



**ARIZONA
GAY
RODEO
ASSOCIATION**



From the desk of the President

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Greetings Cowboys and Cowgirls. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication for the Phoenix Gay Pride event. I am sorry I was not able to attend the event, however I was told there was a very good turn out and you all did very good to represent the Arizona Gay Rodeo Association.

We are already moving forward in the planning of our Rodeo in January 2008 and will be forming the planning committee this next month. Please feel free to e-mail myself or Ron Trusley if you are interested in being part of the committee. I often hear remarks about how the rodeo could be better, or how it should have been handled or ran, well, now is your chance for input into putting on the best rodeo ever. Please do keep in mind if you desire to be on the committee, we meet once a month, every month till rodeo. There is a lot of planning and scheduling to get accomplished in a short time frame; therefore it is very important that you attend every meeting you possibly can.

We are still in need of a Treasurer and Branding Iron Editor. If any of you know anyone that you feel would do a great job, please contact one of the board members.

Lets Rodeo.....

June 2008

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

WEDNESDAY –May 25th, 2007

Send submissions to:

pr@agra-phx.com

or mail to:

**P.O. Box 40465 · Phoenix · AZ
85067-0465**

John A. Carpenter

From the desk of the Vice-President

Hello All,

WOW! It's May. The past month the AGRA Royalty Team participated in the pride parade as well as entertained at the festival. Thanks to the royalty team for your help at the Pride Saloon on Saturday. I also would like to thank all the AGRA members who helped out at the AGRA booth on Saturday and Sunday. It is you the membership that keeps AGRA going. **Thank You !!**

Miss Pussy Lahoot also took time out of her schedule to help out a sister association in Las Vegas on the Thursday before pride. This fundraiser was to benefit Nevada Gay Rodeo Association. Thank you Miss Lahoot for all that you do.

The time is coming near for any one interested in running for a royalty title. July is the month in which you may announce your interest. If you are interested or have questions please feel free to ask any of the current royalty or myself.

Thanks for your support of AGRA

Michael Butts

Vice President

From the desk of the Secretary

There are currently 106 AGRA members of which 14 are Champion Members.

Please let me know if you need a name badge or ladders (e.g., rodeo coordinator title, royalty title, etc) so I can order them.

Carlos Garcia, AGRA Secretary

Trustee's Report:

This report will be rather lengthy, but I want to try to keep AGRA members up-to-date on what is happening at the IGRA level.

Since the last AGRA Membership Meeting, I have attended the IGRA Board and Trustees' Meeting in Fort Lauderdale. I also attended the Pre-Rodeo and Rodeo Review Board Meetings at Rodeo in the Rock in Little Rock and served as Trustees' Chairperson for that rodeo; I also was the Rodeo Secretary.

A tentative schedule for the 2007 IGRA Royalty Competition Schedule has been prepared; a final schedule should be available soon. It looks like the competition will begin on Wednesday, October 10, with registration and a contestants' meeting and conclude on Saturday evening, October 13.

CGRA requested a variance for Finals 2007 to deviate from the random running order draw for rodeo contestants. Certain events would be split between slack and performance with Saturday's performance including the top qualifiers (point totals), and Sunday's performance would be contestants with the highest placings from Saturday events. This variance was approved by the Trustees.

The IGRA Board of Directors approved a "Finals Brand (logo)" recommended by the Executive Board. The brand will basically show FINALS, the IGRA logo, and the year. I will have a sample to show at the May 13 membership meeting.

Larry Lindstrom reported that the Indiana Gay Rodeo Association (INGRA) is moving right along; they expect to have 60 members by the end of the May 19 weekend. I expect this group will have their paperwork in order and be seated at the 2007 Annual Convention. Larry also reported there is still some interest from New South Wales, New England and Alabama.

There were only 48 paying students and 16 instructors, who also attended classes, at the 2007 IGRA University. Twenty-eight different classes were held in the areas of Rodeo Arts, Web Development, Community Service, and Association Development. The Board of Directors approved the 2008 University to be held in Las Vegas February 22-24, 2008.

Rodeo applications for 2008 rodeos were approved by the Board of Directors for Road Runner Regional Rodeo and Gateway Regional Rodeo.

The IGRA Sponsorship Committee presented recommendations and procedures for corporate sponsorship. The sponsorship opportunities would include four (4) levels; one (1) Platinum, four (4) Gold, and an unlimited number of Silver levels. The fourth is a lower tier entitled "Trail Boss" with an unlimited number of available sponsorships. The board recommended a few changes; the Sponsorship Chairs will revise the package and resend to us.

Trustee's Report (page 2)

Again, if you plan to attend the Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo in Denver July 13-15 and have not yet made hotel reservations, I encourage you to do so now. The hotel room block will not be extended and rooms at other hotels in the Denver area will probably not be available. The host hotel is the Sheraton Denver West with a \$75.00 per night/plus tax room rate. Call (303) 987-2000 to reserve your room, but sure to ask for the CGRA rate.

Apparently, IGRA has received a sponsorship from "Rainbow Visions", but they are interested in six (6) specific market areas. I have no further information about this sponsorship, but I will obtain more information and let you know the details.

At the April 13 board meeting, we had a presentation from "Alternative Productions". It appears this group is interested in some type of sponsorship and cooperative agreement with IGRA. They would provide live webcasting and video streaming of our events with some income to IGRA. A Director was assigned to do a follow-up on the proposal and then report back to the board.

INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

It's time to start thinking about anyone you want to nominate for an IGRA Award. Listed below are the various award categories.

Directors' Award

This award is to recognize those members of IGRA who have made contributions to IGRA worthy of special recognition. This contribution can be in any of the copious activities that IGRA encompasses.

Trustees' Award

This award is to recognize those members of IGRA who have exhibited excellence in the standards exemplified in the Code of Ethics and Sportsmanship.

International Award

This award is for significant accomplishment of a member of IGRA where the special feat is not part of some organized competition which offers recognition in the form of awards.

Appreciation Award

This award is for non-members of IGRA who have made significant contributions to the association and is a means of providing a formal "thank you". IGRA will cover the cost of no more than two (2) awards per Member Association.

The IGRA Secretary will prepare a ballot listing all nominees for the Directors' Award, Trustees' Award, and International Award and send to the IGRA Directors and Trustees. There will be five (5) awards in each of these categories. Nominations will need to be submitted to the IGRA Secretary by July 13, 2007. At our May 13 AGRA membership meeting, we will accept nominations for these awards.

At the May 13 membership meeting, I will also ask the members to approve the number of Appreciation Awards for AGRA since we will have to pay for any awards over two (2). We will receive nominations for the awards and vote at the June 10 membership meeting.

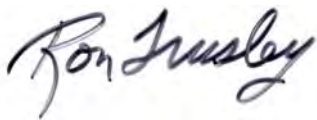
Trustee's Report (page 3)

IGRA ANNUAL CONVENTION

Per AGRA Bylaws, nominations for Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the IGRA Annual Convention will be received in the May and June membership meetings. Delegates and Alternate Delegates will be elected by members present at the July membership meeting. AGRA is entitled to six (6) Delegates and five (5) Alternate Delegates. Also, per AGRA Bylaws, the Trustee and President are automatically Delegates; if the President is unable to attend convention, the Vice President automatically becomes a Delegate. The 2007 IGRA Annual Convention will be November 8-11 in Kansas City, Missouri. The host hotel is the Radisson Hotel and Suites Kansas City - City Center. Call 1-800-333-3333 or (816) 474-6664 to reserve a room at the \$89.00 plus tax rate for a single to quad room or \$109.00 plus tax for a king suite. Be sure to ask for the IGR group code. If you are interested in being a Delegate or Alternate Delegate, I suggest you make your hotel reservation now. If, for any reason, you do not attend, you can cancel your reservation.

I know this is a lengthy report, but as Trustee, I want to give you as much information as I can. At the May membership meeting, I would love to hear your comments if you want to receive this type of detailed report in the Branding Iron, or if you don't want the report.

I was elected as Trustee to represent AGRA at the IGRA level, so please contact me anytime if you have questions or need information.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Trusley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ron Trusley, Trustee

E-Mail: rtrusley@cox.net

Cell #: (602) 510-9671

From the desk of the Fund Raising Director

Hello Members:

Here it is May and time for Chili Verde Day again. This is my 7th year hosting this event, and it is always lots of fun. If you are interested in helping out, give me a call.

We had one fundraiser for AGRA in April and raised \$204.00 during the Gold Diggers Show on April 24. Thanks to Kyle Ross, Phaedra and Dottie. Keep those dollars coming in.

Pussy LeHoot, Fund Raising Director

Miss AGRA 2007

**AGRA CHILI VERDE DAY
SATURDAY—MAY 12, 2007
CHARLIE'S PATIO
PATIO OPENS AT 7:00 P.M.
SHOW AT 8:30 P.M.**

**DJ AND SOUND SYSTEM DONATED BY
ROB OF MAAC ENTERTAINMENT**

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO SET UP PATIO AT 12 NOON ON SATURDAY, MAKE AND SELL JELLO SHOTS, DONATE AUCTION ITEMS, SELL RAFFLE TICKETS AND ENTERTAIN.

Call Pussy LeHoot at (602) 518-5064 if you can/will help in any area. Thank you.

Arizona Gay Rodeo Association was represented at the Big D Rodeo by the following members in the events listed below.

Chute Dogging – First Go Round Standings
5th place > Chuck Browning with a time of 4.49
Chute Dogging – Second Go Round Standings
4th place > Chuck Browning with a time of 4.41
Chute Dogging – Weekend Cowboy Standings
4th place > Chuck Browning with a time of 8.90

Calf Roping on foot – no placement on First Go Round
Calf Roping on foot – Second Go Round Standings
4th place > Chuck Browning with a time of 4.41

Steer Decorating – no placement on First Go Round
Steer decorating – Second Go Round Standings
8th place > the team of Chuck Browning and Brian Helander, with a time of 12.14

Wild Drag Race – no placement on First Go Round
Wild Drag Race – Second Go Round Standings
6th place > Chuck Browning with a member from GSGRA and TGRA, with a time of 61.38
Wild Drag Race – Weekend Team Standings
Chuck Browning and friends with an overall time of 86.87

Goat Dressing – First Go Round
2nd place > the team of Chuck Browning and Brian Helander, with a time of 10.54
Goat Dressing – Second Go Round
1st place > the team of Chuck Browning and Brian Helander, with a time of 9.91
Goat Dressing – Weekend Standings
1st place > the team of Chuck Browning and Brian Helander, with a time of 20.45

All Round Cowboy – Big D Rodeo
5th place > Chuck Browning

Team Points awarded to the member association of AGRA, from the fine efforts of Chuck Browning and Brian Helander are 355 for the Big D Rodeo.

I personally want to thank Chuck and Brian for all they do and for their outstanding work in representing AGRA at other Member Association Rodeos. You guys ought to be proud, because I am. These guys and many other members both Cowboys and Cowgirls go out in the arena representing not only themselves but the organizations they love so much. They do us all proud and we should always stop, when we see them and thank them for the hard work and effort they put forth. No matter the standings for the events or the weekend you guys are truly 1st Place.

Keith A. Carson

AGRA Public Relations Director 2007.

From the desk of the Rodeo Director

2008 Rodeo Director's Report

I am sure several of you are aware that on January 15, the Trustees' voted to assess a fine to AGRA because the IGRA logo was not on our ad in the 2006 Finals Program. The fine would be 5% of gate receipts for our rodeo which amounted to \$1,788.10! **I am very happy to tell you that I appealed this fine at the April 13 Trustees' Meeting in Fort Lauderdale, and the fine was rescinded by a vote of 14 to 6!**

The 2008 Rodeo Committee meetings will begin in May with the first meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 8. The meeting will be in the Casa Grande Room at Grace Inn at Ahwatukee and will begin at 7:30 p.m. Several people have already expressed interest in various coordinator positions, but there is always room for everyone who wants to help! No one will be turned away!

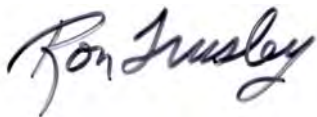
I have selected Scott Caffrey and George Immerso as Assistant Rodeo Directors. A third Assistant will be confirmed by the end of May. After our May 8 meeting, I will also let you know who has been selected for the various coordinator positions. There are still openings in some coordinator positions.

As I have previously reported on various occasions, hotel contracts are in place at the Hilton Garden Inn Phoenix Midtown and Grace Inn at Ahwatukee. We have a signed contract with Rawhide, and very soon we should have a signed three-year contract from Hensley Budweiser.

We made a very small profit at the 2007 Road Runner Regional Rodeo (\$3,893.63). The 2007 Rodeo Committee is in the process of putting together a proposal regarding this profit. When finalized, the proposal will be presented to AGRA members. **Any actions will be approved by the AGRA membership!**

As planning meetings are held, I will have much more to report. Again, I encourage you to become a rodeo volunteer and work with us as a committee member!

Please contact me anytime if you have questions or need information.



Ron Trusley

2008 RRRR Director

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Board of Directors

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President

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Vice-President

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Carlos Garcia
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Trustee

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Email: rtrusley@cox.net

Treasurer
to be announced

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

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Keith Carson
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Miss AGRA 2007

Pussy LeHoot
(a.k.a. Kevin McSweeney)

Phone: (602) 518-5064

Mr. AGRA 2007

Gary Rushton
Phone: (602) 384-7997

Mr. AGRA 2007

1st Runner-up

Kyle Ross

Phone: (602) 870-3809

MEETING SCHEDULE

Board Meeting—Thursday May 10th @ 7:00pm on
Charlie's patio

Membership Meeting— Sunday May 13th @ 7:00pm on
Charlie's dance floor.

Branding Iron Publisher Keith Carson

A.G.R.A.

P.O. Box 40465

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