

THE BRANDING IRON

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT



ARIZONA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Letter	1
Secretary	2
Trustee	3
Treasurer	6
The Voice	7
Board/Royalty Contacts	9

December 2013 Edition
Next Newsletter Deadline:
December 25th 2013

Send submissions to:
Justin@TheCreativeArcade.com

Howdy Y'all,

I hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving with family, friends, and loved ones! We have had a busy month in November. It started of with The 2014 IGRA annual convention. It was a learning experience as always and so much fun to see our fellow brothers and sisters of gay rodeo. I want to thank everyone who attended Ron Trusley, Doug Holmes, John King, Michael Chavez, Kevin Mcsweeny aka Pussy LeHoot, Marcos Sandoval, Dan Iversen, Edgar Garcia, Jai Crystal, and Todd Wyckoff. You should be very proud as they all represented AGRA very well as you can see from the pictures on the convention floor.

I also had the pleasure of working with our infamous baker for AGRA at our Thanksgiving Day bake sale. Let me tell I think Walt has finally got his troops under control and we finished in record timing!! Thanks Walt and Ron for your hospitality as always! The goodies were absolutely amazing.

I want to invite everyone to our AGRA Christmas Show and Bake sale on Sunday December 22, 2013 at 8pm. Come out and support your fellow AGRA members as they buck and twirl for \$\$\$. Also, don't forget to pick up a homemade goodie to take to your holiday party.

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

Respectfully,

Michael Weidmann
AGRA President



SECRETARY'S REPORT

Dear AGRA Members,

I am excited to report AGRA currently numbers ninety-one cowboys and cowgirls, including six champion members. Following up on the last membership meeting, I wanted to share some of the details of the upcoming Desert Iron 2014 event hosted by the Lambda Car Club International Central Arizona. The event will be January 16-18th, 2014 and the host hotel is the Carefree Resort and Conference Center. Lambda Car Club Central Arizona has extended an enthusiastic invitation to AGRA members to attend as this year's event will be a western cowboy theme. This is bound to be tons of fun and there is so much going on that weekend that I encourage you to visit <http://www.azgaycar.com> to get full details. I will also send out a reminder closer to the event's date!

Finally, I'd like to wish a happy birthday to the following members:

December 6th	Bob Pimentel
December 9th	Jon Carnet
December 13th	Nic
December 15th	Sarah
December 16th	Lorenzo Dell Aquila
December 16th	Jon Stetson
December 20th	Cookie
December 24th	Pat R
December 26th	Frankie
December 27th	Gary Hatterman
December 29th	Richard Josef

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Roe
AGRA Secretary



TRUSTEE

Hello Members,

Well, we have another IGRA Annual Convention “under our belts”. The 29th IGRA Annual Convention was held at the Hilton Hotel Mission Valley in San Diego November 15-17. AGRA had a full delegation consisting of Ron Trusley, Michael Weidmann, Jai Crystal, Dan Iversen, John King, and Marcos Sandavol as Delegates and Kevin McSweeny, Todd Wyckoff, Michael Chavez, Doug Holmes, and Edgar Garcia as Alternates. I believe AGRA was represented in every committee meeting on Friday.

The convention ran quite smoothly, and there was no major debate. Surprisingly, there are not even a lot of Bylaws/Standing Rules or Rodeo Rules changes. Most of the rodeo rules changes deal specifically with individual events. I would like to give you a quick and brief summary of convention actions.

Three associations did not renew their membership in IGRA. The associations are: CCGRA-Central Canada Gay Rodeo Association, HSRA-High Sierra Rodeo Association, and SSRA-Sooner State Rodeo Association.

A quick summary of changes that affect the association include:

The rodeo sanction fee was increased from \$600.00 to \$700.00, but the seat tax will no longer be required. And, by the way, in 2013 AGRA was the only association that paid an additional seat tax for tickets sold over 1,000. The \$25.00 per event contestant entry fees will be divided with \$17.00 to contestant day money, \$4.00 to the host association, \$2.00 to be held in escrow by IGRA for finals day money, and \$2.00 to the IGRA General Operating account.

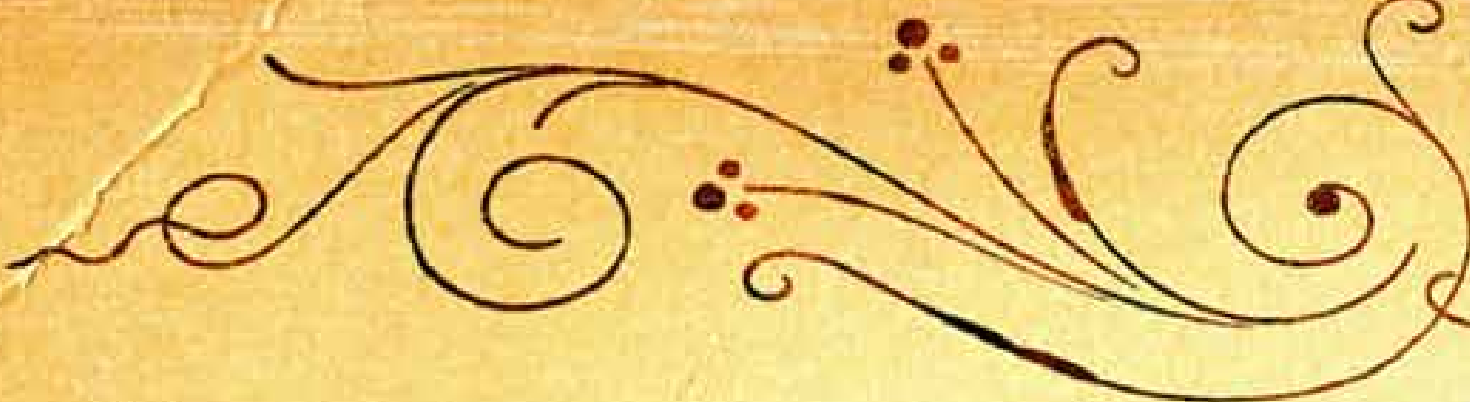
In camp events, steers cannot have bobbed or partial tails.

Riding steers must be a minimum of 800 pounds

The tractor must be removed from the active performance arena area during contestant runs.

Associations are no longer required to include a copy of the “IGRA Health & Safety Newsletter (aka Horse Sense) in the contestant and staff packets.

Rodeo stock must be comparable to stock used in a “senior division” rodeo.

A decorative flourish consisting of dark brown, swirling lines and small circular accents, positioned at the top of the page.

No smoking is allowed within the arena, working chutes area, or secretarial area while the rodeo is in progress.

Rodeo requirements or rule changes made at annual convention affecting an association whose rodeo is less than 90 days may ask for a variance in the board of trustees' meeting following close of convention.

James Jenkins from CGRA was elected as IGRA Vice President, and Bruce Gros from CGRA was elected as IGRA Secretary.

Inducted into the IGRA Hall of Fame were Lloyd (Mitch) Gill, Jeannine Tuttle, Linda Frazier, and Lee Kittleson.

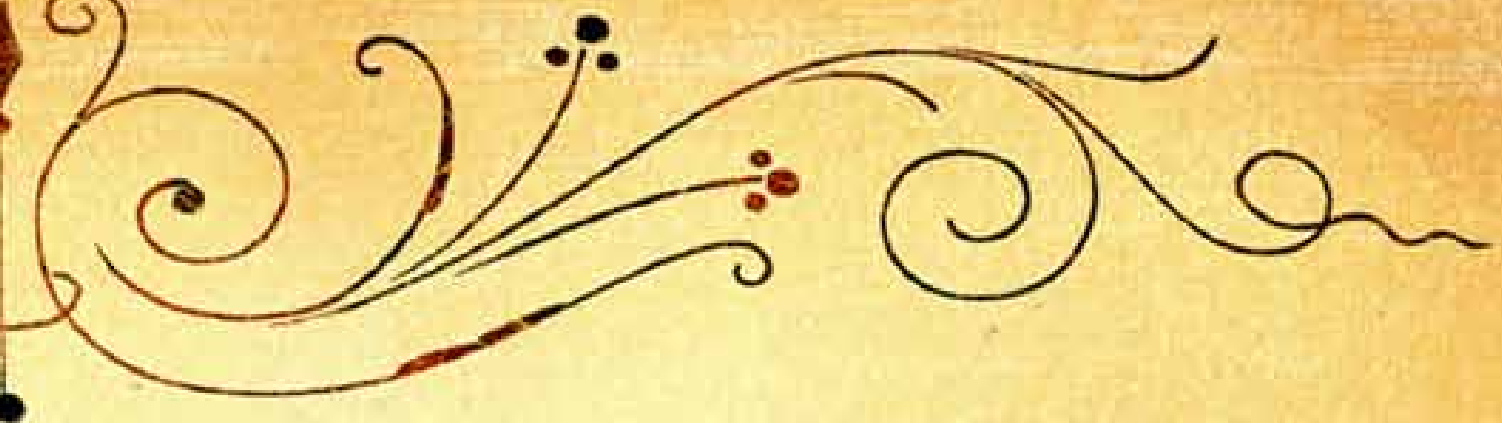
An IGRA-sanctioned rodeo, offering all 14 approved events, will be held in conjunction with Gay Games 9 August 9-6, 2014 in Cleveland & Akron, Ohio. Depending on the number of contestant entries, the rodeo will be a 2-day event, a 4-day event, or a 6-day event.

Dan Nagel from TGRA will be the IGRA Finals Committee Chair for 2014, and Clark Monk from ARGRA will be the Rodeo Director. The 2014 finals rodeo will once again be in Fort Worth, Texas.

The 30th IGRA Annual Convention will be in Denver, Colorado November 13-16, 2014, and the 2015 convention will be at the Sirata Beach Resort in St Petersburg, Florida November 12-15, 2015.

Eight of the AGRA Delegates and Alternate Delegates attended the 2nd Annual Paladin Awards Dinner and Ceremony on Saturday evening. We gave a "brief" presentation on "Pride in the Saddle – Arizona". The presentation provided a very short history of AGRA, recognized our two remaining founding members – John King & Dan Iversen, and comments about the month-long activities at the Burton Barr Phoenix Public Library in March 2013. The library received the Paladin Award; however, no one from the library was able to attend. Later in the year, the award will be presented to the library; and it is my understanding that the City Mayor and other city officials will be in attendance.

In the post-convention Trustees' Meeting, Ray Ostmann-GWGRA was elected as Trustees' Chairperson. Guy Puglisi-NGRA was elected as Division I Vice Chairperson; Janie Van Santen-ARGRA was elected as Division II Vice Chairperson; and Steve Schultz-ILGRA was



elected as Division IV Vice Chairperson

Only 14 local rodeos are on the 2014 schedule along with the rodeo at Gay Games 9 and the IGRA Finals Rodeo.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who helped in any way with the November 24 bake sale. Walt Hutter began with preparations a few weeks ago and was up at 4:30 am on Saturday continuing with the baking and preparations. On Saturday, Patrick Roe, Michael Weidmann, Jai Crystal, Greg Begay, and Mikey spent several hours helping with the preparations, decorating, etc. Thanks to those who helped carry in everything from the cars and helped with the sales throughout the evening. And, a special thanks to everyone who sold the turkey raffle tickets. Amazing that all of the baked goods were sold out in just about two (2) hours! THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!!!

Respectfully submitted,

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

TREASURER REPORT

October : Balance Sheet	
Total Assets	\$1,179.67
Checking	\$1,179.67
CD	\$0
Non Rodeo	(\$970.15)
Rodeo	\$800.00
Year to Date 2014 Rodeo Net Income	(\$6,800.00)
Rodeo	
Income:	Expenses:
Vendor Spaces \$800	
Non-Rodeo	
Income:	Expenses:
Membership Due \$35	Bank & Credit Card Exp \$127.95
Merchandise \$76	IGRA Convention \$1375
Patio Show \$594	Telephone \$172.20
November : Balance Sheet	
Total Assets	\$1,957.09
Checking	\$1,957.09
CD	\$0
Non Rodeo	\$347.42
Rodeo	\$430.00
Year to Date 2014 Rodeo Net Income	(\$6,370.00)
Rodeo	
Income:	Expenses:
Vendor Spaces \$400	
Advance Gate Sales \$30	
Non-Rodeo	
Income:	Expenses:
Membership Due \$35	Bank & Credit Card Exp \$127.95
Turkey Sales \$593	Bake Sale \$500
Bake Sale \$485	Turkeys \$63.43
	Telephone \$74.20

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. The overall style is elegant and classic.

THE VOICE OF THE INNOCENT

Well, you know the saying “What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas”. I don’t think that is true for San Diego.

I hear Trixie Deluxe has a difficult time telling the difference between night and day especially when a trip to “Hillcrest” is planned versus sitting on the IGRA Convention floor. About 9:00 am on Saturday, I am sure I heard “Is the bar open yet; I sure am thirsty”. Oh, I am not saying Trixie drinks, but I must say: sorry girl, all of the goodies in the November 24 bake sale are non-alcoholic, and the next IGRA Convention is not until November 2014. But, just remember Christmas is only a few short weeks away!

When you see Dan Iversen, be sure you ask him about “sleep walking” in the Hilton Hotel Mission Valley in San Diego. I bet it was quite a long, cold walk up all those stairs to the 8th floor – especially considering the time! I don’t want to give away any secrets, but I’ll tell you it was quite interesting to be awakened by a rather quiet knock on the door and to get out of bed, open the door, and see Dan standing there. I thought he had been sleeping all this time! Ask Dan to give you all of the details.

It seems Mikey Chavez and Todd Wyckoff are both trying to get on the road to stardom. What happens if they both try to get to Vegas at the same time and for the same show? Maybe they had better flip a coin to see who goes to Vegas and who goes to Hollywood! Sorry, guys, AGRA does not have a karaoke machine! I tell you these guys love to sing and entertain, and “entertain they did” on Sunday evening. I think I heard both of them say “just give me another beer” and I will sing again! Look out divas! By the way, Michael Weidmann, has Todd told you his departure date?

It seems Jai’s high school friends follow him from city to city! Do they know something we don’t know? Anyone for a vodka soda? Heck, where did everybody go; it is still early! And, no one wants to drink with me. On, well, that is okay; the locals are always interesting and fun. I was told Jai was in room 1030, but I think there is a story about a hallway in the hotel. Jai, do you want to elaborate; we are all “ears”.

This innocent child missed the bar tour in San Diego. Well, I believe it was announced as a bar tour, but I hear it wasn’t much of a tour! I understand Pussy LeHoot was quite the “tour director”, and that was probably a good thing. It doesn’t matter what the circumstances are or what city she is in, Pussy says “Just give me a microphone and a “Jimmy”, and I am ready!



Oh, wait, don't stop yet; I just got started! Do I see "cruise director" on Pussy's resume?

There is just way too much to tell you about Michael Weidmann....But, Sunday after convention, NGRA sponsored a \$300 bar tab at the Red Wing Bar and Grill. When I finally arrived a few hours later, the first couple of things I heard when I walked through the door were "Do you want a beer? Come over here!" No where in the bar did I see anyone from NGRA, but I certainly did see people from AGRA. There was no way I could miss the AGRA "girls". I think they took advantage of the full \$300 bar tab. Actually it looked like they were having way too much fun! Their table was full of empties so I could not even find room to set down one glass! Michael: Are you sure Charlie's Las Vegas was not the sponsor?

I think I heard "share with everyone", but I am not so sure Jai, Dan and Todd wanted to share "Ryan". I don't even know who won; I just know Dan did not bring him to our hotel room.

Did you think I forgot about our other AGRA representatives? No way! I did not see much of Doug Holmes except during convention. Doug says he had dinner at a cousin's house, but is that really where he was. I understand there are many places in Hillcrest where one can find pleasure and enjoyment! Maybe I should ask Tommy Channel if he saw Doug.

Oh, Edgar (Carlos)! Edgar wants everyone to believe he is so quiet and so innocent. But, did you happen to see a picture of Edgar sitting on the convention floor on Sunday? Girl, don't let the hair cover your eyes. And, where did you get that wig? Hey, don't forget; there will be a place for you in the AGRA Christmas Show.

Did you think I forgot John King? No way! Sometimes John may not say a lot, but you know he is thinking. I think a couple of times I heard him say: "It's time for me to take a break (nap?); I have heard this so many times over the years! Don't they ever listen. We have only had 29 IGRA Conventions, and I have been to every convention. Do I have a permanent seat? Well, are we going to change the chute dogging rule again; it would probably be the 58th time in 29 years that the rule has been changed!

Okay, everybody just stay civil! I think there is probably only room for 1 diva at a time! Just wait your turn!

Do you want to be the next "AGRA Celebrity"? Well, start getting ready now for the next IGRA Convention in Denver in November 2014. That could be your time!



CONTACT INFO

Board of Directors

Michael Weidmann
President
(602) 885-9565
m.weidmann@cox.net

Jai Crystal
Treasurer
(602) 463-0972
jared@sba-tax.com

Kevin McSweeny
Fundraising Director
(602) 518-5064
plehoot@yahoo.com

Marcos Sandoval
Vice President
(602) 341-7672
trixd34@gmail.com

Patrick Roe
Secretary
(480) 577-5976
agrapat@hotmail.com

Todd Wyckoff
Public Relations
toddmwyckoff@hotmail.com

Ron Trusley
Trustee
(602) 510-9671
rtrusley@cox.net

Justin Gonzalez
Editor
(480)220-8087
justin@thecreativearcade.com

2013 Royalty

Kayla Krawford
Miss AGRA 2013
602-377-3311
Dswann2013@gmail.com
Facebook.com/kaylakrawford

Dan Oldenburg
Mr AGRA 2013
602-694-6411
way2broke2rope@yahoo.com

JoJo Sin Clair
Miss AGRA 1st Runner Up 2013
ejmuniz09@yahoo.com

Gunner Gatlyn
MsTer AGRA 2013
602-435-6099
gunnergatlyn@gmail.com



ARIZONA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION

A.G.R.A.

P.O. BOX 40465

PHOENIX · AZ 85067-0465



LAYOUT & DESIGN BY
CREATIVE ARCADE LLC
www.TheCreativeArcade.com
info@TheCreativeArcade.com