

Auxiliary Annual Meeting

Minutes of the 2008 American Angus Auxiliary general membership meeting

by Kathi Creamer, secretary-treasurer, American Angus
Auxiliary

On Saturday, November 15, 2008, President, Nancy Thelen, Saline, MI, called the 57th Annual Meeting of the American Angus Auxiliary to order at 3:12 p.m. at the Executive West Hotel in Louisville, KY. Copies of the agenda, secretary's report, treasurer's report, state contact information and committee reports were available. There were 40 members and one guest present, and everyone introduced themselves. Thelen introduced the current Auxiliary officers.

Secretary Kathi Creamer, Montrose, CO, presented the minutes of the mid-year meeting held in July in Des Moines, Iowa. Anne Lampe, Scott City, KS, moved to approve the minutes. Sandra Wallace, Kansas, OH, seconded the motion, and it carried.

Creamer presented the financial report which was distributed to all members; it included the balance sheet, profit and loss and the Angus Foundation Auxiliary Scholarship, Pat Grote Scholarship and Educational Awards Endowment Funds. Finance Chair, Linda Brost, Harrodsburg, Kentucky, explained the financial statements. Ardyce O'Neill, Logan, IA, moved to accept the financial report. Wendy Petteway, Zolfo Springs, FL, seconded the motion and it carried.

Cathy Miller, Luckey, OH, shared several items that are currently for sale in the Angus Sale Barn, including the special Auxiliary pin, handmade pottery mugs, baby t-shirts and blankets and lovely sterling silver jewelry. She offered a 10% discount on merchandise to all Auxiliary members who wanted to work in the Holiday Room. Thelen thanked Miller for all her hard work and dedication to the very successful Angus Sale Barn.

Achievement Awards: Sonja Martin, Lavaca, AR was unable to be in Louisville. Her written report noted suggestion that the top ten shows, activities, etc. be included on the certificate application. The application now lists the directions on the form.

Crystal Awards: Cathy Watkins, Middletown, IN, was participating in the American Angus Association meeting, but had submitted her written report. Hannah McCabe, Elk City, KS, and Ransom Gardiner, Ashland, KS, were this year's recipients of the Janet Castle Crystal Award.

Silver Pitcher Awards: Barbara Ettredge, Pilot Point, TX, announced Katy Satee, Montague, TX, and Garrett Blanchard, Firebaugh, CA, received this year's Silver Pitcher Awards.

Beef Education: Anne Patton Schubert, Taylorsville, KY, was very complimentary of the 2008 NJAS facilities, especially the perfect acoustics. Schubert thanked everyone who helped this year and mentioned a need for volunteers to film the contests next year. Anne Lampe, Scott City, KS, announced that anyone at any time can donate to the "Friends of the Black Kettle" which provides additional funds for the Beef Cook-Off, including a special award to the highest placing team. Lampe also noted that specially designed platters were given this year and it is hoped that various plates will be given in future years.

Miss American Angus: Mary McCurry, and Emily Mullen both of Burton, KS introduced the queen candidates, Kathleen Gazda, Athens, GA, Megan Ahearn, Wills Point, TX, Katrina Frey, Quarryville, PA, Kaley Buckhop, Belmont, WI, and Krystin Bachman, OH. Each of these young ladies spoke highly of their contest experience and thanked the Auxiliary and the Miss American Angus committee. McCurry announced that the speech theme was "The History I'm Making Today" and invited everyone to listen to the contestant's speeches at 4:30 on Sunday. The current Miss American Angus, Danielle Foster, Niles, MI, expressed her gratitude to the Auxiliary, her grandmother, Lois Foster and her parents for their support and the opportunity to represent the Angus breed.

Historian: Lois Foster, Niles, MI, announced that she is "hanging up her scissors and buying stock in Elmer's glue". Following her announcement that she was retiring from this committee she presented President, Nancy Thelen, with the beautifully, hand crafted scrapbook. Foster reported that the scrapbook is "a reflection of the enthusiasm and effort by everyone who helped carry out this year's programs". At this time, Sandra McCurry, Mount Hope, KS and Linda Brost, Harrodsburg, KY presented Lois with a gift from the Auxiliary in appreciation for the 15 years that Foster has crafted scrapbooks filled with Angus Auxiliary memories.

Legislative and By-Laws: Pam Bailey, Douglas, KS, was unable to attend the meeting in Louisville. Her written report noted that there were no by-law revisions this year and she had answered questions as needed.

Liason: Sharee Sankey, Council Grove, KS noted that this was a great year working with CAB and API.

Membership: Pam Patterson, Columbus, MT, was unable to be in Louisville. Her written report noted that there were 14 new lifetime memberships in 2008. The mailing list was updated and 650 flawed addresses were removed from the list. Patterson suggested a dues deadline of February 15th. The committee is also looking at sending a dues reminder.

Discussion followed regarding a deadline for submitting dues. Dues are currently accepted from October 1st to September 30th. Carla Malson, Parma, ID, suggested February 15th would help in preparation for the annual meeting. Renee Driscoll, Williamsburg, IA, thought the current dates were satisfactory. Shirley Williams, Fort Smith, AR, felt this was a critical issue, but was somewhat concerned with setting a deadline. Lynne Hinrichsen, Westmoreland, KS, mentioned that state Auxiliaries would then need to change their current process because state auxiliaries typically write one check for all members. Sandy Trospen, Hamilton, MO, stated that we would have more members if they could pay at any time. Sandra Wallace suggested paying dues at the annual meeting for accountability. Anne Lampe suggested emails and postcards be sent out as reminders of dues. Malson asked about the nonactive memberships. Lampe said these memberships were made available years ago to members who weren't able to attend meeting or serve on committees. Joan Lutchka, Grass Lake, MI, felt the deadline should not be changed until state auxiliaries have had an opportunity to respond. Wallace suggested the Auxiliary work directly with the state auxiliaries. Yvonne Hinman, Malta, MT, stated that Montana collects their dues in the fall and states might stop collecting if the date is changed. Lampe suggested all states should collect in this manner to simplify the collection of dues. Thelen suggested members send other ideas they have regarding the dues to the officers.

Public Relations: Shirley Williams, Fort Smith, AR reported that Angus Productions, Inc. (API) has graciously not charged the Auxiliary for website updates. Linda Brost mentioned that the Auxiliary pays an annual \$150 web fee. Williams mentioned that the Miss American Angus committee updates the MAA web page and Cathy Miller is responsible for keeping the Sale Barn page updated. Members were asked to send suggestions for improving the site to Williams. Williams also expressed sincere appreciation to Donita Brown, API. Thelen noted that as of September 4th the Auxiliary had received \$15,000 in comp work from API and that API increased the Miss American Angus articles from 2 to 3.

Rathey Sculpture: Yvonne Hinman, Malta, MT, reported that sculpture sales were just under \$1,800. Hinman reminded members that the small sculptures starting at \$150 would make excellent awards.

Rocke's Meat Haus: Jane Ebert, Sparta, NC, reported that the "Gift of Taste" customers this past year were folks outside of the Angus membership. Ebert reminded members to place their Christmas orders.

Scholarship: Michelle Rieff, Bentonville, AR, reported that this year there were 25 scholarship applicants from 20 states.

Girls:

1 st	Kathleen Gazda, Georgia	\$1,400
2 nd	Elizabeth Williams, Arkansas	\$1,250
3 rd	Megan Ahearn, Texas	\$1,200
4 th	Katrina Frey, Pennsylvania	\$1,100
5 th	Kaley Buckhop, Wisconsin	\$1,050

Boys:

1 st	Shane Clary, Virginia	\$1,400
2 nd	Cole Pearson, Kansas	\$1,250
3 rd	Ethan Holly, Arkansas	\$1,200
4 th	Jonathan Lee, Oklahoma	\$1,100
5 th	Jared Brosey, Ohio	\$1,050

Rieff thanked her committee and noted that this committee made several suggestions on the instructions and the actual form to clarify the directions.

Rieff was pleased to announce that the 2009 scholarships will be increased to \$15,000. The awards will be in the following amounts:

1 st	\$1,700
2 nd	\$1,600
3 rd	\$1,500
4 th	\$1,400
5 th	\$1,300

State Reports: State reports were filed from Florida, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota and Kansas. Copies of these reports were distributed to all members. Foster, suggested we pass on the reading of the state reports. Williams offered to make them available on website also.

Finances: Linda Brost, Harrodsburg, KY, reported that there is currently \$21,000 in the general fund and the board voted that \$5,000 be taken from this fund and placed in a CD. Brost also announced that the 2009 proposed budget was passed at the Executive Board meeting with an increase of \$1,000. Brost mentioned that she and McCurry are currently promoting the “Gift of the Horse” fundraiser. Sandra McCurry announced that Sheri Spader, Spader Angus Farms had donated a yearling gelding in memory of her husband, Dick, to the Auxiliary. McCurry shared with members that Rich Masoner, Angus Productions, Inc. Web Service Manager and Sales Coordinator, has volunteered his time to train the horse. The “Gift of the Horse” video will be shown during the breakfast and in the south wing of the exposition hall.

Honorary Membership: Joan Lutchka, Grass Lake, MI, made a motion to grant honorary membership to John Crouch, former CEO of the American Angus Association. Wallace seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Junior Beef Program: Thelen presented background information regarding this program, including sunset of the past Ambassador Program. This program could include beef education presentations to classrooms, civic groups, etc., training programs and materials. The responses regarding this program have been very positive. Merridee Wells, Hamilton, TX, has agreed to chair this special committee.

New Business

Nominating Committee Report

Mary Greiman, Garner, IA recognized the members of the committee, Malson, Patton Schubert, Williams, and Carol Bloom, Westville, Indiana. Greiman noted that 1550 nomination envelopes were mailed out in September, 696 were returned as undeliverable or deceased.

The committee recommended Barbara Ettredge, Pilot Point, TX for secretary-treasurer. Mary K. Vejraska, Omak, WA for Region 1 Director, Annie Viator, Franklin, TX, for Region 2 Director, Lynne Hinrichsen, Westmoreland, KS, for Region 3 Director, Martha Holshouser, Gold Hill, NC, for Region 4 Director, Leslie Mindemann, Sullivan, WI, for Region 5 Director and Cortney Hill-Dukehart, Sykesville, MD, for Region 6 Director.

Vicki Meiburg, North Branch, MI, moved to close and accept the nominations. Wallace seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Thelen announced that Dessie Moxley, West Friendship, MD and Sharee Sankey were selected to serve on the 2009 Nominating Committee. Barb Sweeney, Mason, MI, nominated Jane Ebert and Brost nominated Paula Boyd, Mayslick, KY to the 2009 Nominating Committee. Sandra Wallace made a motion to accept the nominations. Lynne Hinrichsen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Passing of the pin and gavel

Thelen passed the President's pin and gavel to Rieff. The newly elected president thanked Thelen for her leadership and friendship. Rieff shared that she is honored to serve as president and is looking forward to growing the membership and enhancing communication.

Announcements

Thelen reminded everyone to check out the Auxiliary display in the exposition hall.

Sandra McCurry reminded everyone to purchase tickets for Sunday's Auxiliary breakfast; cost is \$15.00. The video of Blue will premier during the breakfast.

Kathi Creamer announced that copies of the updated Auxiliary guidelines are available and will also be posted on the web site.

Nancy presented gifts to all the committee chairs.

There being no further business Foster moved to adjourn, with Hinrichsen seconding. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.