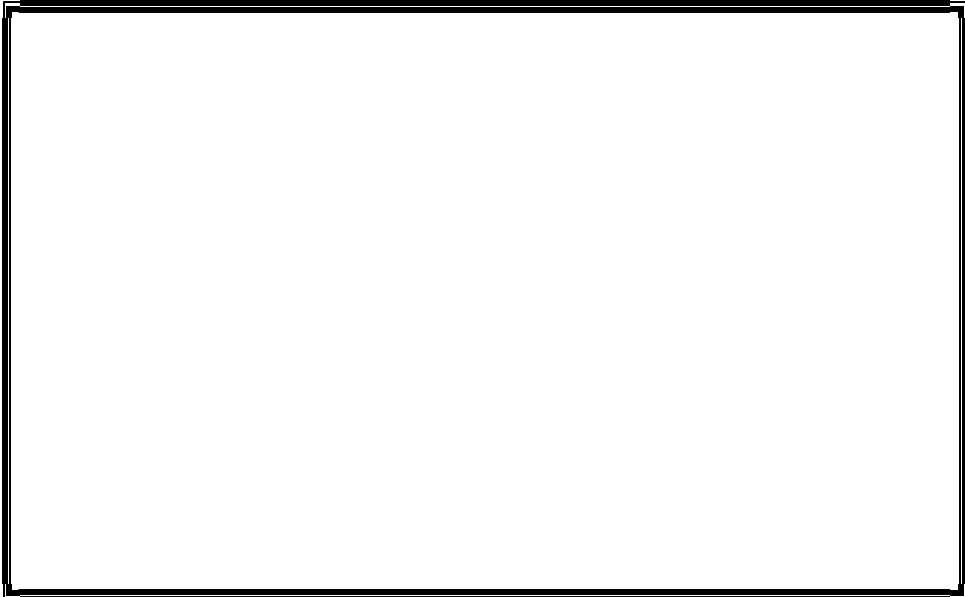
I, myself, have questioned why I try so hard, and I will tell you, I love rodeo, and it is a very big part of me. I have been competing for AGRA for Seven years, and have brought numerous titles from across the country including 8 International Champion Titles, and four All-Around Championships. I have acted as Chapter President for two terms, Chapter V.P. for one term, and the AGRA Trustee for three years. I have also sat as the IGRA Trustee Chairperson, and the IGRA Contestant Liaison Chair for three years. I do this for AGRA, as do all of AGRA Competitors. We love AGRA, and what it stands for, and are willing to fight for its cause. The promotion of rodeo and the country & western way of life, to organize charitable events, and direct our fund-raising success to our community.

I will not stand for irregularities, improprieties, and persons unwilling to follow through with their responsibilities as Board Members. It affects AGRA, and YOU & Me!

Thank You for your time.

Chuck Browning, Member

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Upcoming Board Meetings

Monday, October 29th, 6:45 pm, State Board
Sunday, November 11, 4:30 pm: Phoenix Chapter Board
Sunday, December 9, 4:30 pm: Phoenix Chapter Board
Sunday, December 2, 4:00 pm: Annual AGRA State Banquet (Dinner is scheduled from 5:00—6:00 pm)

All meetings and the banquet are held at the Lexington Hotel, 100 W Clarendon Ave, Phoenix, phone: (602) 279 9811.

The Branding Iron is a publication of A.G.R.A.
Please send press releases and article submissions directly to:

**AGRA
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November 23rd

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