



# Meet Your Regional Directors

## **Region 1**

Greetings to Angus friends from Washington state. I am Mary K. Vejraska, your regional director for District 1, which consists of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, California, Nevada, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Arizona, Hawaii and Alaska. Growing up a small-town girl, I married into the Angus family. I have become a farmwife, mother of four boys, cook, schoolteacher, and Girl Friday on the ranch. I currently operate our insurance office.

My husband, Craig, and two of our sons operate the Sunny Okanogan Angus Ranch in Omak, Wash. Our two other sons are in the motorcycle/snowmobile-repair business. Our boys are fourth-generation cattle ranchers. This year we will celebrate 50 years in the Angus business at our annual bull sale March 10. We operate a purebred Angus herd along with our commercial herd.

My goal for 2011 will be to continue to grow the American Angus Auxiliary membership; participate in local, state and national Angus events; support and assist the state auxiliaries; and provide leadership to the states that wish to form an auxiliary. The

Angus cow is the common factor that brings us all together as we create a new circle of Angus friends.

## **Region 2**

Julie Murnin lives in Abilene, Texas, with her husband, Jared. They are blessed to be the parents of 3-year-old Claire Ann and are awaiting the birth of their son in March. The Murnins are active members of Holy Family Catholic Church.

Murnin graduated from Texas Tech University with a bachelor's degree in agricultural communications with a minor in animal science in 2004. In 2006, Murnin began her current freelance graphic design business, Cattle Design.

Involvement in cattle industry-related organizations has been a natural progression for Murnin to fuel her passion for the beef business, Angus breed and the people who produce this product. Recently, Murnin was named the first vice president of the Texas CattleWomen. She also serves as the vice president of the Texas Angus Auxiliary and is a member of the Livestock Publications Council.

Julie represents Region 2, which includes Colorado, New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma.

## **Region 3**

Lynne Hinrichsen represents Region 3, which includes Kansas, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska.

This past fall Lynne attended the American Royal show and meetings in Louisville. She was able to discuss the Auxiliary and its mission with many women in attendance. She also traveled to the National Western in January and again worked on getting the Auxiliary message out.

She is continuing to reach out to recruit new members as well as pass along information to the states in her region. She wants to be the resource person in her region to promote the Auxiliary and its purpose in supporting our breed and youth.

## **Region 4**

Hello, my name is Martha Holshouser and I live in Gold Hill, N.C. My connection to Angus cattle began when our youngest son, Karl, started showing cows. I am very sure that neither one of us could have predicted

the influence of Angus cattle on our lives.

I am a retired teacher, having taught physical science, environmental science, earth science and chemistry in grades nine through 12 for 30 years. It became very obvious to me that the young people who showed Angus cattle reaped far more than ribbons in the showing. The responsibility of looking after their animals and the work ethic that evolved were often missing from many of my students.

Working with the American Angus Auxiliary helps provide many leadership and scholarship opportunities for our young people. Angus families became friends and remained friends long after our juniors aged out.

A big thank you goes to the ladies in Region 4 for helping with ticket sales, door prizes, silent auction items, or whatever I needed at the time. A highlight of 2010 for me was the formation of the Georgia Angus Auxiliary. I enjoyed the visits to Georgia and making new friends. I do hope that I will have the opportunity to visit other state Auxiliary meetings this year.

I represent Region 4, which includes



Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

### **Region 5**

Leslie Mindemann represents Region 5, which includes Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin. Leslie also serves as our American Angus Auxiliary bookkeeper.

### **Region 6**

Marlene Dukehart grew up in Howard County, Md., trail riding, foxhunting and showing horses. I was a 4-H member and later served as a leader in the horse and pony

project. However, my daughter voiced her dislike for anything equine and that is how we became involved in the Angus business. After showing crossbred steers for two years, we purchased our first purebred Angus in 1996, and she joined the NJAA. Little did I expect that she would be chosen as Miss American Angus in 2002 and travel the country representing the Association, Auxiliary and CAB.

Having an only child, you are only allowed to experience the NJAA once. However, we realized that we could both continue our involvement by supporting the American Angus Auxiliary and in turn support the youth of the organization. I am looking forward to my role as a regional director, and to helping those states without Auxiliaries establish an active organization.

I represent Region 6, which includes Delaware, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

