



**ARIZONA  
GAY  
RODEO  
ASSOCIATION**



Monthly Newsletter for AGRA

## From the Desk of the President

Howdy Cowboys and Cowgirls,

I would like to first extend my gratitude to the membership for electing me to another year as your President for this AMAZING association. As I write this months article for the Branding Iron, it brings me back to this time last year when I took over as President. I can honestly say I was extremely nervous, a little apprehensive and thinking to myself "what did I get myself into". Well a year has come and gone with a blink of an eye, and I can say I am no longer nervous, or apprehensive and I am thinking how excited I am for this upcoming year!!! It's been a journey this last year and I am excited for the journey to continue through this next year.

HAPPY 25th Anniversary to the AGRA. The 25th RoadRunner Regional Rodeo was a huge success!! I am extremely proud of the Rodeo Directors George Immerso and Dan Iversen and the entire rodeo team for an outstanding job!!! I was out at the Rodeo grounds both Saturday and Sunday and I was very honored to be part of this organization. To see all the fun and excitement at the rodeo grounds is unbelievable!!

To accomplish this huge event takes an army of people to put on! Thank you to all the volunteers, sponsors, spouses and friends that pitched in when we needed you to. You all are absolutely amazing!! We are about two weeks away from crunching all the numbers and paying the last of our bills but I think we all will be extremely proud of the results!!

I am excited to welcome two new board members for 2010, our secretary Bob Shukis and our fundraising Director Joshua Sipe aka Claudia B. I look forward to working with both Bob and Joshua this year.

Just a quick reminder that our first board meeting will be on March 10, 2010 at Charlie's offices and our first membership meeting will be on March 14th 2010 at 2pm at Charlie's. Hope to see you all there.

Sincerely,

Michael Weidmann  
AGRA President

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**March Edition**

**Newsletter Deadline: March 25th '10**

**Send submissions to:**

**LEVI HUNTING:**

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

Howdy All,

**A Big Thank You** to all the Volunteers who made Road Runner Regional Rodeo a success.

The Newly Crowned and Sashed 2010 AGRA

Miss. AGRA 2010- Josh Sipes AKA Claudia B.  
Mr. AGRA 2010- Michael Butts  
Mr. AGRA 1<sup>st</sup>- Runner-up 2010 Ferdy Quezada  
Ms.. AGRA 2010 -Sharon Starks  
MsTer. AGRA- Ace Master

The Royalty has been busy this past month they have attended the following events out in the community supporting other organizations as well as raising money.

Fundraiser for AGRA on 01/30/10  
Country Idol Cash Inn 01/31/10  
Rodeo Bar Crawl on 02/05/10  
Phoenix Pride Miss and MsTer Contest on 02/06/10  
AGRA Mini Rodeo Fundraiser on 02/10/10  
Road Runner Regional Rodeo 02/12/10-02/14/10  
ARGA & IGRA Fundraiser on 02/15/10  
AZ Imperial Court Empress and Emperor Ball on 02/20/10

**Great Job Everyone**

Thank you for your support of AGRA

Michael Butts  
Vice President

From the Desk of the Secretary

Howdy Folks,  
Happy Birthday and many more to these members of AGRA.



9-Mar	Will Sawyer
14-Mar	Bob Shukis



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of AGRA for electing me to the position of Secretary for 2010. I am honored that you have chosen me for a position on your board of directors. I know that I will have some pretty big shoes to fill and will do whatever I can to assume the position with stamina and focus.

Having worked with other 501c3, non-profit organizations in the past I am familiar with the workings and operations of these organizations. Having just retired from the US Government as a Contracting Officer, I hope I can bring some knowledge and experience from that service to this organization as well.

I look forward to working with all of you in the upcoming year and appreciate your support now and in the future.

Bob Shukis  
Secretary 2010



Hello AGRA Membership, here is the financial report:

**January:**

Balance Sheet	Total Assets	\$24572.00
Checking		\$12150.25
CD		\$12421.75
Non Rodeo	Jan Net Income	\$887.12
Rodeo	Jan Net Income	\$7906.15
Year to Date 2010 Rodeo Net Income		\$8888.71

**Non-Rodeo**

**Income:**

Membership Dues \$280  
 Royalty Fundraisers \$413  
 Sponsorships \$675

**Expenses:**

Office Expenses \$270.88  
 Merchandise Expense \$210

**Rodeo**

**Income:**

Contestant Entry Fees \$625  
 Vendor Booths \$1200  
 Sponsorships \$14775  
 Program Ads \$275

**Expenses:**

Rodeo Promotion \$1000  
 Insurance \$212.04  
 Officials Travel \$283.30  
 Buckles \$3703.13  
 Ribbons and Badges \$1007  
 Stalls \$500  
 Sound and Lighting \$2263.38

The books have not closed for February. I want to wait until next month to give the full report with all actual numbers for February.

Jai  
 AGRA Treasurer



The Arizona Gay Rodeo Association (A.G.R.A.) proudly hosted its 25th year of rodeo at the Road Runner Regional Rodeo, held Presidents' Day Weekend, 12th - 14th February 2010.

Rawhide Western Town was busy all weekend and the arena and pavilion quickly filled with excited spectators from around the country and across the globe, including England, Norway, Germany, Ireland, Italy and Spain to name but a few.

In addition to two days of traditional to camp rodeo events, visitors had the chance to enjoy a packed night at the finals of our first Country Idol competition.

Throughout the weekend the air was filled with live music, plenty of dancing, great food and even a Ferris wheel and gigantic slide which only added to the excitement and atmosphere.

A.G.R.A. thanks the rodeo contestants, host hotels, Rawhide, the many sponsors and vendors who supported our 25th Anniversary Rodeo and a special warm thanks to all our volunteers who without their help the weekend would not have been possible. They made the rodeo run smoothly and gave everyone our warm sunny welcome to Phoenix. Terrific job, everyone!

Looking back over the years, it's still amazing to know that Arizona became the fifth state to host a gay rodeo and 25 Years later the rodeo is still going strong and this year's event unfolded into one of the most talked about events in Arizona.

In case you missed this year's fun, believe it or not the team are already planning for the 2011 RoadRunner Regional Rodeo. So be sure you don't miss out and book the weekend of the 18th - 20th February. Information will be updated on a regular basis live on the website, so keep checking [www.agra-phx.com](http://www.agra-phx.com)



Greg Gillum & Gino Meriano



### Trustee's Report

I want to welcome Bob Shukis and Claudia B to the AGRA Board as Secretary and Fund Raising Director, respectively. I am confident both will do an excellent job in their position and will serve AGRA very well.

Certainly, I want to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to Keith Carson and Kevin McSweeney (aka Pussy LeHoot) as they leave their offices of Secretary and Fund Raising Director. During their tenure in office, both have done an outstanding job and have represented AGRA very well. Thank you both for everything you have done for AGRA, and I am sure you will continue lending your support, help and expertise.

Can you believe that AGRA just celebrated 25 years of rodeo! We have seen many changes throughout the years, and surely we will continue to see more changes as we embark on the next 25 years! From all reports I have heard, everything seemed to have gone pretty well with the 2010 Road Runner Regional Rodeo. I know lots of work goes into planning and producing our annual rodeo. I want to commend the Rodeo Directors and staff on a job well done!

Two IGRA-sanctioned rodeos previously approved have been cancelled. The Houston rodeo was cancelled, and most recently Hot Rodeo 2010 in Palm Springs was cancelled. But, the Big D Rodeo in Dallas will still be held September 10-12, 2010. The Best Buck in the Bay Rodeo will still be held August 13-15, 2010 in San Francisco, and the San Diego Rodeo will still be held September 10-12, 2010.

I plan to attend the next IGRA Board Meeting on May 28 in Oklahoma City. The Great Plains Rodeo will be held this same weekend. I hope to see many AGRA members at this rodeo.

As we begin our 2010 AGRA Year on March 1, I encourage all members to stay involved. There is always an opportunity for every member! It is not too early to start thinking about the 2011 Road Runner Regional Rodeo and how we can be involved in the planning stages.

Ron Trusley  
AGRA Trustee  
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