



# Angus Stakes

► by *Shauna Rose Hermel*, editor

## Choose your leaders

*At the end of the month, eligible members will receive a delegate nomination form in the mail, starting the process by which the leadership of the American Angus Association is selected. This is a chance for you to participate in the process. Take advantage of the opportunity.*

### Nominating delegates

The form mailed the last week in March requests members to nominate a delegate. Those elected will serve as voting delegates to the Annual Convention of Delegates ("the Annual Meeting") in Louisville, Ky., in November.

Each member is allowed to nominate one eligible member who resides in the same state or district. The person you nominate should be actively involved in the Angus business, willing to attend the meeting, and able to represent you. By all means, if you think you would make a good delegate, nominate yourself.

Nominations are due June 30. They are collected and processed according to the rules spelled out in the *Breeder's Reference Guide* (see insert in this issue). Every qualified nominee for a particular state or district will be put on a state ballot and in July mailed to the membership in that state. Once again, you have another important role — voting for nominees you think would best represent you and your state.

The Association collects the state ballots

and processes them, again according to the rules spelled out in the *Breeder's Reference Guide*.

The number of delegates (and equal number of alternates) for your state is determined by the number of members from your state and the number of cattle registered in the previous fiscal year. In November 2008, more than 360 delegates participated.

As the chief executive officer calls the roll call of states, every year several states don't bring their entitled number of delegates. That's why it is important to nominate and choose those willing and able to participate. It is incredibly sad when not enough people are even nominated to fill a state's slate of delegates and alternates.

The elected delegates and alternates are published in the October *Angus Journal*, along with biographies of those who have announced their candidacies to become a director. Prior to the Convention, delegates may be mailed information they will need to make decisions at the convention.

The *Breeders Reference Guide* spells out what can be brought before the Convention

and how it is to be brought before the Convention, with time restraints that ensure delegates will be informed before having to make decisions.

States often decide to get together as a caucus in Louisville to discuss matters prior to the Annual Meeting. They often request that a couple, if not all, of the candidates visit their caucus to introduce themselves and answer some questions.

It is a political process, and unfortunately it does get "political," but the votes that are made determine who will make the decisions for the American Angus Association for the next three years and other matters that could affect the Association far longer. For the sake of the Association and how it serves you, it is critical that every member vote his or her own conscience.

Personally, I think block voting is chicken s\_\_t, but it does happen. With any strategy, it can be used for good, or it can be just a show of power or, worse yet, an abuse of power. If you can't vote your own mind, be sure to participate in the state caucus to make your voice heard at that level and ensure that as you fill out the ballot at that Annual Convention that you are indeed voting your conscience.

Just remember, all members have the power to help form their destiny by (1) nominating an individual to represent them as a delegate and (2) voting upon those nominated to select the state delegates and alternates. Those elected as delegates and alternates have a duty to participate and represent their state or district to the best of their ability.

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