

BRANDING IRON

FEBRUARY 2019



The Official Newsletter of the Arizona Gay Rodeo Association

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our new "rodeo year" begins March 1, 2019 which also means the new Board Members will take office. The 2019 Arizona Gay Rodeo Association Board is:

President	Ron Trusley
Vice President	Michael Butts
Secretary	Christi Mikels (Chris Fairbrother)
Public Relations Director	Mark Boyd
Fund Raising Director	Claudia B (Joshua Sipe)
Trustee	RJ Mikels (effective 01/01/19)

In the March 6, 2019 Board Meeting, the board will appoint a Treasurer for a 2-year term.

Jeffrey Smit was on the 2018 board as Fund Raising Director. Thank you Jeffrey for serving in this position and serving AGRA in 2018!!!

Also in the March 6 Board Meeting, the board will appoint a Rodeo Director for 2020 and 2021 as well as various committee chairs and/or committees.

The Annual Corporation Meeting/Banquet was held Saturday – February 23, 2019 with 45 people in attendance. Three nominations were submitted for 2018 Member of the Year. Members present selected Michael Weidmann as the recipient. Congratulations Michael!!!

I acknowledged several individuals and said I would present them with special recognition awards in a future membership meeting. Also, in future meetings I plan to present other individuals with recognition awards.

I want to once again acknowledge our 2019 Royalty and thank the 2018 Royalty for their dedication and hard work. I am sure the 2019 team will work just as diligently and hard and represent AGRA very well in their various activities – both locally and on the IGRA circuit. The 2019 Royalty are:

Mr AGRA	Mahlon Lovell
Mr AGRA 1st Runner-Up	Ryan Knop
Miss AGRA	Piper M'Shay
Miss AGRA 1st Runner-Up	Nikki Starr
Miss AGRA 2nd Runner-Up	Celeste Powers

I am sure I will have more to report in the April Branding Iron.

As always, if you have suggestions and/or questions, contact me at anytime.



-Ron Trusley
Ron Trusley

President
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RODEO DIRECTOR'S REPORT

WOW, we just produced our 34th Annual Arizona Gay Rodeo held February 15-17, 2019. Fifty-eight contestants competed in the rodeo.

Although, we do not yet have final numbers, it appears that the rodeo was financially successful and should generate a good profit.

Thanks to the Rodeo Committee for their hard work, dedication, and for taking the initiative to try new things at the rodeo. I thoroughly enjoyed the variety of entertainment throughout the weekend; and I only heard positive comments!!!! The "Games on the Green" seemed to be well received and enjoyed by many – both adults and children.

Thanks to Michael Weidmann for taking the lead in implementing the three major fund raisers. Our last fundraiser was the TV raffle. The winner of the TV is Richie Joey Barraza.

Fifty-eight people attended the Rodeo Volunteer Party on Friday – February 22. Thanks to Walt Hutter for preparing all of the delicious food. I heard so many comments about how good the Hawaiian Meat Balls were, and they sure "went quick".

I tried to thank as many volunteers and vendors at the rodeo as I possibly

could. And, at the volunteer party I thanked them again. I appreciate each of them and thank them from the bottom of my heart.

In the Review Board Meeting on Sunday evening after rodeo, only positive/ good comments were made. I did not hear any complaints during the rodeo, and our officials did an outstanding job.

Hopefully, we will be able to close the rodeo books by the end of March (hopefully sooner), and in the following membership meeting decide how much money we can give to charitable organizations.

I am sure the Rodeo Director will begin forming a rodeo committee and begin meetings very soon after appointment. Planning and meeting throughout the year are "key ingredients" in helping ensure a successful and fun rodeo.

Jesse Contreras from New Mexico was selected as the recipient of the Greg Olson Memorial Buckle. Jeffrey Smit was selected as the recipient of the Bob Pimentel Memorial Buckle.

And, I certainly cannot forget the



"Golden Girls". Thank you and your volunteers so very much for all of your work and making a good profit for AGRA in the AGRA Booth. You are the best!!

And, what about the dinner on Sunday evening before awards? This was the first time we have done this, and sixty-eight people participated. Good idea to do this again in 2020?.

-Ron Trusley

Ron Trusley

2019 Rodeo Director

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A colorful advertisement for an event at Pat O's Bunk House Saloon. The background is a dark, stylized city street at night with neon signs. The text is in bright, glowing colors. At the top left is the Pat O's Bunk House Saloon logo. The main text reads "March 23 2019" and "9:30 pm". Below that is "NIGHT ON BROADWAY" in large, glowing letters. At the bottom, it says "Entertainment" and "\$5 Beer Bust". There are also logos for AGRA and Rodeo Queens.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Happy March
2019 AGRA
Members!

We closed out
the year at 136
members!

Annual AGRA
Memberships
EXPIRED
FEBRUARY 28,
2019.



Renew online NOW!!
Visit agra-phx.com. Be a part of
something great!

Welcome our Newest AGRA Members:

Bill Butler
Fernando Worker
Dorie Duncan
Gregory Wagner
Ziad Alsharmani
Stephen Myers-Fulgham
Alex Saites
Greg Gilbert
Rob Silver
Daniel Knosp
Rick Nixon

Happy Birthday AGRA Members
born in March:

3/1 Gregory Wagner
3/1 Greg Begay
3/2 Michael Brent
3/3 Sharon Starks

Chris Fairbrother (Christi Mikels)
Secretary



VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Howdy,

I want to congratulate our newly sashed
and crowned 2019 AGRA Royalty team.

Miss AGRA Piper-M'Shay

Miss AGRA 1st Runner-Up Nikki Starr

Miss AGRA 2nd Runner-Up Celeste Powers

Mr AGRA Mahlon Lovell

Mr 1st Runner-Up Ryan Knop

These individuals will be out in our
community raising money for charities,
AGRA and IGRA, so come out and
support them. They have started off with
a bang by volunteering at the Arizona
Gay Rodeo held last month. They are
required to volunteer at rodeos they
attend under a certified official or
compete in 2 rodeo events in 2 different
categories to be eligible to compete at
the International level in October.

I'm pleased to announce that
Miss AGRA 1st Runner -Up -Nikki
Starr Miss AGRA, 2nd Runner -Up-



Celeste Powers, and Mr 1st Runner-
Up- Ryan Knop worked in the arena
both days under the supervision
of the Arena Crew Coordinator
Travis James (Mr IGRA 2019).

Mahlon has been on the rodeo
committee this past year and as our
Contestant Services Coordinator supplied
our rodeo competitors' snacks and water
all weekend. Miss AGRA Piper M'Shay
hosted rodeo party buses all weekend
and entertained in the pavilion.

Thank you for a great start to
your year as AGRA royalty.

Michael Butts
Vice President

2019 AGRA Board of Directors

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TRUSTEE'S REPORT

On February the 15th 2019 was the first IGRA Board meeting for the year. There were many things discussed and I will share some of the highlights with you this month and will go more into detail during the March meeting. I will start out by saying that my first board meeting was a very interesting experience and I did learn a lot.

Convention for 2019 was approved for Denver Colorado for November 22nd - 24th 2019. It will be at the Holiday Inn Denver East. They have worked out an excellent room rate and a discount for everyone at the restaurant.

World Gay Rodeo Finals 2019 is already in the planning and will be held here in sunny Arizona at Westworld. There is already one fundraiser going and it is a raffle for a 55 inch TV. You can get tickets from committee members. One thing the committee is looking at is asking all associations to help raise funds for finals. If every association would do just one fundraiser for finals that would make a huge difference not matter the size of the fundraiser. The committee is still looking for more people to help with finals and if anyone is interested please come and talk to me.

It was also discussed that when a fundraiser is held for IGRA that it is

preferred that we state that the funds are being raised for IGRA and their programs instead of charities. Since some of the funds raised are used for many of the programs that IGRA helps pay for that people may not be aware of such as helping to pay for rodeo schools.

As you all should be aware of AGRA just had their rodeo and it was a spectacular event. Everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves and people raved about the entertainment and games on the green. The dinner before awards was also a big hit with everyone that bought tickets and the food was awesome. At the wrap up meeting after the rodeo there was a lot of complements given to AGRA about what a great job everyone did. We did not receive any fines, which is always a good thing. We did have a number of contestants come to our rodeo that have not been here in a long time and some new people that have never been here, All around it was a good rodeo. Thank you to everyone that help put on the rodeo you all did an outstanding job.

And as always thank you for allowing me to serve as your Trustee.

RJ Mikels
Trustee

CLAUDIA'S CORNER



I am truly excited to be joining the board again for another year. As fundraising director I look forward to helping us as an organization achieve our goals.

This is a position I have held before and had been extremely successful in utilizing our members hip and Royalty to help with events throughout the year.

I am excited to work closely with our new Royalty as I did getting them ready this past year for

their competition. I am going to help assist them in their personal fundraising efforts as well as help them in getting to rodeos around the country this year.

I will be meeting with Royalty to see goals and ask fo help in setting my personal goals for AGRA. By our membership meeting in March I will have set a goal and will be sharing that at the meeting.

I look forward to serving you this year an hope I can count on your support and help when needed.

Joshua Sipe (aka Claudia B.)
Fundraising Director

