

THE BRANDING IRON

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT



ARIZONA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION

Hello Cowboys and Cowgirls,

I hope everyone has recovered from their Pride weekend and Easter weekend. It's been a very busy month for everyone. Well I can assure you that your board of directors is hard at work already gearing up for the 2013 Road Runner Regional Rodeo. The board has done interviews for most of our committee chairs and I will be introducing them now! Drum Roll Please.....

First I would like to introduce our Co-Rodeo Directors John King and Bob Pimentel. John and Bob have planned 13+ rodeos and finals rodeos throughout the years. We are very excited about some of the changes that they have planned for us. They are meeting with several different venues and will have more information in the upcoming weeks.

Our membership liaison is Ruben Contreras, Ruben has been a member of AGRA for several years and is coming in not only with great ideas to build our membership but an enthusiasm that our organization desperately needs. Ruben will be setting up membership drives, reaching out to community businesses and our local sister organizations to help increase the awareness of our mission and get people to join this amazing organization we all so deeply love! Welcome Aboard Ruben!!

Dave Holmes, Todd Wycoff and Miguel Vitale has been selected to be on the Elections Committee. Welcome boys we are glad to have you on board!

Justin Gonzalez has been selected as our BI editor. Welcome back Justin and thanks for doing such an amazing JOB!!

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May 2012 Edition
Next Newsletter Deadline:
May 25th 2012

Send submissions to:
Justin@TheCreativeArcade.com



CONTINUED...

Gregory Begay will be our Contestant liaison. Gregory will be working with the BOD and the Membership Coordinator to rope in new contestants and plan exciting events for our membership.

I have to say the BOD is so excited for this up coming year, we have an excited group of committee chairs that have been selected, They will call upon our membership for their expertise and their knowledge to help grow this organization back to what it once was! It's time that we GET EXCITED, GET INVOLVED and SHOW the community what we are all about! We are planning membership drives, fundraisers, social outings, please attend and invite your friends get them involved in our amazing cause!

I want to give a HUGE THANK YOU TO Richard Myers our Pride events Coordinator. Richard pulled together a team that represented AGRA in the Phoenix Pride Parade. Richard also was instrumental in getting volunteers to work our AGRA booth. GREAT JOB RICHARD!! I also want to thank Ron Trusley, Ruben Contrearas, Gary Hatterman, Richard Merritt, Dan Iversen, Patrick Roe, Vanessa Jimenez, Jessica Mier, Jessica Houghlin, Anthony Ward, Jaco Tenney, Alberto Villagomez, April Hernandez, Jai Crystal, Miguel Vital, Veronica, Sherri, Kaley, Greg Begay, Carlton Thompson, Matt and Carlos Garcia for working the AGRA BEER TRUCK!! Great job!! I believe we made about \$4000.00 but have not got confirmation from pride yet. Remember we have our May membership meeting @ 4pm at Charlie's. Hope to see you there!

Respectfully,

Michael Weidmann
AGRA President



VICE PREZ

Happy May!!!!

I don't have much to report for this month. We are working on our Bylaws for royalty and will announce at the membership meeting any changes we may have.

I look forward to this year in royalty competition. If you know anyone interested in competing point them in my direction.

Joshua Sipe / Claudia B.
AGRA Vice President





THANKS RON!

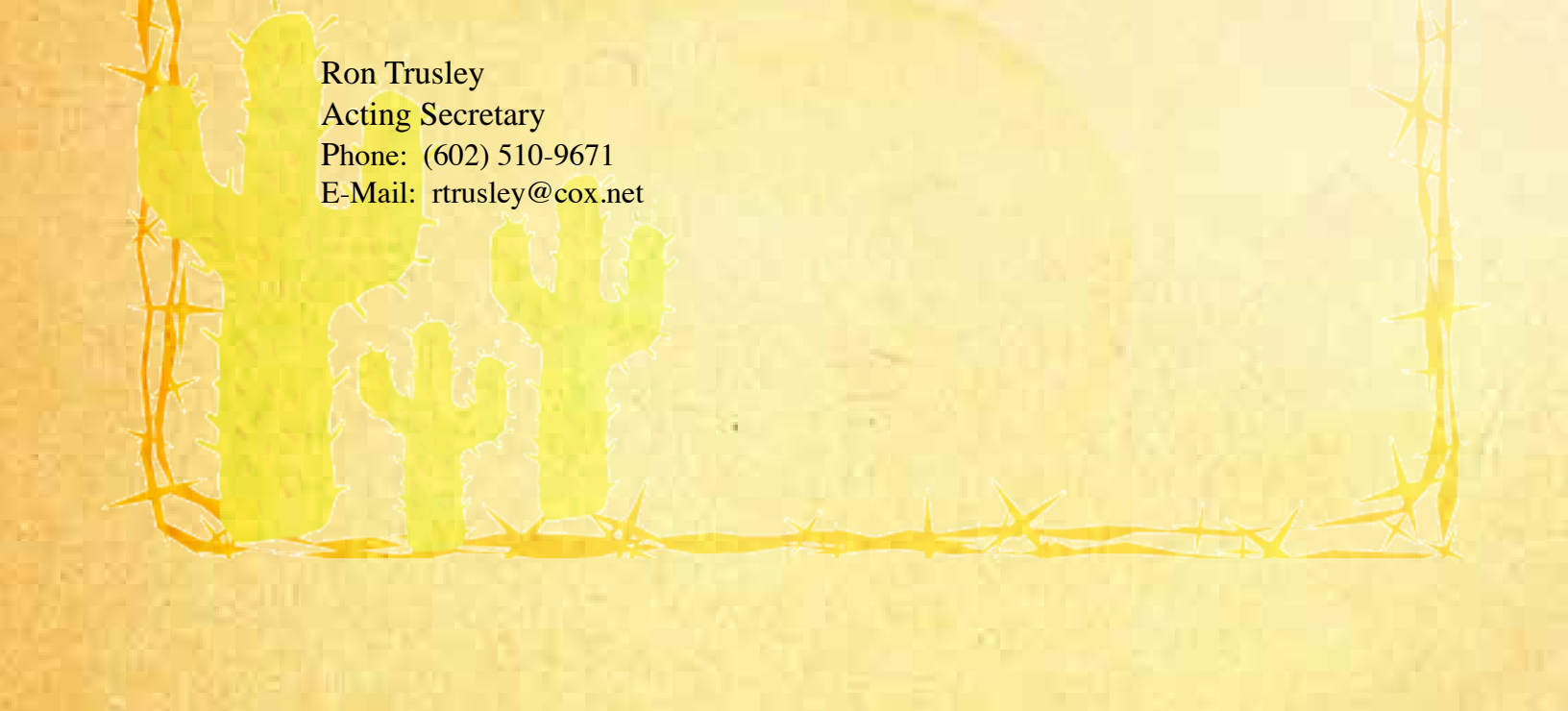
Secretary's Report

As of this writing on April 25, 2012, there are 91 AGRA members with 7 of them being Champion Members. I expect more membership applications will be received very soon.

Happy birthday to the following people who will celebrate their "special day" in May:

Jeff Schroeder
Tim Dougherty
Michael Weidmann
Carlos Garcia
Todd Wyckoff
Alberto Villagomez
Doogie

Ron Trusley
Acting Secretary
Phone: (602) 510-9671
E-Mail: rtrusley@cox.net





TRUSTEE

The Sierra Stampede Rodeo, scheduled for June 8-10, 2012 in Sacramento, California has been cancelled. However, the association is planning a Rodeo School on June 9; more details will be forthcoming.

We were able to raise some much-needed money for AGRA April 21 & 22 at the Phoenix Pride Festival. AGRA ran one of the beer trucks, and we also had an exhibitor booth.

I want to thank Richard Myers for coordinating the AGRA Pride Parade Entry and for coordinating the AGRA exhibitor booth activities and for getting volunteers to work in the booth.

I also want to thank Michael Weidmann for scheduling volunteers to work in the beer truck and for ensuring an adequate number of volunteers were available.

And, finally, but certainly not least, I want to thank all of the volunteers who gave of their time and volunteered for AGRA in any capacity at Phoenix Pride. Personally, I think it was a lot of fun and very rewarding – although it was extremely hot!

During the weekend, I was able to talk to several people about AGRA membership, and I believe we can expect more membership applications to be coming in soon.

I would like to remind everyone that the 2012 IGRA Finals Rodeo Committee is still seeking nominations for Grand Marshal. The nomination form can be found on the IGRA website under Rodeo Fans/World Gay Rodeo Finals. The deadline for nominations is May 15, 2012, and the committee will make a recommendation to the IGRA Board in their May 25 meeting in Oklahoma City.

In accordance with AGRA Bylaws, nominations for Delegates for the IGRA Annual Convention will be accepted in the May and June membership meetings, and voting will be done in the July membership meeting. The AGRA Trustee and President are Delegates by virtue of their office; so four (4) additional Delegates and five (5) Alternate Delegates will be elected. The convention will be at the Tuscany Suites in Las Vegas November 8-11, 2012.

Ron Trusley
AGRA Trustee
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FROM CONTESTANT LIAISON...

Howdy AGRA Members,

The new rodeo season has started and is action packed with three rodeos completed in the 2012 IGRA Rodeo Season in Phoenix, AZ, Ft. Worth, TX, and Ft. Lauderdale, FL. We kicked off the first rodeo of the season at the Rawhide Arena, February 18 and 19, in Phoenix, Az. With 22 cowgirls and 95 cowboys entered for the weekend totaling 117 contestants, AGRA represented well finishing 5th out of 13 associations in Team Points with 742 points. The cowgirls competed well and Claire M placing 8th in the Wild Drag Race in the First Round with a 32.16 seconds. The cowboys had Greg B., Keenan A., Rick M., Lorenzo, Robert B., Charlie T., Jeff S., Mitch P., Tony A., Alberto V., Angelo M., and Kiki V. grab some points, ribbons and a couple of buckles stayed here in Arizona. In the Chute Dogging Greg B. placed 2nd with a 4.75 and Keenan A. 7th with a 5.15 both in the second round. Greg B. placed 6th in the first round of Calf Roping on Foot with a 1.39 and 4th in the second round with a 1.25 second run, and ended up 2nd in the average. In the Breakaway Roping Greg B. placed 3rd with an 8.87 second run in the first round and came back to win the second round with 1.49 and ended up taking home the buckle with a 10.36 on 2 calves. The cowboys of AGRA came to race in the Barrel Racing, in the first round Rick M. outran everyone the first day placing 1st with a 17.36 and Lorenzo followed closely with a 17.55 for 3rd. The second round had 4 cowboys placing amid the top 8, with Rick M. placing 2nd with a 17.55, Robert B. placing 3rd with a 17.73, Lorenzo placing 4th with a 17.91, and Greg B. placing 7th with an 18.1. With a 1st place in the first round and a 2nd place in the second round Rick M. also kept a buckle here in Arizona with a combined time of 34.91, a half second faster than fellow AGRA cowboy Lorenzo. The cowboys Pole Bending was also filled with AGRA cowboys crowding the top 8. The first round was won by our very own Robert B. with a 21.61 for 1st place, Rick M. taking 3rd place with a 21.83, Charlie T. placing 6th with a 22.53, and Greg B. placing 7th with a 22.86. The second round was equally tough with Robert B. placing 2nd with a 22.11, Rick M. placing 4th with a 22.63, Lorenzo taking 5th with a 22.69, Jeff S. placing 6th with a 22.70, and Charlie T. taking 7th place with a 22.81. The average was close with Robert B. and Rick M. barely losing the buckle placing second and third. In the quick event of Flag Racing one cowboy, Keenan A. placed 4th in the first round with a 10.41

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OH WAIT, THERE'S MORE...

second run. Going from both the Roping and Speed Events we round out the rodeo with the Camp Events. Keenan A. led the camp events with a 2nd place finish in the second round with a 7.90 and he also placed 6th in the average with a 28.46 with team mate Pepe from the GSGRA. In the first round of Wild Drag Race Greg B. and team placed 2nd with a 24.40, Keenan A. and team placed 7th with a 32.09. In the second round Mitch P. and team placed 4th with a 20.50 and Greg B. and team with a 23.53, Greg B. and team came up short placing 2nd in the average for the Wild Drag Event. The AGRA was represented well in the Goat Dressing Event with four new contestants leading the way! The team of Tony A. and Alberto V. took 7th in the first round with a 13.32 and Angelo M. and Kiki V. also winning 7th in the second round with a 12.84, Keenan A. and Pepe placed 8th in the second round. Not sure if any AGRA cowboys or cowgirls drove or flew to the TGRA Rodeo in Ft. Worth, TX, or the FGRA Rodeo in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, but Good Luck to any AGRA Cowgirls and Cowboys traveling to Palm Springs, CA and Las Vegas, NV. The contestants really appreciate your support and applause at the rodeos, so come on out!!!! If you are interested in becoming a contestant or have questions about any rodeo event shoot me an email I will answer them as soon as possible.

Greg Begay
Contestant Liaison
greg_1014_begay@hotmail.com

MEETING SCHEDULE

2012 MEETING SCHEDULE				
AGRA BOARD MEETING	AGRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING	RODEO/EVENT NAME	RODEO/EVENT DATES	IGRA BOARD MEETING
March 7, 2012	March 11, 2012	Texas Tradition Rodeo (Fort Worth, TX)	March 2-4, 2012	
		AGRA St Patio O Day	March 17, 2012	
April 4, 2012	April 1, 2012	Saguaro Cup	April 13-15, 2012	
		Sunshine Stampede (Ft Lauderdale, FL)	April 20-22, 2012	
		Phoenix Pride 2012	April 21-22, 2012	
May 9, 2012	May 13, 2012	Hot Rodeo 2012 (Palm Springs, CA)	May 4-6, 2012	
		AGRA Chili Verde Day	May 5, 2012	
		Big Horn Rodeo (Las Vegas, NV)	May 11-13, 2012	
		Great Plains Rodeo (Oklahoma City, OK)	May 25-27, 2012	May 25, 2012
June 6, 2012	June 10, 2012	Sierra Stampede (Sacramento, CA)	June 8-10, 2012 (cancelled)	
		Pride in the Pines (Flagstaff, AZ)	June 16, 2012	
		Canadian Rockies International Rodeo (Calgary) *	June 29-July 1, 2012	
		AGRA Grand Ol' Opry	July 7, 2012 (date change)	
July 18, 2012	July 22, 2012	Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo (Denver, CO) *	July 13-15, 2012	
August 8, 2012	August 12, 2012	Zia Regional Rodeo (Santa Fe, NM) *	August 3-5, 2012	
		Windy City Rodeo (Chicago, IL)	August 24-26, 2012	August 24, 2012
		Show-Me State Rodeo (Kansas City, MO)	Aug 31-Sept 2, 2012	
September 5, 2012	September 9, 2012	AGRA Beach Party	September 1, 2012	
		Best Buck in the Bay (San Francisco, CA)	September 14-16, 2012	
		Sedona Pride on the Rocks (Sedona, AZ)	September 15, 2012	
October 10, 2012	October 14, 2012	26th Annual IGRA Finals Rodeo (Fort Worth)	October 19-21, 2012	
		27th Annual IGRA Royalty Competition (Ft Worth)	October 19-21, 2012	
		Tucson Pride	October 14, 2012	
November 14, 2012	November 18, 2012	28th Annual IGRA Convention (Las Vegas)	November 8-11, 2012	November 8, 2012
December 5, 2012	December 9, 2012	AGRA Day of Christmas at Charlie's	December 9, 2012	
January 3, 2013	January 6, 2013	IGRA University (St Louis)	January 11-13, 2013	
		Super Bowl Sunday (New Orleans, LA)	February 3, 2013	
February 6, 2013	February 10, 2013	Pre-Rodeo Bar Crawl with Hensley/Bud Light	February 8, 2013	
		Charlie's/AGRA Mini Rodeo	February 13, 2013	
		28th Anniversary Road Runner Regional Rodeo *	February 15-17, 2013	
		* Indicates IGRA Rodeo Division 2		
Board Meetings - 7 pm - Charlie's Offices				
Membership Meetings - 4 pm - Charlie's bar - except December meeting will be at 7:00 pm				



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