

2005



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# American Angus Auxiliary Annual Report

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# Auxiliary Notes

by **Sharee Sankey**, president, American Angus Auxiliary

## Seize the day

*With more than 50 years of the American Angus Auxiliary supporting the promotion of the Angus breed and its events, our year-long activities have seen a lot of membership involvement and participation. It is amazing when changes are on the horizon how the membership will get involved, voice an opinion and vote on what they believe in for the betterment of the organization.*

### Creating change

Two of our projects this year were revived from plans that were successful for the Auxiliary in the past — a scholarship heifer auctioned at The All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity in 1996, and a national Auxiliary conference hosted in 2001.

Our Excellence — No Exception II conference was May 19-21, 2005, in Saint Joseph, Mo., at the American Angus Association. For many, it was their first visit to the Association and *Angus Journal* headquarters. The attendees discussed long-range planning of future Auxiliary programs and projects, as well as the financial challenges we face with the growth and development of all our projects and activities. Out of this conference came ideas for new projects and new methods.

One of the ideas brought forward was the creation of a board of directors to serve with and support the national officers we have elected. This would maximize the time, talents and experience of more of our members. Four regional directors and one at-large director would be added to round out the current officer team.

Also during this conference, four proposals for bylaw changes were discussed. These in turn were thoroughly researched and prepared for review by the Legislative and Bylaws chairwoman and her committee and presented at our mid-year meeting at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Denver, Colo., in July. The proposed changes were then voted on at the annual meeting, hosted in conjunction with the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Ky., in November 2005.

At the annual meeting, we saw our largest membership attendance in several years. Discussion about the bylaw amendments led to the following results:

- 1) Gender-neutral language throughout the bylaws to allow participation of men — passed, requiring a two-thirds majority vote.
- 2) Changing fiscal year to end Sept. 30 instead of Oct. 30 to realign the Auxiliary's fiscal year with that of the American Angus Association — passed, requiring a two-thirds majority vote.
- 3) Changing bylaw amendment vote to

require a majority vote to amend the bylaws, rather than a two-thirds majority — failed due to the lack of a two-thirds majority.

- 4) Updating finance, trust and other committee obligations so financial sections reflect the recent alliance with the Angus Foundation and the addition of the Executive Treasurer position — passed, requiring a two-thirds majority vote.
- 5) Formation of a board of directors, which includes the officers, four regional directors and one at-large director — failed due to the lack of a two-thirds majority.

With the possibility of a change in the bylaws, the discussion the membership brought forth was well-taken by all who attended the annual meeting. You may not have agreed with all that was said, but all views were presented.

### The youth of tomorrow

The highlight of the NAILE weekend activities was the auction of Lemmon Pride P217 Sunday evening at the Angus Reception for the Auxiliary scholarship program. She was generously donated by Harvey and Nina Lemmon, Woodbury, Ga. The sale of this female brought in more than \$50,000 for our scholarship fund.

Several behind-the-scenes people were very instrumental in the "presale" preparation of this female. As you know,

## 2006 American Angus Auxiliary Officers

► **President** — Sharee Sankey, 1124 S. 1050 Rd., Council Grove, KS 66846; (620) 767-5026; sankeys6nranch@yahoo.com

► **President-elect** — Mary Greiman, 1960 200th St., Garner, IA 50438; (641) 923-2235; tmkcg@ncn.net

► **Secretary-treasurer** — Nancy Thelen, 7821 Weber Rd., Saline, MI 48176; (734) 944-6262; hillsideacres01@aol.com

► **Advisor** — Shirley Williams, PO Box 789, Fort Smith, AR 72902; (479) 474-1013; fax: (479) 471-1605; williamsfair Oaks@aol.com



► Officers of the American Angus Auxiliary for 2006 include (from left) Nancy Thelen, Saline, Mich., secretary-treasurer; Mary Greiman, Garner, Iowa, president-elect; Sharee Sankey, Council Grove, Kan., president; and Shirley Williams, Van Buren, Ark., advisor.

it takes a lot of involvement from several people to make an event such as this one successful. A big thank-you goes to Tom Burke, Jerry Lehmann, Terry Cotton, the *Angus Journal*, *Angus Topics*, *Angus News*, Chris Mitchell (livestock photography), Todd and Alicia Bickett and Josh Phillips (show crew), and the Auxiliary Scholarship Heifer Committee. A special thank-you goes to Curtis and Ann Long, Briarwood Farms, Butler, Mo., the buyers of the female, as well as all the supporters and friends who most graciously made donations to this program. All of the money raised through the sale of the Lemmon heifer will be used to fund Auxiliary scholarships.

The scholarships are available to graduating high school seniors pursuing a secondary education. Through the support of everyone who participated in the scholarship heifer auction, this Auxiliary program will be secured for many years to come.

The 2006 state scholarship contacts are listed in this annual report, and the deadline for applying for national scholarships is May 10. The scholarship application can be obtained off the Auxiliary Web site at [www.angusauxiliary.com](http://www.angusauxiliary.com).

For 2006, the male and female winners will each receive \$1,200 for first place, \$1,050 for second place, \$1,000 for third place, \$900 for fourth place, and \$850 for fifth place.

The outstanding women who have been leaders of the American Angus Auxiliary throughout the years appreciate all who have supported this scholarship program! Having this program available for our youth of tomorrow is vital.

### Turning to today

In closing, I'll leave you with this quote by an unknown author:

*This is the beginning of a new day. God has given me this day to use as I will. I can waste it or use it for good. What I do today is important, because I'm exchanging a day of my life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever, leaving in its place something that I have traded for it. I want it to be gain, not loss; good, not evil; success, not failure, in order that I shall not regret the price I paid for it.*

*Share Sankey*  
**E-MAIL:** [sankeys6nranch@yahoo.com](mailto:sankeys6nranch@yahoo.com)







# 2006 Scholarship Contacts

To update the scholarship contact listing, contact Mary Greiman, scholarship chairwoman, at 1960 200th St., Garner, IA 50438; (641) 923-2235; tmkcg@ncn.net.

## ALABAMA

**Barbara Moore**  
32 CR 1542  
Eva, AL 35621  
phone/fax: (256) 796-5607  
basstream1@aol.com

## ARKANSAS

**Leslie (Morelock) Roye**  
10116 N.E. Jeter Rd.  
Fayetteville, AR 72701  
phone: (479) 442-9231  
lroye@rhs10.k12.ar.us

## CALIFORNIA

**Amanda Leo**  
1325 Tawny Ln.  
Turlock, CA 95380  
phone: (209) 668-7090  
fax: (209) 847-4666  
amandasoup@aol.com

## COLORADO

**Tari Hoagland**  
2671 WCR 36  
Mead, CO 80542  
phone/fax: (970) 535-0453  
tari.hoagland@cexp.com

## FLORIDA

**Lois Duncan**  
1053 Old 179 N.  
Whigham, GA 39897  
phone: (229) 762-4724  
slduncan@rose.net

## GEORGIA

**Christy Page**  
861 Windward Rd.  
Winder, GA 30680  
phone: (770) 586-5893  
thepages@earthlink.net

## IDAHO

**Cindy Kinder**  
2184 S. 1200 E.  
Bliss, ID 83314  
phone: (208) 837-6064  
work: (208) 764-2230  
fax: (208) 837-4950  
ckinder@uidaho.edu

## ILLINOIS

**Dixie Thompson**  
17032 W. Todd School Rd.  
Glasford, IL 61533  
phone: (309) 389-4652  
tangus@winco.net

## INDIANA

**Sandy Carmichael**  
3260 S. Bunger Rd.  
Bloomington, IN 47403  
phone: (812) 825-5337

## IOWA

**Angela Schermer**  
8734 Meredith Dr., Apt. 3202  
Urbandale, IA 50322  
phone: (515) 251-6780

## KANSAS

**Shelly Janssen**  
1356 Ave. M  
Ellsworth, KS 67439  
phone: (785) 472-3752  
janssen@grapevine.net

## KENTUCKY

**Judy Rowland**  
238 Clementsville Rd.  
Gamaliel, KY 42140  
phone: (270) 457-3800  
hollyhill@scrtc.com

## LOUISIANA

**Melanie Ourso**  
PO Box 790  
Donaldsonville, LA 70346  
phone: (225) 473-9014  
cell: (225) 717-4505  
fax: (225) 473-6862

## MAINE

**Donna Tracy**  
390 Titcomb Hill Rd.  
Farmington, ME 04938  
phone: (207) 778-4506  
maplehill13@tds.net

## MARYLAND

**Teresa Bly**  
2433 Flag Marsh Rd.  
Mount Airy, MD 21771  
phone: (301) 829-2498  
misstee47@aol.com

## MICHIGAN

**Janel Horrocks-Boehmer**  
2690 Holt Rd.  
Williamston, MI 48895  
phone: (517) 655-4265  
fax: (517) 655-9505

## MINNESOTA

**Kathryn Miller**  
PO Box 1614  
Willmar, MN 56201-1614

## MISSISSIPPI

**Marsha Magee**  
925 Hwy. 43 N.  
Mendenhall, MS 39114  
phone: (601) 847-1828  
marshajmagee@yahoo.com

## MISSOURI

**Eileen Meier**  
2013 CR 330  
Jackson, MO 63755  
phone: (573) 243-8574  
fax: (573) 243-7435  
butchang@showme.net

## MONTANA

**Linda Rest**  
6948 Pony Cir.  
Shepherd, MT 59079  
phone: (406) 373-9823  
lrest@hotmail.com

## NEBRASKA

**Connie Uden**  
1524 G Rd.  
Franklin, NE 68939  
phone: (308) 425-3675  
fax: (308) 425-3685  
tcranch@gtmc.net

## NEVADA

**Carol Wachtel**  
HC 64, Box 26  
Deeth, NV 89823  
phone: (775) 752-3910

## NORTH CAROLINA

**Martha Holshouser**  
285 Spring Lake Ln.  
Gold Hill, NC 28071  
phone: (704) 279-3941  
fax: (704) 279-9483  
holshouserfarm@cs.com

## NORTH DAKOTA

**Trisha Feiring**  
PO Box 725  
Beach, ND 58621  
phone: (701) 872-5888  
feiringcattleco@midstate.net

## OHIO

**Sharon Sanders**  
5959 Hay Rd.  
Harrod, OH 45850  
phone: (419) 648-3233  
sanders\_skylight\_farm@  
hotmail.com

## OKLAHOMA

**Jamae Frey**  
RR 2, Box 98  
Kingfisher, OK 73750  
phone: (405) 375-6225  
freyangus@pldi.net

## PENNSYLVANIA

**Darlene Livingston**  
2395 Ilyes Ln.  
Seven Valleys, PA 17360  
phone: (717) 741-9122

## SOUTH CAROLINA

**Evelyn Edmunds**  
3253 Filbert Hwy.  
Clover, SC 29710  
phone: (803) 222-3713

## SOUTH DAKOTA

**Jane Green**  
43336 171st St.  
Clark, SD 57225  
phone/fax: (605) 532-5113  
jgreen@itctel.com

## TENNESSEE

**Kelley Rowlett**  
944 Cedar Grove Rd.  
Hurricane Mills, TN 37078  
phone: (931) 296-5891  
rowlett farms@hotmail.com

## TEXAS

**Erin Worrell**  
305 Kathleen Ln.  
Leander, TX 78641  
phone: (512) 528-0083  
cell: (512) 585-8096  
fax: (512) 528-0094  
worrellerin@yahoo.com

## WASHINGTON

**C. Marcie Davidson**  
16639 Dunbar Rd.  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
phone/fax: (360) 848-1234  
davidsonDD1234@aol.com

## WEST VIRGINIA

**Mida Peterson**  
6581 U.S. Hwy. 33 E.  
Horner, WV 26372-9734  
phone/fax: (304) 269-3877  
rockingp@rtol.net

## WESTERN STATES ANGUS AUXILIARY

**Kathleen Buchanan**  
13490 Algoma Rd.  
Klamath Falls, OR 97601  
phone/fax: (541) 883-8471  
baalgoma@earthlink.net

## WISCONSIN

**Debbie Kind**  
W6690 Kiesling Rd.  
Jefferson, WI 53549  
phone: (920) 674-9234  
kindangus@compufort.com

## WYOMING

**Jackie Nickel**  
3146 State Hwy. 154  
Veteran, WY 82243  
phone/fax: (307) 837-2279



# 2006 Committee Chairwomen

## **AMERICAN ANGUS AMBASSADOR:**

**Sandra Wallace**  
2922 State Rte. 635  
Kansas, OH 44841  
phone: (419) 986-6359  
sawall167@aol.com

**Merridee Wells**  
9425 FM 932  
Hamilton, TX 76531  
phone: (254) 386-3780  
fax: (254) 386-4737  
wellscattle@htcomp.net

## **AUDIT:**

**Brooke Woodworth**  
1376 1500 Ave.  
Enterprise, KS 67441  
phone: (785) 479-2188  
bwoodwor@kcoe.com

## **AWARDS:**

**Achievement Award**  
**Sonja Martin**  
PO Box 363  
Lavaca, AR 72941  
phone: (479) 674-2510  
cell: (479) 462-1171  
fax: (479) 674-2575  
epaangus@cei.net or  
smartin@greenwood.K12.ar.us

**Crystal Award**  
**Cathy Watkins**  
4556 N. CR 850 W.  
Middletown, IN 47356  
phone: (765) 779-4007  
fax: (765) 779-0325  
beaver-ridge@att.net

**Silver Pitcher Award**  
**Leslie (Morelock) Roye**  
10116 N.E. Jeter Rd.  
Fayetteville, AR 72701  
phone: (479) 442-9231  
lroye@rhs10.k12.ar.us

## **BEEF EDUCATION:**

**Anne Patton Schubert**  
4040 Taylorsville Rd.  
Taylorsville, KY 40071  
phone: (502) 477-2663  
fax: (502) 477-2637

**Anne Lampe**  
5201 E. Rd. 110  
Scott City, KS 67871  
phone: (620) 872-3915  
fax: (620) 872-3391  
alampe@wbsnet.org

## **DISTINGUISHED WOMEN:**

**Sharee Sankey**  
1124 S. 1050 Rd.  
Council Grove, KS 66846  
phone: (620) 767-5026  
cell: (620) 343-0288  
fax: (620) 767-7526  
sankeys6nranch@yahoo.com

## **FINANCE:**

**Budget**  
**Linda Brost**  
281 Shannon Oaks Dr.  
Harrodsburg, KY 40330  
phone: (859) 734-6778  
gbrost@adelphia.net

## **Executive Treasurer**

**Elaine Williams**  
PO Box 468  
Lavaca, AR 72941  
phone: (479) 674-2401  
waf@cox-internet.com

## **HISTORIAN:**

**Lois Foster**  
11893 M-140  
Niles, MI 49120  
phone/fax: (269) 683-1776

## **LEGISLATIVE AND BYLAWS:**

**Pam Bailey**  
12799 S.W. 210th St.  
Douglass, KS 67039  
phone: (316) 746-2922  
office phone: (316) 676-7202  
fax: (316) 676-8422  
pamebailey@yahoo.com

## **LIAISON:**

**Sharee Sankey**  
1124 S. 1050 Rd.  
Council Grove, KS 66846  
phone: (620) 767-5026  
cell: (620) 343-0288  
fax: (620) 767-7526  
sankeys6nranch@yahoo.com

## **MEMBERSHIP:**

**Pam Patterson**  
123 Patterson Ranch Rd.  
Columbus, MT 59019  
phone: (406) 445-2332  
blkcow@hotmail.com

## **MISS AMERICAN ANGUS:**

**Mary McCurry**  
11913 E. Illinois Ave.  
Burrton, KS 67020  
phone: (620) 463-7752  
fax: (620) 463-3834  
marands.angus@starband.net

## **Emily McCurry**

11913 E. Illinois Ave.  
Burrton, KS 67020  
phone: (620) 463-7752  
fax: (620) 463-3834  
mccurry@hotmail.com

## **NOMINATING:**

**Shirley Williams**  
PO Box 789  
Fort Smith, AR 72902  
phone: (479) 474-1013  
cell: (479) 651-8302  
fax: (479) 471-1605  
williamsfair Oaks@aol.com

## **PROGRAM & HOSPITALITY:**

**Sandra McCurry**  
11313 N. 279th W.  
Mount Hope, KS 67108  
phone: (316) 667-2418  
cell: (316) 304-5973  
fax: (316) 661-2147  
sandyehill@dtnspeed.net

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS:**

**Kay McCurry**  
1645 N. Byron  
Wichita, KS 67212  
phone: (316) 721-3187  
cell: (316) 304-7961  
kmc Curry@wichitaeagle.com

## **SCHOLARSHIP:**

**Mary Greiman**  
1960 200th St.  
Garner, IA 50438  
phone: (641) 923-2235  
cell: (641) 425-1533  
tmkcg@ncn.net

## **WAYS & MEANS:**

**Angus Sale Barn**  
**Cathy Miller**  
4432 Garling Rd.  
Luckey, OH 43443  
phone: (419) 833-7665  
cell: (419) 351-7367  
cathy.dan.miller@amplex.net

## **Rathey Sculpture**

**Yvonne Hinman**  
PO Box 220  
Malta, MT 59538  
phone: (406) 654-1809  
fax: (406) 654-1810  
hinmanangus@hotmail.com

## **Rocke's Meating Haus**

**Jane Ebert**  
437 Clark Hop Rd.  
Sparta, NC 28675-9251  
phone/fax: (336) 372-7451  
eberlee1@skybest.com





# 2005 Membership Meeting

## Minutes of the 2005 American Angus Auxiliary general membership meeting, Saturday, Nov. 12, 2005.

**P**resident Shirley Williams, Van Buren, Ark., called the annual meeting of the American Angus Auxiliary to order at approximately 7:40 p.m. Copies of the agenda, treasurer's report and bylaw ballot were handed out. There were 54 members present.

In an effort to save time, Donna McCauley, Burlington, N.C., moved to amend the agenda and present the proposed bylaw amendments and the voting of those proposals to follow the treasurer's report, then proceed with the rest of the agenda. Motion was seconded by Cathy Watkins, Middletown, Ind., and the motion carried.

### Introduction of members and guests

Sandra Wallace, Kansas, Ohio, moved to do group introductions, seconded by Wendy Petteway, Zolfo Springs, Fla., and the motion carried. Shirley Williams asked past Auxiliary presidents to stand and be recognized, followed by charter members, distinguished women, state presidents, committee chairs and the Executive Committee.

### Secretary's report

Jane Ebert, Sparta, N.C., moved to dispense with reading the minutes of the 2004 Annual Meeting and approve them as printed in the February 2005 issue of the *Angus Journal*. Wallace seconded the motion, and it carried.

### Treasurer's report

Secretary-treasurer Mary Greiman, Garner, Iowa, presented the treasurer's report. Each member received a handout. It will also be printed in the February 2006 *Angus Journal*. Greiman reported that the executive treasurer position is working well. This has been a trial year to have an executive treasurer. Many thanks to Elaine Williams, Lavaca, Ark., for taking on this challenge. She has done a great job. She will continue this position for the coming year.

### Proposed bylaw amendments

Pam Bailey, Douglass, Kan., Legislative and Bylaws Committee chair, presented the ballot regarding the proposed bylaw amendments. The amendments are divided into the following categories:

- 1) Gender neutral language [affecting 2.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.4 (g), 6.2 and 7.8]
- 2) Fiscal year change to match the American Angus Association (affecting 9.2)
- 3) Bylaw amendment vote change from two-thirds to a majority (affecting 13.1)
- 4) Updating finance, trust and other committee obligations [affecting 4.2 (f), 4.3 (b), 4.4 (c, d, e, f), 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4 (a, b, c, d), 7.5, 7.6 (b), 7.7, 7.8 (f, g), 7.10, 7.11, 7.15, 10.2 and 10.3]
- 5) Executive Board (affecting 4.2 (b), 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 8.1 (c, g) and 11.2]

Bailey then introduced the applicants for the regional directorships should the bylaw amendment pass. They include Wallace; Carla Malson, Parma, Idaho; McCauley; Kathi Creamer, Montrose, Colo.; and Sandra McCurry, Mount Hope, Kan. There was a great deal of discussion among the members addressing the pros and cons of each proposed bylaw amendment. Following the discussion, members were asked to fill out their ballots and turn them in to tellers Bette Votaw, Wellfleet, Neb.; Pam Patterson, Columbus, Mont; and Watkins. Bailey thanked Linda Brost, Harrodsburg, Ky., her co-chair, and the membership for their participation and professionalism. The tellers were excused to count the ballots.

### Old business

*"Excellence — No Exception II" Conference* — President-elect Sharee Sankey briefly recapped the conference. The attendees toured the American Angus Association and Angus Productions Inc. (API) facilities, and heard presentations from Association employees John Crouch, Milford Jenkins, Rich Wilson, Cheryl Oxley and James Fisher. There was a great deal of discussion and ideas about the future of the Auxiliary. They also managed to sneak in some fun as well.

*Grote LEAD award* — Advisor Nancy Jo Sullivan, Park City, Utah, presented a brief history of Pat Grote and the award. She reported that there is funding to send the fresh meat competition intermediate division winners from the 22nd Annual Auxiliary-sponsored *Certified Angus Beef*<sup>®</sup> (CAB<sup>®</sup>) Cook-Off at the 2005 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) to the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference. Because the NJAS and LEAD dates were so close together, the 2005 winners (the team from Missouri) and whoever wins in 2006 will both attend the 2006 LEAD Conference.

*Scholarship heifer donation* — Brost and Sandra McCurry reported on the tremendous efforts and success in continuing to raise money toward the purchase of the scholarship heifer. They expressed their thanks to the financial donors and to the Lemmons for their generous donation of the heifer. The auction was to take place Sunday night around 6:30 during the Angus Reception.

### Committee reports

*Historian* — Lois Foster, Niles, Mich., stated that the historian's book weighs 8½ pounds, but it's very worthwhile to look through. The state reports are quite interesting.

*Ambassador Program* — Wallace reported that her committee is suggesting the Auxiliary have as ambassadors two junior members who are 21 years old, but who have not yet graduated from college. James Fisher, Association director of activities and junior activities, would like to see two representatives from the East and two from the West.



**Table 1: American Angus Auxiliary 2005 receipts and disbursements<sup>a</sup>**

<b>Income:</b>	<b>2005 Actual</b>
Annual meeting <sup>b</sup>	\$ 4,580.00
Beef education <sup>c</sup>	1,200.00
Membership dues	1,000.00
Awards	934.36
Miss American Angus	
Travel <sup>d</sup>	5,000.00
Expense	1,820.00
Live auction	4,900.00
Ways & Means	29,957.81
Angus Legends	26,800.00
Special events	575.00
Grote nut income	337.57
Scholarships	2,500.00
Total income	<u>\$79,604.74</u>
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Annual meeting	\$ 5,031.29
Beef education	1,768.52
Awards	934.36
Miss American Angus	
Travel	6,512.51
Expense	3,241.50
Live auction	4,900.00
Ways & Means	21,595.37
Angus Legends	21,403.74
Officers' expense	4,500.00
Phone	858.78
Postage	166.99
Printing	428.25
Professional fees	1,000.00
Dues	35.00
Miscellaneous	446.09
Grote nut expense	322.56
Scholarships	3,475.00
Web site	1,661.15
Total expenses	<u>\$78,281.11</u>

<sup>a</sup>2005 receipts and disbursements are for the fiscal year Nov. 1, 2004, through Oct. 31, 2005.

<sup>b</sup>\$1,800 is from the American Angus Association.

<sup>c</sup>\$1,200 is from the American Angus Association.

<sup>d</sup>\$5,000 is from the American Angus Association.

These youth would be selected at the 2007 NJAS. The Auxiliary would need approximately \$4,000 per region to support this program. Wallace and her committee are looking into possible sponsorships.

*Miss American Angus* — Committee co-chair Emily McCurry, Burrton, Kan., announced the candidates and the judges for this year's contest. She reported that all five girls are strong candidates and invited everyone to listen to their speeches. Thanks to all the sponsors for their support.

*Beef Education* — Anne Patton Schubert, Taylorsville, Ky., reported that the 2005 Cook-Off was another great success. There were 211 individuals on the 21 teams in the fresh meat

**Table 2: American Angus Auxiliary 2006 proposed budget<sup>a</sup>**

<b>Income:</b>	<b>2006 Budgeted</b>
Meetings	\$4,200.00
Beef education	1,200.00
Membership dues	1,000.00
Awards	900.00
Miss American Angus	
Travel	5,000.00
Expense	2,035.00
Angus Sale Barn	31,500.00
Angus Legends	8,000.00
Live auction, donations to scholarship	35,000.00
Miscellaneous	600.00
Total income	<u>\$89,435.00</u>
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Meetings	\$5,000.00
Beef education	1,700.00
Awards	900.00
Miss American Angus	
Travel	5,000.00
Expense	2,000.00
Angus Sale Barn	21,500.00
Angus Legends	6,400.00
Angus Legends (profit to scholarship)	1,600.00
Live auction, donations to scholarship	35,000.00
Officers' expense	6,000.00
Phone	1,000.00
Postage	200.00
Printing	450.00
Professional fees	500.00
Dues	35.00
Miscellaneous	450.00
Web site	1,700.00
Total expenses	<u>\$89,435.00</u>

<sup>a</sup>The 2006 proposed budget is for the fiscal year Nov. 1, 2005, through Sept. 30, 2006.

competition, 11 teams in the Quick-N-Easy™ competition and 11 teams in the deli competition. More than 2,000 youth have participated in the Cook-Off contest through the years. In 2005, the Auxiliary awarded two Black Kettle awards.

There was a tie, and the family of Paul St. Blanc decided both teams deserved recognition. Schubert also thanked the Montana juniors for sponsoring the T-shirts this year.

*Program & Hospitality* — Sandra McCurry encouraged everyone to stop by the silent auction. The auction was to close Monday at noon.

*Scholarship* — Sankey reported that there was an excellent field of applicants this year. The judges this year included: Marlene Dukehart, Sykesville, Md.; Joann Pipkin, Springfield, Mo.; Sonja Martin, Lavaca, Ark.; Amanda Leo, Turlock, Calif.; Watkins; McCauley; Cindy Kinder, Bliss, Idaho; Cheramie Viator, Franklin, Texas; Lois Duncan,

Whigham, Ga.; and Brooke Woodworth, Kan. Scholarship winners for 2005 are below.

**Girls:**

1st	Julie Thelen, Saline, Mich.	\$1,200
2nd	Mallory Trosper, Hamilton, Mo.	\$1,050
3rd	Samantha Harl, Hastings, Neb.	\$ 950
4th	Katrina Dubs, Billings, Mont.	\$ 850
5th	Bridget Driscoll, Williamsburg, Iowa	\$ 800

**Boys:**

1st	Clayton Lampe, Scott City, Kan.	\$1,200
2nd	Andrew Foster, Niles, Mich.	\$1,050
3rd	Brett Naylor, Buffalo, Mo.	\$ 950
4th	Brandon Creamer, Montrose, Colo.	\$ 850
5th	Benjamin Greene, Covington, La.	\$ 800

**State auxiliary reports**

No state presidents were present to give reports.

**New business**

*Angus Sale Barn* — Shirley Williams introduced the new chairperson of the Ways & Means Committee, Cathy Miller, Luckey, Ohio. Miller took office in Louisville. She has lots of enthusiasm and has jumped right in.

*2006 proposed budget* — Brost presented a handout with the 2006 budget proposal. Brost reported that this budget was approved at the Executive Committee meeting. There were no questions. Wallace made a motion to accept the budget. Anne Lampe, Scott City, Kan., seconded, and the motion carried.

*Bylaw ballot results* — Watkins gave the following results on the bylaw amendment proposals:

Gender-neutral language:  
Passed — 43 votes for and 11 against

Fiscal year change: Passed — 53 for and 1 against

Bylaw amendment vote: Failed — 30 for and 24 against

Updating finance, trust committees: Passed — 50 for and 4 against

Executive Board: Failed — 34 for and 20 against

Thanks to our tellers for their time.

**Nomination committee report**

Shirley Williams appointed Judy Rowland, Gamaliel, Ky., and Betsie Ebert-Michael, Staunton, Va., to serve on the 2006 nominating committee. Both members agreed to serve. Foster

nominated Sandra McCurry; and Mary McCurry, Burrton, Kan., nominated Ginger Olson from Texas from the floor. Wallace moved that nominations cease and that members approve the proposed slate of candidates. Votaw seconded the motion, and it carried.

Sullivan reported the 2005 nominating committee's recommendations for the 2006 slate of officers. The committee recommended Nancy Thelen, Saline, Mich., as the new secretary-treasurer. Thelen has served on many Auxiliary committees, as well as in her state's auxiliary. Her husband, Steve, is a past president and current secretary of the Michigan Angus Association. Daughter Renee is the NJAA Board leadership director. Daughter Julie is an Auxiliary scholarship winner. Both girls participated in the Miss American Angus contest and have been very involved in 4-H and the Michigan Junior Angus Association.

Nancy has been involved with Angus cattle since 1959, when her parents purchased their first Angus cattle. Steve and Nancy currently own 30 acres and have a small herd of registered Angus. She has worked for Michigan State University Extension for 26 years and has been the Washtenaw County Extension director for the past 16 years. She has been the Eaton County 4-H youth agent for 10 years.

Renee Driscoll, Williamsburg, Iowa, moved to accept the slate of officers, with Kathy Dubs, Billings, Mont., seconding. The motion carried.

**Table 3: American Angus Auxiliary summary of financial accounts<sup>a</sup>**

<b>Checking Account</b>	
Account balance 11/01/04	\$3,993.57
Income	+79,604.74
Expenses	-78,281.11
Ending balance 10/31/05	<u>\$5,317.20</u>
<b>Money Market Account</b>	
Account balance 11/01/04	\$7,298.52
Ending balance 10/31/05	<u>\$7,361.86</u>
<b>Auxiliary Education Venture Fund</b>	
Account balance 11/01/04	\$22,013.64
Ending balance 10/31/05	<u>\$26,538.02</u>
<b>Pat Grote Memorial Fund</b>	
Account balance 11/01/04	\$11,070.31
Ending balance 10/31/05	<u>\$11,272.91</u>
<b>Angus Foundation Scholarship Account</b>	
Account balance 10/01/04	\$185,463.37
Donations	+4,900.00
Investment income	
Interest	+6,533.62
Realized gains	+6,527.11
Unrealized gains	+5,696.74
Account fee	-398.44
Scholarships awarded	-9,700.00
Ending balance 9/30/05	<u>\$199,022.40</u>

<sup>a</sup>This summary of financial accounts is for the fiscal year Nov. 1, 2004, through Oct. 31, 2005.

**Announcements**

Watkins announced that Indiana would be auctioning off the first five prints of the new Frank Champion Murphy print, "Champion!" at the Angus Reception Sunday evening. Proceeds were to go to help sponsor the 2006 NJAS. Shirley Williams announced the Auxiliary would also be selling the #1 and the #50 "Belle" Christmas decorations at the reception. The remaining "Belles" may be purchased in the Angus Sale Barn.

Sandra McCurry reminded everyone that the Auxiliary Breakfast would be at 9 a.m. Sunday, and that tickets were still available.

Patterson moved to adjourn, with Greiman seconding, and the motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

— submitted by **Mary Greiman, 2005 secretary-treasurer**





# Miss American Angus

Mallory Trosper wins 2006 crown.

**E**ach year, a new Miss American Angus is crowned during the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Ky. Mallory Trosper, Hamilton, Mo., was awarded the 2006 title preceding the selection of the grand champion bull in the NAILE Roll of Victory (ROV) Show.

Annually, five young women who are outstanding junior Angus members are eligible to compete for Miss American Angus. The program is sponsored by the American Angus Auxiliary, allowing one young person the opportunity to represent the Angus breed across the nation.

This year's contestants included Bridget Driscoll, Williamsburg, Iowa; Katrina Dubs, Billings, Mont.; Courtney Rump, Galva, Kan.; Julie Thelen, Saline, Mich.; and Trosper.

Candidates vie for the title by taking a written test, answering impromptu questions, taking part in personal interviews, and preparing and presenting a speech on a specific topic. This year's speech topic was "Winning strategies."

Judges for the 2006 Miss American Angus competition included Joe Elliott, Adams, Tenn., past American Angus Association president; Troy Marshall, Burlington, Colo., editor/publisher of *The Seedstock Digest*; and Jamie Meyer, Douglas, Kan., former Miss American Angus and National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Board member.

Mary and Emily McCurry, Burrton, Kan., serve as co-chairwomen of the Miss American Angus Committee.

Trosper is the daughter of Steve and Sandy Trosper, Hamilton. She attends the University of Missouri-Columbia and is majoring in biochemistry. She has decided to pursue a career in pediatric medicine. Time spent providing child-care services and volunteering at medical clinics has helped prepare her for a future career, as have the skills she learned raising Angus cattle. The speech she presented during the Miss American Angus competition follows.



## Miss American Angus contest gift sponsors

Contestants' engraved glass frames  
**Dobson Pulpwood Inc. and Shoulderbone Plantation**

Contestants' embroidered blankets  
**Rishel Angus**

Contestants' engraved silver photo albums  
**Rocking P Farm and Marand's Angus**

South Dakota Black Hills jewelry  
**Koupal's Angus**

Miss American Angus silver belt buckle  
**Circle A Angus Ranch**

Miss American Angus jacket  
**Becky Tiedeman/Jim Baldrige's Secret Seasoning**

Miss American Angus leather bag  
**The Cecil McCurry family**

Tiara travel tote  
**Warfield Angus**

Brighton leather planner  
**Weaver Angus Farm**

Jeweled crown pin  
**Chelsey Warfield**

Leather scrapbook and *Angus Legends: Volume 1*  
**American Angus Hall of Fame**

Official photo and feature article  
**Angus Topics**

Vera Bradley luggage  
**Eberlee Farms, Coldwater Creek Farm, Olson Cattle Co. and Vintage Angus**

Miss American Angus banner; crown; and wardrobe, stationery and postage allowance  
**American Angus Auxiliary**

Miss American Angus travel allowance  
**American Angus Association**





## Three "P's" in a Pod

by Mallory Trospen

**S**taring up at the steel ceiling beams, the basketball net laced around the rim, and the blue-and-gold banners hanging on the gymnasium wall, I struggled to get comfortable on the varnished hardwood floor that was my bed for the moment. The sweat dripped off my face and ran down my neck as another basketball practice at Penney High School came to an end. Frustrated by my team's performance, my weakened body struggled while my mind raced at high speed.

Lying there limp and nearly ready to give up, I turned my head at the sound of a familiar voice. My coach asked, "Mal, what is it that you really want?" I strained to lift my weakened arm and pointed at a blue-and-gold banner hanging in plain sight. "I want one of those! I want us to be district champions."

I was almost in tears when Coach responded, "Well, what do we need to do?" The answer had to be more profound, but at that moment all I knew was that our defense was terrible, and in a quivering voice I responded. Coach stared down at me for a long moment and said, "Come to my office after practice, and let's chat." We had a good discussion that evening about the things our team had to do to win that season. I came to call them the three "P's" in a pod.

### Plan your goals

The first "P" is planning. Planning is setting achievable goals. My two older sisters were definitely goal-setters; they always did a good job of setting short- and long-term goals, and they still do today with everything from their jobs to their gym workouts. I have learned much from them. It is critical to take small steps before you take long strides.

During my short 19 years, I have set very important short-term goals that will enable me to reach my long-term goal of becoming a health care professional. These small steps include job-shadowing health care providers, taking advanced courses while attending Penney High School and visiting colleges with medical school programs.

Setting short-term goals is often a bigger challenge than

setting the long-term ones. Knowing you want to be a doctor when you grow up is easy compared to plotting the course to actually make it happen. Taking the initiative to be associated with individuals within my field of interest has been critical to my goal-setting, and the same can be said for my friends and family pursuing other careers. Mentors are a great resource for planning, and they inspire through their

dedication to a particular profession.

Thus, the most important "P" in the pod — planning — has helped me chart a course for my career and personal life.

### Practice your skills

The second "P" in the pod is practice. It was definitely one Coach drilled into our heads! Basketball is primarily a team sport, but the training of the individual and the individual's dedication to practice is essential for any winning team. I would not have been a starter on my high school basketball team without the extra workouts, weightlifting

sessions, spot shooting drills and free throws every evening. Of course, those late night pick-up games with the boys were a big help, too! I always had an excuse when Mom and Dad called to announce that dinner was getting cold. I justified eating cold dinner by improving my skills. I played against those who were stronger, bigger and faster than me.

The big "P," practice, enabled my teammates and me to bring home the district championship banner. It required the maximum — not the minimum — effort from the team. It required some serious and truthful examination of our individual and team strengths and weaknesses. It's never enjoyable to admit your weaknesses, but recognizing and improving them is a life lesson.

Practice after a loss was always more difficult than practice after a win because we knew we had shortcomings we needed to address. The times the scoreboard did not read in our favor were the times we knew there was a lesson to be learned.

A loss builds character, determination and sportsmanship.





A loss can open new doors that lead to new experiences. Losses can bring purpose to your life if you learn to use that loss to better yourself. And, loss teaches you to reach deep within yourself to find your strengths.

### Lessons in patience

The third “P” in the pod, patience, is critical to success in any life endeavor. Patience is a characteristic best learned at a very young age. Some of my first lessons in patience came as the result of being the youngest of three girls in my family. Although there are many advantages to being the baby of the family, and my list of those advantages would be a long one, there is also one major disadvantage. On more than one occasion, I have heard the phrase, “Mallory, you will have to wait for your turn.” I had to wait for my turn to show the best heifer. It was only fair to allow my two older sisters the opportunity to be champions, while I stood anywhere from the middle to the bottom of the class. That was acceptable because I knew my patience would pay off in the future.

Patience did not just revolve around the glory in the showing; I learned patience watching my siblings fulfill their other obligations. I stood on the sidelines and watched because I was too little to lead the show calves, I was too little to drive the truck, I was too little to load the feed and hay, I was too little to use the syringe, and I was way too little to write checks or fill out entries.

However, I was always big enough to tail cattle on the way to the washrack. I noticed I was also big enough to run the countless errands between the barn and the house, big enough to wash the feed pans, big enough to wind up the miles of hose, and it was understood that I was always big enough to scoop the poop.

What did I learn from scooping? I learned that patience means calm endurance without complaining. Patience means waiting your turn in life.

### Achieving success

The lights began to dim in the gym, and I left Coach’s office. It wasn’t all clear to me then, but the things we discussed that evening helped me focus that season, and we experienced great success as a team. The three “P’s” in a pod continued to influence my high school career, and they’re now the base for many things I face in my life.

They don’t prevent me from experiencing failure — the grade on my first chemistry test in college is a whole other speech — but they do help me recover from them. I have those frustrating days, like that evening lying on the basketball court, but the three “P’s” in a pod give me perspective, and the frustration doesn’t last quite as long.

I’ve learned that if I successfully work on incorporating those attributes each day, I will be able to achieve goals like capturing that district basketball banner, showing that winning heifer or attaining my professional goals. With the three “P’s” in a pod, I can achieve success in the present and in the future.







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