

AMERICAN ANGUS AUXILIARY HOSTS EVENTS AT ANGUS CONVENTION

Organization acknowledges leadership, award winners and camaraderie.

by Briley Richard, American Angus Association

The American Angus Auxiliary provides educational, promotional and social programs and activities to benefit Angus juniors and has since its inception in 1952. Each year, the Auxiliary uses the Angus Convention as a channel to educate members, discuss promotional ideas and raise funds for future Angus generations.

The Auxiliary hosted numerous events including their annual meeting, Miss American Angus competition, Auxiliary breakfast and 70th Anniversary Kickoff Reception in conjunction with the 2021 National Angus Convention & Trade Show in Fort Worth, Texas.

During the annual meeting, members elected new directors and officers and voted on changes to by-laws, says Pam Velisek, American Angus Auxiliary outgoing president.

Newly elected directors and officers are:

President — Deanna Hofing,
 Coatesville, Ind.

President Elect — Julie Conover,
 Holden, Mo.

Secretary/Treasurer — Karla
 Knapp, Bloomfield, Iowa
 Region 2 — Rebecca Knott,
 LaOtto, Ind.

Region 4 — Christy Perdue,
 Louisburg, N.C.

Region 6 — Valerie Trowbridge,
 Meshoppen, Pa.

Advisor — Pam Velisek,
 Laytonsville, Md.

The Miss American Angus competition consisted of five young ladies who underwent a written quiz, an interview and presented a speech to a panel of judges. This year's contestants included Jonwyn Ayres, Ore.; Amelia Miller, Ill.; Elizabeth Rone, Miss.; Rachel Smith, Neb.; and Mary Wood, N.C. The 2021 Miss American Angus, Ellie Kidwell, concluded her reign by crowning Mary Wood as her successor.

"Miss American Angus serves as our ambassador in the public eye to

promote the Angus breed at shows, sales, schools and conferences throughout her reign," Velisek says. "These young ladies never cease to amaze me with their knowledge of Angus and agriculture in general."

Though selecting the new Miss American Angus typically serves as the highlight event, the Auxiliary's 70th anniversary provided the women with a new celebration.

"The other highlight this year was the 70th Anniversary Kickoff Reception that the Auxiliary hosted at the National Cowgirl Museum & Hall of Fame in Fort Worth,"



American Angus Auxiliary national officers and regional directors are (from left) Karla Knapp, Bloomfield, Iowa, secretary/treasurer; Julie Conover, Holden, Mo., president-elect; Deanna Hofing, Coatesville, Ind., president; Pam Velisek, Laytonsville, Md., advisor; Christy Perdue, Louisburg, N.C.; Amy Griffin, Olton, Texas; Cindy Worthington, Waterford, Calif.; Rebecca Knott, Laotto, Ind.; and Valerie Trowbridge, Meshoppen Pa.



Distinguished Woman of the Year was awarded to the Trospers family. Pictured (from left) are Anne Patton Schubert, presenting; Sandy Trospers; Mallory Trospers; Lindsey Trospers DeWitte; Whitney Trospers Renfro; and Gina Hope and Cindy Ahearn, presenting.

Velisek says. "It was a great venue to celebrate women who work so hard for the Auxiliary. We had a live auction to benefit our Scholarship and Education endowments and met our goal of \$20,000."

Surrounded by Western glitz and glamour, five live auction items sold at the reception by female auctioneer Wendy Lambert.

The mark of the Auxiliary reaching its 70th year acknowledges the organization's tenacity and devotion to Angus youth.

"The fact that this organization has been supporting and educating juniors for 70 years is truly an accomplishment," Velisek says. "In 1957 we gave out one \$300 scholarship; this year we awarded 10 scholarships totaling \$18,000. The Auxiliary is always working to promote our junior members and looking for ways to support the breed we love so much."

The American Angus Auxiliary breakfast capped off the weekend as the Distinguished Woman of the Year was announced.


This year's honor proved to be particularly special by awarding not just one woman, but a family of women. Sandy Trospers and her three, past Miss American Angus daughters, Lindsey Trospers DeWitte, Whitney Trospers Renfro and Mallory Trospers, received the award for their dedication to the breed and service to the Auxiliary.

Looking forward, the Auxiliary plans to prepare for their Angus

Women's Connected Conference and incorporate new ideas and projects during the year.

"Our incoming president, Deanna Hofing, has a lot of exciting ideas up her sleeve, and I am looking forward to some fun activities in the coming year," Velisek says. "There will be a Women's Connected in March of 2022, and that is always an amazing event. We are very honored the [Angus] Foundation continues to support us and make that activity possible for the Auxiliary."

Velisek says she enjoyed networking with fellow Angus women through the Auxiliary during her time as president.

"I love that I have had the opportunity to meet so many talented women who share the same interests I do," Velisek says. "I love that the Auxiliary has such a strong foundation of tradition. It is important that we evolve and keep up with the times, but in doing so, we can't forget where we came from. I think keeping that foundation strong is what makes us so successful." 

The American Angus Auxiliary celebrated its 70th Anniversary Kickoff Reception at the National Cowgirl Museum & Hall of Fame.

