

# MEMBERSHIP TIPS

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director of member services



## Breeder's Reference Guide (Part 1)

*This column was started last year as an additional service to better inform and educate members with relevant topics of discussion. Within this column you often see Breeder's Reference Guide (BRG). But what is this document? I've had several calls asking just that, and so I've decided to feature three articles solely on the BRG and what it means to our members.*

The BRG is a comprehensive document that includes essential information regarding the American Angus Association's Charter, Bylaws and Rules, as well as other integral programs important to Angus breeders. It's a valuable tool for conducting business as an Angus producer and anyone participating in Association programs.

The BRG is broken up into four sections for ease of use by our members and their customers. These sections include the Charter and Bylaws, various Association Rules, Genetic Conditions and Genetic Factor Policies, and lastly the Suggested Sale Terms and Conditions (discussed previously in the August issue of this column). Let's take a closer look at each section and what they mean to our membership.

### Charter

The American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Association was organized 135 years ago at a general meeting of Aberdeen-Angus breeders in Chicago, Ill. on Nov. 21, 1883, and was duly incorporated under the statutes of the State of Illinois on Nov. 27, 1883.

The Charter of the American Angus Association as we see it today has been amended on three occasions by vote taken at the Annual Convention

of Delegates. The amendment process requires proper notification to the voting delegates and alternates and then requires at least two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast by the Delegates present for the proposed amendment to be adopted.

The Charter contains the official name of the Association, the number of directors we have on our Board and the purpose of the Association.

The purpose simply states that the Association (1) maintains the purity of the breed known as Angus; (2) to collect, verify, preserve and publish the pedigrees and such other information and data as it deems necessary to promote Angus; and (3) to perform any other acts to promote the interests of the Angus breed.

### Bylaws of the Association

If the Charter is viewed as our 'Declaration of Independence,' then think of the Bylaws as our 'Constitution,' or governing document for your Association. The Bylaws are broken down into ten different sections known as Articles.

**Article I: Type of Corporation; Purposes; Offices; Records** — discusses the purpose, office location, where the office is officially registered and the records we as your Association are required to keep.

These records include the official herd book documenting ancestors, data and DNA samples, minutes from all meetings and all appropriate accounting records.

**Article II: Membership** — the membership Article explains the five classes of membership offered by the Association, in addition to the application process.

The five classes of membership in the Association include Life, Regular, Junior, Affiliate and Nonresident memberships. In addition, membership compliance with the Bylaws and the BRG is included and is stated as follows:

"As a condition of membership in the Association, each member shall conform to and abide by these Bylaws and the *Breeder's Reference Guide* (which includes the Association's Charter, Bylaws and other rules and regulations), as each may be amended from time to time."

It is important to remember this condition of membership as you participate in Association business and programs.

**Article III: Convention of Delegates** — this is understandably a very lengthy chapter, as our election is a very important, detailed process. Items addressed here include the

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**Selling: Angus Foundation  
Female Sale Denver, CO  
January 18, 2019  
Outcross Genetics/Power**



17215152

*O'Neills Royal Lady 90*

Embryos Qualify EU & UK and World.  
½ interest sold \$50,000 to Feeder Creek Angus  
• Dam of Black Bardolier & Royal Lady 150 •  
Full Sib Embryos Sell!



18900358

*O'Neills Royal Lady 150*

Full sister to Black Bardolier  
Embryos Sell • LD Capitalist 316



18254055

*O'Neills Eraline 305*

High-selling Female All Breeds • 2016 IA  
Beef Expo \$20,000 • Dam of Poundmaker &  
Excursion 78 • See in Denver  
Embryos by: Black Bardolier & LD Capitalist 316



16717544

*O'Neills Lady Blackcap 65*

High Indexing Cow in Herd • Top 1% WW • YW  
• RADG • CW • SF • YG • SB 190.73 • Dam of  
O'Neills Justify 98 • See in Denver • Full Sibs Sell  
**Feature NWFF Sale • O'Neills Rachel 73**  
19240444 • Daughter of Expedition  
High EPD Valued Female Ever Produced at  
O'Neills • SB 193.82 • IMF 7.70 ratio 108 • 3rd  
dam \$29,500 O'Neills Rachel.  
68 Years Breeding Quality Angus



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Herdsman, Matt Hotz • (712) 355-2125  
and Jordan O'Neill • (402) 651-3206

roll, number, eligibility, nomination and election of the voting delegates attending the annual convention. How voting takes place at the convention and the official order of business during the Annual Meeting is also included.

**Article IV: Directors** — in this section, the Board of Directors is discussed including the number, qualifications and the roll of our Board members. In addition, the various committees within the Board are addressed.

**Article V: Meetings of the Board of Directors** — frequency and guidelines of the various meetings are addressed in this Article.

**Article VI: Officers** — basically the officers of the Association shall include a president, a vice president, a chief executive officer, a treasurer, and such other officers as the Board of Directors may elect.

The president and the vice president shall be elected at each Annual Convention of Delegates and must at all times be an active life member or an active regular member. The selection of the treasurer is unique in that this officer is elected by the Board of Directors at the last quarterly meeting of the fiscal year.

**Article VII: General Provisions** — finance and accounting business is addressed in this section along with the date set for the conclusion of the fiscal year.

**Article VIII: Discipline, Suspension or Expulsion** — unfortunately, all businesses need procedures in place for issues relating to misconduct. We are no exception. Within this section you will find what constitutes misconduct along with the entire process including the original complaint, subsequent investigation if justified, the processes of board hearing and convention of delegates appeal.

**Article IX: Indemnification Policy of the American Angus Association**

— the legal verbiage relating to indemnification is discussed in detail.

**Article X: Amendment of Bylaws** — the amendment process for the Bylaws of the Association is slightly different compared to amending the Charter discussed earlier.

To amend the Bylaws of the Association, the process depends on when the proposed amendment is presented. The Bylaws may be amended by a simple majority vote of the delegates provided the subject matter of any proposed Amendment is submitted in writing by the CEO to the Delegates and Alternates at least 30 days prior to the date of the meeting at which the proposed amendment is to be presented.

The Bylaws may, however, be amended without prior notice to the Delegates and Alternates by a vote of three-fourths of the Delegates present at any Convention of Delegates. Amendments to the Bylaws shall go into effect at the adjournment of the meeting at which they are adopted.

Remember, it is vital that members and those participating in Association programs understand and comply with all of the rules and all applicable policies and guidelines.

For a current copy of the BRG, go to [www.angus.org](http://www.angus.org) and select the “Member Services” tab. Scroll down to “Member Center” and select “Breeder’s Reference Guide.”

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*If you have any questions regarding the issues discussed, please contact the member services department at (816) 383-5100.*