



**ARIZONA
GAY
RODEO
ASSOCIATION**



From the desk of the President

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You know the year just keeps going by at high speed!

There is a light at the end of the tunnel, already progress has been made in some areas, others still need a little more work or tweaking. With the help and understanding from all the membership this organization will continue to prosper and be financially sound.

The co-rodeo director's, Dan and George, have made so much progress already. I hear from them often and they are moving along at great strides. Thanks guys. In addition, some of the assistants they have selected early on are being aggressive as well. This is a sign our 25th Silver Anniversary rodeo will be one heck of a party. I'm so excited! As you know this event requires a lot of volunteers from now through the end of rodeo. Plan your time and commit to "your party" and show that we are united!

As the year progresses so do the personal lives of many. Including myself, work has "called me" and my hours will change with a promotion I am taking. These hours will not give me the time to commit to AGRA on the scale that I would need as President. Therefore, effective April 5, 2009 I will resign as President of AGRA. (before rumors start, it is work related that I resign and no other reason)

Continue at the capacity of your strength, come together and move AGRA into the 50th anniversary.

Thanks for your confidence and support.

Gary Hatterman

Newsletter Deadline: 25 April 09

Send submissions to:

kacarson@cox.net or mail to:

AGRA, P.O. Box 40465 · Phoenix · AZ

85067-0465



From the desk of the Vice-President

Howdy Cowboys and Cowgirls,

Well we are definitely working very hard for the 2010 rodeo year. Our Royalty team has been working hard with fundraising events. Iona Doublewide has met all of her royalty fund raising requirements for AGRA and IGRA. Way to go girl!! Travis James is planning a golf tournament so please look for this in the near future. This should be a lot of fun and we will be raising money for a great cause. Since this is our 25th year anniversary I will be contacting as many formers as I can so we can incorporate them into our entertainment program for rodeo. If anyone has ideas or suggestions please get with me or one of our royalty members. Until next time folks!!!

Michael Weidmann

From the desk of the Secretary

Well Folks here we are another month gone and a new one upon us. This year just seems to be moving so quickly. We have had a lot of conversations and I have expressed the need for a Branding Iron Publisher for the last two months. Well I am happy to announce that we have a new BI Publisher who will be working with the Board to produce the monthly newsletter. All articles are still to be sent to the Secretary who will be Editor for the BI but the publication will be put together by the new publisher, who is Levi Hunting. Levi has a great deal of knowledge and is willing to lend his expertise to our cause. THANK YOU Levi.

I am sad to say that it is time, once again, to take nominations for another Board Position. As you have read earlier in the President's Letter to the Membership he has resigned. The Vice-President will become the acting President until such time as we elect a new President. According to our Bylaws since we have more than four months left in the year we will be holding another election to fill the vacant position. We will be taking nominations in the months of April and May and hold elections during the May Membership Meeting. The Elections Committee Chair will provide the membership with a ballot with the names of those who have been nominated. The vote will be conducted by the ballot and counted by the Elections Committee. A tabulation of the votes and the name of the Elected Official will be announced in the May Membership Meeting by the Elections Committee Chair. If you or someone you know are interested in the position of AGRA President please be present at the April and May Membership Meetings. There are position descriptions and other pertinent information in the AGRA Bylaws that should be considered before throwing your name in the hat. The AGRA Bylaws can be obtained on our website at www.agra-phx.com.

Keith A.. Carson

AGRA Secretary 2009

kacarson@cox.net

(602) 509-7017



From the desk of the Treasurer

Financial Report From the Desk of AGRA Treasurer:

As of the end of Feb-2009

<u>Balance sheet</u>	<u>Total Liabilities & Equity</u>	<u>\$ 28,640.35</u>
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<u>Non Rodeo</u>	<u>Net Income</u>	<u>\$ 1,477.43</u>
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<u>Rodeo (month of Feb only) Net income</u>	<u>< \$ 10,156.62 ></u>
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<u>Rodeo year to date</u>	<u>Net Income</u>	<u>\$ 11,389.28</u>
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Thank You
Walt Hutter
AGRA Treasurer

Subject: Resignation

3-19-09

As of April 8 2009 I will be resigning as AGRA Treasurer.

The uncalled drama has been making my position more difficult to maintain.

I can only hope that those whom want to be the critics with no justifications and with the in the windows actuations with every move the AGRA board makes that they now step forward and put their names in the hat. Lets see how they do.

These people have made every attempt to make the boards positions difficult in every way possible, but forgetting that the majority of the members had put some of the board members in place by voting. To do that the members were saying we have confidence that these board members will do right for AGRA in their decisions.

So in every way these people have been disrespectful to the AGRA members, and the AGRA board.

There seems to be no end in sight with this drama.

Please make arrangements so all books can be turned over to AGRA on April 8, 2009

Thanks and good luck to all
Walt
AGRA Treasurer

From the desk of the Trustee

Trustee's Report

I would like to remind everyone that per the AGRA Bylaws, nominations for IGRA Convention Delegates and Alternate Delegates will be received in the May and June membership meetings. Delegates and alternate delegates shall be elected by ballot vote of the members present at the July membership meeting. The AGRA President and Trustee are automatically delegates. Four additional delegates and five alternate delegates will also be elected.

The 2009 IGRA Annual Convention will be in Toronto Canada November 12-15. The host hotel is the Toronto Marriott Bloor Yorkville with room rates of \$119 CDN.

If you plan to attend convention and are interested in serving as a delegate or alternate delegate for AGRA, make sure you have a member nominate you. It is important that you are sure you will be able to attend convention if you are elected as a delegate or alternate delegate.

Ron Trusley

AGRA Trustee

E-Mail: rtrusley@cox.net

Phone: (602) 510-9671

From the desk of the Public Relations Director

Rodeo Co-Directors Announced

For Immediate Release from:

A.G.R.A. Public Relations Director Greg Gillum

Contact at 3destiny@msn.com or 623-203-9305

At its monthly membership meeting on March 8, the Arizona Gay Rodeo Association (A.G.R.A.) announced the selection of two co-directors for the RoadRunner Regional Rodeo in 2010.

The A.G.R.A. Board of Directors selected George Immerso and Dan Iversen as co-directors for next year's event. George has previously served as Assistant Rodeo Director for three years. Dan is a Founding Member of A.G.R.A. and has served the association as Rodeo Director and as President.

During the meeting, George and Dan reminded attendees that the RoadRunner Regional Rodeo will celebrate its Silver Anniversary when the event takes place Presidents' Day weekend, February 12-14, 2010. A.G.R.A. hosted its first rodeo in 1985, 25 years ago.

They also reminded people to stop by the A.G.R.A. booth at this year's Phoenix Pride Festival, April 18-19. A.G.R.A. will also be participating in the Pride Parade that weekend.

Groups or individuals interested in more information about the upcoming rodeo should contact George Immerso at rrrrodeodir2010@aol.com or at 480-628-4949. They can also contact Dan Iversen at divey73@aol.com or at 602-769-0293.

From the desk of the Fund Raising Director

2009 Fundraising Directors, Report.

Hello members,

on March 14th we held the first of our big four annual fundraising events. It was our tribute to St. Patrick's day, we like to call St. Patio Day. It was a beautiful night on Charlie's patio and we had a great turn out. We raised 387 dollars, thanks to show and Sharon Starks' amazing green Jell-o shots.

The Entertainment consisted of our current royalty Iona and Travis. Special guest Tori Steele from Tucson, Barbra Seville, Ebonae Chane and myself. The new dance team the AZ Heatwave contributed by selling the shots and their very own P.J. and Richard (aka PJ Bottoms and Rochelle Obama) donned drag and added to the festive atmosphere.

A good time was had by all. Our next of the "Big Four" is Chili Verde Day in conjunction with Cinco de Mayo on May 9th. As always we are looking for anyone who wants to help out in any capacity, just let me know if you'd like to help.

Coming up on April 10, 11, and 12th, is our big co-fundraiser for AGRA and NMGRA. I came up with this idea after talking to my friend Martinique Bouvier, Miss MNGRA 2009. She told me what a difficult time they were having trying to raise money as the only bar left in Albuquerque will only allow shows on Fridays. NMGRA is hosting finals this year so they would really appreciate our help. I think this will be a good time to get to know members of our sister association and who knows maybe we can make this an annual event and invite other associations to take part. If you know anybody from New Mexico I urge you to invite them over. If you email on the IGRA Yahoo group feel free to mention it. I'm really hoping this will be a success.

The weekend will Kick-off Friday the 10th at 9:30pm at Kobalt for a show and Auction. Saturday the 11th we will be on Charlie's patio at 9:30pm. Easter Sunday the 12th after our General membership meeting., the "Pussy LeHoot and friends" show will take stage at 8pm, with many special guest appearances to wrap up the week-end.

Once again any help any of you can give would be greatly appreciated. Hope to see you there. Happy Easter. Happy Gay Pride and Happy Spring. Let's keep those dollars coming in.

Kevin McSweeny aka Pussy LeHoot
AGRA 2009 Fundraising Director
Miss IGRA 2009 2RU

From the desk of the Membership & Contestant Liaison

Rodeo Events Contestant Liaison Committee Branding Iron Report for April 2009 Issue

Howdy AGRA members! I am honored to once again fill the pages of your Association Newsletter with information on the Rodeo Contestants and their success over this coming year.

DANCE! DANCE! DANCE! DANCE! DANCE! DANCE! DANCE! DANCE!

We would like to congratulate the **AGRA Line Dance Team** on their recent accomplishment at IGRA Dance Competition. They brought home **First Place!** You represented AGRA very well, and we are extremely proud of your accomplishments!

Also, congratulations are in order for AGRA's Couple Dance team: 2nd Place Winners in the Couples Division II Intermediate: **Alfredo Quezada & Ramon Soto (AGRA)**

DANCE! DANCE! DANCE! DANCE! DANCE! DANCE! DANCE! DANCE!

I would also like to thank the Many AGRA members that attended **2009 IGRA University in Las Vegas**. Unbeknownst to many of you, Contestant / Member and Current IGRA President Brian Helander was teaching a few courses, as was another Member / Contestant Chuck Browning. If any of you have an interest in learning more about Rodeo, or the Business side of the Corporation, this is a great learning opportunity for everyone to strengthen their knowledge and to elevate our Corporation in its goals.

Speaking of goals, do you know what the Objective of AGRA is? Right from our Bylaws it is stated: **The objective of the organization shall be to elevate the image of women and men in the sports field of rodeo.**

I would like to thank our Members and Contestants for doing a great job of helping AGRA meet that objective over the last 24 years. **Remember – 2010 is our 25th Anniversary Rodeo – we need everyone's help and involvement. What can you do for AGRA this year?**

TGRA presented the **2009 Cowtown Rodeo** over the February 28th Weekend, and we had a few contestants representing AGRA. **Clinton B & Popper D** competed in a few events, and did AGRA proud.

Clinton B took 8th Place in Pole Bending on Saturday and ended up 7th for the weekend.

Popper D took 1st place in Flag Race on Sunday

Popper D took 7th place in Steer Deco on Saturday and 6th on Sunday placing in 5th for the weekend.

Popper took 6th place in Goat Dressing on Saturday and 4th on Sunday placing in 5th for the weekend.

Membership & Contestant Liaison Continued.

These contestants helped AGRA place 9th place in overall points out of 14 Associations.

Thank you to all the contestants who represented AGRA at the Cowtown Rodeo 2009.

If this edition of the Branding Iron gets out to the membership early enough, Travis James is heading off the AGRA Pride Parade Entry. We are looking for Contestants who are interested in riding their horses to contact him ASAP, as well, as anyone interested in helping to work on the Flat Bed Trailer to decorate it for the Parade as well.

Travis' e-mail is : tjrn01@cox.net 602-430-8706

As a final note in my article, I have submitted two bylaw proposals regarding the committee that is currently listed under Article IV Standing Committees as The Membership & Rodeo Contestant Liaison Committee. I have proposed splitting this into two committees, so two individuals could be successful in working these areas. We need a strong person to head up the Membership Committee that has goals of increasing the community awareness of AGRA, and generating Membership Drives, etc. I have submitted the proposal to the Secretary for review, and hope to see those come up shortly for the association to review, and support. As always, my contact information is provided if you have any questions. **Cowboy and Cowgirl up!**

Respectfully submitted by Chuck Browning

agracwby@aol.com 602-402-1836 (cell)

From the desk of the Rodeo Director

We will be submitting our findings and our recommendation for the 2010 Rodeo Venue within the next 2 weeks.. To date we have reviewed 8 separate locations as a possibility for our 25th anniversary Rodeo .

2 Assistant Rodeo Directors have been selected and have both accepted the positions, They are Jodi Hines, And Jeremy Johnson. Jodi was one of the assistants at the 2009 Rodeo. Jodi has many years experience with Rodeo. She recently completed cleaning, stocking, painting, and fixing all of the supplies in the AGRA trailer for Rodeo. We have a complete inventory and we are ready to go for 2010. Jeremy is new to his position but has volunteered for the past 4 years at RRRR. He brings experience in fund raising for other non profits, Marketing / sales. Both Jodi and Jeremy are highly motivated and have a can do attitude.

The 2010 preliminary rodeo T-shirts have been ordered and will be available for pride April 18th. Anyone interested in Volunteering for the pride booth please see Dan Iversen, George Immerso or Richard Merit AGRA Booth coordinator or Patrick Nichols Asst coordinator.

The poster contest was announced at our March membership meeting. All entries must be received no later than 5pm Fri May 01 2009 at Charlie's. Dan and myself will be manning a small booth at the Casa Grande March for Equality Sat March 28, 2009 we will be selling our left over 2009 Rodeo T Shirts. We will be taking with us AGRA membership applications. Anyone with Ideas on how to make this our 25th Anniversary Rodeo better please contact us. We are always open to ideas, and suggestions. As a reminder we are going Green this year

George Immerso

Co-Rodeo Director 2010

POSTER CONTEST

SILVER ANNIVERSARY 2010 ROADRUNNER REGIONAL RODEO

The Arizona Gay Rodeo Association (A.G.R.A.) is sponsoring a poster contest for the 25th Anniversary 2010 RoadRunner Regional Rodeo that will take place February 12-14, 2010. Judging for the winning poster will be by vote of the A.G.R.A. members present at the May 10, 2009 membership meeting.

Anyone may submit a poster design; you do not have to be an A.G.R.A. member to submit a poster. **The artist of the winning entry will receive a \$200.00 cash prize from A.G.R.A.**

REQUIREMENTS:

Entries must be unmounted, 16" x 20" finished size with the only text on the poster being **25th Anniversary** and **2010 RoadRunner Regional Rodeo**.

Artist's name and contact information must be printed on the back of the poster. **Entries received with the artist's information on the front of the poster will be disqualified.**

The winning design and artwork become the property of A.G.R.A. All other entries will be destroyed within two (2) weeks following the judging - unless the artist makes arrangements with A.G.R.A. to pick them up or to be returned at the artist's expense. A.G.R.A. will contact the winning artist to award the prize - in return for a **high-quality pdf file** of the winning design.

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00PM FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2009. ENTRIES RECEIVED AFTER THIS TIME/DATE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED. PLEASE MAIL ENTRIES TO:

A.G.R.A.
2010 RRRR Poster Contest
PO Box 40465
Phoenix, AZ 85067

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Dear Members,

The Arizona Gay Rodeo Association is seeking volunteers to help produce the 25th Anniversary RoadRunner Regional Rodeo. Individuals must be willing to make the commitment and to be team players. Your help is crucial to our ability to raise and give as much as possible to charity.

We have openings in the following categories:

Website Design and Development

Letter writing

Data entry

Fund raising

Cowboy Cookout

Entertainment

Marketing

Assistant to the Vendor coordinator

Assistant to the Barn manager

If you have any talents that you feel would benefit us, in addition to the categories above, please don't hesitate to let us know.

We understand that your time is valuable and that regularly attending meetings may be an issue for some. No need to worry, your ability to work independently is completely acceptable. If you can attend monthly meetings, even better. We are committed to keeping our meetings no longer than 90 minutes.

Although AGRA is a non-profit charitable organization run by volunteers, for whom no monetary compensation is given, complimentary rodeo tickets, t-shirts, etc. are given to those who are committed to seeing that our goals are achieved.

If you are ready to have a lot of fun working with passionate and committed people, have an eye for opportunity and enjoy being with people from all walks of life, please send me an e-mail.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Johnson

www.Jerjohn2@verizon.net

AGRA MEMBERSHIP & BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

April Board Meeting 8th @ 7:00pm, Charlie's Offices, 727 W. Camelback Road

April Membership Meeting 12th @ 5:00pm, Charlie's Dance Floor

May Board Meeting 6th @ 7:00pm, Charlie's Offices, 727 W. Camelback Road

May Membership Meeting 10th @ 5:00pm, Charlie's Dance Floor

June Board Meeting 10th @ 7:00pm, Charlie's Offices, 727 W. Camelback Road

June Membership Meeting 14th @ 5:00pm, Charlie's Dance Floor

July Board Meeting 15th @ 7:00pm, Charlie's Offices, 727 W. Camelback Road

July Membership Meeting 19th @ 5:00pm, Charlie's Dance Floor

August Board Meeting 5th @ 7:00pm, Charlie's Offices, 727 W. Camelback Road

August Membership Meeting 9th @ 5:00pm, Charlie's Dance Floor

September Board Meeting 23rd @ 7:00pm, Charlie's Offices, 727 W. Camelback Road

September Membership Meeting 27th @ 5:00pm, Charlie's Dance Floor

October Board Meeting 7th @ 7:00pm, Charlie's Offices, 727 W. Camelback Road

October Membership Meeting 11th @ 5:00pm, Charlie's Dance Floor

November Board Meeting 4th @ 7:00pm, Charlie's Offices, 727 W. Camelback Road

November Membership Meeting 8th @ 5:00pm, Charlie's Dance Floor

December Board Meeting 9th @ 7:00pm, Charlie's Offices, 727 W. Camelback Road

December Membership Meeting 13th @ 5:00pm, Charlie's Dance Floor

January Board Meeting 6th @ 7:00pm, Charlie's Offices, 727 W. Camelback Road

January Membership Meeting 10th @ 5:00pm, Charlie's Dance Floor

Board of Directors

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Treasurer**

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**Pussy LeHoot
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2nd Runner-up Miss IGRA

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