



**ARIZONA
GAY
RODEO
ASSOCIATION**



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**October Edition
Newsletter Deadline: Aug 25th 09**

**Send submissions to:
LEVI HUNTING:
AGRA, P.O. Box 40465 · Phoenix · AZ
85067-0465**

From the Desk of the President

Hello Cowboys and Cowgirls,

We are well on our way to a very successful 25th anniversary rodeo! Our rodeo team is working extremely hard on our fundraising efforts. I must say the Rodeo Roller Derby at Great Skate was an amazing time. Thank You to all that attended. Great Job Kyle and Daryl for a wonderful event.

There will be several events that I encourage all of our members to come out and support. It is important to support our fellow establishments that are assisting us with our fundraising efforts. This is also a great way to get to know each other a little bit better. Speaking of fundraisers, please come and support Pussy LeHoot as she struts in her stilettos on her annual Labor Day Patio show Saturday, Sept, 5th.

Rodeo is fast approaching, there is plenty to do so get involved and let's make our rodeo an unforgettable experience for everybody! Again thank to all who are making a positive impact on gay rodeo in Arizona!

Respectfully Yours,

Michael Weidmann
AGRA President



From the Desk of the Vice President

Howdy All,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our 2nd contestant for the 2010 AGRA Royalty Team. Josh Sipe A.K.A. Claudia B he is a contestant for Miss AGRA 2010. The Current AGRA and IGRA royalty want to wish you the best of luck.

Kyle Ross and Travis James have met their requirements to compete at the IGRA Royalty Contest. The contest will be held at the IGRA convention in November. Good Luck to the both of you.

If you are interested in being on the 2010 Royalty team, please see a board member or current and past royalty if you have any questions. You must be a AGRA Member before you put in your application.

Thank you for your continuous support of AGRA,

Michael Butts
AGRA Vice President





Howdy Folks,
Happy Birthday and many more to these members of AGRA. Next time that you see these members give them your hand in friendship and a pat on the back.



1-Sept Tam Keltner
2-Sept Clifford Morgan
5-Sept Claire Miller
8-Sept Matthew Midgett
10-Sept Leif Stormo
12-Sept J. Kevin McSweeny-aka Pussy LeHoot
19-Sept Angel Vega
22-Sept Joshua Sipe-aka Claudia B
25-Sept Levi Hunting
27-Sept Cary Leibowitz
30-Sept Arnie Chavez

General information from the office of the Secretary:

Bylaws Amendment Submitted by Chuck Browning has been voted on by the membership at the 9 Aug 09 Membership Meeting and with 31 members present, votes cast were all for and non opposed the revision.

In accordance with the AGRA Bylaws ARTICLE V A.G.R.A. Membership, Subsection 5.7 Consideration of Removal from Membership B) Inappropriate behavior which causes embarrassment to A.G.R.A., Inc. A letter has been received, reviewed and voted upon to take action by the Board of Directors. Therefore a letter has been sent to all AGRA Members with a formal ballot for the voting process. Ballot deadline is postmarked by 5:00 PM on September 21st, 2009.

Keith A. Carson
Secretary 2009

Hello AGRA Membership, here is the financial report:

September:

Balance Sheet	Total Assets	\$17,588.77
Checking		\$5167.02
CD		\$12,421.75
Non Rodeo	Net Income	\$117.53
Rodeo	Net Income	<\$4,800.00>
Year to Date 2009 Rodeo Net Income		\$0

The 2009 Rodeo Books are closed

The 2009 Rodeo had \$4800 left to be divided up between charities. In the membership meeting the membership voted to give the following:

Community Church of Hope	\$768.00
Joshua Tree Feeding Program	\$1296.00
PFLAG	\$1104.00
Susan G Komen	\$638.40
TIHAN	\$993.60

For the Non Rodeo for September we had various income:

- Pussy LeHoot sold some tamales for \$20
- We had 2 new members \$70
- Royalty Contestant Fee \$50
- Chili Verde Day \$260

And regular AGRA Office Expenses \$396.47

And some income and expenses for 2010 Rodeo that will transfer to Au-reports for 2010 Rodeo.

The rodeo kickoff party and jello shots at BS West raised \$189.
Expenses to get ready for the event at Apollos were \$75.



gust



The August books are not closed as of today August 25th 2009:

August:

Balance Sheet	Total Assets	\$16,156.01
	Checking	\$3734.26
	CD	\$12,421.75
Non Rodeo	Aug Net Income	<\$1,691.39>
Rodeo	Aug Net Income	\$258.63
Year to Date 2009 Rodeo Net Income		\$258.63

The Rodeo 2010 books are now open. I have transferred all RRRR 2010 income and expenses to the Rodeo 2010 books starting in August.

Rodeo

Income for the 2010 Rodeo transferred:

Start up money for 2009 RRRR \$1200
 Rodeo Prelim Shirts \$40
 IGRA Booth Commissions (10% of sales) \$21.60
 Gay Pride Booth Proceeds \$730.66
 Rodeo Committee Fundraisers (BS West) \$189.00

Expenses for the 2010 Rodeo transferred:

Rodeo Arena Insurance \$605.32
 Rodeo Shirts \$422.37
 Poster Prize Money \$200
 Sanction Fee \$600
 Fundraising Expense (Apollos Fundraiser) \$75

Expenses for 2010 Rodeo occurred in August:

Rodeo Flyers \$19.94

Non Rodeo

Income:

Membership Dues \$35
 Royalty Requirements \$50

Expenses:

Office expenses \$264.23
 Name Badges and Ladders \$130.19
 Sponsored IGRA event \$325
 Annual Dues \$600
 Beach Party Fundraiser \$200
 Transferred category 7099 expenses to 2010 Rodeo \$1902.69
 Transferred category 8000 income to 2010 Rodeo \$2159.66

Thank you for your time!!

Jai

AGRA Treasurer

Hey there, rodeo fans -

In August, A.G.R.A. invited representatives from five Arizona charities to its monthly membership meeting. These charities were selected by you, the membership, to receive proceeds from the 2009 RoadRunner Regional Rodeo.

TIHAN, PFLAG-Phoenix, Joshua Tree, Susan G. Kohman for the Cure, and Community Church of Hope shared \$4,800 that was earned through the hard work and dedication of A.G.R.A. and many outside volunteers. We thank all of you for supporting our mission.

Speaking of support, our Rodeo Fundraisers Extraordinaire, Darrell Dern & Miss Ionna Doublewide are planning several fun fundraising events for the Fall. Keep an eye out for announcements in your email Inbox and on the agra-phx website. Yours Truly may have to shave off the goatee for one of these... Oh My!

As our 25th year of Rodeo draws ever closer, more marketing and public relations activity will be taking place. Rodeo Director George Immerso is networking across Arizona to make our next RoadRunner Regional Rodeo both unique and highly successful. Don't be surprised if he pulls you aside the next time you see him...

See you in a few weeks at our next membership meeting on Sunday, 27 September!

Greg Gillum
Public Relations - A.G.R.A. and RRRR



AGRA Contestant Liaison Committee's

Branding Iron Report for September 2009

Rodeo Results on the IGRA Circuit!

AGRA's Buckle count for 2009 = 28!!!

****2nd Annual Liberty Stampede Rodeo - 2009****

AGRA had a few Cowboys competing in the 2nd Annual Liberty Stampede!

Men's Chute Dogging:

Chuck B – 2nd place

Steer Decorating:

Chuck B & Brian H – 3rd Place

Goat Dressing:

Chuck B & Brian H – 3rd Place

Arizona placed 6th out of 15 associations, so good job AGRA!

I was also happy to assist Ron Trusley as the AGRA Alternate Trustee for Liberty Stampede. Ron was able to attend the IGRA Board Meeting on Friday, but had to get home to tend to some important business.

Due to severe weather, and the ambulance having to leave our Rodeo on Sunday to help the local townspeople deal with sever flooding, the Trustees and Stock Contractor agreed to cancel the Sunday Performance following the Women's Calf Roping On Foot. It rained for 3 hours non-stop with lightening, and we watched the arena dirt literally wash away to the creek. Many of the local roads in and out of the Facility were also washed out.

Upcoming September IGRA Rodeos:

Show Me State Rodeo – September 4-6 MGRA – Kansas City – Missouri

GSGRA San Diego Rodeo – September 11-13 Lakeside, CA.

NGRA's BigHorn Rodeo – September 18-20 Las Vegas, NV.

IGRA Convention 2009 –

Please note that all IGRA Rodeo Rule Proposed Changes must be received by Monday September 14, 2009. These should be directed to the IGRA Rodeo Rule Committee Co-Chairs Chuck Browning or Ty Teigan. Links can be found on the www.IGRA.com Web page under committees.

An excerpt from our bylaws as an educational opportunity: Many of our 2010 elections and nominations are coming up in the next few months. I have only listed those sections that pertain to the upcoming nominations, and elections.

ARTICLE VI A.G.R.A. VOTING AND ELECTIONS

6.4 Nominations

A) Nominations for the Board of Directors, except the Trustee, shall be received at each membership meeting in **October and November** of each year.

B) Nominations for the I.G.R.A. Trustee shall be received at each membership meeting in **September and October** of the year in which the current Trustee's term of office expires.

D) Names of all nominees shall be submitted to the Election Committee no later than thirty (30) days prior to the beginning of the scheduled election.

6.5 Qualifications for the A.G.R.A. Board of Directors

A) President: Must have been an individual member or individual champion member at least twelve (12) months when nominated

B) All other board positions: Must have been an individual member or individual champion member at least six (6) months when nominated

6.6 Election of the Board of Directors

Election shall be held for all board positions, except the Trustee, in December of each year. Voting shall be by members present at the December membership meeting. Election of the Trustee shall be held in November of the year prior to the Trustee's term of office expiration. Voting shall be by members present at the November membership meeting.

6.7 Term of Office

Each Director, except the Trustee, shall be elected for a one-year term.

Each term shall begin on February 1 of the year following elections.

The Trustee's term of office shall be for three years, beginning January 1 in the year following election and ending December 31 three years later.

6.8 Election Committee

The Board of Directors in March of each year shall appoint an Election Committee which shall consist of three (3) members. The Election Committee shall:

A) Select an Election Committee Chairperson

B) Prepare a written ballot listing all of the nominees for each office, by office

C) Supervise the conduct of the voting

D) Tabulate the votes and publish the results

E) Certify the election of officers to the membership

F) Committee shall remain a neutral body and not make recommendations

G) No member of the committee may be nominated for a Board position and continue to serve on the Election Committee

6.9 Elections



Elections for the Board of Directors and all other voting shall be conducted by the Election Committee appointed by the Board of Directors in March of each year. (Refer to Article IV, Section 4.1.C for specific duties.)

6.10 Election Majority

Fifty percent plus one (50% plus 1) of eligible votes cast, excluding abstentions, shall be required for election to any board position and to be declared a winner on all other ballots cast.

6.11 Run-Off Elections

In the event there are three or more persons nominated for an office and no individual receives 50% plus one votes of the eligible votes cast, a run-off election shall be held between the two persons receiving the highest number of votes. The Election Committee shall announce a run-off election is required, and the run-off election shall be held in the same meeting. The Election Committee shall distribute new ballots to members who voted in the original election, and thoroughly explain the voting process. Only those members who voted in the original election will be allowed to cast a run-off ballot.

6.13 Election Records

Following the completion of the election of the Board of Directors and Trustees and any other voting by ballot, the Election Committee shall immediately forward all records and ballots to the Secretary. The Secretary shall retain the ballots in the Corporation.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Browning AGRA Contestant Liaison Committee Chair

From The Desk of AGRA Trustee

AGRA Newsletter

September 2009

Trustee's Report

I reported in the August 9 Membership Meeting the IGRA archives were being taken to Autry Museum in Los Angeles where they will be kept. Tommy Channel and Patrick Terry drove from Denver to Los Angeles with the 25-years collection of IGRA archives and arrived safely with all of the archives.

Andrew Goodman, IGRA Vice President, along with a delegation from the GSGRA (Golden State Gay Rodeo Association) were present when the archives were received at the Autry Museum. Please see photo in this Branding Iron issue. In an August 11 email from Gregory Hinton, Project Coordinator, to Andrew, he wrote: "The Autry was blown away by you all. Thank you for coming today. Next stop, the IGRA archives."

On August 14 Gregory wrote in an email to Brian Helander, IGRA President: "Patrick and Tommy just drove away. The IGRA archives are safely tucked away with the Autry Registrar. Marva Felchlin, Director of the Autry, personally received them and went through in detail the care they would receive, the importance of them to the collection and the value of them to scholars in the future. It was very moving, knowing they came from Denver, where I came out in 1975. It was so much fun to be young. Thank you for everything, Brian. With much affection, Gregory"

Tommy Channel also sent an e-mail to the IGRA Board of Directors in which he wrote: "I wanted to let you know that our adventure out to L.A. this past weekend was indeed worth the trip. Patrick and I were very excited to visit the Autry Museum where the IGRA archives will be stored. We found a great group of folks who were very excited to receive the documents and enter IGRA into the museum. This will be a great source of research for anyone who wants to learn about IGRA and it will be monumental when an IGRA exhibit is made available to the public. Thanks to everyone who supported this effort. Thanks to Gregory Hinton and Patrick for organizing the archives for transfer to the museum."

If you are interested in making a donation in any amount to this worthy project, please visit the IGRA website (www.igra.com).

In the August 9 membership meeting, members voted to take a sponsorship for the 2009 World Gay Rodeo Finals ® that will be Albuquerque October 23-25. The sponsorship is for an arena banner and the cowgirl roping on foot buckle. The Finals Rodeo Committee thanks AGRA for this sponsorship. Remember to make your hotel reservations now if you are going to this rodeo and want to stay at the host hotel. Reservation deadline is September 21. More information is available on the IGRA website.

The Finals Rodeo Committee selected Lorrie Murphy from Calgary (ARGRA) as Grand Marshal.

Also, in the August 9 membership meeting, members voted to take a sponsorship for the 2010 IGRA Annual Convention (Silver Anniversary). The vote was to sponsor a coffee break and a ¼ page program ad for \$375.00. I was advised that the coffee break sponsorship includes a ¼ page program ad, so I am waiting to hear from CCGRA (host association) where they might most need to apply the extra \$75.00. Perhaps, our ad will be expanded to a ½ page ad. Also, if you are going to convention, I suggest you make hotel reservations now; the reservation cut-off date is 5 pm October 21.

At the 2009 IGRA Convention, 10-year IGRA Royalty will be acknowledged. AGRA had 2 people on the 2000 IGRA Royalty Team who will be acknowledged. They are Erika Alexander-3rd Runner-Up Miss IGRA and Lacey Edwards-2nd Runner-Up Ms IGRA.

IGRA has received a Federal registered trademark for the words "World Gay Rodeo Finals" ®. At the appropriate times, applications will be submitted to trademark the words IGRA and IGRA University and eventually to copyright all logos.

I would like to remind everyone per AGRA Bylaws, nominations for Trustee will be received in the September 27 and October 11 membership meetings and voting will take place in the November 8 membership meeting. The Trustee will be elected for a 3-year term – January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2012. The Trustee is AGRA's representative to IGRA and serves on the IGRA Board of Directors.

In the August 9 membership meeting, profits from the 2009 Road Runner Regional Rodeo were given to 5 different organizations voted by AGRA members. Total amount of checks to these 5 organizations was \$4,800.00. Organizations benefiting from these profits were:

Joshua Tree	\$ 1,296.00
PFLAG	1,104.00
TIHAN	993.60
Community Church of Hope	768.00
Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Research	638.40

Representatives from each organization were present to receive their check.

Ron Trusley
AGRA Trustee
E-Mail: rtrusley@cox.net
Phone: (602) 510-9671
Fax: (602) 237-5920



From the Rodeo Director...

Hi All!

As our much anticipated 25th Anniversary Rodeo approaches, the Rodeo Planning Team has been hard at work planning the entire weekend. Now that our rodeo venue has been selected, it's time now to start selecting host hotels. As of this writing, the Grace Inn in Ahwatukee will be one of our hosts. Two additional hotels are now being reviewed. One is a higher-end brand new hotel and casino right next to the rodeo grounds, and a lower price hotel fairly close by.

Your fundraising coordinators Darrell and Kyle (aka Ionna Doublewide) have been hard at work planning all sorts of fun events. Our weenie roast/ kowboy karaoke at Apollo's was a huge success. We raised nearly \$500.00 towards the rodeo. A big thank you goes out to Michael Wiedmann , Pussy LeHoot and Ferdy Spears-Quezada for singing and selling Alabama slammers. Our Rodeo Roller Derby at Great Skates on Sunday was a blast! We all had a ball. I also have to sincerely thank the Imperial Court for their support and for being at all our events. If you are not receiving e-mails about our fundraising events, please let me know so that you can be included.

We have recently decided to discontinue the web site AGRA25.com. All rodeo info can be found on our official web site AGRA-phx.com. We can also be found on Facebook and Twitter. Pictures from our fundraisers will be posted soon.

Lastly, I want to thank Ferdy and Tim Dougherty for taking on the positions of Sponsorship Coordinators. I have no doubt they will do a great job.

That's all for now. Hope to see you all at our next fundraiser!

George Immerso
Rrrodedir2010@aol.com



Hello Cowboys and Cow Girls,

Hope everyone has enjoyed the look of the Branding Iron. Hope everyone enjoys their holiday weekend. Well here we go again I want to bring a whole new feel to the BI and make it a little more standardized. So why am I telling you this before hand? Well 2 reasons. First I want to tease you a little and keep you anticipating the next issue. Second I need your help. I would like to ask that members send in their *high quality, high resolution*, pictures from rodeo events, fund raisers, and just plain fun with subject based on AGRA| IGRA events and members.

If you can send this information to me before the October newsletter deadline I would greatly appreciate it. Then you can sit back and enjoy the fruits of my labor with your pictures.

Thanks again,

Your BI Publisher
Levi Hunting

AGRA MEMBERSHIP & BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

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

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