AUGUST 2001

The Branding Iron

Notes From The President

Our association has seen some major changes over the course of these past few months. Not all change is easily embraced, and not everyone looks forward to it. Nevertheless, as a membership organization we have elected to do things somewhat differently now than we have done them in the past. Selecting Rawhide as the rodeo venue for RRRR 2002 is a good example.

For sometime now there has been discussion about the reasoning for two separate boards of directors in an association that only has one chapter. When asked I have maintained that I believe the current system was working

and didn't for any sig-change. I still both boards worked well past eight However, I stand the that some have exme. It apare "two" asbecause of our by-laws separate in-



see a need nificant believe that can and have over these months. also underconfusion members pressed to pears that we sociations the way that require us to formation.

That is why you hear two sets of reports, and why financial information is administered to by two different treasurers.

I am addressing this topic now because I believe that maybe our membership in fact would benefit from a single board of directors. Just like the decision to move to Rawhide, it would, of course, be your decision to make. I hope whatever we choose to do as AGRA, that we can consider all of our options and do what is best for our association.

Woody Howard, AGRA Phoenix Chapter President

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Please Note:

The Sacramento rodeo will take place as scheduled on August 17 –19, but it will NOT be sanctioned by IGRA. That means that contestants will not be able go collect points towards Finals!

August Birthdays:

Canill Jr., Charles Hutter, Walt Jones, Steven 31st 18th 30th



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IGRA Convention 2001 — Update

It is Monday night and I have just returned from the IGRA Convention in Long Beach. Wow, what a great convention. The entire AGRA Delegation arrived on time and was present at all meetings and events. I can't say enough good things about AGRA's representation. Thank you to our delegation; they were: Brian Helander, Will Lann, Dan Iversen, Woody Howard, Linda Hoffman, Glen May, Claire Miller, John King, Ric Leone, Scott Tickler, and myself.

Some of the highlights of this convention:

- Both AGRA Dance teams won all the first place ribbons in their categories and brought home the all-around buckles. Congratulations to Dan Ridge and Paul Caudell and to David Asher and Chris Zizzo.
- Chuck Browning won the Service Award.
- Echo Magazine and Heatstroke won Appreciation Awards.
- AGRA bid for and was awarded the 2003 IGRA Convention.
- AGRA hosted the afternoon coffee break on Friday
- Claire Miller made T-shirts announcing the new location of the 2002 RRRR.
 The shirts were worn both days by the AGRA delegation and given to about fifty
 others including all Trustees, IGRA Board Members and some members of
 other associations.
- Information packets were given to the entire convention announcing the new location of the 2002 RRRR.
- Dan Iversen was awarded the annual congeniality award.
- OGRA (Tulsa) was awarded the 2003 Finals Rodeo Bid.
- Elections of IGRA Officers this year included Vice President which went to Tamara Marks (she was reelected) and Treasurer which went to David Hill (he was also reelected).

Some other AGRA members were there as well. Jay Lovejoy helped by organizing the packets of information that was given to the entire convention. Anna Shannon was a delegate for PONY, but still showed her support for AGRA joining us when wearing the AGRA t-shirts. Both, Amy Griffin (ILGRA delegate) and Phil Seamster (NMGRA delegate) constantly support AGRA and stay in touch with the AGRA process.

This year's convention went extremely fast. Because of the hard work of the Committees and the strong leadership of the IGRA Board the entire convention process never got off track. We were so far ahead of schedule on Saturday that we did not have to start until 9:30am on Sunday and the convention was over by 2:45 pm.

All Bylaws and Rodeo Rules that were changed, added or deleted will be updated and printed for the start of the 2002 season. Anyone interested in some of those changes can contact me and I will be happy to share my notes with you.

Congratulations and thank you to our friends at GSGRA in Long Beach for hosting a great convention.

Bob Pimentel, Trustee

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

• 8/4/2001

Miss Sassy's fund-raiser for AIDS Project AZ at JC's Fun One at 9:00 pm

8/8/2001

Miss Sassy's fund-raiser for AIDS Project AZ at Charlie's at 9:30 pm. (she wants to thank the men of Charlie's for giving her the date)

8/10/2001

Pre-registration deadline for Windy City Rodeo

8/10—8/13/2001

Zia Regional Rodeo, Albuquerque, NM

8/17/2001

Pre-registration deadline Kansas City Rodeo

8/18—19/2001

AGRA Camp-out in Show Low. For more information, contact Will Lann

8/24/2001

Pre-Registration deadline Kansas City Rodeo

• 8/24—26/200d

Windy City Rodeo, Chicago

8/31—9/2/2001

Kansas City Rodeo, KC, MO

August 2001

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Miss Sassy's Fund-raiser at JC's Fun One at 9:00 pm
5	6	7	8 Miss Sassy's Fund-raiser at Charlie's at 9:30 pm	9	10 Pre-Registration Deadline Chi- cago Rodeo/ Zia Reg. Rodeo	11 Zia Regional Rodeo
12 Zia Regional Rodeo/AGRA Membership Meeting	13	14	15	16	17 Pre-Registration Deadline Kan- sas City Rodeo	18 AGRA Camp- out
19 AGRA Camp- out	20	21	22	23	24 Pre-Registration Deadline DC Rodeo/Windy City Rodeo	25 Windy City Rodeo
26 Windy City Rodeo	27	28	29	30	31 Kansas City Rodeo	

AGRA Contestants Buckle Big In Calgary

The month of June had AGRA contestants traveling to rodeos in Salt Lake City, UT, San Jose, CA and to Calgary, Canada.

The Salt Lake City rodeo, which was their 2nd annual, was held on June 2nd and 3rd. Team AZ placed 3rd for the weekend. Cowgirls Claire Miller and Flavia Krieg and cowboys Chuck Browning, Kris Eisenhut, Brian Helander, Matt Hill, Dan Iversen & Will Lann all won ribbons or placed in the top eight.

The Bay Area Regional Rodeo was held in San Jose on June 16th and 17th. Although the competition was dominated by GSGRA (they have 4 chapters state wide), Brian Helander earned a buckle by placing 1st in Calf Roping on Foot. Chuck placed 2nd in Bare Back Bronc Riding and still placed 5th for the weekend in Goad Dressing with Brian Helander.

The weekend of June 29th found AGRA contestants at the Canadian Rockies International Gay Rodeo in Calgary. Chuck and Brian placed 1st, winning a buckle in the team event of Goat Dressing. Lester Liu of AGRA and his rodeo partner David Westman of CGRA placed 5th in this event.

Brian, Chuck and teammate Desiree Gronwald of ARGRA also won a buckle in the team event of Wild Drag Race.

Brian buckled again placing 1st in Chute Dogging, in which Chuck took 2nd place.

Chuck went on to buckle also in Bull Riding, Calf Roping on Foot, Flag Race and he also took home the buckle for "All Around Cowboy" in which Brian placed 2nd.

Congratulations to all the AGRA contestants and good luck in the up coming rodeos.

Ric Leone, Phoenix Chapter P.R. Director

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A.G.R.A. Royalty 2001

Miss AGRA 2001

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Ms AGRA 2001

Gavlia Young Phone: (623) 915-1404

Rodeo Rule Changes for 2002

After a long and dreary meeting on Friday and several short meetings Saturday and Sunday, the new rodeo rules were finally approved shortly before convention closed Sunday afternoon.

Most rules are probably not of interest to the majority of people, even though the discussion of smoking in the arena took up a major amount of time, without a binding rule being established after all. Other new rules cover such issues as the set up for horse speed events and payouts to contestants. I am sure the ones concerning late fees and camp events are.

Cont. on page 5

Page 5 A.G.R.A. Newsletter

Cont. from page 4

The following paragraph was sent to the IGRA group by **Frank Elam, Jr**, co-chair of the Rodeo Rules Committee.

In Wild Drag Race there is now going to be two timers for each team. This is done to help eliminate the possibility of a team not getting a time. There are many times when a timer is not able to get a good time for the team due to mechanical problems or other unforeseen reasons. Hopefully this step will help eliminate the necessity of re-runs in this event. An important note for rodeo registration. The additional fee for registering late has been changed back to the \$50 fee per weekend regardless of how many events. Not the \$10 per event as was changed a couple of years ago. In addition, (very important!), this fee will also be charged to those contestants who DO NOT pre-register for camp events before the pre-registration deadline. The exception to this would be if someone who DID pre-register for a camp event asked you to be their partner, you would then NOT be charged the additional fee. But, if neither one of the team members pre-registered and both decide to add a camp event, then both contestants would be assessed the additional \$50 fee. (The same situation applies to Team Roping.) This will hopefully enable the hosting Associations to more accurately order the livestock needed for their rodeo. Too many times we have come up extremely short of steers for the Steer Decorating and Wild Drag Race events due to several late entries into these events. As always, first time contestants are still exempt from the additional fee rule. If you need further explanations of these or other rules, please let me know and I'll try and get an answer to you ASAP. Thanks!

Anna Shannon, Editor

Notes for the (long lost) Mailbag

Okay, rodeo fans, first off I need to apologize for being such a bad girl and not sending anything for the Branding Iron in, uh.....such a long time. I can't even remember how long it's been! Perhaps I haven't had anything newsworthy or entertaining to report – or, the real truth, I've been a little bit busy lately, preparing for our new arrival in September. Lacey has been accusing me of "nesting", because I've *finally* been cleaning up the garage and throwing away tons of junk that this packrat has been collecting for way too long! But that's another story that I certainly won't bore you with at this time.

The impending arrival in September, however, is what prompted me to finally get with the program and write this little tidbit for the *Branding Iron*! I have to take a few moments to thank <u>everyone</u> for their incredible support throughout this whole adventure. The love that our "rodeo family" has shown during all of this has been absolutely amazing.

As many of you are probably aware of, there was an AGRA "Pool Party/Secret Baby Shower" at John Voyten and Richard Tally's house on Saturday, July 21st. It was a great evening – good food, drink and the best of friends to share it all with. Thank you, thank you ALL for putting that together, especially Will Lann and Richard Tally. We received some adorable gifts – let me tell you, this little cowboy or cowgirl is going to be decked out in some of the cutest duds, with great blankets and accessories to boot! With this group, how could we go wrong!?!

All of this was just another example of the energy, enthusiasm and *heart* this group can bring to the table – it doesn't seem to matter if it is raising funds for a charity, a partner rodeo association, an injured rodeo contestant, or throwing a baby shower – *together we can do great things!* Thank you, AGRA members!

Claire Miller, Phoenix Chapter Secretary

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A Letter To The Editor

Dear AGRA Membership

It is with great concern for AGRA that I must point out the many issues and discrepancies that have been allowed to go on, and are continuing to this date.

I apologize if my submission to this month's Branding Iron is lengthy, but I have not devoted seven years of my life to this organization to watch improprieties happen. If you question my integrity, then discuss it with me privately and make your own assessment, as my intentions are to support the objective and purpose of AGRA.

I would like to first point out to our membership, that if you do not have a copy of the AGRA bylaws, request one from the AGRA State Secretary. How can we expect the organization to function within the guidelines of its bylaws when our members, including Board Members do not know, or have them? If our Board Members knew them, they would not have to stop meetings to confer with non-board member.

I am sure many of you have been privy to the gossip running around that I am unhappy because I did not win the Chapter Presidency for this year. Quite on the contrary, as I served this organization two years in the capacity of Vice President, and two as the President. Not to mention three years as the State Trustee. I have also represented IGRA as the Contestant Liaison Committee Chair for two years. I held those positions with great pride and am happy to see new persons getting involved with AGRA. Yes, it is also okay to make it a learning experience, but the Board needs to work together to uphold the bylaws and mission of the association.

I have served my terms, and am proud to be a competitive member of IGRA, and represent AGRA in my seventh year as a contestant. A brief review of the AGRA bylaws might help some of the members to remember why we are members:

- Page 1. Article II. 2.1 **Objective**: The objective of the organization shall be to elevate the image of women and men in the sports field of rodeo.
- Page 1. Article II. 2.2 **Purposes**: The purposes for which the Corporation is organized are:
 - A) To promote and stage rodeos at locations situated in the State of Arizona.
 - B) To promote communication and fellowship among its members by encouraging the participation of its membership in western related events (e.g. rodeo performances);
 - C) To engage in charitable activities, whether by volunteering the services of the Corporation and/or its members or by raising of monies; with such activities and the proceeds derived therefrom being donated to those charitable organizations that the membership of the Corporation may choose; and
 - D) To engage in any business and/or activities in which non-profit Corporations may engage.
 - E) No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the Corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions to the furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article II hereof.
- 1) Therefore, I highly discourage any compensation from our Rodeo Proceeds to go to the State Board of AGRA as this should be seen as a direct conflict with our Statement of Purposes. Especially when our bylaws allow the State Board to assess monies from the Chap-

Page 7 August 2001

ter Boards when necessary. I also question the funding of certain activities that are member related in that they may go against the bylaws. (See E. above) Please understand that any infractions of these bylaws could jeopardize our 501(c)4 status, which our founding members worked very hard to obtain.

Our State Board receives 100% of all membership fees paid to AGRA, and pays for our convention delegate and alternate fees, our Royalty contestant entry fees for IGRA competition, the production of the AGRA Royalty competition, the production of the monthly newsletter, the Board Members Buckles, Phone bills, web site costs, miscellaneous office and copy expenses, and the State Banquet. Yes, all of these require monies, which when, and if, needed can be assessed from the Chapter. I would like to see the AGRA STATE budget presented to the members, so we all may have a better understanding of the monies needed by the state. One recommendation would be for our State Board to have Fund Raisers.

Awarding ourselves monies from our rodeo proceeds will look unprofessional, selfish, and be an embarrassment to AGRA. Please consider this when you nominate AGRA State Board as a recipient of our Rodeo Charitable Contributions Organization.

ARTICLE III. STATE ORGANIZATION 3.5 Duties and Responsibilities

The Sate Board of Directors shall be responsible for the operations of the Corporation including the collection of adequate funding for the State Board.

2) I think it is imperative that our Boards recognize that our bylaws state in Article XI <u>Conduct of Business</u> 11.1 All business of the Corporation shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules Of Order if not otherwise specified in these bylaws of guidelines.

I have been verbally censored twice by the Phoenix Chapter Board about situations from last year. The State Board would not do anything until a written request was obtained from a member.

The first occurrence was during a Chapter Board Meeting where he stated: "Mr. Chuck Browning, you are a fu_king liar." When I asked for the State Board President to intervene, he sated that this was not his meeting and he could do nothing. I was appalled. Our State President is responsible for making certain that all Chapter Organizations uphold the bylaws, including Robert's Rules of Order.

The second time was at our last Phoenix Chapter membership meeting (July 8, 2001), when Mr. E.J. Powers had made his recommendation (according to the meeting agenda) to the AGRA Phoenix Chapter Membership that an amount of money be distributed to our Charitable Contribution Organization. After one motion for \$7000.00 failed, the discussion digressed from the amount of money to be distributed, to the 10% State contribution in the past. After recognizing my first point of order, in which the discussion digressed to the State Board, Mr. Chairperson decided to change the topic from the Agenda item of: **The Treasurer's Recommendation** to "**Miss AGRA donating three fund raisers to the State Board for any financial assistance they may need.**"

When I called "point of order" not only was I refused recognition, I was personally attacked. This is unprofessional, and conduct unbecoming of an AGRA Member. I insist the Chapter President read up on his responsibilities as the Chair and Robert's Rules Of Order.

The AGRA By-Laws state: **"Each Board Member shall have, or is expected to strive to attain, a basic knowledge of parliamentary procedure."** The discussion was and still is, out of order. I have yet to see a bylaws binder, or a Robert's Rules of Order Reference Book on the meeting table.

Robert's Rules Of Order (John Sherman edition) states on Page 195, Article X: The Officers and the Minutes, #58 Chair or President;

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"In order to take part in debate, the chair calls a member to chair. This is rarely wise. Nothing justifies this when a display of emotion creates any difficulty in preserving order. If the chair even appears to be partisan, he or she loses much of his or her ability to control those who are on the opposite side of the question. Nothing justifies the unfortunate habit of constantly speaking on questions before the assembly, even interrupting the member who has the floor. One who expects to take an active part in the debate should never accept the chair."

"The chair should know parliamentary usage and set an example of strict conformity to it. He or she should also be a person of executive ability, capable of controlling the meeting. A nervous, excited chair can surely cause trouble in a meeting. No rules take the place of tact and common sense on his of her part."

When Mr. Powers made his recommendation to the membership, the recommendation was the item of business on the floor. Even though a motion failed, it was still the topic on the agenda. When I called point of order, and was not allowed the floor or to speak, I was denied my right as a member of the organization. There should be no discussion without a motion before the floor, let alone further discussion of the State Board, which should have been directed to "New Business." Mr. Chair had no right to expound his own personal items.

His personal attacks on Mr. Browning and Mr. Helander were deliberate, out of line, and conduct unbecoming of a member, let alone a Board Member, or President of the Chapter, or AGRA's Royalty Miss representative. Using his title as "Chair" to evoke some personal difference in the face of the membership was very sad indeed. I believe Brian Helander and myself deserve a public apology from the Chair.

3.) The situation of "voting" on change of rodeo venue has deeply disturbed me. Not because I am against the proposal, or the work that Bob Pimentel and Will Lann have done. Two years ago the membership developed a committee to research this, and received written reports on the possibilities. Due to the time constraint and financial concerns AGRA Phoenix Chapter decided to stay with Corona's, and research the option for future years.

Now, without direction from the membership, the Board of Directors requested the Rodeo Director research this on his own accord. Even though during the motion of the change, the untimely calling of the question was done against the best interest of the organization. The previous months minutes stated that the information would be delivered at the next membership meeting. Having a member call the question before the information had been given is out of order.

Robert's Rules of Order page 194 under Article X The Officers and the Minutes #58 Chair or President:

"...permitting the object of a meeting to be defeated by a few factious members using parliamentary forms with the evident object of obstructing business. In such a case the chair should refuse to recognize the dilatory or frivolous motion."

Whether or not the majority of the membership elected to hear all of the information or not, it was stated by Mr. Pimentel in the minutes that he would do so. The act of the membership violated the intent of the meeting minutes from the previous month. This was a frivolous motion, and an act, which did obstruct the business of the Board. The truth is, the Chair should have made certain the information be distributed according to the prior month's meeting minutes, then the floor be open for motions.

How this membership, or Board can move forward on this action, without having all the financial material presented to the membership is beyond my comprehension. As a member, I will hold the 2001 AGRA Phoenix Chapter Board and the 2002 Rodeo Director responsible for this decision.

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According to our By-Laws Page -28- Article XII. Questions on By Laws and Guide-

- 12.1 If a question arises concerning the bylaws of guidelines which cannot be immediately answered by any Article or Guideline herein, the question will be referred in writing to the State Secretary.
- 12.2 The State Secretary shall research the matter using these bylaws and Guidelines, the minutes of previous meetings, Robert's Rules of Order, and any other documents or written precedents.
- 12.3 The State Secretary shall publish a report of his/her findings and recommendations to the State Board of Directors.

Other improprieties that have taken place this last year:

The AGRA State Board conducted two State Board meetings without giving proper notice to the Membership, and still after being notified of this, continued to conduct official business. When brought to their attention, we were told that it was not in the by-The bylaws, however, state: laws.

AGRA **INGS** 76.1 <u>State</u> ings

Writ-A). shall be given to a location for the meeting.

Bylaws Those of you who may be planning to take a short notice trip to Albuquerque for the annual Zia Regional Rodeo, the hotel is the Courtyard Marriott on 5151 E Journal Center Blvd NE in Alb, phone: (505) 823 1919. The rodeo will be held at the Bernalillo Cty. less than Sheriff's Posse arena at 10308 2nd St. NW. date of the meet- For more info, please check www.nmgra.com. meeting held in The road construction on I 25/I 40 also still the membership, seems to be in full swing, for more info please and the March notification of the April State call (877) 843 24444.

page 12) Article VII MEET-Board of Directors Meet-

ten notice of meetings the General Membership thirty (30) days prior to the ing. The first State Board February had no notice to Board Meeting, did not list

The AGRA Phoenix Chapter Board on two occasion conducted official Chapter Board Meetings and business without giving notice to the membership.

For six years as a member of AGRA and attending Phoenix Chapter Meetings, AGRA Phoenix Chapter Membership has historically and by precedent voted on a meeting place and time for the entire year at our February Membership meeting. It is at that time, that the MEMBERSHIP votes on a meeting place and time, and then we go through the year's calendar to see if there are any conflicts, such as Rodeos where we need to move the meeting to better suit our needs.

AGRA Phoenix Chapter has still not done this. There was a motion to have the meetings at the Ramada at 7:00 pm, which failed. It was not a vote on whether to have it either at the Ramada or Charlie's. This was also pointed out to many Phoenix Chapter Board Members, and the State Board Members as well. Still nothing has been done. Maybe this is why we never see anything in the local publications as far as our Organizational meetings. Meetings are rarely published in the "Heatstroke" or "Echo" who both have for many years been wonderful supporters of AGRA.

Well, to a few members who choose to attend the Chapter Board Meetings, it seems that the Phoenix Chapter Board was changing the locations and times of the Board Meetings to keep some people from attending.

When I brought up the Certificate of Deposit that AGRA Phoenix Chapter holds in its coffers for a "rainy day", I was told that the Chapter Board made a decision to withdraw \$5,000.00 from the CD as the Bud Light contract had not been signed and we needed Page 10 The Branding Iron

the money.

I have no problem with this decision. However, the Phoenix Chapter Board cannot find any documentation that the Membership was notified, with the exception of a financial report. Now they state they have to look in the Secretary's computer for these meeting minutes. They should have been filed for easy access, and should have the Secretary and President's signatures on the masters. When we did break the CD in the past, the membership voted on this withdrawal, and decided to replace it to the CD after the rodeo. Why should we not do the same this time?

It now seems to me that the \$7000.00 profit we are distributing includes \$5000 from our CD. Is this due to donating \$20K last year as opposed to the \$16K profit we actually made? I'm beginning to see a pattern, and the CD dwindling. Our proceeds for this year are actually \$2K, yet we are donating \$7K.

With the State going to make assessments to the Chapter for money, and the giving away of 3.5 times our profits, and changing our rodeo venue, I hope the Chapter is seriously considering having some major fund raisers, and spending less money on Social Events. I am requesting the Chapter Board present the annual budgets and the rodeo budgets for this year to the membership. I believe the membership has the right to this information.

In the February Branding Iron, our president had asked permission from the membership to set up a committee to secure a bid for the next IGRA Convention based on the success for the Convention held in Las Vegas. I, as a member, feel there is a possibility in this endeavor, but under our financial situation, I would be somewhat concerned on the realistic application of this proposal. On top of that, it is the membership's responsibility to set up committees, not he president's (refer to Robert's Rules of Order), page 197 **Article X** The Officers and the Minutes # 58 Chair or President:

"The President cannot appoint any committees except those authorized through the bylaws or by a vote of the assembly."

The membership did not vote on this committee. I am anxious to hear how our Committee's presentation at IGRA Convention went, as I have not heard a committee report for quite some time.

Let me finalize by saying that I do not expect everyone to be as "passionate" as I am for AGRA. But I do hope that you would understand that many improprieties are occurring, lack of order, direction, discipline, communication, and adherence to the bylaws. This is a MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION. It is NOT an organization run by the Board of Directors. If these improprieties are allowed to occur, then we are at fault. I wish to see this organization grow, and draw credibility from our community, not ridicule.

If you are involved thank you, but get to know the purposes of the organization before you start to vote, and if you are uncertain of how your vote will effect the organization, or are unclear, abstain from voting. It will not hurt anyone. And for heaven's sake, if something does not make sense, speak up, and ask questions, everyone has a different perspective, and that is what makes organizations great. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted

Chuck Browning
1995 - 2001 AGRA Member/Contestant
1997 AGRA Phoenix Chapter. Vice Pres
1998 AGRA Phx Chptr Pres / AGRA Trustee for IGRA
1999 AGRA Phx Chptr Pres / AGRA Trustee for IGRA
2000 AGRA Phx Chptr V. Pres/AGRA Trustee/IGRA Contestant Liaison Committee
Chair
2001 IGRA Contestant Liaison Committee Chair

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Deadline for the September issue is August 27th.

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

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