



**ARIZONA  
GAY  
RODEO  
ASSOCIATION**



## From the Desk of the President

Happy 4th of July to All,

Can you feel the energy in the air already?? I want to Congratulate the Rodeo team on a successful Announcement Party at BS West on Friday June, 26th 2009. I heard the Staff and Management were great! Thanks to Mike Ferneli and crew for a job well done!!

I attended the Rodeo Committee meeting in June and I must say this Rodeo team is putting in a lot of effort and energy to make sure our 25th anniversary Rodeo is one of the best. The team is coming up with a lot of great ideas that will attract more spectators and contestants. Keep up the great work!!

As we all know the website is under going a face lift, with that comes issues that we do not anticipate which delays our launch date. The site is complete and it looks great!! We are now just waiting on the renewal of our domain name which will remain the same agra-phx.com. Once that is complete we will be able to launch our new site. So please be patient through this transition period.

Just a quick reminder we will be voting to send nominees and voting on delegates for IGRA convention in Toronto. We are also voting on our beneficiaries that will benefit from our rodeo profits in 2009.

I hope everyone has a safe and festive 4th of July weekend! Hope to see you on the 19th of July for our July membership meeting.

Michael Weidmann  
AGRA President

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**June Edition  
Newsletter Deadline: July 25th 09**

**Send submissions to:  
LEVI HUNTING:  
AGRA, P.O. Box 40465 · Phoenix · AZ  
85067-0465**

## **From the Desk of the Vice President**

Howdy All,

If you are interested in being on the 2010 Royalty team, contestant applications are being accepted this month. Please feel free to see a board member or current and past royalty if you have any questions.

You must be a AGRA Member before you put in your application.

Thank you for your continuous support of AGRA,

Michael Butts  
AGRA Vice President



## From the desk of the Secretary

Howdy folks.

Just an update for the AGRA Office, files are set up and most things are in order. Still have a lot of stuff that needs to be accomplished to make the office more user friendly. I am looking for some volunteers to assist in creating a more workable space in the office. You know, rearrange some things so we have a better flow. Any assistance would be appreciated.



Of late we have a few members taking an interest in the day to day business of AGRA. This is always appreciated and welcomed. I would like to personally thank Mr. Chuck Browning for his work and assistance in keeping AGRA on the path to success. His knowledge of Federal, State, City and Non-Profit laws are of great use to our organization. When you see him, give him your support and thanks.

### I would like to announce this months birthdays:

#### July 2009

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Andrew Camin
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Greg Gillum
- 8<sup>th</sup> Rob Strabala
- 9<sup>th</sup> Jaimes Loughrey
- 15<sup>th</sup> David Sebastian
- 16<sup>th</sup> Max Sutherland
- 20<sup>th</sup> John Kosir
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Scott Latendresse
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Timothy Schwer
- 31<sup>st</sup> Chris Taylor



We wish them all the very best. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!**

Keith A. Carson  
AGRA Secretary 2009  
(602) 509-7017  
kacarson@cox.net



I'd like to begin by saying "Thank you" for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your AGRA Treasurer. I look forward to getting to know all of you!

I started this year with the intention of joining an organization where I felt I could give back and make a difference in the community that I care so much about, and let's face it, *Wrangler butts drive me nuts!* As some of you may be aware, my family owns a rodeo company in the Northwest. I have spent my entire life involved in rodeo and it is one of my greatest loves. The position of AGRA Treasurer will allow me an opportunity to use my experiences to keep AGRA moving forward.

After a demanding tax season, I was given the books for AGRA...and after several Bud Lights, things had already improved! Without further adieu, here are the numbers for May 2009:

**May:**

Balance Sheet	Total Liabilities & Equity	\$23,741.74
Checking		\$11,365.03
CD		\$12,376.71
Non Rodeo	Net Income	<\$2,205.34>
Rodeo	Net Income	\$814.83
Year to Date Rodeo	Net Income	\$6,000.00

The numbers for June thus far (books are still open)

**June:**

Balance Sheet	Total Liabilities & Equity	\$22,271.24
Checking		\$9,849.49
CD		\$12,421.75
Non Rodeo	Net Income	<\$1,331.84>
Rodeo	Net Income	\$0
Year to Date Rodeo	Net Income	\$6,000.00

As far as the Year to Date Rodeo net income; 20% (\$1200) will come out of the \$6000 and left in the account, the remainder 80% (\$4800) will be divided up and given to tbd charities.

Thank you again for this opportunity and I look forward to a very successful year for the Arizona Gay Rodeo Association. Now, where do I get one of those sparkly cowboy hats?!

Jai  
AGRA Treasurer





From the Desk  
of the  
Trustee

Trustee's Report

It's time to start making plans for the 2009 IGRA World Gay Rodeo Finals that will be October 23-25 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The host hotel is the Sheraton Uptown with a room rate of \$85.00 per night. The announcement of Grand Marshals will be made by August 1, 2009. Tickets are available for purchase now. Keep checking the IGRA website ([www.igra.com](http://www.igra.com)) for updated information.

Anyone planning to attend the 25<sup>th</sup> IGRA Silver Anniversary Convention in Toronto, Canada should definitely be making plans now. I have been checking airfares on a daily basis, and it looks like the lowest fares still are a little over \$400 round trip. The host hotel is the Toronto Bloor-Yorkville Marriott with a room rate of \$119 Canadian for single to quad occupancy; this rate is good until October 21. Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-859-7180 and asking for the IGRA Gay Rodeo room block. Delegate fee is \$80.00 Canadian if registered by October 1; after October 1, the fee is \$100.00 Canadian. You can find more information and the convention schedule on the IGRA website. The CCGRA (Central Canada Gay Rodeo Association), convention host association, is also selling raffle tickets with the grand prize including a 3-night stay at the host hotel, a delegate fee, weekend car rental, dinner for 2, ticket to the Brokeback Saloon and a rodeo shirt. Visit CCGRA's website ([www.ccgara.ca](http://www.ccgara.ca)) for details and to purchase tickets. **MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A CURRENT PASS-PORT!!!**

Per AGRA Bylaws, the AGRA President and Trustee are automatically delegates to the Annual IGRA Convention. AGRA is entitled to a total of six (6) delegates and five (5) alternate delegates. Delegate nominees are:

- |                |                    |                |            |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------|------------|
| Chuck Browning | Darrell Dern       | Dan Iversen    | John King  |
| Jay Lovejoy    | Kevin McSweeny     | Mitch Petersen | Ramon Soto |
| Sharon Starks  | (aka Pussy LeHoot) | Eric Stevenson |            |

Voting for delegates will be in the July 19 AGRA Membership Meeting. The four (4) individuals receiving the highest number of votes will be delegates, and the five (5) individuals receiving the next highest number of votes will be alternate delegates. All delegates and alternate delegates should plan to attend committee meetings on Friday and the convention business sessions on Saturday and Sunday. I will schedule meetings with delegates and alternates to make committee meeting assignments and to review proposed IGRA Bylaws/Standing Rules and Rodeo Rules.

In the June 14 membership meeting a motion was passed to keep 20% of the 2009 Road Runner Regional Rodeo profits as start-up money for the 2010 rodeo. Thus, we will be donating \$4,800.00 profits to other organizations. Organizations nominated to receive the profits include: TIHAN, Joshua Tree Feeding Program, Community Church of Hope, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Research, PFLAG, and Project Hard Hat. Voting on the distribution of profits will take place in the July 19 membership meeting.

Ron Trusley, Trustee  
E-Mail: [rtrusley@cox.net](mailto:rtrusley@cox.net)  
Phone: (602) 510-9671



Hello All -

It's the time of year that many of take off for Flagstaff, San Diego -  
- basically anyplace outside of this wonderful desert in summertime.

Before you take off, either physically or mentally, here's a quick  
Public Relations update:

A big shout out to all of you who showed and supported the 2010  
RoadRunner Regional Rodeo's Announcement Party at BS West on  
June 26.

Thank you for bringing your friends to have some fun with the cowboys  
as George and Team announced our 25th rodeo venue!

I hope to see you in Colorado for the Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo -  
the weekend of July 10-12.

Keep cool and take care,

Greg Gillum  
Public Relations - A.G.R.A. and RRRR



## **From the Desk of the Rodeo Directors**

Well, summer has begun and your rodeo team is well on it's way planning our 2010 Silver Anniversary Rodeo. The rodeo venue has been selected and the announcement/kickoff party is scheduled for Friday June 26, 2009 from 7:00 pm till 11:00 pm. Since it became apparent that we needed a larger space, the location for the party has been changed to BS West in Scottsdale. Evidently, our efforts reaching out to all the bars in our community has been successful; Mike Fornelli, the owner of BS West, has graciously offered to host our event at his bar.

The poster contest is now over and the winning submission is from Chuck Browning. Congratulations!

A big thank you goes out to Jerry Jacobs and Juanita Molina for participating in Bisbee Pride. There are a few more pride events that we will be attending...Sedona Pride in September and Tucson Pride and Rainbows Festival in October.

Darrell Dern and our Miss AGRA 2009 Ionna Doublewide, AKA Kyle Ross, have accepted the positions of Fund Raising Coordinators. Both Dan Iversen and I want to express our appreciation to them for taking on this very important job.

The Rodeo Team met on June 16, 2009 to discuss the Assistant Rodeo Directors' responsibilities, venue entertainment for Rodeo weekend, pricing structure, immediate advertising needs and new Silver Anniversary Buckles. All of our main positions have been filled with the exception of Sponsorship Coordinator and we would be so grateful for any help we can get from our membership.

Fund raisers will continue throughout the year, our goal being to have the rodeo completely paid for before February.

Thank you all for your help and support.

George Immerso  
Rodeo Co-Director



## Rodeo Events Contestant Liaison Committee

### Branding Iron Report for July 2009 Issue

**A VERY BIG THANK YOU** to Michael W and the Charlie's Bartenders who went way above and beyond on helping with the Fundraiser to help Clinton B. The Men of Charlie's also contributed as well as member's of several sporting teams in the valley. A Big thank you to those that contributed items for the Raffles: Will L. Mitch P. Sherry R/M, Connie M. Bill T. Sean S. Chuck B. Also, the several members who attended the Fund Raiser, assisted in the many ways, and to all the Entertainers who donated their time. It was an incredible event, and really showed the community pulling together in many ways. I do not have the exact figures, and would have to defer that to John King.

### Rodeo Results on the IGRA Circuit!

**AGRA's Buckle count for 2009 = 24!!!**

### \*\*Sierra Stampede - Rodeo 2009\*\*

AGRA had a few Contestants in Sacramento for the Sierra Stampede Rodeo 2009 All in all, **TEAM AGRA** brought home 4 Buckles including two AGRA Cowboys placing in the All-Around top 5!

#### Men's Chute Dogging:

Saturday – Chuck B 2<sup>nd</sup> Brian H 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – Chuck B 2<sup>nd</sup> Brian H 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Chuck B - Buckle Winner!**

#### Men's Calf Roping on Foot:

Saturday – Eric S 8<sup>th</sup> Chuck B – 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### Men's Flag Race:

Saturday – Popper D 4<sup>th</sup>

#### Steer Decorating:

Chuck B & Brian H – 8<sup>th</sup> on Saturday & 7<sup>th</sup> on Sunday

Popper D & Ed M – 6<sup>th</sup> on Saturday

#### Wild Drag Race:

**Chuck B & Team – 3<sup>rd</sup> on Saturday & 4<sup>th</sup> on Sunday = BUCKLE WINNER!**

Brian H and Team - 7<sup>th</sup> on Saturday & 1<sup>st</sup> on Sunday = 4<sup>th</sup> for the weekend.

#### Goat Dressing:

**Brian H & Chuck B – 1<sup>st</sup> on Saturday & 2<sup>nd</sup> on Sunday – BUCKLE WINNERS!**

Mitch P & Will L – 7<sup>th</sup> Saturday

#### All-Around Cowboy / Cowgirl:

Chuck B – 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner up All-Around Cowboy with 347 points

Brian H – 3<sup>rd</sup> Runner up All-Around Cowboy with 277 points

**Way to go AGRA for taking 4th place in the team standings!**



## Below are some educational opportunities for AGRA Members:

### From our Bylaws:

#### **ARTICLE II PURPOSES OF THE CORPORATION**

##### **2.1 Objective**

**The objective of the organization shall be to elevate the image of women and men in the sports field of rodeo.**

**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 the 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
- D) To engage in any business and/or activities in which a non-profit Corporation 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. No substantial part of the activities shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing of or distribution of statements)

### From Robert's Rules of Order: (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)

#### **The Rule of the Majority and Protection of the Minority:**

One of the most important rights that members have is the right to vote, knowing that the majority rules. At the same time, the majority never has the right to silence or take away rights from the minority, absent members, or individual members. Here's how this principle translates into action:

- \* Members have the right to have notice of all meetings.
- \* Members have the right to know by previous notice when there is a proposal to rescind or amend something previously adopted.
- \* In any situation where rights may be taken away from Members, two- thirds of the membership must approve the motion (rather than a majority)
- \* No one has the right to require a higher vote than a majority vote on issues unless the bylaws or the parliamentary authority specifically states that more than a majority is required.
- \* Members have the right to be informed of the work of the organization. The right to hear reports of board action, committee work, and officers.

**Finally, I would like our Membership acknowledge that AGRA Member and founder -John King was recently designated as the Honorary Chair of the IGRA Gay Rodeo Legacy Project. Below is the letter from John King and IGRA President Brian Helander on this wonderful development.**



Dear Friend of Gay Rodeo,

As President of the International Gay Rodeo Association I am writing to request your support as a sponsor of the Gay Rodeo Legacy Project. This project will bring the incredible 25 year history of IGRA, out of basement archives in Colorado into the public domain at the Autry Museum in Los Angeles California. You can see the work of the Autry Museum at [www.autrynationalcenter.org](http://www.autrynationalcenter.org)

The Autry National Center celebrates the American West through three important institutions: the [Museum of the American West](#), the [Southwest Museum of the American Indian](#), and the [Institute for the Study of the American West](#). The Autry was established in 2003 following the merger of the Southwest Museum, the [Women of the West Museum](#), and the Museum of the American West (formerly the Autry Museum of Western Heritage). Through innovative [exhibitions](#), a broad range of [programs](#) and extensive [collection](#) of art and artifacts, the Autry National Center explores the distinct stories and interactions of cultures and peoples, and their impact on the complex, evolving history of the American West.

Our initial goal is to raise \$5000 to underwrite the Gay Rodeo Legacy Project (GRLP). Funds will be used to pay for consulting curatorial services and expenses, archival services, scanning, storage and shipping costs associated with the International Gay Rodeo Association's (IGRA) donation of its archives to the Autry National Center.

The Consulting Curator, Gregory Hinton has created, researched, prepared and then promoted the GRLP to several prominent Western Museums and Research Libraries with the permission of IGRA. After considering two offers to house the IGRA archives, the IGRA Board of Directors voted unanimously to donate the extensive archive to the Autry National Center in Los Angeles.

Upon analyzing the IGRA archives located in Denver, Gregory Hinton, along with Patrick Terry, IGRA Historian and Archivist, will oversee the shipment of the archives to the Autry National Center in Los Angeles. Once the shipment arrives in California, Hinton will observe and consult with Autry curators and archivists as they inventory the archives, and select the best examples of what they deem significant to retain. Duplicates will then be packed and returned to IGRA for retention or distribution to other archival institutions.

Attached is a copy our Sponsorship Levels. It is my sincere hope that you will choose to support this opportunity. Our Goal is to raise the Phase one funds by December 31, 2009

Sincerely,

John King  
Honorary Chair

Brian Helander  
President, International Gay Rodeo Association

*"A lot of people who grow up in rural communities come to the big city and then we lose our identities. The gay rodeo is a place for us to reclaim our heritage and be ourselves. It's a place where we fit in."*

John King - Honorary Chair, GRLP

## Gay Rodeo Legacy Project

The Gay Rodeo Legacy Project (GRLP) will provide funds necessary for curatorial and archival services, scanning, storage and shipping costs associated with the International Gay Rodeo Association's (IGRA) donation of its archives to the Autry National Center in Los Angeles.



## Sponsorship Levels

<p><b>\$2,500</b> <b>Title Sponsor</b></p>	<p>Sponsor to be listed with project name                  Inclusion in all written and electronic media                  Inclusion in press release related to the project                  Full page ad in the 2010 World Gay Rodeo Finals Program                  Announcement during the 2010 World Gay Rodeo Finals</p>
<p><b>\$1,000</b> <b>King Sponsor</b></p>	<p>Inclusion in all written and electronic media                  Inclusion in all press releases                  Listing in the 2010 World Gay Rodeo Finals Program</p>
<p><b>\$500</b> <b>Ragsdale Sponsor</b></p>	<p>Inclusion in all written and electronic media                  Inclusion in all press releases                  Listing in the 2010 World Gay Rodeo Finals Program</p>
<p><b>\$250</b> <b>Copeland Sponsor</b></p>	<p>Inclusion in all press releases</p>
<p><b>\$100</b> <b>Jakino Sponsor</b></p>	<p>Inclusion in all press releases</p>
<p><b>\$50</b> <b>Miller Sponsor</b></p>	<p>Inclusion in all press releases</p>

Respectfully submitted by **Chuck Browning – AGRA Contestant Liaison**  
[agracwby@aol.com](mailto:agracwby@aol.com) 602-402-1836 (cell)

**AGRA MEMBERSHIP & BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE**

July Board Meeting 15th @ 7:00pm, Charlie's Offices, 727 W. Camelback Road  
July Membership Meeting 19th @ 5:00pm, Charlie's Dance Floor

August Board Meeting 5th @ 7:00pm, Charlie's Offices, 727 W. Camelback Road  
August Membership Meeting 9th @ 5:00pm, Charlie's Dance Floor

September Board Meeting 23rd @ 7:00pm, Charlie's Offices, 727 W. Camelback Road  
September Membership Meeting 27th @ 5:00pm, Charlie's Dance Floor

October Board Meeting 7th @ 7:00pm, Charlie's Offices, 727 W. Camelback Road  
October Membership Meeting 11th @ 5:00pm, Charlie's Dance Floor

November Board Meeting 4th @ 7:00pm, Charlie's Offices, 727 W. Camelback Road  
November Membership Meeting 8th @ 5:00pm, Charlie's Dance Floor

December Board Meeting 9th @ 7:00pm, Charlie's Offices, 727 W. Camelback Road  
December Membership Meeting 13th @ 5:00pm, Charlie's Dance Floor

January Board Meeting 6th @ 7:00pm, Charlie's Offices, 727 W. Camelback Road  
January Membership Meeting 10th @ 5:00pm, Charlie's Dance Floor



**Board of Directors**

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**Jai Crystal**  
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**Pussy LeHoot**  
(a.k.a. Kevin McSweeny)  
Fund Raising  
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Public Relations  
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**2nd Runner-up Miss IGRA**  
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