



Auxiliary Notes

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

Time flies when you're having fun!

These past three years have been an amazing adventure. The people, the places and the events I was fortunate enough to take part in were fantastic. Thanks to all of you for creating such great memories for me.

Why me?

Three years ago when I was recruited to be an officer, my first thought was “why me?” My boys were just starting to get really active with their Angus projects, and I hadn't been very active with the American Angus Auxiliary while the kids were little. What could they think I would bring to their organization?

They convinced me that the experience I have gained from serving on my local school board, Empowerment Board, State Equine Advisory Board, the Garner Asset Project (GAP), and a handful of committees for church, 4-H and work would get me through.

For the most part they were right. Most organizations operate in a similar manner; they are made up of officers/directors who represent the membership; they hold regular meetings where business is reviewed and decisions are made; and they have a mission, a focus.

In my case, the main focus for all my organizations is youth. So it didn't seem like much of a stretch to get on board the American Angus Auxiliary officer train. I

became excited and anxious to get started doing great things for our Angus youth.

But there is one thing that makes this organization different from my other boards — a timeline. Most organizations meet at least monthly or quarterly. The Auxiliary meets only twice a year. Due to this kind of time schedule, it seems like we move in slow motion. Personally, I believe this is the Auxiliary's biggest challenge.

How can we get members (volunteers) from across the nation on the same page and moving in the same direction in a timely fashion? Good question. I had hoped I would have had a good answer by now. But I don't.

As I look back on my tenure, I regret we didn't get more accomplished. When we meet so infrequently, it takes so long to get even the smallest decisions made. Admittedly, my other organizations are regulated by laws that make sure they get certain things accomplished in a particular amount of time.

But I believe that you need deadlines. They're a good thing; without them we would never get anything done. My hope for our future meetings is to be more specific

about some of our goals and when we should reach them.

What's next?

As I was looking back over the closing articles of the officers before me, I noticed a couple of common themes: The Auxiliary's main role is “service” (to our youth and the Angus breed), and our organization is only as good as our membership involvement.

We're lucky, we have really great members who care about our youth and who want to provide them with some unique opportunities. We're lucky we have members who have vision and are always looking down the road to try to plan what the next step for our Auxiliary might be.

We need our members to be supportive and willing to make changes that will help our organization grow and succeed. And, most importantly, we need to work together for the good of our Auxiliary, not as individuals.

Thank you

Thank you. A very special thank you to the American Angus Association (John Crouch, Linda Campbell and the Board of Directors) for all of their support! Your commitment and generosity to the Auxiliary is greatly appreciated.

A huge *thanks* to the *Angus Journal* (Terry Cotton, Cheryl Oxley, Shauna Hermel and Rich Masoner) for all your support,

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2007 American Angus Auxiliary Officers

► **President** — Mary Greiman, 1960 200th St., Garner, IA 50438; 641-923-2235; tmkcg@ncn.net

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► **Secretary-treasurer** — Michelle Rieff, PO Box 923, Bentonville, AR 72712; 479-795-2584; michellerieff63@centurytel.net

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► American Angus Auxiliary officers include (from left) Sharee Sankey, Council Grove, Kan., advisor; Mary Greiman, Garner, Iowa, president; Nancy Thelen, Saline, Mich., president-elect; and Michelle Rieff, Bentonville, Ark., secretary-treasurer.

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guidance and generosity as well. I am so glad I had the opportunity to work with and get to know all these incredible individuals, as well as all the Association staff. There's a reason the American Angus Association is the premier association it is . . . It's all the great people who work for it.

And last, but certainly not least, an enormous *thank you* to James Fisher and Shelia Stannard for their service to the Auxiliary.

And the most important thank you goes out to you Auxiliary members. Thanks for your support, your advice, your encouragement and your friendship. It has truly been a great adventure!

Congratulations to the new officer team. I look forward to working with you this coming year. We've had some nice successes, but I think we can do more.

During Angus events in Louisville, Ky., remember to check out our Angus Sale Barn

for your shopping needs. Also join us for the "Feeling of Christmas" Auxiliary Breakfast hosted by the Iowa Elves Sunday.

See you at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Des Moines, Iowa, next summer!

 Mary Greiman
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