

THE BRANDING IRON

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT



ARIZONA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION

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February 2013 Edition
Next Newsletter Deadline:
February 25th 2013

Send submissions to:
Justin@TheCreativeArcade.com

With the 2012 year having ended almost 2 months ago, I stand here extremely proud and humbled to serve as your president. I stand here with a fire in my belly to make a bigger difference in our community this coming year.

We started off 2012 with a well-planned rodeo with over 100 contestants, a plethora of vendors, and hundreds of hopeful rodeo fans. Of course, there had to be a wrench thrown into our plans – with a massive boating event scheduled on top of the Road Runner Regional Rodeo. I took an hour to get into the rodeo event, and people were routed 20 miles out of the way to get out of the event. Needless to say, this was a well-run rodeo, but circumstances out of our control prevented us from making much of a profit.


I had the pleasure of working with an amazing team. Your board of directors worked overtime to handle obstacles and challenges that came our way.

Joshua Sipe, your vice president, came on board with one mission – to get this royalty program off the ground again. Well, with the same fire in his belly, he worked in overdrive with Miss Trixie DeLuxe to do just that.

Patrick Roe, a new member to the association, last year jumped in head first as secretary. He kept our information flow running smoothly and ensured all details of the corporation were properly documented.

Jai Crystal, our treasurer, has been keeping the finances in order. He also took on the task of being the 2012 rodeo treasurer. Jai,

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you have not only been a great friend, but a wonderful asset to this great organization we so deeply care about.

Ron Trusley, our trustee, is by far the longest serving member on the board. Working with Ron has always been exciting as he comes with a plethora of knowledge in every area of rodeo. Ron is our voice to the IGRA Board and consistently makes AGRA shine at the IGRA level.

Last, but not least – Kevin McSweeny, our fundraising director, has raised thousands of dollars for AGRA. Kevin has put on countless patio shows to ensure AGRA continuously had money coming in just to pay for the day-to-day operations. We started off 2012 with our biggest fundraiser – the Road Runner Regional Rodeo – and all of the subsequent fundraisers have been huge successes!

I would like to give a special thank you to Walt Hutter for his infamous baked goods. It is SO MUCH FUN baking with him and Ron in their house. Walt is responsible for raising over \$1,500.00 from his baked goods. Thank you both for your hospitality.

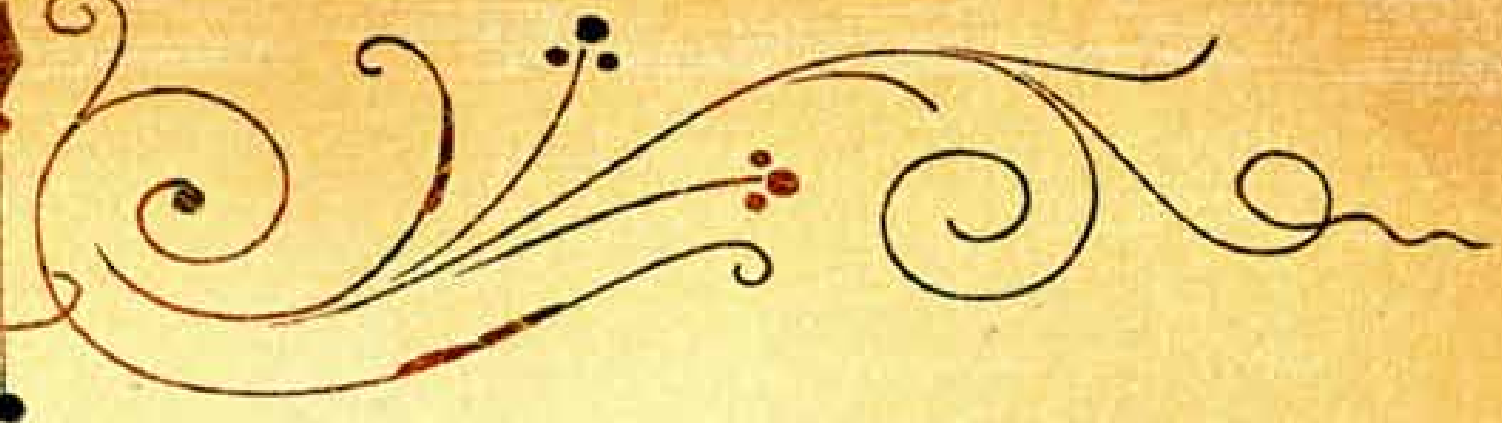
I want to express my deepest gratitude to OUR GOLDEN GIRLS – Richard Merritt, Jay Lovejoy, Gary Hatterman, and Dan Iversen. They were the AGRA Booth Coordinators for the 2012 Road Runner Regional Rodeo and Grand Marshals for the 2013 Arizona Gay Rodeo.

After closing the 2012 Road Runner Regional Rodeo, we knew there had to be some changes made if AGRA was ever going to survive. The Board of Directors was “hell bent” on giving away profits in 2013. We started putting the team together with John King and Bob Pimentel as Co-Rodeo Directors. They had a vision that gives me goose bumps - a simple phrase “BACK TO THE GLORY DAYS”.

THE VISION BEGAN!!! The Road Runner Regional Rodeo was changed to the Arizona Gay Rodeo. We needed to restrict the rodeo because of size issues behind the stalls. Corona Ranch was host for the 2013 rodeo.

John was in charge of the “non-cow” issues that included marketing, volunteers, bar management/ staff, vendors, and the list goes on. John insisted articles had to be in EVERY gay magazine issue in Phoenix; he wrote most of the articles himself. What a great site to see AGRA plastered all over the place.

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A decorative flourish consisting of several thin, dark lines that swirl and curve across the top of the page. Some lines end in small, dark, circular shapes, resembling buds or berries. The background is a light, textured yellow.

Bob was in charge of “cow” issues that included contestants, arena staff, rodeo officials, stock contractor, RV park, and the list goes on. I’m not sure if most of you know, but Bob came to Phoenix on January 2 in his RV and is still here just to make sure everything went off without a hitch.

I cannot express enough my sincere appreciation for both of these men. I am honored to have them – not only as mentors, visionaries, and pioneers, but most importantly true friends. I was able to work side by side very closely to see their vision come alive. I must say John King and Bob Pimentel are a class act. I will go “Back to the Glory Days” anytime. Congratulations on a spectacular rodeo!! You both should be so proud of yourselves.

In closing, I have to say thank you to my baby, Michael Chavez. He is the one who supports me in everything I do. He handles my crazy hectic schedule, cancellations on date nights, and not being able to make family gatherings. He is always there when I need an extra hand, and does it without hesitation. I am so blessed, and thank you Mikey for caring about AGRA as much as I do. I love you!

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve all of you and to serve this great organization.

**Michael Weidman
President**



THANKS PATRICK!


We currently have 141 members, including nine Champion Members. I'd like to wish happy birthday to the following members for the month of March:

March 1	Greg Begay
March 1	Craig Eikleberry
March 3	Anthony Ward
March 6	John King
March 7	Flint Freeman
March 11	Justin Gonzalez
March 12	Michael Chavez
March 14	Bob
March 15	Charlie
March 17	Patrick Lose
March 22	Kayla Krawford
March 23	Max Richardson
March 29	Monkey

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Roe
AGRA Secretary





**INTRODUCING
PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR
TODD WYCKOFF**

I grew up in Northern Michigan and moved to Kalamazoo and then Detroit Michigan prior to relocating to Phoenix in 2009. I have spent 15 years in Retail Management and currently I am an Assistant Manager at Charlie's. I became a member of AGRA in 2011 after I started working at Charlie's. I have been a volunteer for AIDS Walk Detroit for 6 years, Vice President of AIDS Walk Detroit 2010 -11, walker in AIDS WALK Phoenix for 2 years, Co Promoter of Miss Gay Phoenix America and I have volunteered for many numerous charities since a young age. Besides giving back to my community I enjoy spending time with friends, baking, movies, and theatre. I have 2 kids Bella a 4 year old Daschound/Shepard Mix and Lucy a Coca-Poo who I am fostering for a friend.

I am excited to be part of the AGRA board of directors as Public Relations Director. Since being a member I have noticed how much this organization brings so many different types of people from our community together and glad I will be a bigger part of it.

Todd Wyckoff





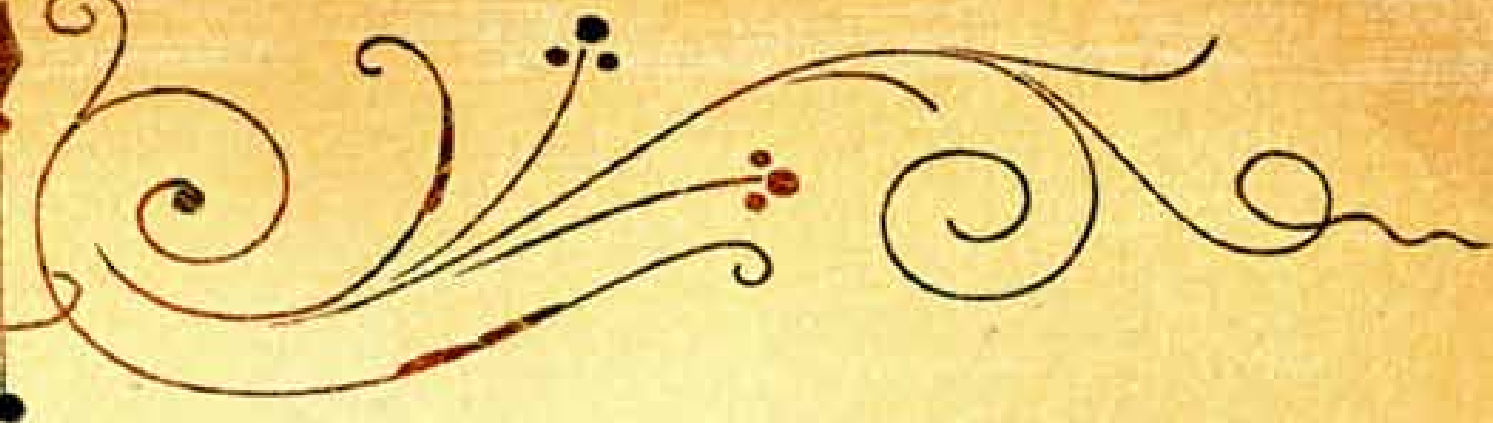
TRUSTEE

Well, the long-anticipated 2013 Arizona Gay Rodeo is over! It was exciting to see so many people at the rodeo – especially on Saturday. I saw so many people I had not seen for several years. I heard numerous comments about how good it was to be back at Corona’s and how exciting it was. I heard very few negative comments, and the few I did hear were minor. Also, in the Rodeo Review Board Meeting on Sunday after the rodeo ended, no fines were assessed by the Trustees. Comments from Trustees and officials were generally positive.

The annual AGRA Rodeo School was Friday afternoon – February 15, 2013. It was a very good school, and I think it was an excellent learning opportunity and a good practice time for everyone. Thirty-four (34) people participated in the school. The total number of events entered was sixty-five (65). Total contestant fees were \$975.00. I believe if we advertise/promote the 2014 rodeo school a little earlier that we will have even more participation.

And, how could we forget the Annual Charlie’s/AGRA Mini Rodeo that was held Wednesday February 13, 2013. Oh, what a festive and fun time as we prepared for the actual rodeo! Contestant entry fees and tips from Miss Mini Rodeo 2013 totaled \$146.00 with the entire proceeds going to the rodeo. Several employees, including our favorite girl, Janelle, from Hensley Beverage Company also participated in the mini-rodeo. And, those contestants vying for the title of Miss Mini Rodeo 2013 – what a sight they were and the fun they had! It was a long evening, but it was certainly a fun-filled evening.

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I want to thank everyone who participated in the mini-rodeo or in the rodeo school. And, I truly hope you felt it was rewarding!

By the time you receive this Branding Iron, the Annual Corporation Meeting and Banquet will be over. I believe this was one of the largest, if not the largest, annual meeting and banquet AGRA has had!

I also want to congratulate the new board members for 2013 as well as the returning members. And, I want to congratulate the 2013 AGRA royalty and wish each of them the very best during their reign.

**Ron Trusley
AGRA Trustee
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WHO IS ELLEN W. EDWARDS?

If you know who Ellen W. Edwards is, please contact Ron at the information above.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Deep in the Heart of Texas... wait, I mean TAXES! As most of you know being a CPA around this time of year is quite hectic and I am in the thick of it! Let me first say what a pleasure it has been to see so many familiar faces doing business with Small Business Accounting & Tax Service this year.

Just so that everyone is aware, I am still receiving rodeo numbers and for the sake of accuracy I do not want to release partial data. So please keep an eye out for the data to be included in the next issue.

With so people asking me what is the best tip that I can give about taxes, I tell them this, "Stay organized and don't wait until the last minute. Do it now and save yourself the headache later!"

Happy March Everyone!

**Jared Crystal
Treasurer**



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