

AUXILIARY NOTES

by Pam Velisek, President, American Angus Auxiliary

Better Built Foundations

As I walk into my 200-year-old stone bank barn, I marvel at the strength and soundness of the 2-foot-thick stone walls and the 15-inch beams that have held up thousands of tons of hay over the years.

I find myself thinking of the experience, community and craftsmanship it took to erect a barn that would last so many lifetimes.

Our very own American Angus Association is not unlike this grand structure. It is built on the strongest of foundations — our Angus cattle. Much like those cattle, alone it would just be a pile of rocks with no direction if not for the craftsmen who shaped it into the lasting base it became. The breeders are the carpenters who craft the beams: a community that together built the barn we call our own. One that can hopefully last forever.

Yet that does not mean our barn can stand forever unchanged. This stone barn has had the old wooden box stalls and stanchions replaced with steel gates, making pens that

create a more efficient workspace.


We have added steel beams, so it holds up to the demands of modern farming. The stone foundation had leaned and had to be pushed back straight. Yet it still stands, proud of its tradition and accepting of changes that will allow it to serve another generation.

Like the barn, our Association has accepted improvements and changes that have kept it relevant in an ever-changing world. Our Auxiliary and its partners see challenges each year, and we need adjustments to stay ahead. Even the best of organizations will lean from time to time. Well thought out, new ideas need to be embraced to keep “this old barn” standing strong and proud.

As always, I want to remind our juniors it is never too early to

start working on those scholarship applications. They will be due to your state scholarship chairs before you know it.

I am looking forward to our spring Executive Committee and board meetings in March and welcoming our committee chairs and members to bring new ideas that will help keep our foundation strong.

Wishing everyone a healthy spring calving season and looking forward to seeing black calves hitting the green grass. 



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American Angus Auxiliary Annual Meeting Minutes

The following is a review of the topics discussed and action taken Nov. 7, 2020, in Kansas City, Mo.

President Gina Hope called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Welcome

Mark McCully, American Angus

Association CEO, welcomed the Auxiliary to the Convention. He thanked the Auxiliary for all they do to promote the breed and help the juniors. He also discussed the number

of registrations going up (more than 300,000 this year).

Miss American Angus co-chair Cortney Cates spoke about the Miss American Angus Contest. She

introduced each of the contestants and contest activities set to happen over the following two days. Cates announced the five contestants for this year.

They are Mattie Harward, North Carolina; Emma Grace Nowotny, Texas; Kady Figge, Kansas; Ellie Kidwell, Ohio; and Lauren Gilbert, Missouri. Cortney also announced the sponsors and thanked them for their support. Judges for the year's contest are Kara Lee, Mark Core and Darla Aegerter.

Gina welcomed everyone and introduced the executive committee, committee chairs, state presidents, Distinguished Women and past presidents.

Zoom meeting and voting instructions were explained. All Zoom attendees will be muted. All participants will be able to vote.

Minutes

Gina advised the minutes were published on the website and in the *Angus Journal*. Mary McCurry made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to accept them as presented. Anne Lampe seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Gina asked for all the American Angus Association staff attending the meeting to stand and be recognized. She thanks them for their service.

Treasurer's report

Deanna Hofing presented the treasurer's report. No motion was needed, and the report will be filed in the records of the Auxiliary.

Mary Greiman inquired what the plans are for the CD that is maturing in January 2021. Gina stated the executive committee and finance committee will discuss this in late November or early December. Mary

then asked if the Auxiliary need to cash it in for extra funds in their checking accounts. Gina stated no.

Committee reports

All reports were published on the website for review.

Melanie Kiani was not present, so the Angus Gift Barn report was given by Anne on her behalf. She stated the Angus Gift Barn will be putting a few items online for Christmas shopping such as t-shirts, stationery and Christmas items. Anne asked everyone to shop at the Angus Gift Barn for Christmas gifts.

Emma Collins was not present, so the historian's report was given by Anne. She stated the scrapbook is moving toward a digital and hardbound book vs. a traditional scrapbook. One copy will be for the president, one copy will be for the archives and a digital copy on file. At this time, the scrapbook is still being completed.

Anne, chairman of the Women's Connected Conference, reported the fifth Women's Connected Conference was held in Wooster, Ohio, at Certified Angus Beef LLC. The dates were March 4-6, 2020. Anne thanked Thomas Marten for his and the Angus Foundation's support. She also talked about finding additional conference sponsors and corporate sponsors as well as starting an endowment to keep the conference going in the future.

Miss American Angus co-chair, Cortney Cates, stated it was great to see the growth of Eva Hinrichsen, 2020 Miss American Angus, this year. She welcomed Eva up to the stage to give a small speech. Eva shared just a little of her year and thanked the Auxiliary for all their support. Gina thanked her for putting the Queen's Tea together for the ladies at the

National Junior Angus Show (NJAS).

No verbal report was given for the public relations committee.

Full Circle Online Auction chair, Shally Rogen, gave a report and let everyone know the bidding will open Nov. 7, 2020. There are 26 items to bid on, and the sale will conclude Nov. 12, 2020. She asked if the Auxiliary would like and share the social media posts. Shally also encouraged Auxiliary members to place max bids on the items, so they do not have to watch to see if they are outbid.

For the scholarship committee, Pam Velisek gave the year's report. There were 27 applicants. All went well with the digital applications; the judges were happy with them. One question will be changed on the 2021 application. Pam presented the two names for judges to the executive committee, and they were approved.

Old business

The transition to Julie Angelo as the accountant went well. It was challenging at first to get the coding correct, but, thanks to Nancy Thelen, the process is on the right path.

With all the efforts the previous year to move communication toward all digital, the Auxiliary only printed 20-30 of *The Post* newsletters this year. Zoom meetings were used for the midyear and annual meetings. These have been highly successful, and Gina thanked Julie Conover for all her help.

A bylaw review will be initiated prior to the spring meeting.

New business

Presentation of the 2020-2021 budget was given by Nancy Thelen, finance committee chair. She went over the budget presented to the executive committee at their meeting.

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Nancy made the motion the budget be accepted as presented. Lynne Hinrichsen seconded the motion. Present members and Zoom meeting attendees voted. The motion carried.

Gina stated the executive committee appointed Anne Patton Schubert and Anne Lampe to the nominating committee. Two more appointments are needed from the floor. Nancy Thelen nominated Carol Bloom, Indiana, and Karla Knapp nominated Yvonne Hinman, Montana. Yvonne declined the nomination. Karla then nominated Jane Ebert, North Carolina. Gina asked for any other nominations. Anne Lampe asked to close nominations. Mary seconded the motion. After a vote, the motion passed.

Gina appointed Catie Hope and Linda Alexander as tellers for election. Gina provided the ladies participating on the phone with Catie and Linda's phone numbers to allow them to vote.

Cindy Ahearn presented the following as the slate of officers:

President: Pam Velisek

President-elect: Deanna Hofing

Secretary-treasurer: Julie Conover and Beverly Figge.

Having no nominations from the floor, Julie made a motion to

close nominations for president and president-elect. Lynne Hinrichsen seconded the motion, which was then carried, and the vote was cast.

This was followed by voting for the new secretary/treasurer. Paper ballots were distributed to attendees present. Mary Greiman made the motion to close nominations for secretary-treasurer, and Barb Ettredge seconded the motion. Motion carried. Votes were cast by Zoom attendees. The tellers collected paper and phone votes, which were then tabulated. Julie was elected as secretary-treasurer.

Cindy then announced the new regional directors which included:

- Region 1: Cindy Worthington
- Region 2: Amy Griffin
- Region 3: Karla Knapp

Gina passed the gavel to Pam as the new president. Pam thanked Gina for all she accomplished this year. Pam made announcements about the following day's Miss American Angus contest times and location.

Mary Greiman asked if she could make an announcement. She discussed the issues with capturing good pictures of family hugs of the top five showmanship winners when they have a bowl in one hand and a box of clippers in the other. Mary suggested giving embroidered bags.

Greiman Angus will sponsor the first year. The consensus was to use a black bag she brought as an example. The sponsor will be embroidered on one side of the bag, and the other side will have the placing of the top five individuals. Pam mentioned the Auxiliary had discussed these bags at the mid-year meeting and had approved moving forward with the idea.

Anne Lampe then mentioned the Auxiliary should look at updating the bylaws to discuss digital voting and limiting the time allotment of Zoom voting. Pam agreed this should be looked at and will be addressed when the bylaws are reviewed.

Pam asked for a motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Catie Hope moved to adjourn the meeting. Lynne seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Pam thanked Vivian Wolf for her years of service as Region 2 Director. Meeting was then adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Editor's note: The report was submitted by Deanna Hofing, 2020 secretary-treasurer.

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