



# BRANDING IRON

## HAPPY RODEO MONTH!



### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we near the end of our program year, I would like to sincerely thank each of the current board members for their

dedication and service to AGRA. I believe each one has done what he or she thought was in the best interest of AGRA, although as a board we might not have always agreed.

Effective March 1, 2018, the new board will be:

**Fund Raising Director:** .....Jeffrey Smith  
**Public Relations Director:** ..... Mark Boyd  
**Trustee:** .....Michael Brent  
**Treasurer:** .....Walt Hutter  
**Secretary:** ..... Christl Mikels aka Chris Fairbrother  
**Vice President:** .....Claudia B aka Joshua Sipe  
**President:** ..... Ron Trusley

I want to welcome each of the new board members, and I truly hope to see us work cohesively as a board. I am sure new ideas will be brought forward, and I hope to see our association continue to grow.

Per the AGRA Bylaws, in March the board will appoint a Treasurer who will serve from appointment through February 2019.

The AGRA Annual Corporation Meeting and Banquet will be Saturday – February 24 at the Wyndham Garden Phoenix Midtown Hotel

– 3600 N 2nd Ave in Phoenix. Very soon you will receive more information and details about the banquet. This will include a deadline to RSVP for your attendance and dinner selection. It will be imperative that everyone responds by the date listed in the information.

And, remember at the Annual Meeting we will vote for the 2017 AGRA Member of the Year.

I want to give a very special thanks to Mark Christensen, Walt Hutter, and Mark Boyd for working together to facilitate the selection, purchase, setup and installation of the large television in the AGRA Display Case in Charlie's. AGRA and rodeo information, along with announcements of fundraisers, etc, will be regularly updated and put on the television. Be sure to check it out; the display case is in the area where the dart boards are located.

You will surely hear this reminder several times, but remember to renew your AGRA membership for 2018. Current memberships expire the end of February 2018. Memberships can be renewed at [agra-phx.com](http://agra-phx.com). It would be great to start the new year on March 1, 2018 with over 100 members!

As always, contact me at anytime with questions or suggestions.

*-Ron Trusley*  
**Ron Trusley**

Rodeo Director, 2018 & 2019  
 Phone: (602) 510-9671  
 E-Mail: [rtrusley@cox.net](mailto:rtrusley@cox.net)

### 2017 AGRA Board of Directors

#### PRESIDENT

Ron Trusley

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Phone: (602) 510-9671

#### VICE PRESIDENT

Sharon Starks

E-Mail: [starkrazy56@yahoo.com](mailto:starkrazy56@yahoo.com)

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#### SECRETARY

Chris Fairbrother

E-Mail: [c.fairbrother.agra@gmail.com](mailto:c.fairbrother.agra@gmail.com)

Phone: (480) 217-7136

#### TREASURER

Walt Hutter

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Phone: (602) 510-9672

#### TRUSTEE

Michael Brent

E-Mail: [azcby2@gmail.com](mailto:azcby2@gmail.com)

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#### PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR

Mark Christensen

E-Mail: [mrogra2010@gmail.com](mailto:mrogra2010@gmail.com)

Phone: (405) 219-7075

#### FUND RAISING DIRECTOR

Jayme Christensen-Walker

(aka Nikki Starr)

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Phone: (405) 219-8183

# RODEO DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**W**ell, it is almost time for the 2018 Arizona Gay Rodeo. Rodeo weekend is February 16-18, 2018 at the Corona Ranch and Rodeo Grounds – 7611 S 29th Avenue in Laveen. Things are shaping up very well for the rodeo.

As of this writing only two event buckles are available for sponsorship. And, there is still time if you are interested in becoming a sponsor, or if you know of any individual, organization, or business that is interested.

The entertainment schedule for the weekend is almost complete. Vendor applications are coming in, and we expect to have all spaces filled before the rodeo. Officials are confirmed and their hotel rooms have been reserved. Most contracts have been finalized. We are preparing to host the IGRA Board Meetings at the host hotel on Friday – February 16.

Although the cutoff date for reservations at the host hotel has passed, rooms are still available at our group rate of \$119 plus tax per night. To some this rate might seem to be rather high; but the going rate in February in Phoenix ranges from \$179 to \$200 and more per night. A full complimentary breakfast buffet is available each day from 6:30 to 10:00 am.

2018 buckles are available for members to purchase for only \$125.00. Contact me to pre-order and pay for a buckle. Three buckles have already been ordered. I expect to have the buckles by January 31.

The Rodeo Committee Members are all staying busy in their individual areas

and as a committee preparing for the rodeo – expecting to make it a fun time for all attendees. John King, Volunteer Coordinator, has gotten volunteers lined up in all areas, and more people keep wanting to volunteer.

I would like to remind rodeo volunteers that the Rodeo Volunteer Appreciation Party will be on the patio at Charlie's on Friday – February 23 – from 7:00 till 9:00 pm. Food will be catered by Walt Hutter; I am sure he will make lots of Hawaiian Meatballs as those seem to be a favorite every year.

Again this year, party buses will run from Charlie's to the rodeo grounds and back, and I am sure they will all fill up really fast. See Michael Weidmann or a Charlie's bartender for more information and to buy a ticket for a party bus.

And, Charlie's Mini Rodeo will be on the dance floor on Thursday – February 15. The mini rodeo is always a really fun time, and I am sure many out of state people will be there to participate. In addition to being a fun time and enjoying lots of laughs, the mini rodeo is also a fund raiser for the rodeo.

I hope to see you all at the rodeo; bring your friends; encourage them to get involved in AGRA and to become part of our "family".

*Ron Trusley*  
**Ron Trusley**

Rodeo Director, 2018 & 2019

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# SECRETARY'S REPORT



Happy February AGRA Members! Love and Rodeo is in the air!!!

I'm excited to announce that we are ending our 2017/2018 Membership Year at 136 members! Annual AGRA Member-

ships EXPIRE FEBRUARY 28, 2018.

Renew for 2018/2019 online NOW!! Visit <https://agra-phx.com/product-category/membership/>. I look forward to starting out the 2018/2019 Membership year just as strong!

Save the Date!!! The AGRA Annual Corporation Meeting and Banquet is set for Saturday, February 24th 2018. More info to come!

I would like to thank the 2017/2018 AGRA Board. It was an honor to serve with y'all throughout the year. A warm welcome to the new and returning Board Members for 2018/2019; I look forward to our future together!

## Happy Birthday AGRA Members born in February:

- 2/3 Levi Anglin
- 2/4 Cooper Anderson
- 2/7 Jayme Walker aka Nikki Starr
- 2/10 Kristine Palmisano
- 2/25 Jess Losoya
- 2/26 Erik Amezcua
- 2/26 Jonathan Coronado

Let's Rodeo!

**Chris Fairbrother** (Christi Starr Mikels)

AGRA Secretary

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Phone: 480-217-7136

# TREASURER'S REPORT

I wanted to offer congratulations to all the new AGRA Board. I am looking forward to working with all of you.

We have now closed another year. Checking account balance as of December 31, 2017 was at \$ 18234.76

Our Rodeo account balance as of December 31 2017 was at \$ 9712.59

Although I will not be the Rodeo Treasurer I am setting up as much of it as possible, to help the Rodeo Treasurer have a smooth Rodeo.

I will be in and out of the Rodeo Grounds to see how things are going for our Rodeo Treasurer.

Hope to see you all at the Rodeo.

**Walt H.**, AGRA Treasurer

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Charlie's/AGRA Mini Rodeo	Feb. 15, 2018
33rd Annual Arizona Gay Rodeo	Feb. 16-18, 2018
Survivor's Brunch @ Charlie's	Feb. 19, 2018
Rodeo Volunteer Party	Feb. 23, 2018
AGRA Annual Corporation Meeting/Banquet	Feb. 24, 2018