



BRANDING IRON



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The first meeting of the 2018 AGRA Board was on March 4. I am excited to work with the new board members.

Each of them has already shown a lot of interest and some good ideas were already talked about. In this first meeting, the board took the following actions:

- 1) Appointed Walt Hutter as Treasurer;
- 2) Appointed Mark Boyd as AGRA Webmaster and Branding Iron Editor;
- 3) Determined the publication frequency of the Branding Iron would continue to be monthly;
- 4) Appointed RJ Mikels as Membership Coordinator;
- 5) Appointed Michael Weidmann as Executive Assistant and a non-voting Board Member (in accordance with AGRA Bylaws Article III, Section 3.5(A)5)
- 6) Approved the Board and Membership Meeting schedules for 2018

Be sure to watch for email notification and notices in the Branding Iron about a Board Retreat and a Royalty Retreat.

I am so pleased that we have had so many new members join AGRA recently, and I want to welcome each of them. I am also very pleased that we have almost 100 members and March was the very first month of our new rodeo year. It was so exciting to see so many members attending our March membership meeting, and I hope this continues each

month. Each and every member is important, and AGRA needs and wants your support and to also hear your suggestions as well as any concerns.

Per AGRA Bylaws Article VI, Section 6.6, I April of each year the Board of Directors shall appoint an Election Committee which shall consist of three (3) members. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please let me know as I would like for the board to appoint the committee in their 18 meeting.

The IGRA Annual Convention will be in Salt Lake City, Utah November 15-18, 2018. AGRA Bylaws state that nominations for Convention Delegates and Alternate Delegates will be received in each membership meeting in May and June, and they will be elected ballot voting in the July membership meeting. So, if you would like to be a Delegate/Alternate Delegate and can commit to attending convention, be sure you get someone to nominate you. If you will not be in the meeting to accept nomination, let me know ahead of time that you would accept nomination if nominated.

Look for the 2018 meeting schedule as a separate document in this issue of the Branding Iron.

Good luck to our contestants who will compete in the upcoming rodeos in Texas in April and in Palm Springs in May.

Contact me anytime if you have questions, suggestions, or concerns.

Ron Trusley
Ron Trusley

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

2018 AGRA Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Ron Trusley

E-Mail: rtrusley@cox.net

Phone: (602) 510-9671

VICE PRESIDENT

Joshua Sipe AKA Claudia B.

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SECRETARY

Chris Fairbrother

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TREASURER

Walt Hutter

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TRUSTEE

Michael Brent

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Phone: (602) 448-3086

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR

Mark Alan Boyd

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Phone: (602) 717-8685

FUNDRAISING DIRECTOR

Jeffrey Smit

E-Mail: jeff_smit@2008yahoo.com

Phone: (480) 466-2988

Visit AGRA-PHX.com for #MyAGRAStory Photos!

RODEO DIRECTOR'S REPORT

For the 2018 rodeo, we have a few accounts receivable totaling approximately \$2,425.00 and one known account payable for \$2,635.00 which is bar tips. I am hoping we will be able to close the books very soon.

In the March 11 membership meeting, a motion passed to give \$30,000.00 of the rodeo profits to other charitable organizations. Nominations for the organizations to receive money were received as follows:

- PFLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays)
- TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV and AIDS Network)
- Joshua Tree
- Community Church of Hope
- CCSL (Cactus Cities Softball League)
- Casa de Cristo
- PGFFL (Phoenix Gay Flag Football League)

People from each of these organizations volunteered in various capacities at

the rodeo. Nominations will also be accepted in the April 22 membership meeting. Voting will also take place in that meeting. Then checks will be presented to the organizations in our May 20 membership meeting.

The 2018 Rodeo Committee had a "wrap up" meeting on March 4 and reviewed the rodeo – what went well, where improvement is needed, suggestions for the 2019 rodeo, etc.

I want to form the 2019 Rodeo Committee Meeting quickly, and the first meeting is scheduled for Sunday – April 22 – beginning at noon in Charlie's Offices. If you are interested in serving on the committee, let me know, or plan to attend the April 22 meeting.

Ron Trusley
Ron Trusley

2019 Rodeo Director
Phone: (602) 510-9671
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AGRA Members attending Marla Hooch's Annual Chili & Salsa Cook-Off at Charlie's Phoenix.

CONGRATULATIONS IGRA ROYALTY FOR WINNING JUDGES' AND PEOPLES' CHOICE AWARD FOR BEST BOOTH AT THE CHILI & SALSA COOK-OFF

SECRETARY'S REPORT



Happy April
AGRA Members!
Spring is right around the corner!
We are currently at 97 members and GROWING!!!

Welcome our
Newest AGRA
Members::

Gabe Browne
John Covarnbiaj
Sulomon G.
Keith Gould
Marc Gould
Clyde Mitter

Happy Birthday AGRA Members born in
April:

4/5 Kyle Ross
aka Ionna Doublewide Miss AGRA 2018
4/8 Jay Lovejoy

A big THANK YOU to all of the AGRA Members who came out to support AGRA & IGRA on 3/24/18 at Charlie's Phoenix during the 20th Annual Marla Hooch's Chili and Salsa Cook Off!

Chris Fairbrother (Christi Starr Mikels)
AGRA Secretary
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Phone: 480-217-7136





FUNDRAISING REPORT



Hello to all followers of Arizona Gay Rodeo Association, AGRA had a very successful first patio show of the year on St. Patrick's Day.

Thanks to

Claudia B. and Charlie's Phoenix for allowing us to raise funds for Agra Rodeo!

Thank you to all the entertainers who performed: Trixxie Deluxx, Piper M'Shay, Pussy LeHoot, Claudia B., and our current Agra Royalty Travis James and Ionna

Doublewide. With tips, jello shots sales and auction baskets we raised \$662.00 for the 2019 Arizona Gay Rodeo.

AGRA was fortunate to participate in the Chili and salsa cook-off on Saturday, March 24, 2018. Current IGRA royalty also participated and won first place on their booth design by Judges' Choice and also by Peoples' Choice congratulations to them!

Thanks to all who came out to support AGRA.

Jeffery Smit

AGRA Fundraising Director

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TRUSTEE'S REPORT



Howdy Folks, it's that time of year again, rodeo season!

We had our rodeo and it was quite successful for being out the gate first. The next rodeo is Texas Tradition rodeo on

April 6-8 in Mesquite, TX. You can find all the information out at <https://www.tgra.org/> and I will be there as well.

I'm sorry to say that Ron has stepped down at IGRA secretary, he will be replaced by Michael Norman.

Next month is Hot Rodeo in Palm Springs <http://www.palmspringsrodeo.org/>

This is a board meeting rodeo as well, it's on May 11-13.

That's all for now!!

Michael Brent

Trustee

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The Annual St. Pati'O Show at Charlie's Phoenix.

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



Things are beginning to ramp up for the 2019 Royalty Competition! We already have two announced candidates for Miss AGRA and Mister AGRA, and are actively

working on recruiting more!

Working closely with Fundraising Director Jeffrey Smit, and Public Relations Director Mark Boyd, I'm developing a plan to increase the visibility of the Arizona Gay Rodeo Royalty in our

community. I've found that once people learn about what AGRA Royalty, and what AGRA as a whole, does for our community they really show a genuine interest to learn more and get involved!

A big personal thank you to everyone who came out to support the St. Pati'O show this year! It was my great pleasure to host the event (as Claudia B.) along with my drag sisters and AGRA Royalty.

With love,

Joshua Sipe AKA Claudia B.

AGRA Vice President

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Don't miss "On the Road to Rodeo," a benefit show for AGRA, IGRA and Melonhead Foundation, hosted by Travis James and Ionna Doublewide. Saturday, April 28, at Pat O's Bunkhouse Saloon!

FROM THE EDITOR



Greetings all!

I'd like to start off on a personal note by saying how grateful I am to have been selected for this position as Public Relations Director, and for being asked to continue

on as Editor of the Branding Iron and Webmaster for agra-phx.com. It's very gratifying to be a part of this amazing organization.

I hope you've all had the opportunity to check out the #MyAGRAStory photo album online. There's some great pictures on there! If you notice some missing ones, please email them directly to me at mark@markalanboyd.com. There were some instances of photos I was not able to see/pull because of Facebook privacy settings.

I really hope everyone continues to use the #MyAGRAStory tag throughout the year at all of our events, meetings, fundraisers, shows, etc. And please be sure to tag our page on Facebook when posting about AGRA, organic reach is the best way we're going to increase our visibility. Rodeo is something we need to keep in our hearts and minds all year long.

I would like to thank everyone who came out and supported AGRA and IGRA at the Chili Cook-Off. The event was amazing and I think safe to say we're all looking forward to next year's! I hope you had the chance to check out my entry at the Men of Charlie's booth. ;-)

Submissions for the May 2018 Branding Iron are due by April 25. Remember, any member can submit articles, photos, etc. to be published in the Branding Iron.

Thanks for reading! And as always, your feedback is greatly appreciated.

Mark Alan Boyd

Public Relations Director

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2018 MEETING SCHEDULE				
AGRA BOARD MEETING	AGRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING	RODEO/EVENT NAME	RODEO/EVENT DATES	IGRA BOARD MEETING
March 04, 2018	March 11	AGRA St Patio Day	March 17, 2018	
April 18, 2018	April 22, 2018	Easter Sunday	April 01, 2018	
		Phoenix Pride Parade & Festival	April 7 & 8, 2018	
		A Texas Tradition Rodeo (Mesquite, TX)	April 06-08, 2018	
May 16, 2018	May 20, 2018	AGRA Chili Verde Day	May 05, 2018	
		Hot Rodeo 2018 (Palm Springs, CA)	May 11-13, 2018	May 11, 2018
June 13, 2018	June 17, 2018	Keystone State Charity Rodeo (Harrisburg, PA)	June 22-24, 2018	
July 11, 2018	July 15, 2018	AGRA Grand Ol' Opry	July 07, 2018	
		Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo (Denver, CO) *	July 06-08, 2018	
		North Star Regional Rodeo (Minneapolis, MN)	July 27-29, 2018	
August 15, 2018	August 19, 2018	Zia Regional Rodeo (Santa Fe, NM) *	August 10-12, 2018	
		Show Me State Rodeo (Kansas City, MO)	August 31-September 02, 2018	August 31, 2018
September 12, 2018	September 16, 2018	Show Me State Rodeo (Kansas City, MO)	September 01-03, 2017	
		AGRA Beach Party	September 01, 2018	
		Best Buck in the Bay-Rodeo on the River (Duncan Mills, CA)	September 14-16, 2018	
		BigHorn Rodeo (Las Vegas, NV)	September 21-23, 2018	
October 10, 2018	October 14, 2018	Rainbows Festival (Phoenix, AZ)	October 20-21, 2018 (???)	
		32nd Annual World Gay Rodeo Finals (Mesquite, TX)	October 26-28, 2018	
		32nd Annual IGRA Royalty Competition (Mesquite, TX)	October 26-28, 2018	
November 07, 2018	November 11, 2018	34th Annual IGRA Convention (Salt Lake City, UT)	November 15-18, 2018	November 15, 2018
		AGRA Red/White/Blue Bake Sale	November 11, 2018	
December 12, 2018	December 16, 2018	AGRA Day of Christmas at Charlie's	December 16, 2018	
		AGRA Holiday Bake Sale	December 16, 2018	
January 09, 2019	January 13, 2019	IGRA University (???)	January 18-20, 2019 (???)	
February 06, 2019	February 10, 2019	Super Bowl LIII (53) (Atlanta, GA)	February 03, 2019	
		Charlie's/AGRA Mini Rodeo	February 14, 2019	
		34th Anniversary Arizona Gay Rodeo *	February 15-17, 2019	
		Rodeo Volunteer Party	February 22, 2019 (Friday)	
		AGRA Annual Corporation Meeting/Banquet	February 23, 2019 (Saturday)	
March 06, 2019	March 10, 2019			
Board Meetings - 7:00 pm - Charlie's Offices			* Indicates IGRA Rodeo Division 2	
Membership meetings - 3:00 pm - Charlie's Dance Floor				