

BRANDING IRON

SEPTEMBER 2019



The Official Newsletter of the Arizona Gay Rodeo Association

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



I was pleased to see members at our August membership meeting who we have not seen for a while. I want to continue reaching out to all members; and, hopefully, attendance at the meetings will increase even more. As of August 18 we now have 108 members.

The 2019 IGRA Annual Convention is just around the corner. It will be interesting to see just how many bylaws, standing rules, and rodeo rules are submitted and what new (if any) changes there will be. This year we will elect the Vice President and Secretary.

I was excited to hear that we already have a candidate for Miss AGRA 2020 and a candidate for Mr AGRA 2020. Celeste Powers and Kyle Ross are the two candidates. I am sure they will both do AGRA proud, and I am excited for them.

I look forward to seeing the IGRA Royalty Competition in October and seeing Mahlon Lovell and Ryan Knop vie for the title of Mr IGRA 2020 and Nikki Starr as she competes for the title of Miss IGRA 2020. I wish each of them lots of success and fun. I know they will also represent AGRA

very well.

Finally, I don't want to take away from anything our Fund Raising Director might write. But, I encourage each of us to come out to Charlie's on Saturday – August 31 for the Annual Beach Party that will be hosted by Claudia B as a benefit for AGRA.

And, let's remember that the Pussy LeHoot & Friends Show at Charlie's on Sunday – September 29 will also be a benefit for AGRA, guest-hosted by Claudia B.

I cannot express enough in words how much I appreciate these individuals as well as everyone else for everything they do for AGRA. You are all absolutely fabulous!!!!

I want to give a special thanks to Kyle Ross as he is diligently working to put together a record of past AGRA Royalty that will be posted on the AGRA website.

As always, please contact me if you have questions or suggestions. AGRA is OUR association, and I think we should all be proud of our association.

Ron Trusley

Ron Trusley

President

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RODEO DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Everything is starting to come together as we plan for our 2020 Rodeo February 14-16, 2020. I want to remind everyone that the 2020 Rodeo is not a limited rodeo. Also, we will not offer bareback bronc riding or ranch saddle bronc riding. Of course, all of the other events will be offered, and I am hoping we will have AGRA members as new contestants.

On August 23 I was notified that Hensley is preparing to submit all 2020 budgets to the company, and we should know about our new Agreement within a week or two. As soon as I hear more about the new agreement, I will let you all know. I am confident we will secure an agreement; at this time I just cannot tell you for how much or any of the specifics.

I was excited to receive a Diamond Sponsorship (\$1,000.00) from Jesse Baltazar with Flex Spas. He sent this sponsorship the day after I sent out the Sponsorship Package. Also, Racing Home Greyhound Adoption have committed to a sponsorship for the Riderless Horse Flowers. **Thank you Jesse, Jody and Madison for these sponsorships. We greatly appreciate**

them, and we appreciate you.

Other people have asked about sponsorships; so I expect to start receiving more as they receive their package. And, of course, we are always willing to "tailor" a sponsorship package for any business or organization.

Korii Ochoa, who was our Stock Contractor in 2019, will be returning as Stock Contractor for the 2020 Rodeo. He and his staff are very excited to be returning. They all had a great time at the 2019 rodeo.

In the August 18 membership meeting, nominations were received for Rodeo Grand Marshal and Program Dedication. In accordance with AGRA Bylaws, nominations will also be received in the September membership meeting.

Grand Marshal nominations received in the August membership meeting are:
 Joshua Tree Feeding Program
 Rick Brennan
 Michael Brent

Program Dedication nominations received in the August membership meeting are:

AGRA Rodeo Contestants
 Community Church of Hope
 Bill Lyle

Be sure you look on the AGRA website (www.agra-phx.com) regularly for information and updates about the 2020 Rodeo. And, special thanks to Mark Boyd for keeping our website up to date!

Watch for information about our next special fundraiser that is coordinated by Michael Weidmann. We will be selling raffle tickets to win a very good bike; we will give away two bikes. Be sure to buy your tickets; and perhaps you will be able to consider buying tickets for some of your friends, or encourage them to buy tickets.

Contact me if you have questions or suggestions for our 2020 Rodeo (35th Anniversary).

-Ron Trusley
Ron Trusley
 2019 Rodeo Director
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AGRA BOARD METING	AGRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING	RODEO/EVENT NAME	RODEO/EVENT DATES	IGRA BOARD MEETING
		AGRA Beach Party @ Charlie's	August 31, 2019	
September 05, 2019	September 08, 2019	Labor Day (monday)	September 02, 2019	
		Best Buck in the Bay (San Francisco/Duncan Mills, CA)	September 13-15, 2019	
		Big Horn Rodeo (Las Vegas, NV)	September 20-22, 2019	
		Pride in the Desert (Tucson)	September 28, 2019	
October 10, 2019	October 13, 2019	Las Vegas Pride	October 19-20, 2019	
		33rd Annual World Gay Finals Rodeo (Scottsdale, AZ)	October 24-27, 2019	
		33rd Annual IGRA Royalty Competition (Scottsdale, AZ)	October 24-27, 2019	
November 07, 2019	November 10, 2019	Rainbows Festival (Phoenix)	November 2-3, 2019	
		AGRA Fall Bake Sale	November 10, 2019	
		35th Annual IGRA Convention (Denver, CO)	November 21-24, 2019	November 21, 2019
December 19, 2019	December 22, 2019	AGRA Day of Christmas @ Charlie's	December 22, 2019	
		AGRA Holiday Bake Sale	December 22, 2019	
January 09, 2020	January 12, 2020	IGRA University (Location TBD)	January 17-19, 2020	
February 06, 2020	February 09, 2020	Super Bowl LIV (54) (Miami, FL)	February 02, 2020	
		AGRA 2020 Royalty Competition @ Charlie's (5:00 pm)	February 08, 2020	
		Charlie's/AGRA Mini Rodeo	February 13, 2020	
		35th Anniversary Arizona Gay Rodeo	February 14-16, 2020	
		Rodeo Volunteer Party	February 21, 2020 (Friday)	
		AGRA Annual Corporation Meeting/Banquet	February 29, 2020 (Saturday)	
March 05, 2020	March 08, 2020			

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



The royalty team continues to be out representing AGRA at different community events. Thank you team way to go!!!

We have 2 Candidates for

2020 royalty team: Candidate for Mr AGRA 2020 Kyle Ross, and Candidate for Miss AGRA 2020 Celeste Powers

I am also pleased to announce that Celeste has raised her money to compete in February. Requirement for AGRA is \$300.00, she raised \$517.00

Requirement for charity is \$100.00, she raised \$525.00

Kyle has also been busy with his fundraising, having raised all of the \$100.00 requirement for charity.

I want to thank Nu Towne Saloon for all their support of our royalty and to AGRA and IGRA.

If you are interested in being part of the 2020 Royalty Team contact a current royalty team member or myself. Come be a part of making a difference in our community!

Great Job Team!

Michael Butts

Vice President

FROM THE EDITOR



Greetings all!

I hope you've all had a moment to take a look at the newly redesigned agra-phx.com!

The design is a bit more modern and streamlined, and

is more responsive to work better on mobile devices like phones and tablets.

Link to book reservations at the host hotel are also now live on the site.

Thanks to Kyle Ross (Ionna Doublewide) I will soon have the Royalty page live with a great amount of history. If you have any royalty photos or videos you'd like to share, please send them to me!

I hope you all enjoy the 2020 Arizona Gay Rodeo poster that was revealed at the last membership meeting. The board chose this design recalling the illustrated rodeo posters of the past.

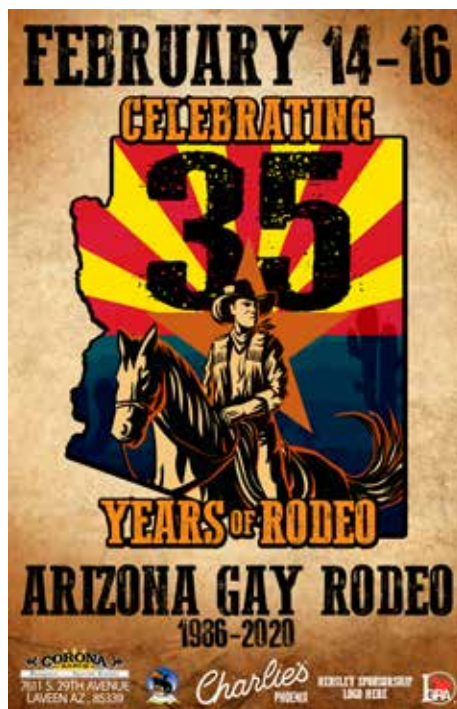
As always, if you would like to submit anything for publication in the Branding Iron, the deadline is the 25th.

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FUNDRAISING DIRECTOR'S REPORT



So summer is coming to a close. August was a great month. We had several fundraisers this month.

We sold jello shots two days this month. On Saturday nights

at Charlie's Phoenix. Also many of our royalty had fundraisers this month at various locations and all were a success.

I encourage you to come out and support our Beach Party show, Saturday, August 31, 9:30pm at Charlie's Phoenix. It is one of the 4 big AGRA shows at Charlie's Phoenix for the year. It is also sponsored in part by Hensley and El Jimador.

I want to thank the following people for your constant support in helping me out when I ask, Ionna Doublewide, Michael Butts, and Gary Parker.

I also want to invite everyone to an AGRA benefit at Charlie's on Sunday, September 29. I asked for entertainers at our August meeting, but unfortunately no one got to me about performing. So I will ask and find entertainers. Look for the flyer the first week of September!

Joshua Sipe aka Claudia B.

Fundraising Director

