

March Madness can mean different things to different people. It can be the excitement of filling out the NCAA basketball bracket, preparing for the annual bull sale, spring calving or if you have a senior in high school, filling out the scholarship applications can bring a sense of madness to any family!

The American Angus Auxiliary shares this same excitement every year while working hard to support the youth and future of the Angus breed. We are proud to be giving approximately \$14,750 in scholarships to the top five male and top five female applicants who are selected by the scholarship committee from applications submitted by the candidate's home state. In addition, the five finalists for the Miss American Angus contest are selected from the top national female applicants. The national deadline is May 1, 2016. The application and directions are located on the American Angus Auxiliary website at www.angusauxiliary.com. I encourage you to utilize your state Auxiliary scholarship chair. If they can't answer your questions, then feel free to contact any American Angus Auxiliary officer or regional director. The application must meet the qualifications. Please work with your state chair and be sure that the application is complete. A list of the state scholarship chairs, officers and directors can also be found on our website.

In addition to the Certificates of Achievement, the Auxiliary also sponsors the Crystal, Silver Pitcher, Grote, Spader, Cook-Off and Showmanship awards. We are able to provide these awards by raising money through our Angus Gift Barn, our partnership with Certified Angus Beef® (CAB®), our "Tradition Continues" Endowment and membership dues.

If you are a retiring or current junior Angus member, wife, mother, grandmother or professional in the agricultural field, we invite you to join. Annual dues run from Oct. 1-Sept. 30 and are just \$10; a lifetime membership fee is \$100. There are many committees to choose from, or you can serve and support the Auxiliary by just paying your dues. A membership application can be found on our website at www.angusauxiliary.com. Please send the membership application to our membership chairperson Jamie (Meyer) Rutledge, 900 Sharon, Derby, KS 67037. Or, you can simply pay your membership dues by credit card through the Angus Gift Barn (AGB) web-site!

Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) in Wooster, Ohio will host the Auxiliary spring meeting and the third Women Connected Conference April 2-4. We are looking forward to touring their facilities, the culinary center and meeting the staff. The last conference shared knowledge on agriculture advocating, making a mark in today's agriculture industry, recognizing our leadership potential and working within an organization to accomplish goals. The Women Connected Conference is sure to be an asset to anyone attending. We are so thankful to the Angus Foundation for once again funding this project. Our executive committee, committee chairpersons, state auxiliary presidents, and past presidents are invited to Wooster to spend the first weekend of April planning this year's Auxiliary events and fundraisers. I hope to see you there!

Good luck with your basketball bracket, have a record breaking bull sale, recognize the miracles that you see every day and thank your parents for making the scholarship deadlines!