

The Branding Iron



March Birthdays

- Paul Nicholson 3/01
- Glen May 3/02
- Marque Bobier 3/03
- Lacey Edwards 3/06
- Paul Dubray 3/09
- Patrick Lose 3/17
- Johnathan Hayes 3/20
- Peter Irons 3/25
- Kelly Basque 3/29
- Craig Kaiser 3/30

Inside this issue:

Letter from the President	1
Letter from the Secretary	2
A Note from Your Publisher	2
Board Meeting Schedule	2
Letter from Fundraising Director	3
March Calendar	3
Letter from Royalty	4
AGRA 2002 Royalty and Board of Directors	5

GREETING'S FROM THE PRESIDENT

Even though the rodeo is over there is so much going on. The Arizona Central Pride Parade and celebration is approaching quickly in April. We will be having a float in the parade again this year; Mr. AGRA Patrick Lose is in charge of the float committee. If anyone would like to be on that committee please contact/email at mragra2002@aol.com Arizona Central Pride has always supplied us with volunteers working tirelessly during rodeo weekend. So come on and step up and volunteer to help them with the celebration of gay pride. If you would like to volunteer please contact/email E.J. Powers our treasurer at pet2@qwest.net A sign up sheet will be at the March and April meeting at Charlie's posted on the mirrors with different areas needing volunteers. We would like to have a better contingency than last year's pride.

At the March meeting we will be opening nominations for delegates and alternates for the IGRA convention which will be held in Cleveland, Ohio this year and re-open at the April meeting and close the nominations at the end of that meeting. I have attended the past two IGRA conventions and it was a very worthwhile learning experience for me. It is a learning experience that I would like to see everyone attend. Please take the IGRA convention seriously, and yes it is a fun time but it is a lot of work as well sitting in different sessions for two days of changing and retaining the sport of rodeo rules, bylaws, royalty, and health and safety issues and many other topics. AGRA will pay for your registration if you are a chosen as a delegate or alternate and you are responsible for the rest, i.e. hotel, airfare, food, drinks etc.

So see you at the March meeting at Charlie's, March 10, 2002 at 7:00pm.

Glen May
AGRA President

ACP NEEDS YOU!

HELP WANTED... Seeking AGRA Members At Large including Contestants, Royalty, Board Members, Champion Members and anyone else who can spare *4 measly hours* to support ARIZONA CENTRAL PRIDE at this years' festival on April 13, 2002. Duties include standing at the gates, taking tickets and making our community feel welcome to the party with those big ole country smiles. Excellent opportunity for those who have FOR YEARS said "gee, I'd LOVE to, but I'll be at the L.A. Rodeo—sorry." Experience in knowledge of Arizona Central Pride's endless support of our rodeo helpful, but us veterans will gladly train you in this area. Apply by calling E.J. POWERS at 480-649-6313 (press *3 to leave message) or by e-mail at pet2@qwest.net. Applications also will be gladly accepted at the March General Membership Meeting. Show your pride, cowgirls and cowboys—let's do our part to make THEIR event as successful this year as OURS was.

AGRA MEETINGS*March—April*

03/05/02—7:00 pm
 AGRA Board of Directors
 Meeting
 Charlie's
 Phone # 602-265-0224

03/10/02—7:00 pm
 General Membership Meeting at
 Charlie's
 Phone # 602-265-0224

04/08/02—7:00 pm
 AGRA Board of Directors
 Meeting The Lexington Hotel
 Phone # 602-279-9811

04/14/02—7:00 pm
 General Membership Meeting
 Charlie's
 Phone # 602-265-0224

*We encourage members to
 attend AGRA's Board
 Meetings. Thank you.
 Ric Leone
 AGRA Corresponding Secretary*



Don't Drink and Drive!

AGRA's 'One and Only' Mailing Address

At the February General Membership meeting it was announced the AGRA Board of Directors voted to retain only one of the 2 mail boxes that belonged to AGRA. Since there are no chapters with AGRA, it was voted that we retain what was known as the "State P O Box" and not renew the rental of the PO Box known as the "Chapter PO Box". The P O Box, located on North 7th Avenue not only is bigger and large parcels can be delivered to it, but it also is the address on all AGRA Corporation papers. It made most sense to retain the "State" PO Box.

The address for AGRA is: AGRA
 PO Box 40465
 Phoenix AZ 85067-0465

Ric Leone
 AGRA Corresponding Secretary

A Note from your Publisher...

Hello all!

As your new Publisher, I wanted to take this opportunity to say 'hello' and 'Thanks' for all of your great articles this month. Looks like we're going to have a busy year so let me know if there is anything I can do for you here in the Branding Iron. I would like to point out that there is a new E-mail address to submit articles. It is as follows:

BrandingIron02@aol.com

Keep those articles coming!

Jon O'Dowd
 Branding Iron Publisher

Thanks to TIHAN

I would like to thank TIHAN for helping to sponsor the ribbons for the rodeo. As you are probably aware TIHAN has been a supporter of AGRA and the rodeo for many years. Scott Blades talked with me rodeo weekend and mailed the check into AGRA. Thanks Scott and the TIHAN board of directors.

Glen May
 AGRA President 2002

After such a great Rodeo this year...

After such a great Rodeo this year, and with the amount of money we made people are asking me what I am going to do as the Fundraising Director this year. We need to realize that the funds we made are going to be given away to charities after the membership votes on them. We have a full year to help raise the monies needed to make the 2003 Road Runner Regional Rodeo a bigger success.

With that in mind, I have already started the process of doing monthly fundraisers. We have renewed our friendships with bars and organizations that have slipped away in past years. Starting in March and the months that follow, the AGRA Royalty will be holding a Fundraiser on the 3rd Wednesday at WINKS. The event will not only be a show, but a casino night as well. As stated in the February membership meeting, I need help with donations for prizes to give away and volunteers to deal Blackjack for a couple of hours. The Casino will open at 9:00 pm with show starting at 9:30.

The AGRA royalty has been asked to judge the Chili Cook-off at Winks on March 9th. You still have time to enter this event. You must fill out an application (available at Winks) by Friday March 8th. It costs \$25.00 to enter the chili cook-off and \$10.00 to enter the salsa contest. All proceeds are going to the Cactus City Softball League. Sounds like a great way to help another organization in Phoenix raise the funds they need to do the events they do, and do well.

I challenge all members to help me this year. If you work for a large corporation, and have a Gay group or a Philanthropic group, find out what we can do to get a donation from them. If you are a frequenter of other bars, ask them what AGRA can do for them to help us raise money this year.

One person is the head of this committee. That's me, but the membership as a whole has a responsibility to not only help our organization, but to extend with open arms our support of others. We have the numbers in the membership to do this, but getting the bodies to help and contribute to this endeavor is a different story.

If you have questions or need information about available days, nights or weekends that are available for booking a fundraiser, feel free to pull me aside before a membership meeting. My e-mail address will be published as soon as we get them setup for the board.

Best wishes for a great Rodeo year for our contestants,

Marque Bobier
Fundraising Director

March 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31					1	2
3	4	5 <i>7:00pm—AGRA Board of Directors Meeting at Charlie's</i>	6	7	8	9 <i>Chilie Cook off @ Winks</i>
10 <i>7:00 pm—AGRA General Membership Meeting at Charlie's</i>	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 <i>AGRA Casino Night & Show @ Winks 9:00p.m.</i>	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

From Your Royalty...

**The Branding Iron is a
publication of
A.G.R.A.
Send press releases and
article submissions to:**

**Publisher:
Jon O'Dowd
BrandingIron02@aol.com**

Or mail to:

**AGRA
P.O. Box 40465
Phoenix, AZ 85067-0465**

**Deadline for the April issue is
March 27th**

Hello all! In the short time since the rodeo we, as your new A.G.R.A. royalty team for 2002, have already buckled down and put together some ideas in our attempt to make this the best year yet for A.G.R.A. Considering the fabulous royalty we've had in the past we have some big shoes...or pumps, as the case may be...to fill and we're gonna do our best. We've already become a cohesive group that is not only determined to fulfill the tasks before us but to also have a great time in the process. We welcome all of you to join us in making this a hell of a year.

The attendance at this year's rodeo proves beyond a doubt that we're all working to get the word out about what a great event the Road Runner Regional Rodeo is for our community. And, now that so many new people have been exposed to rodeo and all it has to offer, it's time to focus on making these newcomers members of A.G.R.A. There is strength and diversity in numbers. While we all deserve a pat on the back for putting on such a successful rodeo, it's not time to settle back and relax. Let's ride the wave that's been created and begin working toward next year's rodeo. We know how strong we are and what can be accomplished when we work so well together. So, with all of that in mind, let's consider the strong possibility that our 2003 rodeo will be even bigger and better and begin working together to make it so.

One of the ways that your royalty can demonstrate what a great association we have in A.G.R.A. is to be ambassadors to the I.G.R.A. community. So, we're making every effort to attend as many rodeos as time and finances allow. Our first trip as an entire group will be to The Big Horn Rodeo in Las Vegas April 5-7 and we're really excited about it. We're also planning to attend the L.A. Rodeo April 19-21. We hope you'll all consider joining us in making a strong showing for Arizona at these and all of the I.G.R.A. rodeos.

And, here on the home front, we're doing our best to make a big noise in our own community with some fundraisers we have planned. We began on February 13th with the first of our monthly benefits to be held at Charlie's on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. It was both fun and successful and we hope we'll see you at the next one on March 13th. In addition, your royalty team will now be hosting a monthly A.G.R.A. benefit Show/Casino night at Wink's on the 3rd Wednesday of each month beginning on March 20th. Many thanks go to both Charlie's and Wink's for their generosity. Also at Wink's, Pussy, Gaylia, and I will be judges for the Chili "cook-off" from 12-4pm on Saturday March 9th. Judging will be at 3pm. The deadline to get your best chili or salsa recipe entered for the competition is March 8th. Contact Wink's for info and applications.

Fundraising director, Marque Bobier encourages all members to take an active part in volunteering their time to make these events a big success. Being a member of A.G.R.A. means a lot more than attending the rodeos or our monthly meetings. We especially need volunteers to deal blackjack at the Wink's fundraisers. For more details, please see the fundraising article in this issue.

At our February 10th meeting, I volunteered to be in charge of the float that we will enter in the Arizona Central Pride Parade on April 13th. Let me say that, with the above-mentioned schedule, I can use all the help I can get! I think it'll be a lot of fun and I'd love it if we could put together something pretty spectacular to show off our Pride. So, PLEASE consider donating your time and talents to this effort. If you'd like to help, contact me by email at MRAGRA2002@aol.com.

That's all for now. It's gonna be an exciting year and we're thrilled to represent A.G.R.A. as your royalty. Please support us by attending as many of the fundraisers as you can and by volunteering to make this great association even stronger. We'll do our best to make you proud!

Cheers,

Patrick Lose
Mr. A.G.R.A. 2002



**IGRA & Bud Light
Sanctioned Rodeos**

Miss AGRA 2002
 Miss Pussy LeHoot
 Phone: (602) 274-6162
 Email: misgra2002@hotmail.com

Miss AGRA 1st Runner-up
 Miss Sassy
 Phone: (602) 795-5131
 Email: missassynphx@aol.com

Miss AGRA 2nd Runner-up
 Novia Gina
 missagra3ur@hotmail.com

MR. AGRA 2002

Patrick Lose
 Phone: (623) 572-6946
 Email: mragra2002@aol.com

MR. AGRA 1st Runner-up
 John Usher
 Phone: (602) 997-8518
 Email: jru0225@hotmail.com

Ms AGRA 2001

Gaylia Young
 Phone: (623) 915-1404
 Email: msagra2002@hotmail.com

A.G.R.A. Board of Directors

Glen May
President
 Phone: (623) 877-5479
 Email: agrapresident02@aol.com

Scott Tickler
(a.k.a. Victoria London)
Vice President
 Phone: (602) 671-0235
 Email: missigra2001@aol.com

Ric Leone
Secretary
 Phone: (623) 877-5479
 Email: rleone01@aol.com

Pussy LeHoot
(a.k.a. Kevin McSweeny)
Public Relations
 Phone: (602)

EJ Powers
Chapter Treasurer
 Phone: (480) 649-6313
 Email: pet2@qwest.net

Marque Bobier
Fund Raising
 Phone: (602)
 Email: mbobier@hotmail.com

Will Lann
Rodeo Events
 Phone: (623) 203-8765
 Email: azhoggy@mindspring.com

Bob Pimentel Jr.
State Pres., Trustee, 2002 Rodeo Director
 Phone: (602) 866-0069
 Email: azrlp@qwest.net



Pucker—New IGRA Sponsors



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The I.G.R.A. Board of Directors is accepting resumes for the position of I.G.R.A. Public Relations Spokesperson.

A position description for the Public Relations Spokesperson is included as Exhibit D in the I.G.R.A. Handbook.

Interested individuals should submit their resume and letter of interest to:

RON TRUSLEY
I.G.R.A. SECRETARY
 901 E DEVONSHIRE AVE
 PHOENIX AZ 85014



AGRA

PO Box 40465
Phoenix, Arizona

Phone: 602-265-8166
Phone: 602-265-0618
Email: admin@agra-phx.com



Check us out on the WEB
www.agra-phx.com

