



Auxiliary Notes

► by **Nancy Jo Sullivan**, president, American Angus Auxiliary

Financial support is important

One kind word can warm three winter months.

— **Japanese proverb**

Preparing for NJAS

I hope you are all staying warm and healthy!

I can't believe it is March and there are calves to be born, bulls to be sold and show calves to be halter broken! Can you believe that in less than five months we will be at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Louisville, Ky.? Some people say you can never prepare too early, and it is already time to order the Crystal, Silver Pitcher and Black Kettle awards.

The American Angus Auxiliary also has a midyear meeting in Louisville at the NJAS for which to prepare. Last year we had a noon luncheon meeting, and I know there were members and prospective members who were not able to attend because they had juniors in the showing. As many of you know, the NJAS gets busier every year, and it gets harder to fit everything in, but we will. I believe we will still schedule a noon meeting. We'll keep you informed of the time and the agenda.

New dues program

Lois Foster reported in Louisville in November that the Montana State Angus Auxiliary has adopted a new dues program in which active members pay \$10, and inactive members pay \$25 since they are unable to

come to events and help out. I had several members approach me at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) in Denver, Colo., in January about this new dues system. They wanted to know how to explain it to their auxiliary members.

Here's my take. Our world is changing, and we seem to get busier everyday. Thus, our time becomes ever more precious. I believe there are Angus enthusiasts who hesitate to join the American Angus Auxiliary because they may be asked to commit to a committee or be expected to attend meetings, and that just isn't feasible at this time in their lives. Now, by offering Angus Auxiliary enthusiasts a non-active membership option, they can support education, promotions, social programs and activities, knowing they won't be asked or expected to participate in meetings or work on committees. Don't you agree that financial support is as important as active participation?

Changing lifetime membership dues from \$100 to \$200 or \$250 for non-active members has to be discussed before that decision is made. The new dues structure will be in effect Nov. 1, 2003, in Louisville, which is the end of the American Angus Auxiliary's year.

I welcome your feedback on this subject, please e-mail me at sjscartersville@aol.com.

Beef education preparation

As you read this article, I know that Anne Patton Schubert and committee are also preparing for the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® Cook-Off. This will be the event's 20th year! It continues to grow in participation and popularity. Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) supports this great educational event as well as annually inviting our newest Auxiliary officer to Wooster, Ohio, in December, along with the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Board members. This year our new secretary-treasurer, Shirley Williams, attended. Below are Shirley's thoughts on the event.

My trip to CAB headquarters in Wooster, Ohio, was an experience I will not soon forget. From the minute you walk in the front door you

know you are in a first-class operation. The staff of CAB treated us like royalty and put on a two-day "Building Blocks for Success" seminar that not only met, but exceeded, my expectations. Their rich history and commitment to the integrity of the logo has resulted in an infrastructure that no other branded-beef program can match. I have always heard the American Angus Association talk about how proud they were of the CAB organization, but I had no idea how complex the business was. I came away with a new understanding of how many "copycat" or "me-too" branded-beef programs there are out there trying to capitalize on CAB's success. My hope is that as Angus seedstock producers, we will continue to work toward raising animals whose progeny will qualify for the distinguished CAB label.

— **Shirley Williams**

Supporting the Auxiliary

There are many more ways to support the Auxiliary than time and money:

Miss Liberty — Our newest sculpture is by Harvey Rattey, a renowned Western sculptor. Visit www.angus.org/auxiliary, contact Yvonne Hinman at hinmanangus@hotmail.com or fax your order to (406) 654-1810.

Ways and Means — Items are listed on the Web page or you can contact Gigi Hunter at (417) 267-3474 or at hunterangus@email.msu.com.

"Gift of Taste" — A Gift of Taste is the best way to honor family, friends and business associates throughout the year. That's why we've teamed up with leading gift catalog company, Rocke's Meating Haus, Morton, Ill., to suggest CAB steaks for your gift-giving needs. The best news is 10% of the purchase price goes to the American Angus Auxiliary to support educational outreach and scholarship programs.

Reminders

Don't forget, scholarship applications will be due to states soon. They are due in May to scholarship chairman Amy Iman Bellis. Check the Web for information such as rules, applications and state scholarship contacts, or contact Bellis at (816) 770-3386 or at bellisfamilyfarm@aol.com.

I will continue preparing for our next midyear meeting in Louisville. Until then I am eager to receive your feedback and ideas that will help the Auxiliary to be progressive and productive in 2003.

I believe it is imperative that we grow our membership, grow our scholarship, and remain a viable and visible element of the Angus family.

Have a great March!

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