

Auxiliary Notes

By Michelle Rieff, president, American Angus Auxiliary

Service is the rent we pay to be living. It is the very purpose of life and not just something you do in your spare time. Marion Edelman

Auxiliary mission

When I think of the American Angus Auxiliary the word *service* comes to mind. It is the mission of the Auxiliary to offer individuals interested in the welfare of the Angus breed the opportunity to work together to provide educational, promotional and social programs and activities.

New officers & regional directors

It is with much excitement that the Auxiliary begins a New Year by welcoming our new secretary-treasurer, Barbara Ettredge from Pilot Point, Texas. We also look forward to working with our six new regional directors:

- Mary K. Vejraska, Omak, Washington – Region #1
- Annie Viator, Franklin, Texas – Region #2
- Lynne Hinrichsen, Westmoreland, Kansas – Region #3
- Martha Holshouser, Gold Hill, North Carolina – Region #4
- Leslie Mindemann, Sullivan, Wisconsin – Region #5
- Courtney Hill-Dukehart, Sykesville, Maryland – Region #6

Regional directors will begin the New Year by assisting with the updating of our membership list, recruiting new members, promoting the achievement awards, and working to start up new state Auxiliary groups while offering support for existing state Auxiliaries. Regional director contact information can be found on the Auxiliary website at www.angusauxiliary.com.

Auxiliary goals for 2009 will be to grow the Auxiliary in membership numbers and state organized Auxiliaries, enhance communication among members, continue to research the possibility of a youth beef promotion program and to foster friendships among Auxiliary members.

New for 2009 will be a newsletter that members will receive in the spring and fall. Thank you to Ardyce O'Neill, Iowa, for agreeing to help the Auxiliary produce the newsletter!

Louisville in review

As always there was plenty to do and see at the 2008 North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE). Auxiliary officers, committee chairs, and members were present to support and conduct our mission of service to the Angus breed.

Lois Foster, Michigan, received recognition as she retired as the Auxiliary historian. Lois has spent countless hours gathering Auxiliary highlights from across the country and organizing them into beautiful keepsakes as historical scrapbooks. Thank you, Lois for your many, many years of service to the Auxiliary.

The 57th Annual Breakfast for the American Angus Auxiliary, “Angus for all Seasons”, was coordinated by Sandra McCurry with the assistance of her committee and members of the Michigan Angus Auxiliary. The table favors of maple syrup, fudge and gift cards were appreciated by attendees. Those in attendance were deeply moved by the music of Spirit Revival which consisted of James Fisher, his sister and two of his cousins.

The Auxiliary honored John Crouch with an honorary membership and a gift certificate for his years of dedication, support and service to the Auxiliary.

Katie Gazda, Athens, Georgia, daughter of David and Carolyn Gazda, was crowned Miss American Angus for 2009. Congratulations to Katie and the other four finalists and their families. Our dedicated Miss American Angus committee coordinated another fine contest. All five young women were simply outstanding!

About your new president

In 1985 I married my 4-H sweetheart, Kevin Rieff. Kevin was from an Angus family. Having grown up on a predominately Simmental farm, everyone’s big question was, “Will the two of you raise Simmental or Angus?” We did both! In 1987 along came Haley. At the age of eight years old, my father gave Haley her first Simmental show heifer and took them both to Denver to the National Western! The next year Haley’s other grandfather gave her an Angus heifer that was a division champion in Kansas City. Haley was hooked on showing cattle and cow shows and junior breed associations soon became the glue that held our family together!

Kevin and I live on seventy-seven acres in a small community just outside of Bentonville. We have thirty head of registered Angus, Maine-Anjou and commercial cattle. Haley is now twenty-one years old and a junior at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. She is majoring in agriculture communications with a minor in marketing/advertising.

I have been an educator for twenty-three years! I worked in day care as a lead teacher in the toddler and 3-4 year old classrooms. I taught family consumer science (home economics) at Gravette High School for four years. Following that adventure I worked for seven years at Northwest Arkansas Community College in the student services department where I served as a coordinator of new student relations, high school relations, service-learning, student leadership, and the life development center. In 2000 I was named the Arkansas College Counselor of the Year by the Arkansas School Counselor’s Association. Nine years ago I took a position as a junior high counselor in the Bentonville school district. I currently serve over five hundred 8th graders.

Invitation

2009 is the year for you to get involved with the Auxiliary. There is something to do for everyone whether it is on the national, regional or state level. I invite you to join us in support of Angus cattle and Angus youth. Please contact an officer, regional director, or committee chair to see how you can make a difference! Membership applications are available on the Auxiliary website. We want you – we need your help!