



Auxiliary Notes

► by **Mary Greiman**, president, American Angus Auxiliary

Challenges

Challenges. Most of us face some sort of challenge almost every day. Many of them are minor, some take a lot of our time and energy, and some just cause more stress than we need. For me, personally, summertime can be the most challenging time of the year.

Facing challenges

Trying to balance work, my other boards and committee commitments, and all the cattle shows we go to in the summer becomes more difficult than the rest of the year. Fortunately, I kind of like challenges. A challenge will get your gears turning and will force you to think outside the box and to hone your listening and communication skills. Sometimes, it gives you the opportunity to work with some very interesting and creative individuals.

Our Auxiliary is facing some important challenges. Our biggest challenges are to increase our membership and to improve our communication with all our members. I realize that these are the kinds of challenges that are ever-present in most organizations, but that doesn't diminish their importance.

Officer retreat

Our officer team and several committee chairs finally got together for our retreat in Saint Joseph, Mo., at the American Angus Association headquarters. A huge *thank you* to John Crouch for making us so comfortable and allowing us unlimited access to the staff and facilities.

Another huge thank you to James Fisher and Linda Campbell for all their help as well. They all made our retreat very successful.

Thanks also to the Missouri Auxiliary for the jams. Mine will be all gone by the time you read this. It was delicious!

Anyway, the retreat was a great opportunity for us to begin the review process on our guidelines and to update our web site. We were able to have meaningful and in-depth conversations about needed improvements and ideas.

Looking ahead

A couple of years ago, at our annual meeting in Louisville, Ky., our organization voted on a proposal to condense the size of our Executive Board by reorganizing the makeup of membership on the Board. The intent of this proposal was to improve communications with the membership and to better prepare people to work on committees or to be an officer.

This proposal just missed passing by two votes. Because the vote was so close, it was decided this past November at the annual meeting that a committee would be formed to look into how we might change and improve the proposal.

Nancy Sullivan agreed to chair this task force committee, which was charged with reporting its recommendations on what changes to make, if any, by our spring retreat. This committee spent a great deal of time and energy researching the solution concerning regional directorships.

Currently, the Executive Board membership consists of our four officers, the president of each state Auxiliary (about 13 people), the wife of the current president of the American Angus Association, chairpersons of all our national committees (about 12 people), and all the past presidents of the Auxiliary (about 30 people). Any state that does not have an organized Auxiliary may also send a delegate to represent that

state on the Executive Board (could be about 38 people).

The grand total of Executive Board members could now include about 97 people. Granted, several of these individuals can be counted in more than one category; we have several chairpersons who are also past presidents or we have state presidents who are currently chairing a committee. At this time, the Executive Board meets only once a year in Louisville in November, right before the annual meeting of the membership.

At our retreat, Nancy reported her committee's findings. Their recommendation was to pursue the proposal of realigning the composition of the Executive Board. In order to proceed with this proposal, if that's what our membership wants, we will need to amend our bylaws. We can vote on bylaw changes only at our annual meeting in November.

However, we will address this topic at our midyear meeting at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Tulsa, Okla. We need your input! This is your organization, and as officers we serve at your pleasure. Please e-mail any of us, and plan on attending the midyear meeting.

Auxiliary reminders

- The midyear meeting is Thursday, July 5, at 2:30 p.m. A location will be announced later.
- The Auxiliary-sponsored All-American Certified Angus Beef® (CAB®) Cook-Off is Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. We can always use extra help with the contest.
- The awards program Friday, July 6, highlights the awards for which the Auxiliary is responsible.
- Check out our web site (www.angusauxiliary.com) often for news and updates and then check out what's new in the Angus Sale Barn (www.angussalebarn.com).

See you all in Tulsa!


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2007 American Angus Auxiliary Officers

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