

Giving Back

Jewelry designer Kerri Votaw Kliever offers custom piece during a drawing Nov. 4 at the American Angus Auxiliary's Annual Breakfast.

by *Jena McReil*, digital editor

The American Angus Auxiliary is a loyal supporter for the Angus breed and its future generations. Each year, the volunteer organization provides invaluable service, funds and guidance for junior members throughout the nation — encouragement Angus youth aren't likely to forget.

"Giving Back," the current American Angus Auxiliary fundraiser, is made possible through the generosity of former Miss American Angus Kerri Votaw Kliever, an internationally recognized jewelry designer. She has graciously offered the Auxiliary the option of shopping at her website, www.kvkjewelrydesign.com, or having a custom piece designed at a value of \$5,000.

The Auxiliary is offering 100 tickets at \$50 each. The drawing will take place during the organization's Annual Breakfast on Nov. 4, hosted as part of the 2015 Angus Means Business National Convention & Trade Show. A limited number of tickets will be available

for sale at the Auxiliary's Angus Gift Barn at the convention.

In addition, you can look for Kerri's display in the trade show. She will be offering many of her exquisite designs, many of which were designed especially for the event. Raised on her family's historic Angus ranch in the heart of Nebraska, Kerri's ranching heritage has influenced her designs.

Kerri's family is among the many honored Auxiliary members. Her mother, Bette Votaw, was a charter member and served as president of the Auxiliary. In 2012, Bette was awarded the Auxiliary's Distinguished Woman Award. Kathy Votaw Dubbs, Kerri's sister, was the 1973 Miss American Angus and sister Chris Votaw Vinton was awarded the Auxiliary's second-place scholarship.

Kerri and her husband, Steven, supported their three children as they showed cattle and participated in contests at several National Junior Angus Shows.

The role of the Votaws in Angus history does not end with Auxiliary and junior activities. Kerri's father, Eli Votaw, was elected to the American Angus Association Board of Directors in 1975. While serving his two terms on the board, he was instrumental in establishing the *Certified Angus Beef*[®] (CAB[®]) brand. In 1999, Eli and Bette were inducted into the Angus Heritage Foundation for their contributions to the improvement and advancement of Angus in the United States.

For more information on the Auxiliary's "Giving Back" fundraiser, contact one of the following committee members: Kathi Creamer (kathi@lazyjb.com), Jane Ebert (eberlee1@skybest.com) or Mary McCurry (mccurryangus@outlook.com).

Learn more about the American Angus Auxiliary online at www.angusauxiliary.com or the National Angus Convention & Trade Show at www.angusconvention.com.

