Honored and excited

Sixteen years ago, I became a lifetime Auxiliary member. At the time, I didn't realize the scope of the association or the effect it would have on my life. Through the Auxiliary I have encountered many opportunities and developed friendships I wasn't anticipating.

New leadership

Today I am honored to be the Auxiliary president. I am excited for the opportunity to encourage my fellow cattlewomen to become involved in and take advantage of the programs the Auxiliary has to offer. I am honored to serve with the newly elected officers and regional directors

chosen during the American Angus Auxiliary's Annual Meeting, hosted in conjunction with the National Angus Convention & Trade Show this past November in Overland Park, Kan.

It is with much enthusiasm that I welcome Leslie Mindemann as secretary-treasurer. Leslie has been a junior advisor, Region 5 director, a leader in both the Wisconsin Angus Association and the Wisconsin Auxiliary and chair for the 2002 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Milwaukee. Leslie and her husband, Rick, have three sons and live near Sullivan, Wis. Other officers include Julie Murnin, president-elect, and Lynne Hinrichsen, advisor.

The newly elected regional directors include Karla Knapp of Bloomfield, Iowa, in Region 3; Melanie Kiani of Morton, Miss., will start her second term for Region 4; Deanna Hofing, of Coatesville, Ind., for Region 5; and Gina Hope of Berryville, Va., Region 6.

Auxiliary goals for 2016 will be to update the Auxiliary membership in each state, share the Auxiliary opportunities with our membership by making our website more mobile friendly, to include the Angus Gift Barn and *Gifts that Sizzle* links to all state websites, create an incentive for aged-out junior girls to join the Auxiliary and to foster friendships among Auxiliary members.

Breakfast and jewelry

The 64th Annual Breakfast of the American Angus Auxiliary was coordinated once again by Michelle Rieff and her Program and Hospitality Committee. The breakfast itself was wonderful, and the Kansas Auxiliary did a fantastic job with decorations. Everyone appreciated the unique Ginger Snap leather bracelet and enjoyed the humor of cowboy poet Ron Wilson.

I'd like to thank the "Giving Back" committee of Mary McCurry, Kathi Creamer and Jane Ebert for organizing the jewelry raffle so generously given by Kerri Votaw Kliewer. Kerri is a past Miss American Angus and jewelry artist who donated a \$5,000 custom piece of jewelry or a shopping option on her website. Congratulations to Britney Creamer, the lucky winner!

Birth of a Breed: A Tribute to American Angus

It was the 17th of May way back in 1873

That Kansas welcomed in some cattle that would change beef history.

Near the town of Victoria, out on the Kansas plains, A man named George Grant wanted to boost his cattle gains. To improve that native bloodlines and reduce the needed

On that day, George Grant brought in four Aberdeen Angus bulls.

Can you imagine the sight when those beefy cattle arrived, Where nothing but Shorthorns or

rangy Longhorns had survived? It must have been a funny scene that the neighbors thought

that the neighbors thought contrary, When those black-hided cattle

arrived out on the Kansas prairie.

But when their calves were born, then the farmers' opinion moved,

Because the influence of those bulls made the cattle much improved.

The Angus breed developed and grew for all to see.
The Angus breed association was formed in 1883.
Now the American Angus Auxiliary, I'm pleased to report,
Provides the Angus breed with lots of key support.
From CAB® Cook-Off, Miss American Angus, or scholarship

I commend you for the worthy goals that you are working towards.

And to President Lynne Hinrichsen, who's led you on this trip, We say thanks for your hard work and all your leadership. Just like back when George Grant brought those bulls here in that way,

Angus bulls still bring improvement to cattle herds today. So since the hungry people of the world have protein as a need.

Thank you for all you're doing to help build the Angus breed.

- by Ron Wilson, poet lariat

Conference benefits

The Women's Connected Conference will take place April 2-4 at the Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) headquarters in Wooster, Ohio. This conference is a perfect example of making lifelong friends from across the country while promoting youth and education, providing leadership opportunities and, of course, promoting the Angus breed.

Applications can be found online at www.angusauxiliary.com or by contacting Anne Lampe at 620-874-4273. The conference is for female Angus breeders, Auxiliary members and those involved in the beef industry. Only 20 applications will be accepted, so don't miss out on this opportunity; you won't regret it! The application deadline is Feb. 15. Congratulations to Sara Stevenson, who won the \$100 travel voucher to the conference at the Auxiliary Breakfast.

A special thank you to the Angus Foundation, as the conference would not be possible without its support and funding.

About me

I'm so excited to have this opportunity to serve as your Auxiliary president. I've served as the Region 3 director for three years and was the South Dakota Junior Angus Association advisor for 16 years. My husband, Dick, and I have been married 29 years and live in the southeastern part of South

Dakota. We have 40 beautiful Angus cows and also own a veterinary clinic with 18 employees.

Our proudest achievements have been raising two sons. Andrew is a recent graduate of Iowa State University in veterinary medicine and is practicing at a specialty clinic with 22 other veterinarians in Portland, Ore. He served on the National Junior Angus Board (NJAB) in 2008-2010 and continues to stay in contact with his Angus family. Alex is a junior at South Dakota State University (SDSU) majoring in biology and preveterinary medicine. He is the current chairman of the NJAB and loves every minute of it.

Like most juniors, they loved the NJAS. They participated in many contests and were both recipients of Angus Foundation and Auxiliary scholarships. They enjoyed

2016 American Angus Auxiliary Officers

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attending LEAD and Raising the Bar, and because of those events and contests, they have lifelong friends across the country.

Enthusiasm for the future

Similar to what the juniors gain from the NJAA, the Auxiliary can also provide opportunities that will lead to great memories and lifelong relationships. I encourage you to participate in the Women Connected Conference, consider being a regional director, attend the annual meeting and the mid-year meeting at the NJAS in Grand Island.

I look forward to my year as president of the Auxiliary and am embracing all of the challenges, opportunities and friendships it will bring. I'm sure it will be an exciting and productive year!

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