

MEMBERSHIP TIPS

by Jerry Cassady
director of member services



Membership engagement

The 139th Annual Convention of Delegates will take place in conjunction with the Angus Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, Nov. 5-7, 2022. Why is the director of member services writing about an event that will take place months from now and registration doesn't open until July 1, 2022?

Voting eligibility

Realizing that November is a long way from today, time moves quickly, and travel takes more planning in today's world. More importantly, the deadline to fulfill eligible voting member requirements for this year's convention is April 8, 2022, which is right around the corner (for more on eligibility, see "Membership Tips," in the March 2021 *Angus Journal*). You can check your eligibility status within your AAA Login account by clicking on My Account > My AAA Information. Keep in mind your eligibility box will become unchecked if your dues expire between now and April 8.

From participation to relationships

Association participation is a great way to grow, connect, learn, be inspired and unite. Membership engagement and participation in Association events is the fuel for networking that takes place within our industry. The American Angus Association is no exception. While it takes intentionality to get off the ground in building a network of colleagues and mentors, the

investment is well worth it. Isolation is a difficult place to thrive.

25,000 members

It is true, the Association is blessed to have a vast, diverse membership representing all sizes and types of operations. However, at the 2021 Convention of Delegates, there were unfortunately several empty seats among the delegation. Was this related to personal health issues? Most likely. However, some may feel the responsibility of leadership and engagement falls on the shoulders of others. Realize when you look at the scope of the entire beef industry, our Association really isn't that big, and we need every voice to be heard and represented. The Angus Convention can be your path for Association involvement.

Membership connection

The power of relationships is immense, but all too often this opportunity for professional and personal growth is missed. The reality is many people don't participate because they simply don't prioritize that aspect in their lives. It happens to all of us, me included.

I'll see reflections of what happened in the past like a recent press release or images and stories of a recent event on social media, and I think to myself, why didn't I participate? That would have been very beneficial, and now it's too late! I was left out because I didn't take the opportunity to invest my time. I was just too busy, I told myself. Still, weren't those that did participate busy, too? Aren't we all too busy?

Set direction

The purpose of the Annual Meeting and Convention of Delegates is to unite the membership and set direction for the future of the Association and the Angus breed. This event brings members together from across the country to voice opinions, share ideas and collaborate on Angus industry issues. If you haven't in the past, I highly encourage you to consider attending the annual meeting and identify where you might best be able to get more involved and bring your gifts to the table. We're stronger together, and the experience can be both intrinsically and professionally rewarding. The value you get in an association is


sometimes slow-building, and even though it has strong long-term returns, it is easy to ignore it to focus on short-term fires. As we look to 2022 and beyond, it's not enough to tell yourself, "I need to get involved." Instead, work to make it concrete by looking at the calendar of events now, and create a plan of attack with events marked on your calendar in pen.

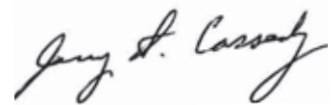
Summary

Delegate nomination procedures are set forth in the Bylaws of the American Angus Association in Article III Convention of Delegates, Section 3.7 Nomination of Delegates. The Bylaws can be found in the Breeder's Reference Guide in the "Rules and Forms" section.

Considerations

- An Eligible Voting Member can nominate him/herself.
- Each Eligible Voting Membership can make only one nomination.
- Only one individual from each Eligible Voting Membership can be placed on the ballot.
- It is best to nominate an Eligible Voting Member who, if elected, will attend the Annual Convention of Delegates.
- Names are placed on the ballot in order of date received.
- After the nomination period ends, ballots are prepared and mailed to life and regular members that have qualified as Eligible Voting Members.

Refer to www.angus.org to access the complete Bylaws of the American Angus Association, or contact the American Angus Association Member Services Department at 816-383-5100 with any questions regarding the election process. 



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Editor's note: For more information regarding membership, contact the Member Services department or email me directly at jcassady@angus.org.

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