

# AUXILIARY NOTES



by Leslie Mindemann, American Angus Auxiliary

## Life is about using the whole box of crayons

Do you see in color? Of course you do! I liken people to colors as well, in personality rather 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 reins 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 the opportunity to reconnect, our flagship program, Miss American Angus, was a highlight of the event — from a year-in-review by Keegan Cassidy, who spoke throughout the event, to crowning Kallie Knott, Laotto, Ind., 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

Our commitment to youth includes offering \$17,000 in high

school scholarships; hosting the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American Certified Angus Beef® (CAB®) Cook-Off; presenting Certificates of Achievement; and offering awards at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) for extemporaneous speaking and showmanship, as well as Silver Pitcher and Crystal Awards, Grote Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) grants, and the Black Kettle Award.

### Commitment to members

The American Angus Auxiliary will be hosting its third biennial Women Connected Conference April 18-20, 2018, at The Elms, Excelsior Springs, 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 “Applications available”).

Following the event on April 20-21, our spring meeting of the Executive Board will be hosted in Saint Joseph, Mo., at the American Angus Association headquarters.

Our mentor program matches professional women to young ladies with a similar career focus who are aging out of the National Junior Angus Association (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 at [www.angusauxiliary.com](http://www.angusauxiliary.com) for more information.

Working for more than 25 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. With each year I am blessed to add a few more “colors” to my box. Make sure to live richly each day, and use the whole box of crayons.



*Keegan Cassidy, Bloomington, Ill., shared her experiences as 2017 Miss American Angus with those gathered for the American Angus Auxiliary Breakfast Sunday morning.*

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## Applications available

The American Angus Auxiliary is excited to announce that the Auxiliary-hosted Women Connected biennial conference, this year themed “Engaging Minds, Renewing Spirits” will take place April 18-20, 2018, at the historic Elms Hotel and Spa in Excelsior Springs, Mo. Established in 2012, Women Connected is a conference that brings together a diverse group of women who share the common bond of Angus cattle.

The program strives to include women from diverse Angus demographics.

Women who are full-time ranchers, women who work alongside their husbands on the farm or ranch, mothers of juniors, beef industry professionals and college students pursuing an agriculture major are encouraged to apply.

Twenty women will be selected by application to attend the conference and join the American Angus Auxiliary executive team for a couple of days of education and networking. Applications will be available at

[www.angusauxiliary.com](http://www.angusauxiliary.com) by Jan. 1; application deadline is Feb. 15.

Conference participants will be responsible for transportation to and from the conference. For more information or to obtain an application, please contact Women Connected Chairperson Anne Lampe at [alampe@wbsnet.org](mailto:alampe@wbsnet.org), 620-874-4273.

Women Connected is hosted by the American Angus Auxiliary and underwritten by the Angus Foundation.

*Right: Minnie Lou Bradley presented the bull trophy she received at the very first Auxiliary banquet hosted in Chicago in 1952 to retiring Auxiliary president Julie Murnin.*

*The trophy was given to Bradley in recognition of her winning the collegiate livestock judging contest — the first female to do so — at the International Livestock Show the day before. Murnin shared that the bull would travel, each year residing with the Auxiliary’s past president.*

*Far Right: President Leslie Mindemann shared a few words with breakfast attendees.*



*During the Auxiliary Breakfast Sunday morning, contest co-chair Whitney Renfro (right) introduced candidates vying for the 2018 Miss American Angus title. Pictured are (from left) Kallie Knott, Laotto, Ind.; Claire Hawthorne, Westby, Wis.; Haley Greiman, Perry, Iowa; Lydia Dance, Hillsboro, Ohio; and Caroline Cowles, Rockfield, Ky.*

*A multitude of sponsors contribute to the Miss American Angus program, providing incentives ranging from jewelry to travel allocations.*

