

The Branding Iron



From the President...

September Birthdays

- Chris Fiore 09/3
- Claire Miller 09/05
- Richard Tally 09/06
- George Schwandt 09/11
- Kevin McSweeney 09/12
- Jamie Grado 09/14
- Derik Melton 09/23
- David Trimbur 09/24



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THANK'S FROM THE PRESIDENT

First I would like to start this month's article by saying what a spectacular I.G.R.A. Convention this year. This was A.G.R.A.'s first convention and turned out to be great.

I would like to recognize a few people by saying thank you. The first person I would like to say a huge thank you to Mr. John King. John gave the presentation in Long Beach two years ago when we were bidding on Convention. John you did such a fabulous job putting it all together. Thank You John; the next members, I would also like to say thank you to is Tim Dougherty, Bob Pimentel, Dan Iversen and Ric Leone. The Convention could not have been produced without the diligence and hard work and time that these people put in.

Michael Butts, Kelly Bascue and Sharon Starks and Marty Wolfe were there all weekend volunteering many hours into the night and up bright and early with a smile on their faces. Thank you guys.

Thanks also to the delegates and alternates from A.G.R.A.: Brian Helander, Ric Leone, John King, Bob Pimentel, Dan Iversen, Chuck Browning, Jay Lovejoy, Gaylia Young, Kelly Bascue, Gary Hatterman
Thanks to you guys.

All together it was a good convention. If you were not able to attend you missed one of **"The Last of the Red Hot Convention's"**. That is a quote from John King. The delegates and alternates voted to move the I.G.R.A. Convention to fall/winter from now on. Also the rodeo year will be changing from starting in November to a calendar year as well. These are some of the changes that did occur this weekend.

At the last A.G.R.A. meeting the membership voted to disburse \$20,000 to Charities and put \$5,000 in the CD. At the next two meeting's I will open the floor for nominations for 501 C-3 charities. If you wish to nominate a charity at either one of those meetings you must turn in their 501 C-3 paperwork and their budgets when you make your nomination to the Committee Chair. I have appointed Keith Carson as chair of that committee. This is a three-month process. At the third meeting we will invite speakers to come and speak to the membership about their charities and vote. Then in December we will present checks to the various charities that the membership voted on.

Also at the last meeting I appointed a new Audit Committee Chair since Diann Kimmel has moved to Texas. John King accepted that appointment.

I would also like to thank Diann for giving many years of hours of her time to A.G.R.A. Thank you Diann and I hope you enjoy Texas.

Well that is about all for now so long guys.

Thanks - Glen



AGRA MEETINGS**Sept.—Oct. 2003****SEPTEMBER MEETINGS****Monday 09/08/03—7:00 p.m.**

AGRA Board of Directors Meeting

Pookie's Cafe

4540 N 7th Street, Phoenix

Phone # 602-277-2121

Sunday 09/14/03—7:00 pmAGRA General Membership Mtg.
Charlie's

727 W. Camelback Rd., Phoenix

Phone # 602-265-0224

OCTOBER MEETINGS**Monday 10/06/03—7:00 p.m.**

AGRA Board of Directors Meeting

Sunshine Inn

2nd Ave and Osborn

Sunday 10/12/03—7:00 p.m.AGRA General Membership Mtg.
Charlie's

727 W. Camelback Rd., Phoenix

Phone # 602-265-0224

All members are welcome to all AGRA Board of Directors meetings. We encourage members who wish to attend to do so.

Thank you.

Ric Leone, AGRA Secretary

Letter from the Secretary

Happy Labor Everybody !!!!

Summer is almost gone, if you can believe that.! The coming months are going to be extremely busy for all of us with the Rodeo being only 5 months away. While that may seem like a long time we all know how fast time is ticking away.

Dan Iversen is still in need of a Volunteer Coordinator. This person and the group of volunteers is the backbone of our Rodeo. Anyone interested needs to contact Dan ASAP. Richard Tally, who has done such an excellent job the last 2 Rodeo's will be more than happy to help out and guide the Volunteer Coordinator through what needs to be done. So please someone step up to the plate and get our volunteers set up and ready to go. As Richard would say, the feeling you'll get is "awesome", knowing that because of your hard work and that of the volunteers, the Rodeo is running very smooth for all those attending.

At the September membership Charities will be nominated as recipients of donations from our 2003 Rodeo. This year we are donating \$20,000.00. When nominating a charity keep in mind your must show proof of their 501c3 status, Financial statements showing all expenses and the amounts they donate to their cause, as well as meet other requirements, such as how much do they support AGRA at Rodeo by sending volunteers, involvement in the gay community, do they have large administrative salaries, how much of an impact will our donation be for their organization. These are just a few of the criteria that Keith Carson and his committee will be considering when making their recommendations to the membership after reviewing each charity. Names of Charities will be taken at the October meeting as well.

So get ready for some busy times ahead and remember it takes a lot of us to volunteer our time to ensure that our 19th Annual RoadRunner Regional Rodeo is once again a great success.

Ric Leone

A.G.R.A. Secretary.

OCTOBER**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:****Thursday, SEPT. 25, 2003**

Send submissions to:

BrandingIron02@cox.net

or mail to:

**P.O. Box 40465 · Phoenix · AZ
85067-0465******* BOARD MEETING LOCATION CHANGE *****

AGRA September Board meeting to be held Sep 8, 2003, 7:00 p.m. @ POOKIE'S CAFE. AGRA September membership meeting to be held Sep 14, 2003 @ 7:00 p.m. at Charlie's.



Upcoming Rodeos & Events...

Atlantic Stampede
 Washington, DC
 September 5th, 6th, 7th
 202-547-9590
 www.asgra.org

20th TGRA Rodeo
 Austin, TX
 September 5th, 6th, 7th
 214-346-2107
 www.tgra.com

San Diego Rodeo
 San Diego, CA
 September, 26th, 27th, 28th
 619-218-4708
 www.sandiegorodeo.com

17th Annual IGRA Finals Rodeo
 Tulsa, OK
 October 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th
 1-405-947-2351 Ext: 100
 www.okgayrodeo.com



September 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 AGRA Board of Directors Mtg 7pm @ Pookies Cafe	9	10	11	12	13
14 AGRA General Membership Mtg 7pm @ Charlie's	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Trustee's Report

Report from IGRA convention 2003

Convention 2003 was a huge success and I would like to thank our committee, delegates and alternates for all the hard work. There was nothing too controversial that came out of the committee meetings on Friday, however the IGRA rodeo year did change from the current November through October year to calendar year: January through December. This means that RRRR will be the first Rodeo of the year. In addition to this the current Trustee term ending October 31, 2003 will extend to December 31, 2003. AGRA will have to make appropriate bylaw changes to coincide with this IGRA change. There were two new rodeo association seated at the convention this year and a new Rodeo in Reno/Sparks Nevada. There were a myriad of bylaw, rule, royalty and dance changes made which will be reflected in the revised big book and rule book. I will highlight some of those at the next AGRA meeting. Although we put on a wonderful bid for finals 2005, the vote went to Dallas, Texas. I believe the idea of competing at the famous Mesquite arena was too appealing to the delegates and tipped the vote in favor of Texas. A big thank you to the Bid committee, Pussy LeHoot, and (very funny) Rawhide folks. Convention next year goes to Denver and in 2005 to Calgary with Finals Rodeo taking us to Omaha in 2004 and Dallas in 2005. If you have any specific questions please feel free to e-mail me or see me at an IGRA meeting.

2003 IGRA Convention Letters...



August 6, 2003

Arizona Gay Rodeo Assoc

Mr. Brian Helander, IGRA Trustee

bhelander@phoenixbodypositive.org

Dear Brian,

I wanted to get a Thank You letter off quickly to you and the Association's Members of Arizona Gay Rodeo Association and especially Mr. John King, 2003 Convention Chair for executing such a flawless International Gay Rodeo Association Convention and Mr. Wade Earp, 2003 Dance Chair for a dazzling and entertaining competition.

The schedule, planned activities, facility and impeccable attention to every detail was evident and ensured the enjoyment and effectiveness of every delegate and attendee.

I was very impressed with the ease and good nature of the delegate's work on the Convention floor and had my understanding of the internal workings of IGRA and it's affiliate associations favorably impacted.

I always enjoy the obvious sense of family that exists among the entire membership and credit your efforts with always making me feel much a part of the same.

Please share my comments with your membership for a job well done!

Regards,

James Ramey

Bud Light Product Manager

Anheuser-Busch, Inc.

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ADVERTISING SPACE IS AVAILABLE

Hey everyone in cowboy land. I just wanted to drop you a line and remind y'all there is still space for your business card size advertisement in the "Branding Iron". A single month is just \$10.00 but if you advance purchase a six month ad it's 10% off but wait there is more if you purchase a whole year in advance it's 25% off making your advertising as low as \$90.00 for the entire year. THAT'S INCREDIBLE!!

So don't forget to place your ad right away.

Keith Carson



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OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2003

Send submissions to:
BrandingIron02@cox.net
or mail to:
P.O. Box 40465 · Phoenix · AZ · 85067-0465

Miss AGRA 2003

Lady Casandra
 (a.k.a. Daniel Dold)
 Phone: (602) 242-0841
 dannyboyinphx@hotmail.com

Mr. AGRA 2003

Kelly Bascue
 Phone: (480) 970-3298
 Email: mragra@agra-phx.com

Ms. AGRA 2003

Marty Wolfe
 Phone: (623) 980-0070
 Email: msagra@agra-phx.com

Mr. AGRA 2003 1st Runner-up

Michael Butts
 Phone: (602) 685-1746
 Email: bouncetigger@aol.com

AGRA's IGRA ROYALTY

Miss IGRA 1st Runner-up 2003

Pussy LeHoot

Mr. IGRA 1st Runner-up 2003

Patrick Lose

Ms. IGRA 2nd Runner-up 2003

Gaylia Young

A.G.R.A. Board of Directors

Glen May
President

Phone: (602) 368-4253
 Email: president@agra-phx.com

Gary Rushton
Vice President

Phone: (602) 404-2224
 Email: vp@agra-phx.com

Ric Leone
Secretary

Phone: (602) 368-4253
 Email: secretary@agra-phx.com

Bob Pimentel, Jr.
Treasurer

Phone: (602)866-0069
 Email: treasurer@agra-phx.com

Sharon Starks
Public Relations

Phone: (602) 402-0076
 Email: pr@agra-phx.com

Pussy LeHoot
(a.k.a. Kevin McSweeny)
Fund Raising

Phone: (602) 518-5064
 Email: fr@agra-phx.com

Will Lann
Rodeo Events

Phone: (623) 203-8765
 Email: eventsdir@agra-phx.com

Brian Helander
Trustee

Phone: 602-266-5726
 Email: trustee@agra-phx

Dan Iversen
Rodeo Director 2004

Phone: 480-671-0235
 Email: rodeodirector@agra-phx.com



AGRA

PO Box 40465
Phoenix, Arizona
85067-0465

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

