



**ARIZONA
GAY
RODEO
ASSOCIATION**



From the desk of the President

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Let me start off by admitting that YES, I am the “new kid on the block” and by all means I have a lot of learning to do. My drive and determination to ensure that this organization continues to do the great work that it is known for is incomprehensible. This is our time, **RIGHT NOW**, to move this organization forward. Leaving personal agendas and bias's aside, lets all take a step back and look at what would be the best for AGRA. This will be my goal for the remainder of the year.

Now let's get down to business. Congratulations to Michael Butts on becoming Vice President. I look forward to working with you this year. It will be a great one. Our new AGRA website is being finalized and should be done any day now. George and Dan are working vigorously trying to nail down a venue for our 2010 rodeo. We will be announcing our Branding Iron Editor at our membership meeting May 10th, 2009.

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone that participated in the Pride Float, Booth, etc. I heard all weekend what a presence AGRA had. **GREAT JOB EVERYBODY!!!!**

I will close by saying I am **VERY PROUD** to be part of this organization. Everyone of you should be proud as well!!! Over the years we have done great things and donated an astronomical amount to different charities!! Yes, we make a difference, **TOGETHER! TOGETHER** lets make our 25th anniversary rodeo one that will be unforgettable!!!

Respectfully,

Michael Weidmann

AGRA President 2009

June Edition

Newsletter Deadline: 25 May 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 All,

Just a brief update on what the AGRA Royalty Team been doing.

Both Mr., and Miss AGRA 2009 participated in Gay Pride parade and at the festival held on the weekend of April 18th - 19th. Thank you to all who worked on the AGRA float and a big thanks to Travis for taking on the task of the float this year. **Job Well Done!!!**

That Same weekend as Pride, Ms. IGRA 2009 and Miss IGRA 2nd Runner up 2009 were representing IGRA in Little Rock Arkansas at DSRA Rodeo and. Mr.IGRA 2nd Runner up 2009 volunteered both days at the pride festival here in Phoenix.

MS. IGRA Sharon Starks caught her calf on Saturday during calf roping on foot and placed second for the day. **Way To Go Sharon!!!** Mr.IGRA 2nd Runner up Volunteered both days at the pride festival.

The AGRA Royalty Team will be heading off to Palm Springs May 1st - May 3rd for the Hot Rodeo as well as our AGRA rodeo contestants who will be competing in the rodeo. Come and have a good time and support the hot Rodeo and our AGRA Contestants.

Good Luck Rodeo Contestants from your AGRA and IGRA Royalty.

Thank you for your continuous support of AGRA,

Michael Butts

AGRA Vice President

From the desk of the Secretary

9-Feb Chuck Greiner
11-Feb Sherry Mullen
17-Feb Patrick V. Nichols
1-Mar Gregory Begay
6-Mar John King
7-Mar Flint Freeman
9-Mar Paul "Popper" DuBray
14-Mar Bob Shukis
19-Mar Phillip Harvy
19-Mar Connie Mullen
22-Mar George Herrera
5-Apr Kyle Q. Ross
9-Apr Gino Meriano
15-Apr Michael Bowsher
15-Apr Alfredo Quezada
20-Apr Louis Willford
25-Apr Larry Saunders
30-Apr Scott Vreeland
9-May Michael Weidmann
12-May Joey Jacinto
13-May Steve Monjaras
14-May Dan Oldenburg
16-May Edgar Garcia
17-May Rick Bard
20-May Brian Helander
23-May Jay Wesley Barker



Howdy Folks,

As you can see I have started the Birthday Corner once again. I want to wish all our members listed the best year and many more.

Happy Birthday

Wish them all the best!!!

This year will be the best year for all our members to come together and share the joys we all have and to give the support to each other we all need.

Let this our 25th Anniversary of Rodeo be the beginning of 25 more years of GREAT Fun.

Keith A. Carson

AGRA Secretary 2009



From the desk of the Trustee

Trustee's Report

Two AGRA members competed in Rodeo in the Rock in Little Rock, Arkansas the weekend of April 18-19, 2009. On Saturday Sharon Starks placed 2nd in Roping on Foot – missing first place by a mere .02 of a second. On Saturday Clinton Bartlett placed 3rd in Pole Bending, and on Sunday he placed 2nd. He placed 3rd in the Pole Bending weekend results – missing winning the buckle by only .51 of a second. Congratulations to both Sharon and Clinton!

The Lucky 13 BigHorn Rodeo in Las Vegas will be a 1-day rodeo on Saturday, September 19, 2009. To address yearly complaints about heat in the middle of the day, the rodeo will be split into slack events from 9:13 a.m.-2:13 p.m. and performance (the Main Event) from 5:13-9:13 p.m. Contestant registration will take place at the rodeo grounds on Friday night from 6-9 p.m. The awards ceremony will be at the rodeo grounds on Sunday morning from 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

The PacWest sanctioned BigHorn Rodeo Barrel Race Classic will take place on Sunday, co-produced with the Western Heritage & Education, Inc. organization. Plans are to have \$2,000 added prize money for this event. Competition in this event will be open to any IGRA contestant who may register anytime during the weekend for an additional entry fee TBD. Horse contestants will receive one free stall for Friday and Saturday and may elect to stay Sunday for an additional stall fee TBD.

The Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo is scheduled for the weekend of July 10-12, 2009. CGRA is adding an OPEN 5-D Jackpot Barrel Race with \$1,000 added money on Friday night at the rodeo grounds. This barrel race will NOT be sanctioned by anyone, so there will be points awarded, no ribbons, no buckles, and no saddles. Payout will be six deep in each of the 5-D's with an 80% return to contestants. Entry fee is \$55 with a one-time \$5 office fee for processing. Sign-up is limited to only 150 contestants, and CGRA has reserved 60 slots for IGRA association members coming to RMRR 27; but this is only until June 26, 2009. Registration is separate from RMRR 27 and must be done through True West Productions at <http://www.truewestproductions.org/0971009.asp>. Questions should be forwarded to True West Productions or C.D. Slusser at coyotetrak@yahoo.com.

AGRA Bylaws specify that IGRA Convention Delegates and Alternate Delegates shall be received at each membership meeting in May and June with ballot voting by members present at the July membership meeting. The 2009 convention will November 12-15 in Toronto, Ontario, CANADA.

My 3-year term as Trustee ends December 31, 2009, and AGRA Bylaws specify that nominations shall be received at each membership meeting in September and October with voting by members present at the November membership meeting.

In the April Membership Meeting a member asked how much money we received from the December 17, 2008 fundraiser at Denny's on 7th Street & Camelback. AGRA/RRRR was to receive a percentage of dinners served on that day. AGRA/RRRR received \$82.44, but the check was not received until 02/15/09. This was reported in the financial reports.



Ron Trusley, AGRA Trustee

E-Mail: rtrusley@cox.net

Phone: (602) 510-9671

From the desk of the Public Relations Director

Hello A.G.R.A. members -

As most of you are aware, our Arizona Gay Rodeo Association participated at the Phoenix Pride Festival. However, you may not be aware that we had more than a RRRR booth at this event. Mr. A.G.R.A. 2009, Travis James, helped organize our motorized and non-motorized entries in the Pride Parade on Saturday as well. Thank you to Travis and all the folks in the parade - especially the clean-up crew!

Speaking of Pride, our 2010 RRRR Co-Directors, George and Dan, ran the rodeo booth proudly that weekend. However, they could not have done it by themselves. Here is a shout out to each of you who volunteered your time and energy. Thank you Patrick, Keith, Richard, Jay, Chuck, Mitch, Darrell, Kyle, Sherri, Connie, Travis, Jodi, Richard (from Men of Charlie's), and Carl, Ferdy, and George from the Arizona Heatwave!

The rodeo booth at Pride was also supported by A.G.R.A. members and their families who donated items for sale and as prizes. Our association is honored by the generosity of Brian, Chuck, Jeremy, Brandon, Connie, Sherri, George, Dan, and Dan's mom. Thank you so much for your help.

Over Pride weekend, the rodeo booth grossed well over \$800 in sales and donations. Hey, they even signed up several new members. Outstanding! One of the goals of this year's rodeo booth was to promote our 25th Anniversary rodeo website. Check it out while under construction: agra25.com

Looking ahead, Pussy LeHoot is hosting our next A.G.R.A./RRRR fundraiser. Chili Verde Days takes place Saturday, May 9 at Charlie's. Put it on your calendar now - you don't want to miss it...

Here's to a hot Spring--

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

From the desk of the Fund Raising Director

Hello Members,

I'd like to start by thanking everyone who came out and supported our 3 day event of NMGRA & AGRA. It was a total success. In all we raised a total of \$1,480.25. Thanks to all the staff of Kobalt and Charlie's for giving us such great venues.

Friday the 10th @ Kobalt we raised \$340.00.

Saturday on Charlie's patio we raised \$400.00.

Easter Sunday @ Charlie's we raised 1/2—\$740.13 which went to NMGRA and 1/2-\$740.13 which went to AGRA.

Don't forget to join us on the patio @ Charlie's, Saturday, May 9th for our Annual Chili Verde Day. This is a special fundraiser with a South of the Border Flavor. Show time is 9:30.



On May 23rd, Sharon, Michael and Pussy Host their IGRA Fundraiser on Charlie's Patio @ 9:30. It's a Trailer Trash Party, so come get "TRASHY" with your 2009 IGRA Royalty Team.

Have a great Month and Keep those **\$'s** coming in.

Kevin McSweeney

Pussy LeHoot

Fund Raising Director 2009

From the desk of the Membership & Contestant Liaison

RRR 2010 is our 25th Anniversary Rodeo – we need everyone's help and involvement.

What can you do for AGRA this year?

Rodeo Results on the IGRA Circuit!

****Sunshine Stampede – Ft. Lauderdale Florida Rodeo 2009****

AGRA had a few contestants representing us at the 2009 Sunshine Stampede:

Men's Chute Dogging:

Brian Helander took 1st on Saturday and 2nd on Sunday

Chuck Browning took 3rd on Saturday and 1st on Sunday

Brian Helander won the Buckle!

Chuck B. came in 2nd for the weekend

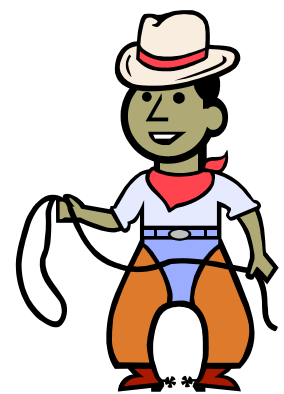


Men's Calf Roping on Foot:

Chuck Browning took 1st on Saturday and 5th on Sunday

Brian Helander took 5th on Sunday

Chuck B. Won the Buckle!



From the desk of the Membership & Contestant Liaison

Men's Flag Race:

Popper D took 1st place on Saturday

Steer Decorating:

Popper D and Ed M took 2nd on Saturday

Brain Helander and Chuck Browning took 6th on Sat & 8th on Sun

Wild Drag Race:

Brain Helander and Chuck Browning teamed up with Dana H of FGRA, who actually competed in the first Gay Rodeo in Reno.

On Sunday they took 8th place.

Goat Dressing:

Brian Helander and Chuck Browning took 7th on Saturday, and recovered on Sunday with a 1st Place.

IN the All-Around top 5, Chuck Browning took 4th place, and Brian Helander took 5th place. Not bad for only competing in 5 events.

Way to go AGRA for taking 5th place in the team standings!

From the desk of the Membership & Contestant Liaison

Goat Dressing:

Brian Helander and Chuck Browning took 7th on Saturday, and recovered on Sunday with a 1st Place.

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Way to go AGRA for taking 5th place in the team standings!

*****Rodeo in the Rock! 2009 Rodeo Results*****

I will give a more detailed report next month, but it was reported that AGRA Contestant Clinton B finished 2nd in Pole Bending, and that Sharon S caught her calf in Calf Roping on Foot! at the Little Rock Rodeo that was held over our Pride Weekend. Thank you to Clinton and Sharon for representing AGRA. I believe Pussy LeHoot was also in Little Rock representing AGRA. Thank you Pussy!

As always, my contact information is provided if you have any questions.

Cowboy and Cowgirl up!

Hope to see some of you in Palm Springs the first weekend in May for the 2009 Hot Rodeo!

Respectfully submitted by Chuck Browning

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

From the desk of the Rodeo Director

Phoenix PRIDE 2009 is over but not forgotten! Boy did we have fun in the AGRA/RRRR booth this year! I must confess that this PRIDE event was among the best I can remember in recent years. George and I would like to send a HUGE Thank You to AGRA members who donated items for our spinning wheel raffle gifts. Chuck Browning and Brian Helander donated two beautiful matching rodeo belt buckles. Connie Mullins and Sherry Reedy-Mullins donated a beautiful hand painted decorative tile. Cary Leibowitz donated a \$100.00 gift certificate for the Hair Salon 103 in Scottsdale. Jeremy Johnson donated a \$100.00 gift certificate for his Wash and Fold Laundromat in Tempe. Co-Rodeo Director George Immerso and his partner Cary L. also donated a framed piece of western artwork. My Mother, Deloris Iversen donated a handmade quilt and I donated another piece of framed western artwork. April, from Hensley donated lots of BUD LIGHT giveaways and we put those items to great use and last, but certainly not least, Michael Weidman and Charlie's Phoenix donated Charlie's t-shirts and recession buster beverage tickets. And speaking of Charlie's Phoenix, all of us in AGRA owes another HUGE Thank You to Michael Weidman and David Patterson for building the spinning wheel that was used all weekend in our booth! The wheel was a HUGE success and created GREAT interest the entire weekend. In addition to having the spinning wheel, we sold t-shirts, bandanas and several other items that were donated by Patrick Nichols and Keith Carson that were to be used for fundraising efforts. We sincerely appreciate all that you gentlemen do for AGRA/RRRR! Not only did we have great raffle gifts in the booth but we had at least 21 volunteers who helped run the booth. Your volunteering was greatly appreciated and we sincerely Thank You! Richard Merritt helped George and I set up and tear down the booth as well as working most of the weekend. Other volunteers included; Harry M. and his partner Ron, Chuck B., Ed C., Darrell and Kyle, Sherry and Connie, Travis J., Patrick and Keith, Jay L., Bob S., and Cary L. And we most certainly can't forget, three members of the AGRA Arizona Heatwave Line Dance team who also volunteered on Sunday. Carl, Ferdy and Richard. Thank You guys and ladies, I hope you had as much fun helping us as we had working with you! Another GREAT thing about the weekend was that we took in \$843.00 between the two days.

CONGRATULATIONS AGRA/RRRR!

Other Rodeo Director's business! Negotiations continue for a venue for February 2010. While George, Jeremy and myself continue to check into other venues and do the necessary financial comparisons, as to "how and where" AGRA/RRRR will benefit the most financially. This is a tough job but an absolute essential part of the puzzle of producing a gay Rodeo!

RRRR 2010, as we all know, will be AGRA's 25th Anniversary Rodeo and our goal, with the help of the membership is to make this Rodeo the best and safest on the IGRA circuit.

On another note, most AGRA members know that I leave Arizona during the summer months to run my business in South Dakota. Please, should any members decide that they would like to talk with me regarding Rodeo, while I am away, you may call me on my cell anytime at 602-769-0293.

Thank You AGRA for believing in George and myself. We will not disappoint you!

Sincerely,
Dan Iversen and George Immerso
Co-Rodeo Directors

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 - Assistant Rodeo Director

www.Jerjohn2@verizon.net

AGRA MEMBERSHIP & BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

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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