

by Mark McCully
CEO, American Angus Association



Association governance 101

Aug. 9 was a busy ballot-counting day at the American Angus Association office. It is the culmination of the important process determining the voting delegates and alternates for the Annual Convention.

As I visit with members, I sometimes get asked questions around decision-making and how direction is set for the Association. It all starts with the delegate nominations and election.

Per the Bylaws, each state is assigned a number of delegates, determined by a formula that considers both number of members and registrations for that state.

Members from each state nominate their peers or themselves, and those names are placed on their state's ballot. Eligible voting members vote and return their ballots to the office for counting. Two Association members come to the office that day to assist in the process and serve as election observers.

The individual receiving the most votes from each state is assigned to be the state chairman. The chairman organizes their state's delegates and alternates to ensure they have a full delegation at Convention. All of the states assemble at the Annual Meeting and conduct the business of the Association. While at times there are Bylaw change considerations or other business, traditionally the largest responsibility comes in the election of the Board of Directors and the chairman and vice chairman.

Members declare to run for the Board typically by notifying the CEO office before Aug. 1. These candidates

have a biography published in the October *Angus Journal* (see page 162) and then participate in the candidate forum at Angus Convention. Each year five new directors are elected to a three-year term, and a director can serve two consecutive terms.

This elected Board then meets a minimum of four times per year — normally in February, June, September and November.

These directors also serve on the boards of the four subsidiaries — Certified Angus Beef, Angus Media, Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI) and the Angus Foundation — as well as multiple committees — Member Services, Events and Junior Activities, Finance and Planning, Communications/PR, Commercial Programs, Breed Improvement, and Research Priorities. These committees typically meet virtually and dig deeper into agenda topics prior to a full board session.

Ultimately the Board makes decisions on the rules and policies of the Association and its entities, establishes budgets and provides financial oversight, and sets the direction for staff. Board agenda highlights are published the week prior to board meetings and non-confidential actions of the Board are shared in a president's letter immediately following the meeting with more detailed meeting

highlights published online and in the *Angus Journal* the weeks following. Any member wanting to inquire about any topic or share concerns is always encouraged to contact Board members.

Contact information and an easy method to email all directors is available on www.angus.org.

Changes to the process

Governing a 22,000-member association is not an easy task, but leadership over the decades has established an effective and efficient system for every member to engage and have their voice heard.

I understand everyone is busy and the extra time to participate in these processes can be limited. Studying the data of the past several years, we see a steady decrease in the number of delegate nominations and the number of ballots submitted (see Table 1 below).

Table 1: Number of delegates nominated and ballots cast by year

Year	Delegates Nominated	Ballots Cast
2023	435	1662
2022	503	1885
2021	532	1967
2020	598	2193

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I suspect there are several reasons for the decrease, but I feel a healthy association has a highly engaged membership, so I don't dismiss the trend.

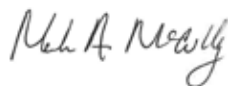
The past several years, the Board and staff have been evaluating the system and looking for ways to make it easier for members to participate. We have received numerous requests to move the delegate nomination and election process online. This would eliminate the paper and avoid the problems with the postal service and lack of reliability with the mail.

In 2022 we introduced an electronic option to make delegate nominations electronically, and the Board decided in June to extend the online option to the delegate election starting in 2024.

Both of the processes will be "hybrid," meaning a paper option will still be available to members without email or who prefer a paper process. The Board is hopeful this improvement in the process will make it easier for members to

participate in the delegate election and ultimately the governance of their association. In the meantime, I would ask every member to check their account and make sure we have current and correct email addresses, as we will use email to administer this process.

I am thankful there were such wise leaders in the history of this Association. They thoughtfully built a governance system allowing every member to engage. If you have ideas on improving that system, I hope you will share those with us. 



mmccully@angus.org



Election observers assisted Association staff with verifying ballots to elect delegates and alternates to the 140th Annual Convention of Delegates.

SCAN FOR MORE

on the delegate nomination and election processes that are found in the Breeder's Reference Guide, or go to www.angus.org/General/NewMem



SCAN TO HEAR

the September Board Recap on *The Angus Conversation* podcast, or visit www.theangusconversation.com



STAFF LISTING

ANGUS JOURNAL®

816-383-5100
www.AngusJournal.net

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Angus Beef Bulletin
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Troy Smith, *field editor*, Sargent, Neb.

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Kaysie Wiederholt, *senior coordinator/graphic artist*
Ryann Kats, *coordinator/graphic artist*
Liz Schulz, *coordinator/graphic artist*
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Jennifer Wangsgaard, *part-time proofreader*
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Ashley Petty, *billing analyst*

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Courtney Bartenslager, *digital marketing manager*
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Hannah Frobose, *senior digital specialist*
Cate Doubet, *digital specialist*
Bailey Cole, *senior marketing specialist*
Rayne Wilson, *digital marketing specialist*

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Kathrin Gresham, *coordinator*

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Mark McCully, *vice chairman*
Kenny Miller, *secretary-treasurer*
John Dickinson
Greg McCurry
Jonathan Perry
Darrell Stevenson
Jerry Theis
Clay Zwilling, *president*, API
Darius Lane, *industry rep*

AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION®

3201 Frederick Ave., Saint Joseph, MO 64506-2997; phone: 816-383-5100; fax: 816-233-9703
Office hours: (M-F) 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Central); home page: www.angus.org

ADMINISTRATION

Mark McCully, *CEO*
Lou Ann Adams, *CIO*
Kenny Miller, *CFO*
Bethany Kelly, *vice president*, human resources
and talent development
Nancy Pitts, *executive coordinator*

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Caitlyn Brandt, *director*, events and junior activities
Jerry Cassidy, *director*, member services
Hannah Persell, *member experience lead*
Troy Marshall, *director*, commercial industry relations
Holly Martin, *director*, communications
Esther Tarpoff, *director*, performance programs
Thomas Medsker, *director*, information systems

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Julie Isbell, *communications specialist*
Sarah Kocher, *communications specialist*
Peyton Schmitt, *communications specialist*
Max Stewart, *senior creative manager*
Donald Korthanke, *production manager*
Lea Ann Maudlin, *photo coordinator*
Amber Wahlgren, *assistant*

REGIONAL MANAGERS

Levi Landers, *director*, field services
(see page 142 for a complete listing)

2023 BOARD OFFICERS

Chuck Grove, *president*; Virginia;
phone: 816-390-6600; chuckgrove64@hotmail.com
Barry Pollard, *vice president*; Oklahoma;
phone: 580-541-1022; barry@pollardfarms.com
Jonathan Perry, *treasurer*, Tennessee; cell: 931-703-6330;
jpperry@deervalleyfarm.com

CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF LLC

206 Riffel Rd., Wooster, OH 44691-8588; 330-345-2333; fax:
330-345-0808; www.CABcattle.com

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Brent Eichar, *senior executive vice president*,
operations and finance

Bruce Cobb, *executive vice president*, production

Tracey Erickson, *senior executive vice president*,
marketing

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Kara Lee, *director*, producer engagement, Leavenworth,
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Chappell, Neb.
Kirsten Nickles, *sustainability and animal care scientist*

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Morgan Marley Boecker, *communications manager*

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www.angusauxiliary.com

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Karla Knapp, *president-elect*
Tonya Theis, *secretary-treasurer*
Deanna Hofing, *past president*

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Terms expiring in 2023 — Mark Ahearn, Texas;
cell: 972-742-7789; tmranch@aol.com • Smitty Lamb,
Georgia; cell: 229-646-4785; smittylamb@hotmail.com
• Charles Mogck, South Dakota; cell: 605-661-4562;
mogckc1@gwtc.net • Darrell Stevenson, Montana; cell:
406-350-5443; stevenson.darrell@yahoo.com • Gerald
Theis, Kansas; cell: 913-683-0775; jerrytonyatheis@gmail.
com

Terms expiring in 2024 — Paul Bennett, Virginia;
cell: 434-941-8245; knollcrest@knollcrestfarm.com
• Jim Brinkley, Missouri; phone: 660-265-5565;
brinkleyangus@nemr.net • John Dickinson, California;
cell: 916-806-1919; john@parnelldickinson.com • Greg
McCurry, Kansas; cell: 316-772-7856; mccurrybro@aol.
com • Lorán B. Wilson, Indiana; cell: 812-653-0018;
lbwilson1025@gmail.com

Terms expiring in 2025 — Rob Adams, Alabama; cell:
334-202-3454; adamsangus@gmail.com • Art Butler,
Idaho; phone: 208-280-1026; springcoverranch1919@
gmail.com • Alan Mead, Missouri; cell: 573-216-0210;
meadangus@yahoo.com • Henry Smith, Kentucky;
cell: 606-271-7520; bmsmith@duo-county.com • Roger
Wann, Oklahoma; cell: 940-727-8492; rogerawann@
gmail.com

INDUSTRY BOARD MEMBERS

CAB Board, Dwight 'Kip' Palmer, Palmer Food
Services, New York

Angus Foundation Board, Larry Gossen

API Board, Darius Lane

AT LARGE

Angus Foundation Board, Darla Eggers, Missouri
Angus Foundation Board, Tom McGinnis, Kentucky

ANGUS FOUNDATION

www.angusfoundation.org

Jaclyn Boester, *executive director*

Kris Sticken, *administrative assistant*

ANGUS GENETICS INC.

www.angus.org/AGI/

Kelli Retallick-Riley, *president*

André Garcia, *geneticist*

Pedro Ramos, *genetic research analyst*

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www.njaa.info

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Colter Pohlman, Texas, *Foundation director*

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Kyli Kraft, Colorado
Alli Perry, Tennessee
Sawyer Styles, South Dakota
Mary Wood, North Carolina

For more detailed contact information,
access the "contact" tab on the top
navigation bar at www.angus.org.