

THE BRANDING IRON

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT



ARIZONA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION

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December 2011 Edition
Next Newsletter Deadline:
Dec 20th 2011

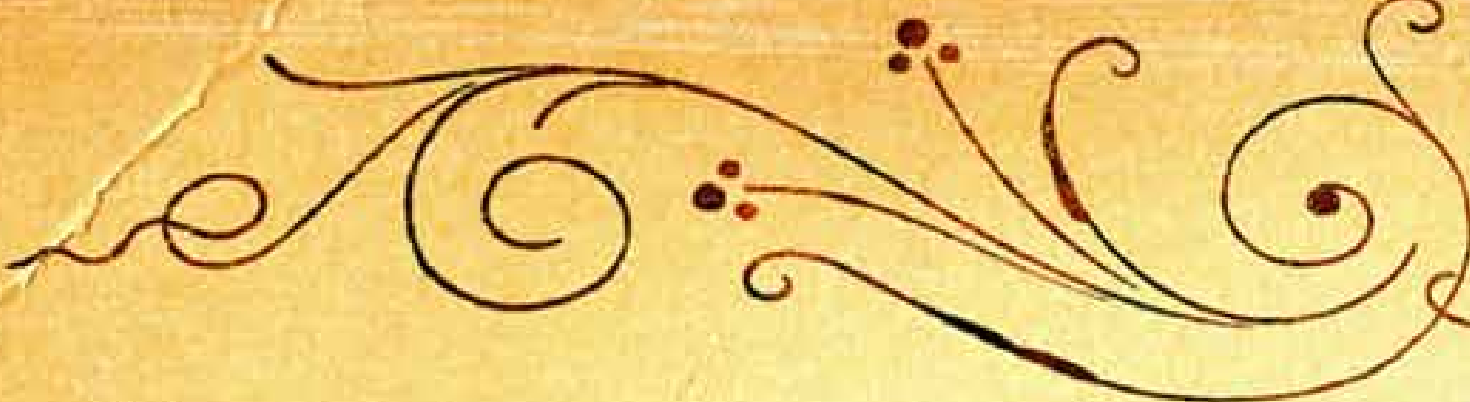
Send submissions to:
Justin@TheCreativeArcade.com

Howdy Cowboys and Cowgirls,

I hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving festivities with family, friends and loved ones! I love this time of year because it is truly a time to remember what we are so grateful for. I am so grateful to be part of an organization that gives so much through out the year. Every person involved with AGRA should be so proud to accomplish everything we do each and every year. After each rodeo I am at a loss for words for the amount of people we help and the amount of money we give each year. All the blood, sweat, tears, and countless hours planning, volunteering, and recruiting is so worth it in the end. I know there are times when we are faced with challenges and obstacles things get tense and it is easy to throw in the towel. With adverstiy comes oppurtunities to see how we can rebuild our organization, revamp certain areas, come together as one and really make things happen.

There are several obstacles other organizations through out IGRA as well as AGRA that we are struggling with. We are struggling with recruiting new members, new rodeo contestants and new royalty contestants. With all these obstacles we have an oppurtunity to really look at how we can continue our mission, while evaluating how we can attract more individuals to our organization and our cause. I challenge every member to really get involved with new ideas, get involved on a committee, a BOD position or even as a contestant in rodeo or royalty.

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We are 2 months away from Rodeo and there is still a lot that needs to be done. Please contact our rodeo director or any BOD to see how you can help. I want to remind all members of our 1st bar crawl Sponsored by Smirnoff Vodka that will be held on December 3rd 2011, starting at 7pm. There are still tickets available for \$15 we will be hitting 5 bars on our tour. We will launch from Charlie's, then hit Bunkhouse, Cash Inn, BS West, Apollo's and then back to Charlie's. You will be given a "BUCK ME" t-shirt as well.

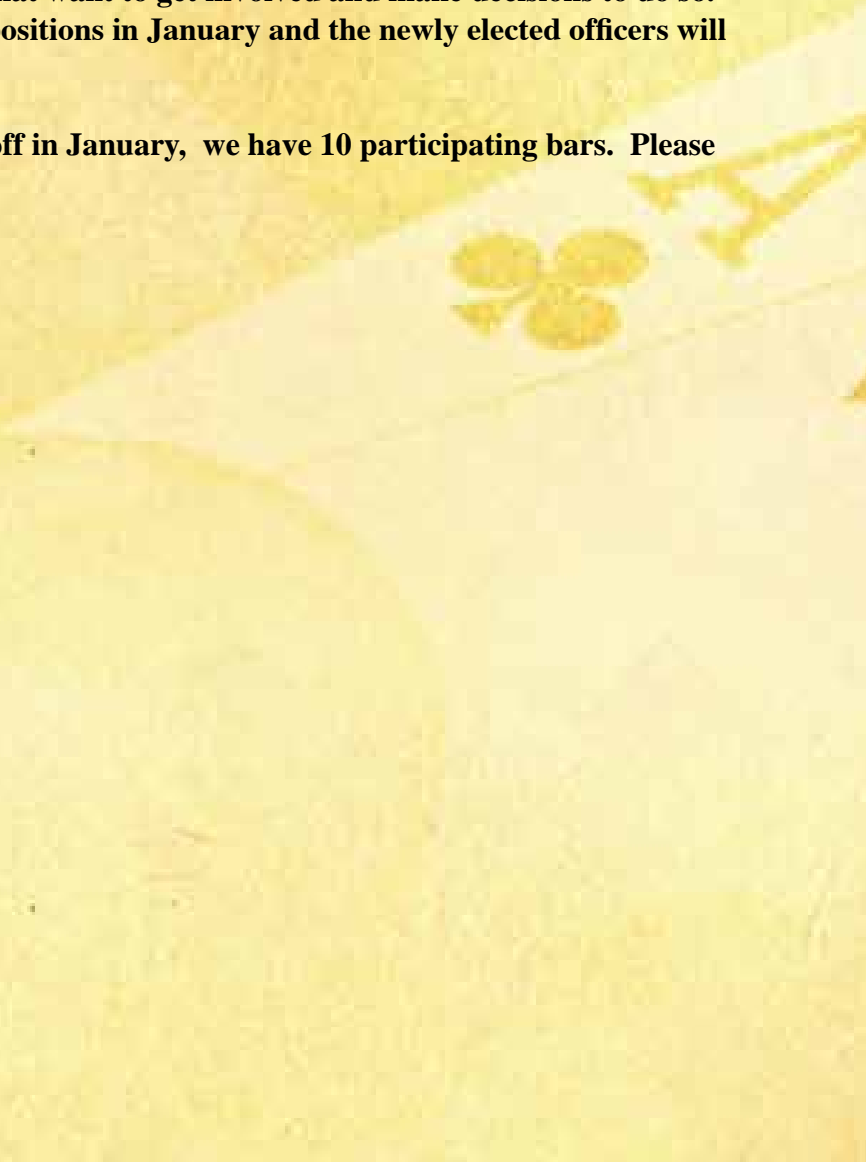
In the month of December we will continue nominations for our BOD positions, AGAIN this is an OPPURTUNITY for those members that want to get involved and make decisions to do so. We will have our elections for our BOD positions in January and the newly elected officers will take their position on March 1st, 2012.

Our Country Idol is going to be kicking off in January, we have 10 participating bars. Please look for more information coming soon.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Respectfully,

**Michael Weidmann
AGRA President**





THANKS BOB!

Howdy Folks!

I hope that everyone had a great Thanksgiving and survived Black Friday! What we need to do now is wish these folks whose Birthday falls in December a Happy Birthday and Wishes for many more to come!!

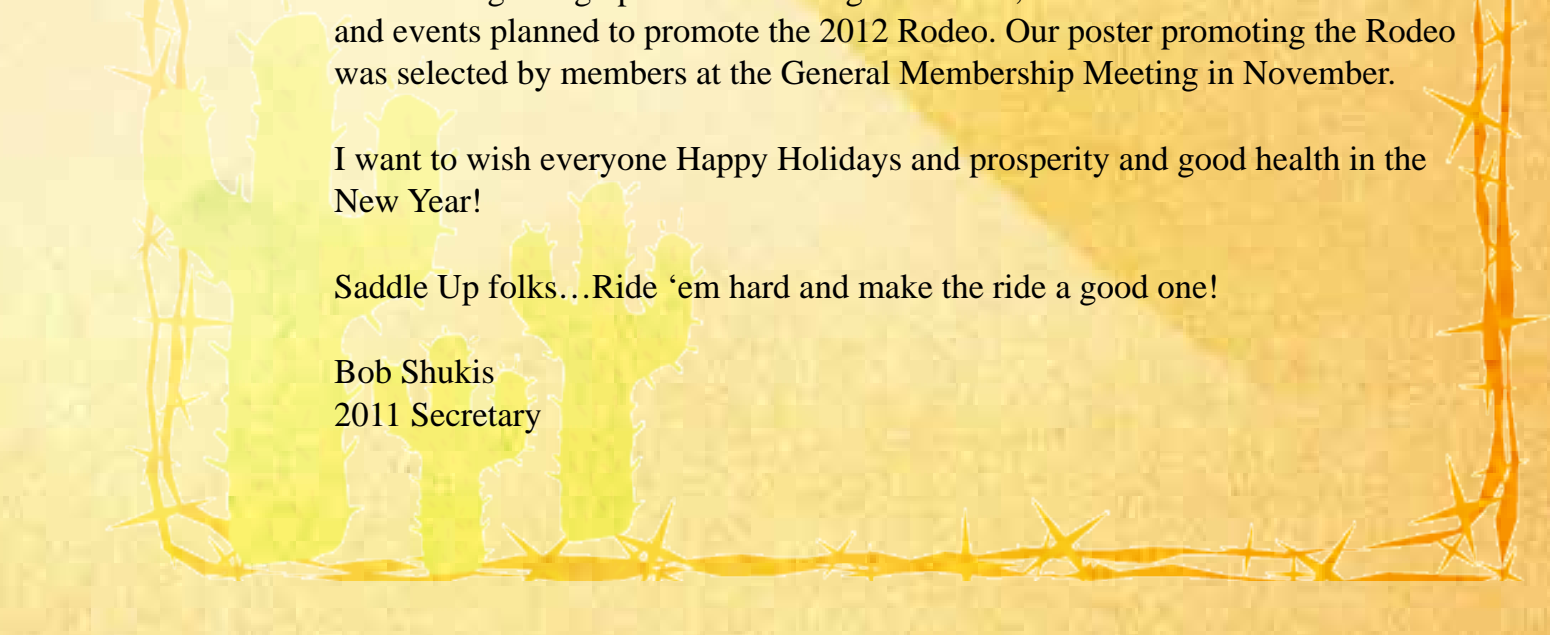
| | |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| 12/01 | J. Steven Critcher |
| 12/06 | Bob Pimentel |
| 12/08 | Darrell Dern |
| 12/24 | Michael Halle |
| 12/24 | Patrick Roe |
| 12/26 | Micheal Hall |
| 12/27 | Gary Hatterman |

Well folks, Rodeo 2012 is just around the corner, being only a couple of months out. We're gearing up to make this a great Rodeo, and have a lot of fundraisers and events planned to promote the 2012 Rodeo. Our poster promoting the Rodeo was selected by members at the General Membership Meeting in November.

I want to wish everyone Happy Holidays and prosperity and good health in the New Year!

Saddle Up folks...Ride 'em hard and make the ride a good one!

Bob Shukis
2011 Secretary





Hello AGRA Members,

Here is the financial report:

Thank you,

Jai
AGRA Treasurer



| June: Balance Sheet | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Total Assets | \$5,382.71 |
| Checking | \$5,382.71 |
| CD | \$0 |
| Non Rodeo | \$2,639.70 |
| Rodeo | (\$1,695.33) |
| Year to Date 2011 Rodeo Net Income | (\$14,489.61) |
| Rodeo | |
| Income: | Expenses: |
| Program Ads \$450 | Generator Rental \$1686.33 |
| | Volunteer Party \$200 |
| | Refund \$259 |
| Non-Rodeo | |
| Income: | Expenses: |
| Membership Dues \$71 | Bank & Credit Card Exp 127.95 |
| Merchandise \$15 | IGRA Fundraiser \$2675.50 |
| Apollos Kowby Karaoke \$191 | Office Expense \$184.85 |
| Pride Beer Booth Sales \$5351 | |
| | |
| | |
| July: Balance Sheet | |
| Total Assets | \$6,241.99 |
| Checking | \$6,241.99 |
| CD | \$0 |
| Non Rodeo | \$548.80 |
| Rodeo | \$0.00 |
| Year to Date 2011 Rodeo Net Income | (\$14,489.61) |
| Rodeo | |
| Income: | Expenses: |
| | |
| Non-Rodeo | |
| Income: | Expenses: |
| Membership Dues \$211 | Bank & Credit Card Exp 128.35 |
| Grand Ol' Opry \$651 | Office Expense \$184.85 |
| | |
| | |



TRUSTEE

Trustee's Report

I want to thank all of the Delegates and Alternate Delegates who attended the 2011 IGRA Annual Convention and participated by attending the committee meetings and business sessions. It was a busy time with three (3) full days of activities. In addition to me as Trustee, Delegates were Michael Weidmann, Jai Crystal, John King, Doug Holmes and Dave Holmes. Alternates were Greg Gillum, Dan Iversen, Carlos Garcia, and Michael Chavez. Thanks to everyone for representing AGRA so well!

Elections were held for IGRA Vice President and IGRA Secretary. Gene Fraikes, TGRA, was elected as Vice President, and Larry Lindstrom, CGRA, was re-elected as Secretary. Both were elected for a 2-year term beginning January 2012.

Royalty competition was held in conjunction with convention; however, beginning in 2012, the competition will be in conjunction with the World Gay Rodeo Finals in Fort Worth, Texas. The 2012 IGRA Royalty Team is:

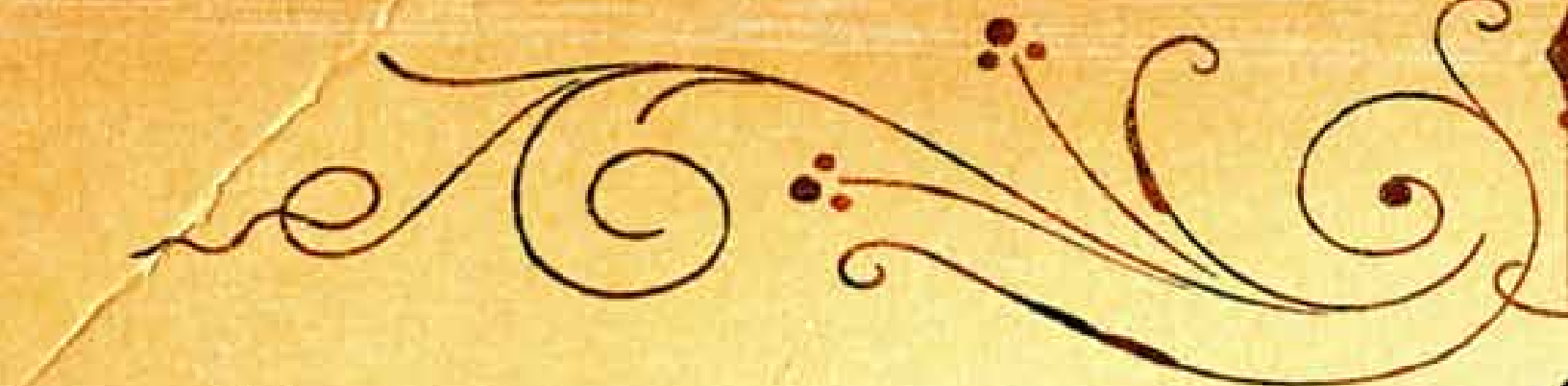
Mr IGRA Rodd Smunk (TGRA)
Ms IGRA Kami Boles (MGRA)
Miss IGRA Victoria Weston (TGRA)
MsTer IGRA Shane Lee (MGRA)

Mr IGRA 1st Runner-Up Rocky Buruse (CGRA)
Miss IGRA 1st Runner-Up Diva Divine (TGRA)
MsTer IGRA 1st Runner-Up Rocki Heffa (TGRA)

Mr IGRA 2nd Runner-Up John Paul Soto (GSGRA)
Miss IGRA 2nd Runner-Up Taylor Trash (NGRA)
MsTer IGRA 2nd Runner-Up Nic Wells (TGRA)

This will be the first time there has been a full representation in the MsTer category. There has only been a MsTer IGRA one time before!

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Highlights of rodeo rules changes for 2012 that should directly affect AGRA and the Road Runner Regional Rodeo are:

- **Contestant registration may be scheduled for a 2 to 3 hour time frame. Times must be published on the Association's website and emailed/mailed in the contestant mailer.**
- **Late registration policy: Association must publish their policy a minimum of 90 days prior to their rodeo. Late registration fee cannot exceed \$50.00**
- **Pre-registered contestants adding events: Association policy must be published in the e-mailed or mailed contestant mailer. Fee cannot exceed \$50.00.**
- **The 7" minimum horn length is specific to chute dogging only. Team roping and camp event steers must have horns of uniform length.**
- **Ambulance is not required to be on site. However, there are requirements for medics or paramedics (BLS/ALS).**

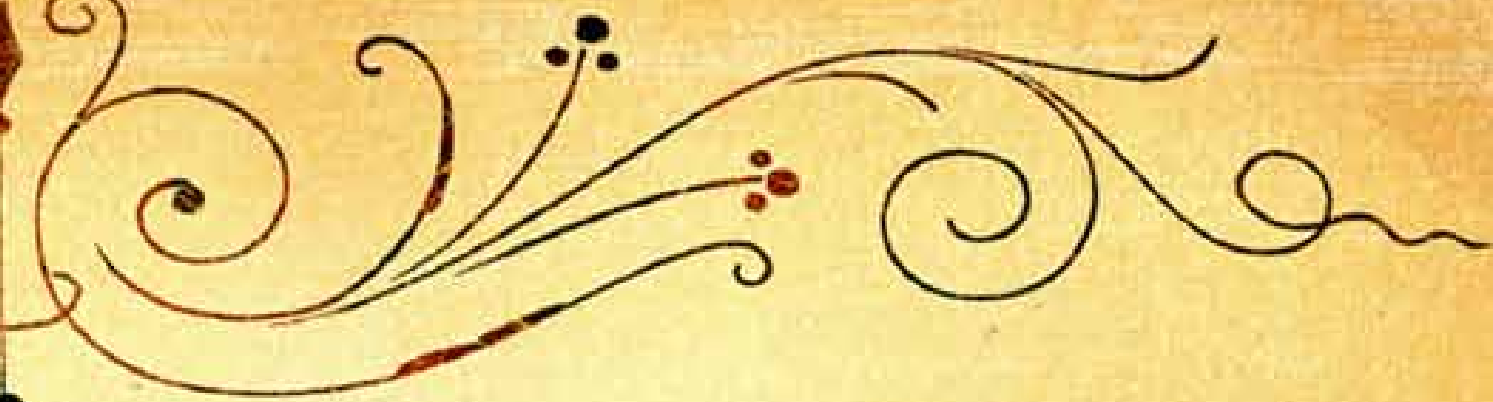
Beginning in 2012, the IGRA Annual Convention will be an IGRA event – not a specific Member Association event.

The 2012 rodeo and event calendar was approved as were tentative dates for 2013 and 2014. Look for this document elsewhere in the Branding Iron.

In the association website judging by IGRA, AGRA won second place. This was a major accomplishment coming from 5th place in 2010.

Also, on Friday, November 11, 2011, the IGRA Membership Committee voted to remove LGRA's and SGRA's membership from IGRA for failure to renew their membership by the start of annual convention. This measure was ratified by the convention delegates on Saturday, November 12, 2011. Our agreement when AGRA relinquished 5 counties to SGRA in September 2009 included "If at any time the new association or its' successors are not recognized by IGRA or the association becomes inactive, AGRA will retain the entire State of Arizona as its' geographical territory". Thus, the geographical territory for AGRA will once again be the entire State of Arizona.

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A decorative flourish consisting of several thin, dark lines that swirl and curve across the top of the page. Some lines end in small, dark, circular shapes, resembling berries or buds.

IGRA registered and trademarked logos and names will soon be posted on the IGRA website. Then, it will be required for associations to use the proper logos and names.

I want to remind everyone that IGRA University will be January 13-15, 2012 at the Crowne Plaza Downtown Hotel in St Louis, Missouri. Details can be found on the IGRA website. I encourage everyone who can to attend university; it can be a great learning experience.

I would like to remind all members that the December 11 membership meeting will begin at 7:00 pm – not at the regular time of 4:00 pm. This is because December 11 will also be AGRA's Day of Christmas at Charlie's, and we want to encourage everyone to participate in the evening's activities.

**Ron Trusley, AGRA Trustee
Phone: (602) 510-9671
E-Mail: rtrusley@cox.net**



PUBLIC RELATIONS

Hello AGRA members and fans-

There are many new updates and a couple of new features on our website at www.agra-phx.com. Be sure to check out the:

- Rodeo tickets are now on sale!! See the link in the right side of each page on the website. Order yours today---**
- Sponsors tab for details and links to pay for a RRRR rodeo sponsorship.**
- Vendors tab for info and applications to be a vendor at our next rodeo.**
- A new Press Room link on the Contact Us page to get a quick update on our latest AZ rodeo news.**

Speaking of the website, I am very pleased to let you know that at the 2011 IGRA Convention, Frank Harrell announced the rankings of the local associations' websites. As you may recall, in 2010 AGRA's website ranking jumped from near the bottom of 20+ sites up to Fifth Place. That was a huge accomplishment that required a complete redesign and reconcept of our Internet presence.

For 2011, your AGRA website rose to be ranked Second Place! I want to thank the volunteer efforts and resources of webmaster Gino Meriano and his uDezignIt team for making our improvements and recognition possible over the last several years. They have dedicated their time and talent to our association - and we are very grateful for their assistance and teamwork.

It is my pleasure to also announce in the Branding Iron the winning artist and show the winning design of the 2012 RRRR poster contest. Ron Maldonado submitted a terrific hand-drawn poster design which was selected as the winner. Ron will also be receiving a \$200 prize from us in honor of his effort. Look for Ron's design here in this month's BI. And, congratulations Ron!

December is here. Santa and his elves are getting new cowgirl boots and cowboy hats ready to deliver. AGRA's Days of Christmas are on the way. 12, 11, 10, 9, 8.....

**Greg Gillum
A.G.R.A. - Public Relations**



POSTER DESIGN WINNER!

AGRA is proud to announce the winning artist of its 2012 poster design contest: Ron Maldonado. Check out his rodeo artwork... And congratulations Ron!





MEETING SCHEDULE

AGRA Board Meeting
Schedule 2011 - 2012
(Charlie's Office)

May 11
June 8
July 13
August 3
September 14
October 12
November 16
December 7
January 4
February 8

AGRA Membership Meeting
Schedule 2011 - 2012
(Charlie's Dance Floor)

May 15
June 12
July 17
August 7
September 18
October 16
November 20
December 11
January 8
February 12





CONTACT INFO

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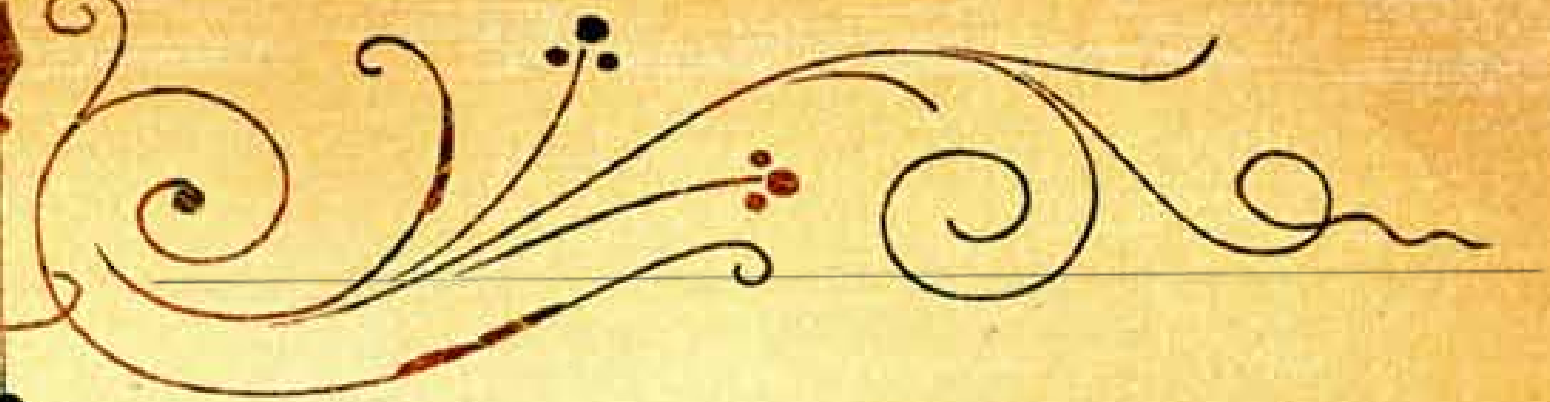
Ms IGRA 2011
Sharon Starks
(602) 402-0076

2012 IGRA Approved Event Dates

| EVENT | DATES | LOCATION |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| IGRA University | January 13-15, 2012 | St. Louis, Missouri |
| Road Runner Regional Rodeo | February 17-19, 2012 | Phoenix, Arizona |
| A Texas Tradition Rodeo | March 2-4, 2012 | Fort Worth, Texas |
| Sunshine Stampede | April 20-22, 2012 | Fort Lauderdale, Florida |
| Hot Rodeo | May 4-6, 2012 | Palm Springs, California |
| BigHorn Rodeo | May 11-13, 2012 | Las Vegas, Nevada |
| Great Plains Rodeo | May 25-27, 2012 | Oklahoma City, Oklahoma |
| Sierra Stampede | June 8-10, 2012 | Sacramento, California |
| Canadian Rockies International Rodeo | June 29- July 1, 2012 | Calgary, Alberta |
| Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo | July 13-15, 2012 | Denver, Colorado |
| Rodeo Fest 2012 | July 27-29, 2012 | Detroit, Michigan |
| Zia Regional Rodeo | August 3-5, 2012 | Sante Fe, New Mexico |
| Windy City Rodeo | August 17-19, 2012 | Chicago, Illinois |
| Show Me State Rodeo | August 31-September 2, 2012 | Kansas City, Missouri |
| San Diego Rodeo | September 7-9, 2012 | San Diego, California |
| Best Buck in the Bay | September 21-23, 2012 | San Francisco, California |
| (26th) World Gay Rodeo Finals | October 12-14, 2012 | Fort Worth, Texas |
| 28th Annual Convention | November 1-4, 2012 | Las Vegas, Nevada |

2013 IGRA Tentative Event Dates

| EVENT | DATES | LOCATION |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| IGRA University | January 18-20, 2013 | St. Louis, Missouri |
| Road Runner Regional Rodeo | February 15-17, 2013 | Phoenix, Arizona |
| A Texas Tradition Rodeo | March 22-24, 2013 | <i>to be determined</i> |
| Sunshine Stampede | April 12-14, 2013 | Fort Lauderdale, Florida |
| Rodeo in The Rock | April 26-28, 2013 | Little Rock, Arkansas |
| Hot Rodeo | May 3-5, 2013 | Palm Springs, California |
| BigHorn Rodeo | May 10-12, 2013 | Las Vegas, Nevada |
| Great Plains Rodeo | May 24-26, 2013 | Oklahoma City, Oklahoma |
| Between Two Rivers Rodeo | May 31-June 2, 2013 | Des Moines, Iowa |
| Sierra Stampede | June 7-9, 2013 | Sacramento, California |
| Canadian Rockies International Rodeo | June 28-30, 2013 | Calgary, Alberta |
| North Star Regional Rodeo | July 5-7, 2013 | Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota |
| Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo | July 12-14, 2013 | Denver, Colorado |
| Rodeo Fest 2013 | July 26-28, 2013 | Detroit, Michigan |
| Zia Regional Rodeo | August 2-4, 2013 | Sante Fe, New Mexico |
| Windy City Rodeo | August 16-18, 2013 | Chicago, Illinois |
| Show Me State Rodeo | August 30-September 1, 2013 | Kansas City, Missouri |
| River City Rodeo | September 13-15, 2013 | Shreveport, Louisiana |
| San Diego Rodeo | September 13-15, 2013 | San Diego, California |
| Best Buck in the Bay | September 20-22, 2013 | San Francisco, California |
| (27th) World Gay Rodeo Finals | October 11-13, 2013 | <i>to be determined</i> |
| 29th Annual Convention | <i>to be determined</i> | <i>to be determined</i> |



2014 IGRA Tentative Event Dates

| EVENT | DATES | LOCATION |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| IGRA University | January 17-19, 2014 | <i>to be determined</i> |
| Road Runner Regional Rodeo | February 14-16, 2014 | Phoenix, Arizona |
| A Texas Tradition Rodeo | March 7-9, 2014 | <i>to be determined</i> |
| Sunshine Stampede | April 4-6, 2014 | Fort Lauderdale, Florida |
| Hot Rodeo | May 2-4, 2014 | Palm Springs, California |
| BigHorn Rodeo | May 9-11, 2014 | Las Vegas, Nevada |
| Great Plains Rodeo | May 23-25, 2014 | Oklahoma City, Oklahoma |
| Between Two Rivers Rodeo | May 30-June 1, 2014 | Des Moines, Iowa |
| Sierra Stampede | June 6-8, 2014 | Sacramento, California |
| Gateway Regional Rodeo | June 13-15, 2014 | St. Louis, Missouri |
| Canadian Rockies International Rodeo | June 27-29, 2014 | Calgary, Alberta |
| North Star Regional Rodeo | July 4-6, 2014 | Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota |
| Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo | July 11-13, 2014 | Denver, Colorado |
| Rodeo Fest 2014 | July 25-27, 2014 | Detroit, Michigan |
| Zia Regional Rodeo | August 1-3, 2014 | Sante Fe, New Mexico |
| Windy City Rodeo | August 15-17, 2014 | Chicago, Illinois |
| Show Me State Rodeo | September 5-7, 2014 | Kansas City, Missouri |
| Atlantic Stampede 2014 | September 12-14, 2014 | Washington, DC |
| San Diego Rodeo | September 12-14, 2014 | San Diego, California |
| Best Buck in the Bay | September 19-21, 2014 | San Francisco, California |
| (28th) World Gay Rodeo Finals | October 10-12, 2014 | <i>to be determined</i> |
| 30th Annual Convention | <i>to be determined</i> | <i>to be determined</i> |



ARIZONA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION

A.G.R.A.

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