

The Branding Iron

A message from the Phx Chapter President

There is no other way to begin this article but to take care of first things first. I owe each of you as members a sincere apology for my absence at the last General Membership meeting.

I take full responsibility and apologize from the bottom of my heart. At the same time I need to thank Vice President Glen May for what I hear was a wonderful job of running the meeting in my absence.

When this Board was elected, even before we took office, it seemed to me that we were all excited by not just the opportunity to serve, but the challenge. In any volunteer organization you have people of different backgrounds and vastly different opinions trying to come together for the enhancement of a particular cause. When those opinions clash, all too often feelings get hurt and volunteers become disenfranchised. This I believe is the challenge that AGRA currently faces.

For quite some time, (long before this board was in place) it has been discussed to move both our meeting place and our rodeo grounds. Opinions have been flying, and because opinions are personal, sometimes they are reported with a tone of voice that makes them appear as fact. I hope and ask that each of us keep in mind that even when our beliefs are deeply personal, they may not be held as universal truth to our entire association.

Recently I decided to move our Chapter Board Meetings out of my home because a member stated his opinion and it hurt my feelings. So instead of being uncomfortable in my own home and possibly becoming disenfranchised, I asked if the board would mind the move and they agreed. I tell you this story because I hope that it is a good example of finding an obstacle and overcoming it for the good of our group, as opposed to just giving up on it.

As we make the decisions affecting us as an association, I hope that we all can remember that the choices we make do not only affect our rodeo family, but our entire community. The way we make those decisions should be based on the facts presented to us, and not just the opinions of a few good public speakers.

Until next time kids, Happy and Safe Trails.

Steven "Woody" Howard, Phx. Chapter President

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... and more

April Birthdays:

Allen, Markus, 23rd
Belbot, Norm, 5th
Kelly, Daniel K Jr., 4th
Macaw, Gordon, 6th
Ridge, Dan, 5th

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



IGRA Update:
The Sierra Stampede Rodeo that was to be held August 17th—19th in Sacramento, has been cancelled!

AGRA Gets Ready For Pride Parade

As was discussed at our last chapter meeting, AGRA is entering once again the AZ Central Pride parade. Much work is needed to get this accomplished. Richard Tally has already spent many hours in preparing for this fun and important community event. The plans to get a flat bed truck and have 2 convertibles to carry our Royalty are well under way.

As usual we need volunteers. Plans as of now include putting together the flat bed probably on the Thursday before Saturday's parade. We definitely will need help doing that.

Also, Richard is trying to decide who would be on the float. How many of our members plan to be in the parade. If we have a lot of people, too many to fit on the flat bed, then we will need a walking contingency, plans for which also need to be made.

Richard has probably contacted some of you already to donate your time and energy. Please contact Richard at (602) 319-8040. Let him know if you can volunteer some time or if you will be participating in the parade so we can arrange accordingly. This will be a great time for us and I hope we will get a good showing.

Another area where we need to volunteer is at the main gates taking tickets and at the AGRA booth. Rolland Lawrenz would love to hear from as many of you as possible. I believe shifts are only 2-4 hrs. Contact Rolland by e-mail (rollandl@emr.net) or call him at (602) 264-0687. You can also contact me at 623-877-5479 and I will get you in touch with Rolland or Richard.

Lets make our 2nd big event of 2001 another good time for us and the entire community.

Ric Leone, PR Director

AGRA Announces Poster Contest

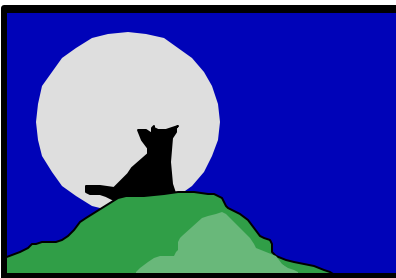
AGRA-Phoenix chapter is sponsoring a poster contest for Road Runner Regional Rodeo 2002. The rodeo will take place in Phoenix on January 18-20, 2002. Judging for the contest will be by vote of the members present at the monthly AGRA meeting on May 13, 2001. ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 PM THAT DAY. Entries may be delivered in person or by mail to "RRRR Poster Contest" c/o Charlie's Phoenix, 727 W. Camelback Road, Phoenix, Arizona, 85013.

Entries must be 17" x 22" in size with the only lettering being "Road Runner Regional Rodeo 2002". Exception to the size requirement is generated artwork, with the artwork being on a Macintosh-compatible CD or Zip disk.

Entries must be received in upper right-hand corner of the back of the design. Entries received on the front of the design will be disqualified.

The winning design and artwork become the property of AGRA-Phoenix Chapter. All other entries will be destroyed, unless arrangements are made to have them returned at the artist's expense.

The artist of the winning entry will be awarded a \$200.00 prize. For further information contact Richard Tally, Poster Contest Committee for the AGRA-Phoenix Chapter at (602) 319-8040



finished size with the only lettering being "Road Runner Regional Rodeo 2002". Exception will be made for computer-generated original art being on a Macintosh disk.

with the artist's name and phone number in upper right-hand corner of the back of the design. Entries received on the front of the design will be disqualified.

The winning design and artwork become the property of AGRA-Phoenix Chapter. All other entries will be destroyed, unless arrangements are made to have them returned at the artist's expense.

Ric Leone, PR Director

Ride With Pride

Well it looks like the month of April will be a busy one. The Arizona central pride parade is in April. I would like to urge every member to volunteer to help build a flat bed float for the parade.

I also urge everyone to walk in the parade and show support for pride and AGRA. The Arizona central pride volunteers for our rodeo each year and I feel that we owe them, so come out and volunteer for two hours or more and help them out.

As I write this article, Bob Pimentel Jr, Neil Carpenter, Max Sutherland and myself are headed to Bullhead City to help to get another AGRA chapter formed. The guys up there are very excited and need more information about doing so.

So let's get together and show our gay pride and rodeo party spirit.

Glen May, Phx Chapter Vice President

IGRA on the Internet

By now pretty much everyone is in one way or another connected to the Internet. But how many of you take the IGRA site or the IGRA site or associations? And have you all checked into the Yahoo eGroups? The IGRA site is easy to navigate. page such features contestants", rodeo tacts, and press recessed. They even board!

Snail mail is that wonderful old system where you put something in an envelope, stick an ever more expensive stamp on it, and drop it in one of those little boxes so the postman can take it away and lose it somewhere between you and its destination. It's slow but at least I understand the system. With "e-mail", I'm still convinced there is a carrier pigeon that takes away and delivers messages to this strange autistic TV that never talks to me but has vast knowledge.

the time to check sites of other associations checked into the Yahoo very appealing and From the home as "the top eight schedules and releases can be accessed. They even have a message board!

Lin Daugherty on eGroups

The IGRA Yahoo eGroup is an on-line group where members can exchange information and updates about any gay rodeo/country & western related subject. Both sites are defi-

IGRA Convention 2001

Voting for the Delegates and Alternates for the 2001 IGRA Convention will take place by April 8th. Ballots have been mailed out.

Members are voting on a total of 10 people to represent AGRA as Delegates and Alternates at the 2001 IGRA Convention in Long Beach. This is not a rodeo, this is not a party. This is a very important annual event that shapes the future of IGRA, which affects all associations within IGRA. The 10 people selected must be responsible and dedicated to attending every meeting, having AGRA's best interests at heart. These 10 individuals must be dedicated to staying to the end on Sunday July 29th, no matter what time that may be. Sessions last all day Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

I know members will send the best to Long Beach in July, which is why it is so important to vote and return the ballot as soon as possible.

Ric Leone, State Secretary

SCHEDULE OF
EVENTS

April 2001

- **4/8/2001**
General
Membership
Meeting at
Charlie's at 7:00
PM
- **4/13/2001**
Contestant
Registration
Deadline for LA
Rodeo
- **4/21/2001**
AZ Central Pride
Parade

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 AGRA Mem- bership Meet- ing at Charlie's at 7:00 PM	9	10	11	12	13 Registration Deadline for LA Rodeo & Rodeo in the	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 AZ Central Pride Parade
22	23	24	25	26	27 LA Rodeo & Rodeo in the Rock	28 LA Rodeo & Rodeo in the Rock
29 LA Rodeo & Rodeo in the Rock	30					

Miss Targe't Reports From The Road

Well kids here we are again, and believe it or not I lived through a road trip with Pussy LeHoot, and Adrian Adair. Those girls are fun, but the Surgeon General says too much fun can kill you. I must have at least gotten to the coma stage. You would think that an SUV with three full sized girls and two tons of drag would stay on the ground, but of course you've probably never ridden with Adrian Adair. If she ever gives up her full-time career, stock car racing would certainly be an option.

Both Adrian and Pussy did a wonderful job helping out our sister association NGRA with their fund-raising efforts for Big Horn Rodeo 2002 and I thank them.

As for the always funny Miss LeHoot, she lived up to her name all weekend. She auctioned off baked goods, brought out Mae West, and Tottie Fields and even threatened the crowd unless they got up off their wallets and gave more money to the cause. She is truly a talent that we should all be thankful for. I don't want to spoil the surprise but Pussy may have some special entertainment coming to the Valley. Drop by Tuesday through Friday at Charlie's to see Miss LeHoot and see if you can guess who it is.

Ron Trusley and his other half Walt, (notice I didn't say husband, Ron) were also in Vegas and AGRA had a nice showing in the "Grand Entry" of the little bar rodeo.

Our good Girlfriend and Miss AGRA 1999 has given up on money. Well at least she is leaving her long time job at Wells Fargo and headed out to fly the friendly skies. Don't forget to bump me up to first class girl, I need the extra leg room. Until next time kids, remember your born naked and after that, it's all just drag.

**Kisses,
Suzanne Targe't
Miss AGRA 2001**

A.G.R.A. Board Of Directors

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<p>Bob Pimentel, Jr., President Phone: (602) 866-0069 E-Mail: azrlp@qwest.net</p> <p>Dan Iversen, Vice President Phone: (480) 671-0235</p> <p>Ric Leone, Secretary Phone: (623) 877-5479 E-Mail: rleone1@qwest.net</p> <p>Jay Lovejoy, Treasurer Phone: (602) 285-1558 E-Mail: jwlovejoy@qwest.net</p> <p>Shirley Steiger, Phoenix Chapter Rep. Phone: (623) 979-0081 E-Mail: s.steiger@excite.com</p> <p>Bob Pimentel, Jr., Trustee Phone: (602) 866-0069 E-Mail: azrlp@qwest.net</p>	<p>Woody Howard, President Phone: (602) 373-5528 E-Mail: wdysuz@qwest.net</p> <p>Glen May, Vice President Phone: (623) 877-5479 E-Mail: agragmay@qwest.net</p> <p>Claire Miller, Secretary Phone: (602) 852-0445 E-Mail: cowgirlzup@msn.com</p> <p>Ed (E.J.) Powers, Treasurer E-Mail: EPOWERS124@aol.com</p> <p>Ric Leone, Public Relations Director Phone: (623) 877-5479 E-Mail: rleone1@qwest.net</p> <p>Rolland Lawrenz, Fund Raising Director Phone: (602) 264-0687 E-Mail: rollandl@emr.net</p> <p>Will Lann, Rodeo Events Director Phone: (623) 535-2189 E-Mail: azhoggy@aol.com</p>

A.G.R.A. Royalty

<p>Miss AGRA 2001 Miss Suzanne Targe't a.k.a. Woody Howard Phone: (602) 373-5528 E-Mail: wdysuz@qwest.net</p>	<p>Miss AGRA 1st RunnerUp Ms Marcus a.k.a. Markus Allen Phone: (602) 937-6303</p>	<p>Miss AGRA 2nd RunnerUp Miss Noel Christine a.k.a. Tommy Pena Phone: (480) 964-5932</p>	<p>Ms AGRA 2001 Gaylia Young Phone: (623) 915-1404</p>
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Upcoming Board Meetings

As stated in the last issue of the Branding Iron, the State Board decided at the Feb 11th 2001 meeting to meet every other month instead of quarterly as they were in the past. As the by-laws state in Article VII 7.1 A) Written notice of meetings shall be given to the General Membership not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the meeting. The April 8^h meeting was announced in the last Branding Iron and will take place at Charlies's at 2:00p.m. The June 10th State Board meeting will be held at the Lexington Hotel, 100 W. Clarendon, Phx . at 2:00p.m. The meetings are open to all and we encourage all to attend. Thank you and we hope to see you there.

Ric Leone, State Secretary

A letter To The Membership

Greetings, fellow members;

Those of you who attended our March membership meeting were presented with a motion to move our general membership meetings from Charlie's to the Ramada Hotel. As you know, and for the benefit of our members not in attendance, that motion failed.

There has been considerable discussion in recent months about the noise level at Charlie's at 7:00 in the evening and as a manager at the Ramada Hotel, I was asked to obtain information from the hotel about hosting our meetings. While I did in fact present the hotel's offer as requested, I did NOT cast my vote in favor of the motion.

None of this is reason in itself to be writing this letter. The reason is because at the conclusion of the meeting, a supporter of the motion confronted me with the "promise" that he will "show up at the next meeting with 50 of his friends and see to it that the meetings are moved out of Charlie's".

I have also been saddened recently by another member's reference to "the stigma that Charlie's and AGRA are one and the same". I hope this individual is just illiterate, as it is very difficult for me to absorb the concept that the relationship between Charlie's and AGRA could be interpreted as credit"-the definition of stigma" as written in Webster's Dictionary.

While the 7:00 hour has proven to be a distracting time need to remind ourselves that the intended purpose of using that time slot was to have our members present for the monthly AGRA benefit shows. While I did in fact present the hotel's offer as requested, I did NOT cast my vote in favor of the motion. There is no basis for argument with the fact that member presence during these shows HAS increased. However, if the majority of our membership is having trouble conducting business at this hour, then perhaps it would be appropriate to ask Charlie's for the option of an earlier meeting time. In 16 years, Charlie's has NEVER said "no" to AGRA, and probably wouldn't now, either.



Through good times and bad, Charlie's has always been there for us-after all, John King is a founding member of not only AGRA but our sister associations in Colorado and Illinois as well, not to mention that he and Wayne Jakino are founders of IGRA itself. We have had a cost-free home for 16 years; a home filled with support for us by sponsoring many a rodeo and royalty contestant. A home that has offered drink tabs to our new members as a "Welcome Aboard". A home that didn't have to rent a 1,400 square foot building for three years just for their two desks and copy machine, but instead did so to give us a place to call our own.

The select few of our members who have developed animosity towards Charlie's are far too pre-occupied with "how much money John King and Charlie's make off us" and have lost touch with how much John King and Charlie's have GIVEN us. Perhaps rather than disenfranchising the closest friend gay rodeo has ever had, we should be shaking his and his staff's hands and saying thank-you-and then discuss an earlier meeting time.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed ("E.J.") Powers

A.G.R.A.

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The Branding Iron is a publication of A.G.R.A.
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Deadline for the May issue is
April 22nd

Check out our website:
www.agra-phx.com

Upcoming I.G.R.A. Seminars

Arena Directors (contact: jeanneaustin@aol.com)

June, 30th in Omaha
July 26th in Long Beach
June 15th in San Jose *
September 8th in Washington, D.C.

Chute Coordinators (contact: rodeokd@hotmail.com)

June 29th in Omaha
July 26th in Long Beach
August 18th in Sacramento
September 8th in Washington, D.C.

Judges (contact: patrick.terry@igra.com)

July 26th in Long Beach

Secretaries and Scorekeepers (contact: larry.lindstrom@igra.com)

April 27th in Los Angeles at the Burbank Hilton, 10:00 a.m.
June 1st in Atlanta at the Marriott, 1:00 p.m.
July 26th in Long Beach at 9:00 a.m.
September 1st in Kansas City at the Fairgrounds, 1:00 p.m.

PR and Media (contact: dgraff01@home.com)

June 1st in Atlanta at the Marriott, 10:30 a.m.
July 26th in Long Beach

* New Date

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