

"Life is about using the whole box of crayons."

Do you see in color? Of course! I liken people to colors as well, more in personality than skin color. Bright sunny yellow, tempered green, loyal blue or take charge red. What color do you exude? What "colors" do you surround yourself with?

As I take the reigns of an organization set on a great course by the hands of many "colors", I'm looking forward to a very fulfilling year. My color analysis called me "Uniquely Blue, a "sainted pit-bull" who never lets go once committed." Committed is a good word for the Auxiliary as well.

Commitment to the Association-

While Auxiliary activities at the Angus Convention this past November offered opportunity to reconnect, our flag-ship program, Miss American Angus, was a highlight of the event. From a year in review by Keegan Cassidy speaking throughout the event, to crowning Kallie Knott, Laotto, IN, our 2018 Miss American Angus, on the last day. This program represents commitment to members and breeders by serving in the public eye, promoting the Angus breed.

Commitment to Youth-

Offering \$17,000 in High School scholarships; hosting the Certified Angus Beef Cook-off contest; offering NJAS awards for extemporaneous speaking, showmanship, Silver Pitcher and Crystal Awards, Grote LEAD grants, Black Kettle; and Certificates of Achievement.

Commitment to Members-

Hosting our third biennial Women Connected Conference April 18-20 at The Elms, Excelsior, MO. This three-day program of workshops and networking for women in the agriculture industry, supported by the Angus Foundation, offers opportunities for professional growth. (see sidebar) Following on April 20-21, our spring meeting of the Executive Board will be held in Saint Joseph, MO at the Angus Association headquarters.

Our mentor program matches professional women to young ladies with a career focus who are aging out of NJAA. Offering a sounding board and guidance for the next steps to success, this program rewards both partners. A one year commitment for monthly communication is the only sign on requirement. Contact your Regional Director (found on our website) for more information.

Working for more than twenty-five years with Angus youth, parents, friends, and nationally with the American Angus Auxiliary, my box of crayons is full of colors. It's easy to take a color test that slots you as red, blue, yellow, or green. But I've found we all blend into beautiful shades. And with each year I am blessed to add another few "colors" to my box. Make sure to live richly each day and "use the whole box of crayons."

Leslie Mindemann

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