



BRANDING IRON

MARCH 2015

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Farewell,

I have to start off by saying WOW! I can't believe it has been six years ago when I started this journey in April of 2009. I stepped into the Presidency position being the new kid on the block not knowing anything about rodeo, let alone the operations of running a non-profit organization. Dealing with the "drama" and personal agendas that comes along with gay rodeo at that time would seem to be a task that not only would try my patience but really caused me to make decisions to move our organization forward for the next several years. I never dreamt I would become AGRA's longest serving President. My main goal for my first year in office was to make sure we kept all personal agendas out of the business of running AGRA and only do what would be best for AGRA's future.

We have been through some challenging times during my presidency; thanks to Mother Nature in 2011 we were facing a 14,000.00 deficit after our rodeo. Most rodeo associations would have folded and would not have been able to overcome such a massive deficit. Not only did AGRA overcome this deficit in six months our organization came together to ensure the next years rodeo would be a huge success!! Once again due to circumstances out of our control we were dealt another blow during our 2012 rodeo. A massive boating event was scheduled on top of our rodeo causing an hour wait in traffic just to get to the rodeo grounds and a 20 mile detour to get out of the rodeo grounds. Yet again, I saw the resilient attitudes amongst our membership we were not going to let Mother Nature nor poor planning on others to deter our efforts to raise much needed funds for our local charities in our community.

In 2013 AGRA was on the move, a move that AGRA was familiar with, a move that would rejoin long time friends of AGRA. AGRA moved back to Corona Ranch where our very first rodeos began. We went back to the "Glory Days." Our rodeos have been flourishing since. We have made long time partnerships with Hensley Beverage; Alliance Beverage; Smirnoff; and Corona Ranch. My goal was to set up 3 year contracts with our big supporters of AGRA. In doing so, we have been able to establish a rock solid partnership with all of these amazing supporters of gay rodeo. Please if everyone can give them a round of applause to extend our gratitude for many years of supporting AGRA!

Our 2014 Arizona Gay Rodeo was another success that we can chalk up in the books. Thanks to your Board of Directors and your Rodeo Team lead by Bob Pimentel. I have to say Bob has been through some tough times and his persistent drive, kindness and love for rodeo is something I look at and think what an amazing man! Thank you Bob for all of your selfless work to AGRA.

I really have to say thank you to my amazing team of directors that have been with me over the years! Some have been with me as long as I have been President, Ron and Jai thank you for your wisdom, insight, professionalism and patience. You two are truly amazing and are great assets to AGRA. Thank you for so many laughs over the years, but most of all thanking you for believing in me in the beginning and allowing yourself to see my vision for our association.

Patrick Roe our secretary has probably been one of the best secretaries I have worked with! Thank you for always having our business affairs in line and filed in a timely manner. Thank you for your BIG GAY GARAGE SALE idea. I have to say it was a HIT!! Looking forward to this year's big event.

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Todd our PR Director has really taken our public relations to a new level that we have never seen before. Thank you for your vision and ensuring we are out there on social media. I know it's a daunting task and you have done it flawlessly. Thanks Again!

Kevin our fundraising director is by far second to none, I have been lucky to have you serve as PR director several times during my presidency and as long as you were at the helm of fundraising I knew we had nothing to worry about. Thank you for your constant support of AGRA.

In 2014 I am happy to announce we are closing out our year with over 200 members, relationships with partnerships that have been built over the last 6 years that will continue to flourish, and several satisfied beneficiaries that have received thousands of dollars over the last 6 years.

I cannot thank enough our countless volunteers and the membership that year after year continue to support the sport of gay rodeo. Your countless hours of work do not go unnoticed! Thank you, Thank You, Thank you!!

My vision coming into AGRA was to continue to keep AGRA as the premier rodeo on the circuit and to give as much money away as possible. Because truly that's why we do this, it's for our charities!! My goal when coming into things is to leave them better than when you found it. I am confident that over the six years I served as President AGRA is better and is flourishing!! I am confident that your new board of directors will continue to serve the membership and do what's best for our beloved organization. Some advice for the new board, remember to have fun! We are a volunteer organization; most people don't want to volunteer their time to be miserable. So, while conducting the business affairs of AGRA, it's okay to have some fun in the mix. Remember to respect everyone's ideas even though they may not coincide with yours. You may not always get our way in situations, but as long as you remember to do what's best for AGRA everything always seems to work out.

I will close by saying I have been VERY PROUD to be part and to serve this organization. Thank you all for your support throughout my years as President, it's been an honor and an experience that I will hold dear to my heart.

Respectfully,

Michael Weidmann

AGRA President 2014

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Welcome! I'm very excited to be your next AGRA president. I'm looking forward to working with the new board and membership in 2015. Our February 2016 rodeo is our 31st Rodeo, it's only a short year away with lots of fundraisers to do. Very big boots need to be filled and I hope to make you all proud. A few things I'd like to see happen are to bring in the younger gay community. They are our future and we need to expose them to the rodeo. It will also help us improve on our volunteer recruitment and rodeo contestants. I'd also like to bring in more entertainment to help with our attendance. Working with the whole gay community is my biggest goal!

Thank you all for your help in making AGRA a great organization!

Bob Hitchcock
President

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Hello AGRA Members!

I am excited to serve as your new Vice President for 2015.

Congratulations to the 2015 Royalty Team Miss AGRA Mipsey Michaels, Mr. AGRA Jeffrey Smit, and MiSter AGRA Rusty Bolts.

This is a great team made up of a new individual and two individuals who have been around but are re-energized ready to support AGRA.

They have some big goals ahead of them and we look forward to sharing them with all of you next month.

The Royalty team is an important part of AGRA because they serve as the face of AGRA as well as play a key part in our fundraising efforts.

I hope that any time you see them out and about wearing their crowns or sash you take a moment to thank them for their work with either a few kind words or a few dollars.

Looking forward to what this year has to offer and continuing on the 30 years of success that Arizona Gay Rodeo Association has had!

Todd M Wyckoff

Vice President AGRA

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March 2015 Branding Iron Secretary's Report

Dear AGRA Members:

At the end of February AGRA had a total of 205 members, including eight champion members.

I'd like to wish a happy birthday to the following members born in March:

March	1st	Greg
March	1st	Gregory Wagner
March	1st	Murray
March	6th	Roxi Ateraz
March	6th	John King
March	10th	Kurt
March	12th	Michael Chavez
March	13th	Franklin
March	14th	Bob Shukis
March	15th	Charles
March	15th	Jason
March	15th	Shawn Curbello
March	18th	Tito
March	20th	David Hyman
March	22nd	Ebonae Shane

Please remember to renew your AGRA membership if you have not yet had the opportunity to do so. See you at the March membership meeting!

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Roe

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Trustee's Report

I would like to begin my report for thanking a few people for their dedication and service to AGRA. These people have left the AGRA Board effective March 1, 2015 – the beginning of the new AGRA year. Michael Weidmann leaves as AGRA President; Marcos Sandoval aka Trixie Deluxe leaves as AGRA Vice President; and Kevin McSweeny aka Pussy LeHoot leaves as Fund Raising Director. It has been a pleasure serving on the board with these people, and I wish each of them the very best as they continue their support of AGRA through other avenues.

Also, Todd Wyckoff left as Public Relations Director, but for 2015, he assumes the position of Vice President. Thank you, Todd, for your work as Public Relations Director, and welcome as Vice President.

And, I want to welcome the entire 2015 AGRA Board. They are: President-Bob Hitchcock, Vice President-Todd Wyckoff, Secretary-Patrick Roe, Public Relations Director-Carlos Rodriguez, and Fund Raising Director-Alfonsa Streat aka Ebonae Shane. I am sure each person will do a good job in their respective board position. As we enter the new year with a new board, I am sure new ideas will be presented. I look forward to hearing the new ideas and helping to integrate them, as appropriate, with previous ideas and actions.

I look forward to the energy and dedication displayed by the 2015 AGRA Royalty Team – Mr AGRA Jeffrey Smith, Miss AGRA Mipsey Michaels, and MsTer AGRA Rusty Bolts. And, I look forward to their competition in the IGRA Royalty Competition.

The AGRA Annual Corporation Meeting and Banquet were held Friday-February 27, 2015 at T-Bone Steakhouse. Forty-eight people, including AGRA members and guests, returned their RSVP; however, six of those people did not show. I am so thankful and appreciative to have received the beautiful bolo tie as an AGRA member for at least 20 consecutive years.

It is not too early to start planning if you want to attend the 31st IGRA Annual Convention that will be November 12-15, 2015 in St. Petersburg, Florida. Nominations for delegates will be received in the May and June membership meetings, and voting will be done by members present in the July membership meeting. AGRA is entitled to six delegates and five alternate delegates. Per AGRA Bylaws, the Trustee and President are automatically delegates.

Please contact me at anytime if you have questions about IGRA, need information about IGRA, or if I can help you in any way.

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

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Treasures Report

Jai is still busy calculating the final numbers and will update all of us at the March Membership Meeting on Sunday March 15, 2015 3pm at Charlie's.
727 West Camelback Road Phoenix, AZ



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Hello Fellow AGRA Members,

First, I would like to thank you for your vote. I am new to AGRA as I was never really exposed to it until last year. I am a native of California and a lifelong fan of rodeo. As your PR director it will be my duty to help promote the rodeo in a positive way and get the word out of upcoming events. Social media is growing every year and it is my intent to use it to the best interest of AGRA. Todd, set a goal of getting 1,000 like for our Facebook page and I intend to surpass that as well as our other media outlets but, let's not forget about the easiest way to promote which is word of mouth. Talk to your friends and acquaintances about upcoming events to help increase monies donated to our charities. I am confident that under this new leadership that AGRA will have its most successful year to date. It will take time, effort, and dedication of all members to see this organization prosper and grow and I am thrilled to be a part of it.

Carlos L. Rodriguez

AGRA, Public Relations Director

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Dear Members,

What a wonderful 30 anniversary Rodeo. It was our major fundraiser of the year. The numbers aren't in yet so I have nothing to report. I would like to thank everyone who helped support our 2014 fund raising events, and me as the 2014 Fundraising Director.

I would like to wish much luck to the new 2015 board. You are going to need it! ☺

Sincerely

Kevin M.

2014 F.R. director.

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Greetings!

AGRA Board Members each and every person that is a member of our wonderful organization, I am so honored and humbled to be chooses to be the 2015 Fundraiser director. It is definitely a challenge and over whelming but I am always up for a challenge. I know with the help of my AGRA Family together we will raise a lot of money for the new year!

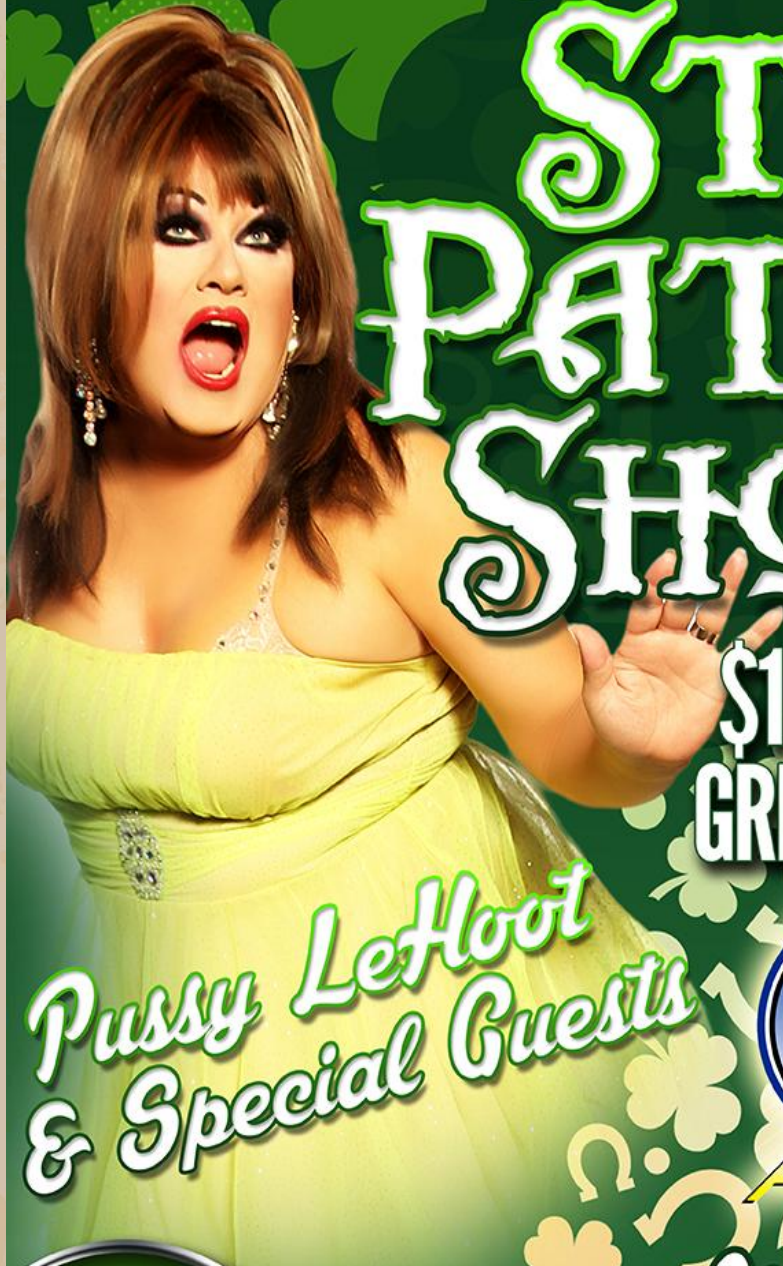
I thank each and every person that voted for me and believes in me to do this job and do it to the best of my ability.

So once again thank you and God Bless! Lets get to work!

Sincerely,

Alfonzo Streat Aka Ebonae Shane

SATURDAY • MARCH 14 @ 9PM



ST PATRICK'S SHOW

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Pussy LetHoot & Special Guests



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