

# AUXILIARY NOTES

by Julie Conover, president, American Angus Auxiliary

## Building Blocks

*We're constantly building.*

In our family, we happen to use a lot of Mega™ blocks. These are the extra-large blocks that would be like a giant Lego®. In observing our girls over the holidays, I noticed one isn't quite able to stack them yet. At 11 months, she is able to deconstruct and definitely knock over towers and castles, but she has not mastered the construction phase of linking two blocks together.

Our other daughter, however, is starting to pair colors together and getting particular about construction methods. She is not only creative about what she is building and defending from her sister, but wants it to be just right. At 3, she uses quotes like, "It just needs to be right."

While I am not quite sure which parent she learned that line from, as we both are plenty particular, it amazes me at such a young age how we start developing what our goal is and then attempting to carry it out.

The fundamentals that built each of us are our core. They help us make decisions and serve as the foundation for our daily lives. The American Angus Auxiliary was built by a group of determined women 71 years ago, who created a firm foundation for the generations to come.

As a third-generation Auxiliary member, my Auxiliary experience began in the kitchen with my grandmother in the early 1990s. As

a founding member of the Michigan Angus Auxiliary, Louisa Diuble was passionate about helping make agriculturalists successful.

While she rarely attended sales and events in my lifetime, she knew there were more ways than just attending something to lend a helping hand. Recruited as a warm body who could spread butter, Grandma and I made sandwiches. While I don't remember how many we made, it felt like we could feed an army after we were done. We then packaged them all up and sent them with Grandpa to the sale.

Looking back, I can remember brownies, cookies, lemonade and so many sandwiches coming out of her kitchen. As I got older, I was promoted to the additional role of display artist, given very specific instructions of how they were to be set out, when I was able to finally go with Grandpa to events. I quickly realized Grandpa and I had different techniques of following Grandma's instructions, but most importantly, we never forget the Tupperware®.

Following in the footsteps of so many women I admired, including my mother, aunt and grandmother, it was my honor to serve as Michigan Angus Auxiliary president in 2017. Serving exactly 40 years after my grandmother, I often thought about the meals we made and the

visions the ladies before me had to help others. It was a special year for Michigan Angus Auxiliary as we celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and created a lasting legacy by establishing an endowment with the Angus Foundation.

Just like many state auxiliaries across the nation, annual fundraising efforts support the crowning of royalty and provide scholarships for graduating seniors. While each state is unique in its process and determination factors, women have been empowering young men and women to pursue their passions for decades. In many cases, generations of women have helped build those funds and have supported thousands of youth.

When we think about building, what are we building? As your 71<sup>st</sup> president of the American Angus Auxiliary, I'd say it's rather simple: we are supporting and encouraging passionate, productive members of our agricultural society. We follow the mission of the American Angus Auxiliary: the American Angus Auxiliary offers individuals interested in the welfare of the Angus breed the opportunity to work together to provide educational, promotional and social programs and activities.

The construction and growth efforts of the chairwomen of the American Angus Auxiliary are

phenomenal. The 22 committees act on behalf of the regional directors and officers to create an outstanding and successful Auxiliary. These women volunteer their time to manage everything from the membership and promotional efforts to ensuring every pound of meat is in the cooler for the Auxiliary-sponsored *Certified Angus Beef* Cook-off Contest at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS).

These women, along with the past presidents, are truly the building blocks that continue to set a firm foundation in an ever-changing

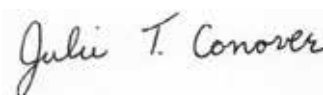
climate. These women make up a recently changed, fitting name: the Auxiliary Council.

Along with my fellow officers and regional directors, it is our privilege as the Executive Board to continue to build the next level of blocks. As I mentioned earlier, the link or connection of two blocks is a challenge for our little one. The higher you get, the more challenges arise. As an Executive Board, we are so proud of the strong foundations built by the generations before us, and we look forward to preserving

that foundation and continuing to push for excellence. I look forward to having an engaging and exciting year, and hope you can join us in July for our events at the NJAS.

As we continue to build, please reach out to myself or any of the Executive Board if you have questions or need assistance.

Sincerely,



*Julie T. Conover*  
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## Annual Meeting Minutes

*The following is a review of the topics discussed and action taken*

*Nov. 5, 2022, in Salt Lake City, Utah.*

President Deanna Hofing called the meeting to order at 2:16 p.m., Nov. 5, 2022.

Miss American Angus, Mary Wood, recapped her year as the 2022 Miss American Angus, including travels and her new advocacy platform in conjunction with Certified Angus Beef (CAB). Her work with CAB allowed her to attend several ranch field days in North Carolina. She said she found it rewarding to be able to bridge the gap between producers and consumers by being the face of the American Angus breed and Auxiliary.

Cortney Cates introduced the five contestants competing for the 2023 Miss American Angus. Allison Davis, Hailey Jentz, Lexi Koelling, Lizzie Schafer and Kelsey Theis have been through their orientation and an etiquette session with Diane

Johnson, completed their written test, and had lunch with the judges. Interviews and speeches will finish up their competition with crowning to be hosted at the Awards Dinner.

Mark McCully, American Angus Association CEO, welcomed the Auxiliary to the convention and thanked us for all our work over the last year. He is very passionate about our Angus youth and how we can help them to become great leaders.

Hofing welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the past presidents, distinguished women, committee chairs and state presidents, and thanked them for traveling to Salt Lake City.

The meeting was also available by Zoom and instructions on voting were covered.

Gina Hope moved to accept the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes,

Fort Worth, Texas, published in the February *Angus Journal* and on the Auxiliary website. Catie Hope seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Karla Knapp reported there is \$64,631.44 in current assets along with a five-year CD due in February 2023 for \$5,668.86, making our total assets \$70,300.30. Highlighted profits came from increasing annual membership from \$10 to \$20, our 70-year letter drive, and our 70-year kick-off celebration.

### Committee Chair Reports:

Cortney Holshouser reported on the Full Circle Online Auction to be hosted Thursday, Nov. 10, on Angus Live. There will be 33 items on consignment to support our junior programs, and it will include a variety of items that will have something for

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everyone. Holshouser thanked all who donated and her committee for all of their hard work.

Catie Hope, historian, updated us on the president's book and the inclusion of the annual meetings before it will be presented to Hofing at a later date.

Cates thanked all of the sponsors of the Miss American Angus contest and said she looks forward to the crowning of our new queen.

### Old Business:

Gina Hope reviewed the suggested by-law changes presented at the mid-year meeting, published in the Fall Post and placed on the website. Carol Bloom made a motion to accept the bylaw changes as presented. Cindy Ahearn seconded the motion. Motion passed. Gina then thanked her committee.

Miss American Angus "Letter of Intent" — a motion was made at the midyear meeting for Hofing to follow up with the legal department at the American Angus Association regarding a statement to be included in the letter of intent. Hofing has been in communication with legal, as well as the officers and the Miss American Angus committee. With some changes to our handbook that will define our women of empowerment and females in agriculture, a positive outcome can be achieved. The Miss American Angus committee will be working on updating handbook terminology and should have these updates finished by February 1.

### New Business:

Nancy Thelen, finance chair, presented the 2022-23 budget.

We are looking to work with a budget that includes profits from the CJ Brown painting as well as the increase in the Miss American Angus budget to include travel opportunities for the advocacy program. A motion by Erica Styles was made to approve the budget as presented. Motion was seconded by Landi Livingston. Motion passed. Endowment funds have seen a decrease because of the economy.

#### *Appointment of 2022-23*

*Nominating Committee* — Hofing stated the executive committee appointed Moriah Pohlman, Texas, and Mary McCurry, Kansas, to the nominating committee. Nominations were then taken from the floor. Ahearn nominated Allison Dubbs, Montana. Dubbs accepted the nomination, and Nancy Thelen seconded her nomination. Motion passed. Holshouser nominated Heather Smith, Nebraska, seconded by Tonya Theis. Motion passed.

*Appointment of election tellers* — Hofing appointed Gina Hope and Morgan Knapp as tellers for the election.

*Nominating committee/slate of officers* — Chairman Pam Velisek announced the results of voting, and regional directors are: Region 1 — Cindy Worthington, California; Region 2 — Megan Ahearn, Texas; Region 3 — Stacy Erdmann, North Dakota; Region 5 — Lori Pillars, Mich.

Velisek then presented the slate of officers for 2022-2023 as president, Julie Conover; president elect, Karla Knapp; secretary/treasurer, Tonya Theis; and Advisor Deanna Hofing. Hofing then asked for nominations from the floor. Anne Lampe made a motion that nominations cease and

the slate of officers be accepted as presented. Barb Ettredge seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Hofing thanked her executive team, amazing committee chairs and the support of past presidents for her incredible year. She reminded everyone of the beautiful CJ Brown painting that will be auctioned off at the Auxiliary Breakfast in the morning. Hofing then passed the gavel to the new president, Conover.

Conover thanked Velisek and Griffin for their years of service to the Auxiliary. Griffin has taken on the position as Auxiliary bookkeeper, and Velisek will be serving in the role as co-chair to our Programs and Hospitality. Conover then announced the Auxiliary Breakfast will be starting at 7:30 a.m., with plans to have pictures of officers, Distinguished Women and past presidents. Miss American Angus speeches will follow the breakfast.

The Full Circle Auction is scheduled for November 10 on Angus Live, and Conover encouraged everyone to bid often.

The NJAS will be hosted in Grand Island, Neb., this summer July 1-8, and the Auxiliary will be hosting this year's Royalty Reception.

Next year's Convention will be hosted in sunny Orlando, Fla., Nov. 2-4, 2023.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Holshouser. Morgan Knapp seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

# 2022 American Angus Auxiliary Committees

## Audit Committee

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For the current list of state presidents  
and scholarship contacts, visit  
[www.angusauxiliary.com](http://www.angusauxiliary.com).

*Editor's note: The minutes were respectfully  
submitted by Karla Knapp.*

AJ