

# The Branding Iron



## From the President...

**October Birthdays**

- Chris Santistevan 10/3
- Michael Butts 10/4
- Frank Fisher 10/6
- Robert Brown 10/9
- Charlie Colella (CJ) 10/9
- Sharon Starks 10/16
- Jeremy Williams 10/16
- Sean Slattery 10/19
- Lisa Keefer 10/31

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### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It looks like October is going to be a busy month for AGRA. At the Rainbow Festival this weekend at Heritage Square AGRA will have a booth set up being run by our P.R. Director Sharon Starks. If you are planning on attending stop by and buy a raffle ticket and help support AGRA or if you have a couple of hours to give help Sharon out with the booth.

Also remember that our General Membership meeting we will be voting on the new bylaw submissions that Ric mailed out to everyone earlier.

I will also be opening up the floor for Board nominations for the upcoming year. So if you have a lot of free time make sure you are there to get nominated. I have been a member of the board for three and one half years. I have enjoyed and learned a tremendous amount about gay rodeo. We will take nominations during the months of October and November and vote in December and the new board will take office February 1, 2004.

At this months meeting I will also open the floor for nominations for the second month for the RoadRunner Regional Rodeo 2003 Charitable Contributions Committee. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> month and last month to nominate so if you have a charity in mind please bring their paperwork in order to the meeting.

This past weekend Ric, Pussy LeHoot and myself attended the GSGRA San Diego Rodeo and had a great time. The host hotel was a new venue this year being on the bay. The rodeo was held at Del Mar again this year and was fun and had a good time by all.

I would like to congratulate the following AGRA members that competed at San Diego this past weekend. Sean Patrick, CJ (Charlie Colella) , Brian Helander, Keenan Allen and James Loughrey. You guys did a great job in representing AGRA and make everyone proud to be a member of a great association.

Well Ric and I are soon to be off to finals in Tulsa Oklahoma at the end of the month to support our Royalty contestants and Rodeo contestants who are invited to compete this year. It will be a great weekend I am sure AGRA can bring home the IGRA titles and Rodeo buckles again this year.

That about it for now guys so hope to see everyone at the General Membership meeting and in Tulsa.

Thanks  
Glen



**AGRA MEETINGS**

Oct.—Nov. 2003

**OCTOBER MEETINGS****Monday 10/06/03—7:00 p.m**

AGRA Board of Directors Meeting

Sunshine Inn

2nd Ave and Osborn

**Sunday 10/12/03—7:00 pm**AGRA General Membership Mtg.  
Charlie's

727 W. Camelback Rd., Phoenix

Phone # 602-265-0224

**NOVEMBER MEETINGS****Monday 11/03/03—6:00 p.m.**

AGRA Board of Directors Meeting

Sunshine Inn

2nd Ave and Osborn

**Sunday 11/09/03—7:00 p.m.**AGRA General Membership Mtg.  
Charlie's

727 W. Camelback Rd., Phoenix

Phone # 602-265-0224

All members are welcome to all AGRA Board of Directors meetings. We encourage members who wish to attend to do so.

Thank you.

Ric Leone, AGRA Secretary

**NOVEMBER****NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:****Saturday, OCT. 25, 2003**

Send submissions to:

**BrandingIron02@cox.net**

or mail to:

**P.O. Box 40465 · Phoenix · AZ  
85067-0465**

**AGRA EVENTS...****ARIZONA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION****Royalty Contestants Event Calendar****SUNDAY OCTOBER 12 - 2003 4-7 SHOW ALL CONTESTANTS at CHARLIE'S****WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 15 - 2003 9 PM SHOW at CHARLIE'S****SATURDAY OCTOBER 18 - 2003 4 PM SHOW at CASH INN**

Tatum Michelle Benefiting AGRA and the Melonhead Foundation

**Up coming show dates .****SUNDAY NOVEMBER 9 - 2003 4-7 SHOW ALL CONTESTANTS at CHARLIE'S****WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 12 - 2003 9 PM SHOW at CHARLIE'S****SUNDAY DECEMBER 14- 2003 4-7 SHOW ALL CONTESTANTS at CHARLIE'S****PLEASE Come out and support your Favorite  
contestant****Royalty****Hope to see you there .**

[Sharon Starks](#)  
[AGRA Public Relations Director](#)



**A NOTE FROM YOUR SECRETARY****Hi everyone**

**This past week I mailed out Membership Renewal applications to all members. All 2003 Memberships expire on October 31 , 2003. A new membership form must be filled out with each renewal. Dues are \$35.00 for the year for an individual membership or \$150.00 for a Champion, Group, Business or Corporation membership. Again a new membership application must accompany the renewal, which is good until October 31, 2004. If you don't get the renewal app in the mail print one out from the AGRA web site at [www.agra-phx.com](http://www.agra-phx.com) or pick an application up at Charlie's outside the AGRA office in the holder on the wall.**

**Congrats to Sean Slattery on buckling in Bare Back Bronc in San Diego and CJ in Pole Bending and the other AGRA contestants who competed: Keenan Allen, Brian Helander and James Loughrey. Team Arizona place 2nd at The San Diego Rodeo. Thank you guys for a great showing. !!!**

**Have a safe and Happy Holloween****Ric Leone, AGRA Secretary**

**Upcoming Rodeos & Events...**

<p><b>17th Annual IGRA Finals Rodeo</b> Tulsa, OK October 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th 1-405-947-2351 Ext: 100 www.okgayrodeo.com</p>	<p><b>Road Runner Regional Rodeo</b> Phoenix, AZ January 16-18, 2004</p>	<p><b>IGRA University</b> St. Louis, MO February 13-15, 2004</p>	<p><b>Cowtown Rodeo</b> Fort Worth, TX March 5-7, 2004</p>
			
	<p><b>Bighorn Rodeo</b> Las Vegas, NV April 2-4, 2004</p>	<p><b>Rodeo in the Rock</b> Little Rock, AR April 30-May 2, 2004</p>	<p><b>Comstock Stampede</b> Reno, NV May 14-16, 2004</p>

*October 2003*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 AGRA Board of Dir. Mtg—7pm @ Sunshine Inn	7	8	9	10	11
12 AGRA Gen Memb. Mtg—7pm @ Charlie's	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## 2004 RRRR Rodeo Director's Report

On Tuesday, September 9th, The 2004 RRRR Rodeo committee held their monthly meeting. Eleven members were present.

Neil Carpenter had a black and white copy of the rodeo flyer available for us to proof. We did ask that the Rawhide logo be enlarged to accommodate our agreement with Rawhide and we had one other date change to make.

Ric Leone will again be handling the vendors in the pavilion. He will be putting together the packets and begin getting the information out to past vendors. Discussion was held on other ways of getting more vendors involved.

Because of the size of the pavilion, we want to do what we can to increase the number of vendors. Ric will be going to area events and dispensing the vendors packets.

Discussion was held on event belt buckles. Gary Rushton had three particular buckles that he would like to pick from. It was the consensus of the committee to let Gary decide since all three selections were acceptable to the committee. Discussion was held on how many needed to be ordered and the cost to us of ordering them.

Sponsorship of event buckles are available now. Gary has begun that task with plans of having all of them sponsored before our program deadline.

Ron Lindblad was present and gave us a report on our host hotels. We have contracts with the Hilton Garden Inn Scottsdale and the Hilton Garden Inn Phoenix Midtown (formerly the Lexington). Both hotels are offering a rodeo rate of \$99.00. The Hilton Garden Inn Scottsdale has made an offer that once we reach our 200 room night block, the rate for our VIP's and rodeo officials will drop to \$69.00 a night. That in itself could save AGRA a large sum of money. If you know of anyone wanting to visit Phoenix and attend our Rodeo and they need accommodations, **PLEASE** encourage them to stay at our Scottsdale host hotel. It really could help us out financially in the end. I certainly thank Ron for offering this deal to AGRA!

Bob Pimental and I did a proposal to offer RAWHIDE with what we would like to see in regards to a contract. At the most recent AGRA Board of Director's meeting, I was able to get the consensus of the Board on what they would like to see in the contract. *Since* our committee meeting, I have mailed (both sides agreed that mailing was the way to go now as both of our schedules conflicted), a proposed contract to RAWHIDE and will be meeting in person with them after the first of October. We will be asking for a 20% charitable contribution back to AGRA from the sale of beer/malt liquor during our entire event.

The committee agreed with Gary Rushton and voted to hold the Friday night contestant registration and our 2004 AGRA Royalty presentation at the Hilton Garden Inn Phoenix Midtown. We decided that a more central location would improve our attendance. The Hilton Garden Inn Phoenix Midtown will be giving us a percentage back from liquor sales. We certainly want to promote this event and get a large Phoenix turnout! Royalty contestants present thought that "this move" would be an improvement to the evening.

Will Land will be checking over all of our current rodeo equipment and getting back to AGRA on what he thinks we need to replace.

Originally I wanted to discuss rodeo officials at this meeting. However, it didn't happen at my choosing. **WE WILL BE DISCUSSING OFFICIALS AT THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7TH, 7:00 PM ON THE PATIO AT CHARLIE'S.** Hope to see you there! Your suggestions are needed and will be appreciated!

Thanks for your involvement.

Dan Iversen  
2004 RRRR Rodeo Director

...from the AGRA Public Relations Director

## AGRA Contestants Running for the Royalty 2004

**Sharon Starks**

To date, 9 members of AGRA have decided to compete for a 2004 Royalty Title. This is one of the largest number of contestants that have run for the titles of MR, MS and Miss AGRA that most members can recall. There could be even more since the entry cut off date for current members to enter the Royalty Competition isn't until October 17, 2003. For a person not yet a member the cut off date is September 17, 2003 to join and still be eligible.

The event is traditionally held the 2 days before the start of the Annual RoadRunner Regional Rodeo. For the third consecutive year the 2004 RoadRunner Regional Rodeo will be held at Rawhide in Scottsdale AZ on Saturday January 17 and Sunday 18, 2004.

The competition is not an easy one. This coming year Thursday January 15, 2004 will start with each contestant having to answer questions about AGRA, IGRA and the history and workings of Gay Rodeo in what is called the Interview portion. Thursday night, at Charlie's is the Western Wear competition where each models their best Western attire after which they must answer a question the judges have made up and the contestants pick randomly. On Friday night at the newly remodeled Hilton Gardens Midtown will be the Entertainment competition followed by the crowning of Mr. Ms and Miss AGRA 2004.

During their candidacy, each contestant must raise \$500.00 for a 501C charitable organization of their choice and follow the AGRA Bylaws.

In the Miss AGRA 2004 category are Tatum Michelle (a.k.a. Jeremy Chant) and Pussy LeHoot, who is the current 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up to Miss IGRA 2003 and Miss AGRA 2002.

In the Ms field AGRA's Public Relations Director Sharon Starks is running along with Gaylia Young, the current 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner Up to MS IGRA 2003 and Miss AGRA 2001 & 2002.

The MR AGRA category has 5 candidates who include Michael Brent, David Trimbur, Kyle Ross, Michael Butts who is the current 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up MR AGRA 2003 and Patrick Lose, the current 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up to Mr IGRA 2003 and MR AGRA 2002.

The 2004 AGRA Royalty Competition is sure to be an exciting one with so many contestants. It is free to the community so come to Charlie's Jan 15, 2004 and the Hilton Gardens Midtown on Friday Jan 16, 2004 for 2 nights of AGRA fun followed by 2 days of Rodeo on Jan 17 & 18 2004.

Sharon Starks

AGRA Public Relations Director

## AGRA History...

### Arizona Gay Rodeo Association Road Runner Regional Rodeo

**Our RODEO will be January 16- 18 2004**

Here is a little history about our association.

IGRA, International Gay Rodeo Association is comprised of 24 association in the US and Canada for the purpose of promoting gay country and western lifestyle. Coupled with raising money for non-profit charitable organizations. AGRA was founded in 1984, staging their 1st rodeo in 1986. Our membership to date is 144 members.

AGRA, in the past, hosted 5 finals rodeo these took place in 1989,1990,1992,1997,and 1998. ROAD RUNNER REGIONAL RODEO has donated over 335,000 Dollars to Arizona charities. Volunteer are the backbone of AGRA. There are not enough words too express our love and admiration of our volunteers. They work tireless hours during our rodeo and other events.

Also we will be giving away moneys that we raised at the 2003 rodeo too charities in December. Last year, AGRA Road Runner Regional Rodeo gave 15,000 Dollars too seven charities. This year we will be giving \$20,000 to charities.

Sharon Starks  
AGRA Public Relations Director

INTERNATIONAL SPONSORS



ADVERTISING SPACE IS AVAILABLE

Hey everyone in cowboy land. I just wanted to drop you a line and remind y'all there is still space for your business card size advertisement in the "Branding Iron". A single month is just \$10.00 but if you advance purchase a six month ad it's 10% off but wait there is more if you purchase a whole year in advance it's 25% off making your advertising as low as \$90.00 for the entire year. THAT'S INCREDIBLE!!

So don't forget to place your ad right away.

Keith Carson



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**NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:**  
**SATURDAY OCTOBER 25, 2003**

Send submissions to:  
**BrandingIron02@cox.net**  
or mail to:  
**P.O. Box 40465 · Phoenix · AZ · 85067-0465**

Miss AGRA 2003

Lady Casandra  
(a.k.a. Daniel Dold)  
Phone: (602) 242-0841  
dannyoynphx@hotmail.com

Mr. AGRA 2003

Kelly Bascue  
Phone: (480) 970-3298  
Email: mragra@agra-phx.com

Ms. AGRA 2003

Marty Wolfe  
Phone: (623) 980-0070  
Email: msagra@agra-phx.com

Mr. AGRA 2003 1st Runner-up

Michael Butts  
Phone: (602) 685-1746  
Email: bouncetigger@aol.com

AGRA's IGRA ROYALTY

Miss IGRA 1st Runner-up 2003

Pussy LeHoot

Mr. IGRA 1st Runner-up 2003

Patrick Lose

Ms. IGRA 2nd Runner-up 2003

Gaylia Young

A.G.R.A. Board of Directors

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**President**

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**Vice President**

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**(a.k.a. Kevin McSweeny)**  
**Fund Raising**

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**Rodeo Events**

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**Rodeo Director 2004**

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