

10 Vie For Board Seats

Ten Angus members have announced their candidacy for the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

Every year, candidates compete for five seats on the American Angus Association Board of Directors. As of Aug. 15, 10 Association members had announced their intention to run for the Board. Biographical sketches submitted by the candidates are presented here in alphabetical order. Two are incumbents. Board members elected Monday, Nov. 15, at the Annual Meeting in Louisville, Ky., will each serve a three-year term.

Tom Burke

A candidate for the Board of Directors because of his love, dedication and devotion to the Angus breed, Tom Burke asks for your support. A fourth-generation cattleman, his great-grandfather used registered Angus bulls in the late 1800s and early 1900s. His



Tom Burke

grandfather, father and uncle were all registered Angus breeders. Today, Tom is an owner of the original Burke Farm, homesteaded 125 years ago in southeastern Minnesota.

Tom attended and cast his first vote at the 76th Annual Meeting of the American Angus Association 52 years ago. He has been a delegate for many years.

A charter member of the Minnesota Junior Angus Association, Tom was elected its first president in 1960 and served three consecutive terms. In the 1960s, Tom and his twin brother, Tony, were selected as State Star Farmers of Minnesota. Tom served as vice president of the Minnesota Future Farmers of America and president of the Minnesota 4-H Federation.

After completing his military obligation, Tom joined the staff of the *Drovers' Journal*, serving as fieldman for two years. In the 1960s he joined the staff of J.B. McCorkle, a national Angus sale management firm in Smithville, Mo. Upon the death of McCorkle in 1972, Tom continued the sale management business.

He was elected chairman of the All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity in 1972 and is currently serving his 40th term as chairman.

Elected to the Missouri Angus Association (MAA) board in 1971, 1972 and 1973, Tom served as vice president in 1973 and 1974. He was chairman of the MAA State Show and Sale in 1974. In 1972 he was recognized as Man of the Year by the Missouri Junior Angus Association. Tom is one of the five original life members of the Missouri Cattlemen's Association.

He is a charter member of the Atlantic National Angus Show and has served on its board since the show's inception in 1987. The show was dedicated to him in 1993, 1996 and 2007.

For a span of six decades, Tom has annually conducted more than 175 registered Angus sales, conducting sales in 47 states, six Canadian provinces and the Caribbean. He takes great pride in managing and conducting Angus sales of all types and kinds, being accessible to breeders and treasuring the lifelong friendships he has made.

For 20 consecutive years, he was honored by the American Angus Association as Promoter of the Year. During that period, he signed up more than 1,000 adult and junior members.

Tom was recognized as Marketeer of the Year at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) in Denver, Colo., in 1994.

On numerous occasions, he has been honored by the American Angus Auxiliary for his work on their behalf. He has the distinction of being the longest-serving judge for the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*[®] (CAB[®]) Cook-Off at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS). Tom was an announcer at the first National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest in 1967 and served in that capacity through 1973. He has attended all 44 National Junior Angus Showmanship Contests, as well as all 42 NJAS events.

Tom was inducted into the Angus

Heritage Foundation in 2004. In 2005, the Kansas Angus Association selected him as an honorary member. In 2006, Tom received the Association's Historic Angus Herd award, and in 2009 he was appointed to the Angus Heritage Foundation Selection Committee.

Tom co-authored *Angus Legends, Volume I*; the updated second printing released a year later; the Atlantic National book *Unforgettable Memories*; and *The 40th Anniversary of the National Junior Angus Show* released last year. He is presently working on four Angus books.

Tom's daughter, Carmen; son-in-law, Jake; and three grandchildren — all members of the American Angus Association — reside on the Burke Family Farm at Platte City, Mo. Tom is a member of the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Weston, Mo.

Today Tom travels 340 days a year on behalf of the breed. His life is Angus cattle. Tom owns 250 registered Angus cows, has 30 bulls in major artificial insemination (AI) studs and owned the bull that led the breed for registrations in 2007. He is involved daily at the American Angus Hall of Fame, home of the largest collection of Angus history in the world. He has traveled extensively internationally to Angus shows and events.

As a director, Tom says he will value your input and opinion as an Association member, always putting first and foremost the needs of the Angus breed and its members. He seeks to:

- ▶ Support any actions that will add value to Angus cattle and not take away.
- ▶ Be a watchdog for the purity of the breed and assist to drive away third-world breeds that may attempt to take a presence in the Association.
- ▶ Pursue and protect investment in the breed's most special asset, Angus youth.
- ▶ Support performance programs.
- ▶ Further advance the importance of Angus bulls in commercial programs.
- ▶ Continue to be a strong proponent for the betterment and expansion of the CAB program.

Tom says, "I believe it is the responsibility of a director to see that our Association continues to remain financially strong and, at the same time, be aware of the needs and demands of the Association membership."

Robert B. Groom

The New York Angus Association has unanimously endorsed Robert B. Groom as a candidate for election to the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

Robert was born on a dairy farm in Cheshire, England. He graduated from high school in 1984 with high marks at the age of 16. A year later he and his family moved to

the 360-acre diversified stock farm of East Tullyfergus, Perthshire, Scotland.

He established the Tullyfergus Aberdeen-Angus Herd in 1987. A first-generation breeder, he built the herd slowly as he studied the breed and its history. Funds to expand the herd were earned by operating a contract sheep-



Robert B. Groom

shearing business in June and July, during which several people were hired to help shear 30,000 ewes.

In 1989, he undertook a three-month study tour of the Angus breed in the United States, living and working with families raising Angus cattle in many different areas of the country.

Robert married Linda in August 1993 and rented the nearby farm of Balwhyme. This was used entirely for the production of registered Angus and malting barley. A herd of commercial Angus cows was used as recipients for embryos from their American donor cow and promote the maternal and performance characteristics of the Angus breed to other producers.

In the United Kingdom (UK), Robert was appointed to the technical committee of the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society (A-ACS) in 1996. During the time he served, this committee was primarily concerned with DNA parentage testing and estimated breeding values (EBVs). In 1997, he was elected to Council of the A-ACS. He served on Council for two years prior to coming to the United States in fall 1998. The Tullyfergus herd was dispersed in September 1998, setting a UK record for a registered Angus calf.

Since coming to the United States to pursue their "American Dream" in October 1998, Robert and Linda have re-established the Tullyfergus Angus herd near Lyons, N.Y. It is a 50-cow registered operation, producing bulls for commercial and registered cow-calf producers, show heifers and steers. In addition, they provide management for a 100-cow commercial herd that produces top-quality steer calves and replacement females, recipients for embryos and club-calf prospects. They harvest more than 600 acres of dry hay each summer for feed for the two herds and to sell. A small amount of cash cropping and custom round baling is also undertaken.

Robert is an active member of the New York Angus Association (NYAA) and the

New York Beef Producers Association (NYBPA), having served as president and vice president of the NYAA. He is currently a director and junior advisor.

Robert served as chairman and vice chairman of the Western Region of the NYBPA. He was recognized as Beef Promoter of the Year in 2007 and Cattleman of the Year in 2008 by the NYBPA and New York Beef Council. In addition, he has organized numerous promotional and educational events for both the NYAA and NYBPA to further the positive message about Angus genetics and beef consumption. He was selected to participate in the Beef Leaders Institute (BLI) program in 2009.

Each October the herd hosts a joint production sale with friends Roger and Alice McCracken and Rita Partee to offer both registered Angus bulls and females and top-quality commercial Angus females.

Linda is a research associate at the University of Rochester Medical Center, and they have three children — Oliver, 13; Charlotte, 9; and Evie, 4. After three years of legal work status, they decided in September 2001 to start the process to attain legal permanent residence in the United States (a green card). It was granted in April 2008. Robert and Linda will be eligible for citizenship in 2013; their daughters are natural-born U.S. citizens. The children show cattle at local fairs and the state fair. They are active in school activities, such as newspaper and band. In addition, they lease cattle to several local 4-H members and mentor them through the show season in all aspects of beef cattle management.

As a younger breeder, Robert would bring a world of experience to the American Angus Association Board, having already served on the national board in the UK. Those who know Robert marvel at his energy, enthusiasm and common sense. He has proven himself as a critical thinker and problem solver. He is a great student of breed history and pedigree.

Robert, Linda and their children were the subject of an "I am Angus" video in fall 2009. The video can be seen online at www.youtube.com/watch?v=rmg8JwNPeZw.

Chad Hoffman

The Illinois Angus Association has unanimously endorsed Chad Hoffman, Colfax, Ill., for a second term on the Board of Directors of the American Angus Association.

Chad was born and raised in Colfax on the Hoffman Angus farm. He graduated with honors from Octavia High School. Chad's enthusiasm for Angus cattle came at an early age, working alongside his father, J.G.

Hoffman, who started Hoffman Angus along with Chad's great-grandfather in 1962. Chad started his Angus career with involvement in 4-H, the national FFA organization, the Illinois Junior Angus Association and the NJAA. He was very active in these associations, and participating at the NJAS was a highlight of every summer.



Chad Hoffman

Hoffman Angus produces seedstock for purebred and commercial producers. They sell cattle through state and national sales and by private treaty off the farm. Chad has incorporated

the use of AI, embryo transfer (ET), ultrasound and Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®) into Hoffman Angus, and he is proud that all of his income is derived from the cattle industry.

Undecided about what to do for the summer after his first year of college at the University of Illinois, Chad applied for the summer job program sponsored by the American Angus Association. He was employed at Goshen Angus of Paris, Ky. The summer job experience was very successful, and Goshen Angus hired Chad as their fulltime herdsman.

Keeping education a priority, Chad was able to transfer to the University of Kentucky (UK), where he graduated in 1989. He was on the 1989 UK livestock judging team. One of the proudest accomplishments of college was being on the dean's list at both universities.

For the past 15 years Chad has been employed by Genex Cooperative Inc., a subsidiary of Cooperative Resources International (CRI). Chad has had several positions with Genex. He started out as the beef marketing specialist, working with all Genex employees and training them on the beef industry and how to sell beef semen. Other positions Chad has attained have included area sales representative, area sales manager and regional sales manager.

All of these positions have given Chad the experience to work with people and manage situations that take communication and decision-making skill. Chad believes that communication is the key to any business, explaining your thoughts and ideas and listening to those of others. A tremendous amount of experience was gained while working with the budgeting and forecasting for Genex and CRI.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 54

10 Vie For Board Seats CONTINUED FROM PAGE 53

Chad is married to the love of his life, Janelle. They live on Hoffman Angus Farm with their three boys — Cale, 6; Brec, 4; and Zane, 2. Chad said it was love at first sight when he saw his wife. Janelle is the local funeral director in Colfax.

Chad looks forward to sharing his love of cattle with his boys. He is adamant about leaving a viable and sustainable future for his sons at Hoffman Angus.

Chad is committed to service. He believes that you should serve your church and community. Chad and Janelle are members of Immanuel Lutheran Church, and he serves on the board of directors of the Octavia Fire District. He has been elected president and vice president of the Illinois Angus Association and serves on its board. He also served as 2007 National Angus Conference & Tour chairman for the state of Illinois.

Chad would like to serve the American Angus Association membership by being re-elected for a second term on the Board of Directors. During his first term he served on the Information and Data Management and Industry Relations committees and the Angus Productions Inc. (API) Board.

Chad attended the NCBA's Young Cattlemen's Conference (YCC) in 2007. He was sponsored by the American Angus Association through the Angus Foundation. Chad still remembers this as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Chad has had an opportunity through his employment to travel extensively throughout the United States, seeing numerous cattle operations and the concerns and challenges each faces.

"We need to communicate our thoughts and ideas to each other and let everyone prosper," he says. "Development and training of our young members is critical, as they will be the future of the Angus breed."

John Elbert Harrell

With a diverse and unique blend of business, educational, organizational and Angus cattle experience, John Elbert Harrell announces his candidacy for director of the American Angus Association.

The Alabama Angus Association unanimously endorses this candidacy based on John's lifetime of service with distinction to that organization.

Says Greg Blythe of Macedon Farms, "John Elbert has one agenda, to serve all Angus breeders equitably with honesty and integrity." He is a lifetime member of the American Angus Association and grew up on Harrell Brothers' Angus Farm. His great-grandfather began farming in Lowndes

County in 1880, and the fourth-generation farm included 250 registered Angus cows. His father, Walter, established that historical herd and, in addition to running that operation, was executive secretary and fieldman for the Alabama Angus Association



John Elbert Harrell

for more than 40 years. John Elbert has 41 years experience breeding Angus cattle, 25 years experience as a community bank president coupled with 15 years of experience as a successful small business owner. Roland Starnes, Kensington Cattle Co., says, "John Elbert is a successful and passionate cattleman, businessman and community leader and a candidate with an allegiance to one thing — all breeders of the American Angus Association, large and small."

John Elbert is a third-generation graduate of Auburn University with a degree in agricultural economics. He holds a master's degree in human resource management and a graduate degree in banking from the Stonier School of Banking, and a certificate in financial planning from Florida State University.

He showed heifers as a junior and was captain of his county livestock judging team. He was manager of Harrell Angus Farm from 1977 to 1982 and was responsible for the herd's AI program, annual production sale, and the marketing of 100+ bulls annually. He was then hired as 'Pickett' division manager of Lovana Farms, where he was promoted to performance director for all cattle operations. With the help of the American Angus Association, he developed and implemented one of the largest performance records programs to date.

While continuing to breed Angus cattle, he began his banking career, which took him to Florida, Georgia and Alabama as a community bank president, where he provided financial services to countless customers — from small business owners to large corporate clients — giving him a broad understanding and a wealth of expertise in business and financial management.

John Elbert and his wife of 33 years, Ann, and their son, Wesley, now own and successfully operate Big Blue, an Auburn college bookstore they established in 2004.

He is a director and past president of his

state association and chairman of the Sales Committee. A strong supporter of junior Angus, in 2007 the Harrells donated a heifer that generated more than \$17,000 for the Richard Dyar Scholarship Fund. He serves as treasurer of the Lee County Cattlemen's Association, is the current president of the Auburn Chamber of Commerce, a past director of Cattle for Christ International, is a Gideon and a past Rotarian. He is a member of Lakeview Baptist Church, where he serves as a substitute Sunday school teacher. He and Ann have two children, Wes, who works in the family business; and Maggie, an attorney in Washington, D.C.

John Elbert has a tremendous appreciation for the American Angus Association and the contribution Angus cattle make to the beef industry. He believes that reliable and accurate performance records provided by the American Angus Association, availed through the diligence and commitment of its breeders, has given Angus members powerful tools for success. That database, second to none, must be utilized and protected to ensure continued success.

Harrell says he appreciates the contributions of the regional managers and staff, along with the tremendous impact CAB has had on Angus beef demand.

John Elbert says the Association faces many key issues and opportunities and that we must remain diligent as the No. 1 beef breed association in the world. Lanny Upton, president of the Alabama Angus Association says, "John is well-prepared to serve the American Angus Association. He is progressive, objective, and there is no doubt he will vote independently with the best interest of our breed and breeders every time."

The members and directors of the Alabama Angus Association respectfully ask the voting delegates of the American Angus Association to elect John Elbert Harrell as a director in the 2010 election.

Curtis W. Long

Curtis W. "Doc" Long of Butler, Mo., has received the unanimous endorsement of the Missouri Angus Association (MAA) board as well as the overwhelming support from the membership of the MAA during its annual membership meeting in his candidacy for the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

"We are proud to have Doc Long as Missouri's candidate for the AAA board and are confident in his ability to fairly represent the entire membership," says Rick Washam, MAA president. "He brings nearly 50 years of experience as an Angus breeder to the table,

and it is that involvement as a true Angus breeder that helps him relate to our membership.”

Doc has been breeding Angus cattle since 1963. He joined the American Angus



Curtis Long

Association in 1967 and the MAA in 1974, serving as its president from 2001-2002.

His Briarwood Angus Farms includes 220 registered cows and more than 1,900 acres, with

320 acres in native prairie, 150 in cropland and 1,500 in permanent pasture. Doc and his wife, Ann (the farm's business manager), married 52 years, have two adult sons, Curtis and Kent, former junior Angus members.

Base genetics came from the Wye Plantation and are still highly selected for functional, good milking cattle that calve easily without forsaking growth, rendering eight generations of superior Angus. Each spring Briarwood offers approximately 50 bulls and 40 female lots in its annual sale.

A charter member of U.S. Premium Beef (USPB), Doc understands value-added products. Briarwood cattle consistently grade more than 90% Choice, with more than 50% qualifying for CAB. Briarwood Angus Farms finishes approximately 100 head annually for USPB's NatureSource™ Natural Angus Beef and utilizes performance data in all breeding decisions, while aggressively managing health and nutrition to develop bulls and females.

The son of humble farmers, Doc was born in Ironton, Mo. At age 5 he moved to Festus, Mo., later enrolling in the University of Missouri-Columbia (MU) School of Agriculture in 1952. He was a member of Alpha Zeta agriculture honorary society and earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural biochemistry. He served on the Alpha Gamma Rho committee that purchased property and helped start the foundation that raised money to build its fraternity.

In 1956, Long returned to Festus to work as a cattle buyer in his father's meatpacking house. Two years later, he married and moved to Columbia upon acceptance to MU's medical school. He graduated in 1963 after intensive surgical training at Ellis Fischel Cancer Center. He then completed an internship at General Hospital in Kansas City, with an emphasis in obstetrics and surgery. Long distinguished himself as a physician who provides an array of essential

services to rural patients, including development of a new procedure for a tonsillectomy. (For complete medical résumé, see www.fcm.missouri.edu/deptnewslong.aspx.)

In 1964, the Longs moved to Butler, where Doc has maintained his practice for more than 46 years. The 2010 Missouri Physician of the Year, he is also recognized by MU's School of Medicine for developing a residents' training program that teaches skills necessary for bringing comprehensive care to rural areas.

Doc served his community on multiple bank boards and was a founding member and part owner in Community First Bank of Butler. Most recently, he fulfilled five years of service on Bates County Memorial Hospital's board. The Longs generously back 4-H, FFA and cattlemen's associations.

An advocate of junior Angus programs and the Angus Foundation, Doc established in 1998 the Missouri State Fair Angus Carcass Contest, which is now in its twelfth year. The Longs continue to fund scholarships within the MAA and heartily contribute to the Angus Foundation, having created an endowment to supply awards for the National Junior Angus Carcass Contest for years to come. Junior members benefit, but Doc contends the Angus industry benefits as well, knowing young, progressive producers are taking Angus the right direction.

Doc encourages the next generation to focus on the end product. He believes in steadfast commitment to the longstanding reputation of Angus genetics and the youth involved in its industry-leading opportunities and says, as a national board member, he would like to help improve the programs available for junior members and see youth involved and progressing in the breed and in life in general.

“I believe I can bring diversity to the Board and will also try to see that all members of the AAA are treated equally,” Doc says. “I would be honored to serve the American Angus Association to accomplish such endeavors and work to keep Angus Number 1.”

Leo McDonnell

The Montana Angus Association board endorses Leo McDonnell as a candidate for the American Angus Association Board of Directors. Born and raised in Billings, Mont., Leo is a fourth-generation rancher, raised around both feedlot and cow-calf operations.

He and his wife, Sam, live near Columbus, Mont., and have four children (Steve, Darcey, Kelsey, and Buffy) and 10 grandchildren. They own the Midland Bull Test and 600 cows.

Growing up, Leo was active for 10 years in 4-H, showing fed steers, and the local Boy Scout Troop, eventually becoming an Eagle Scout. He fitted and showed several champions for various breeders at major



Leo McDonnell

shows in the western United States while in high school. Also while in high school he started his Angus herd with cows purchased from Candee Angus.

From 1971 to 1975, Leo

attended Texas Tech University and the University of Wyoming, studying animal nutrition for a feedlot background and animal science. He returned home in 1976 to help his father run the Midland Bull Test and also managed a commercial feedlot, Patton and Davidson Feedlot.

Leo and Sam purchased their first ranch in 1987 near Reedpoint, Mont., and later moved their ranch to Rhame, N.D., where they graze about 350 registered cows. They also have a herd of registered cows in western Montana and maintain a fall-calving herd at Columbus, Mont.

Leo and Sam purchased Midland Bull Test following his father's death in 1993. Known as “The Granddaddy of Performance,” the test is recognized as a pioneer in the development and promotion of performance. Midland has grown to testing more than 2,000 bulls per year. It has often led the field in introducing breeders and ranchers to additional trait selection. It was one of the early seedstock programs to measure testicle size, recognizing its importance to early fertility in female offspring, as well as its importance to bull fertility.

Midland was one of the pioneers in ultrasound, measuring for ribeye area (REA), intramuscular fat (IMF) and back fat (BF) in 1969 and 1970. It has now become the largest private facility to measure individual feed intake to assist in identifying more-efficient cattle. Emphasis has been on efficiency as it relates to the cow herd and replacement females.

In 2008, they turned the management and operation of Midland Bull Test over to their son Steve Williams and his wife, Lindsay. Leo and Sam now concentrate their efforts on the cow herd, ranching, grandchildren and developing a national database for efficiency-tested cattle.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 56

10 Vie For Board Seats CONTINUED FROM PAGE 55

Leo has been involved in several industry groups, being a past chair of the Montana Cattle Feeders; a delegate in the mid-1990s for Montana, sitting on the NCBA International Trade Committee and the Research and Education Committee; a co-founder for R-CALF USA in 1998-1999; and currently a director of the U.S. Cattlemen's Association. Leo has also been active in the Montana Stockgrowers Association; the Montana Cattlemen's Association; and the Beartooth Stockgrowers Association.

Leo has testified on behalf of U.S. cattle producers at numerous Congressional hearings, including being the sole cattle producer invited to testify before the U.S. Senate Trade Deficit review Commission in 2001. He is credited with taking the lead in getting country-of-origin labeling (COOL) passed and has spent considerable time in Washington, D.C., advancing issues important to U.S. ranchers.

Leo has received numerous awards, including the 1999 Black Hills Stock Show Agri-Businessman of the Year and the 2000 Ag Advocate of the Year presented at the Billings Chamber of Commerce ag appreciation dinner. Most special to Leo and Sam are a pair of saddles awarded to them in South Dakota on behalf of their work for cattle producers.

In his spare time, Leo likes to read, spend time with children and grandchildren at sports events, fishing and youth rodeo. He says the cattle business and ranching has always been their passion, so they don't need a vacation. They do what they enjoy every day.

"Life works best when you give back, and I believe this is true on a business and industry level," Leo says. "The Angus breed, Angus breeders and the Association have in a large part been responsible for our family's successes in ranching and at Midland Bull Test. It is for that reason that I am running for Director. I would hope with my experience of working with breeders and ranchers with diverse interests and a love of this industry and the passion to see it advance would be an asset to the members."

John Pfeiffer

The Oklahoma Angus Association (OAA) unanimously endorses John Pfeiffer as a candidate for the American Angus Association Board of Directors, noting his lifetime experience with Angus combined with his dedication to agriculture make him uniquely qualified to represent the nation's largest breed organization.

John graduated from Oklahoma State University (OSU) with a bachelor's degree in animal science. While attending OSU, he was a member of the livestock judging team, Block & Bridle and Farmhouse Fraternity, and he purchased his first 160 acres, which serves as the home place today.

John and his wife, Gaye, have been married 29 years and have two sons. John Christopher attended OSU, judged on the livestock judging team and is currently in the Marine Corps. Andy graduated from Mulhall-Orlando High School and is building a successful swine operation.



John Pfeiffer

The Pfeiffer family started in the Angus business when John's great-grandfather purchased an Angus bull in 1907. John is a fourth-generation Angus breeder whose herd began with two heifers his granddad gave to him when he was 9 years old. His granddad bought life memberships to the American Angus Association for each grandchild when they were born and had a history of starting many young people in the Angus business, including Minnie Lou Bradley, whose first Angus cow was purchased at Pfeiffer Stock Farms to start her beef enterprise. That tradition of youth support is carried on by John and his family today.

The family operates a diversified farming operation consisting of 1,400 acres of crops and pasture. Much of the wheat, alfalfa and corn go directly to the 140 registered Angus cows. Stocker calves are brought in depending on the amount of excess wheat pasture and market conditions.

Registered females are merchandised through the fall production sale with Blackjack Angus in Seminole, Okla. All bull calves are tested through Oklahoma Beef Incorporated (OBI) in Stillwater, Okla., and sold either through OBI sales or the spring bull sale at Blackjack. John has served as director and president of OBI. Steers are fed through the Oklahoma Steer Feedout. John Christopher and Andy had several champion carcass steers at the NJAS and Oklahoma Junior Cattlemen's Association Steer Feedout. The carcass data has been used to make breeding and culling decisions, and the results have affirmed progress in the breeding program.

John spent 30 years teaching high school

science, served two years as administrator and was twice selected as teacher of the year. In addition to full-time teaching and farming, he made time to be instrumental in the agriculture community on a local and state level. He is a member of the Orlando United Methodist Church, where he has served as lay leader and chairman of the Administrative Board.

He has been president of the OAA and, with Gaye, serves as editor of the *Oklahoma Angus Challenger* and directory. In the 1970s, when the OAA was unable to hire a field person, John produced the *Challenger* for several months. In 2006, when the OAA again found themselves in need, the Pfeiffers stepped in to keep the publications viable.

John and Gaye have attended the CAB Brand Builders Seminar in Wooster, Ohio. They have served as advisors to the Oklahoma Junior Angus Association and were finance chairmen for the 2007 NJAS. They have been named 4-H Volunteer Leaders of the Year on the state level and are Angus superintendents at the state fair and Oklahoma Youth Expo.

John has served as president of United Cooperative, and vice president of Logan County Farm Bureau and FSA Committee. He was a member of the first Oklahoma Ag Leadership Program. He has been a director for the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, president of the Logan County Cattlemen's Association and president of the Mulhall-Orlando Lions Club. Whether the ag teacher needs a load of sand for the local fair barn or Farm Bureau needs a producer to visit the state legislature, they call John to get the job done.

John feels that the American Angus Association has long benefited from strong leadership that has concentrated on making Angus the beef breed. John's experience in all aspects of the cattle business and leadership in various organizations give him an understanding of what it takes to keep Angus at the forefront of the cattle business. His work with people outside the ag sector provides a framework of how to communicate our business to them.

John says it's imperative that we focus on producing beef and that the Association continues to provide members the tools needed to produce a profitable product. There are many challenges facing the entire ag sector. John's lifetime perspective in the Angus business provides insight on how to meet those challenges, which he feels are surmountable.

The Oklahoma Angus Association asks your consideration of his candidacy.

Jim Rentz

The Ohio Angus Association unanimously endorses Jim Rentz of Coldwater, Ohio, to serve a second term on the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

Jim currently serves on the Angus Foundation and Angus Productions Inc. (API) boards as well as the Industry Relations



Jim Rentz

and Information and Data Management committees. He also has served on the Finance and Activities committees.

His lifelong dedication to the Angus business started 58 years

ago with the purchase of two heifers in 1952. From that defining moment, Jim's Creek Side Farm herd near Chickasaw, Ohio, has been known for producing high-quality seedstock. His herd has been enrolled in AHIR from its inception and has earned the Historic Angus Herd recognition through 58 years of breeding registered Angus cattle.

In his early career, Jim worked as herdsman for Forest Hill Farms in Ohio before going to Ohio State University to major in animal science. While at Forest Hills, Jim fitted the 1956 All-American Angus Futurity Supreme Champion bull.

In 1959, he was hired by the *Angus Journal* as fieldman for Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin, a position he held until 1973. During these 14 years, Jim honed his sales acumen through marketing print advertising and working as a ringman throughout the Midwest.

After his tenure with the *Angus Journal*, Jim started Rentz Auction Co., which specialized in Angus sale management. For the next eight years, he traveled the United States and Canada promoting the Angus breed.

In 1968, Jim married his wife, Judy, and they raised three children — Sheri, Doug and Nick, all of whom were active in the Ohio Junior Angus Association and showed at the county, state and national levels. Sheri and Doug showed back-to-back grand champion carcass steers at the 1985 and 1986 NJAS with animals bred and raised at Creek Side Farm.

Today, Sheri and her husband, Dan Platfoot, along with their three children reside at the farm and oversee the daily operations of the Angus herd. The grandchildren now are involved with 4-H and showing cattle. In 1994, the Ohio Angus

Association presented the Rentz family with the Ohio Angus Family of the Year Award.

Active on the state and national Angus scene, Jim served as president of the Ohio Angus Association in 2001 and 2002 and continues as a state director. For the past 30 years, he has been a delegate to the American Angus Association annual meeting. He also spent three terms (nine years) on the Ohio Beef Council and is a past treasurer of the Ohio Cattlemen's Association.

Nearly 23 years ago, Jim co-founded the Ohio Beef Expo and served as chairman and manager for the first five years of this successful event. Jim also has had the privilege to serve on four committees for honorees of the prestigious Saddle & Siroloin Portrait Award.

On the local level, he was involved in creating the Mercer County Cattlemen's Association and served five years as president. Jim founded the Mercer County Junior Fair Boosters, a support group that financially assists the annual junior livestock sale, and he currently is vice president of the Mercer County Fair Long-Range Planning Committee.

Jim started the annual Showcase Sale in 1978. This sale — dedicated to offering high-quality seedstock — was developed to give smaller breeders an opportunity to have their own production sale in one event.

After spending 28 years as a sales representative for Post Printing Co., Jim retired in 2008. During that span, he oversaw the printing and production of many livestock accounts that included Angus sale books, directories and promotional materials.

Four years ago in Louisville, Ky., during the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE), Jim introduced his book, *50+ Years of Angus Trails and Tales*, in which he highlights many of the historical Angus personalities, herds and events that helped shape the dynamic industry into what it is today. The marketing of this book currently is handled by the American Angus Auxiliary.

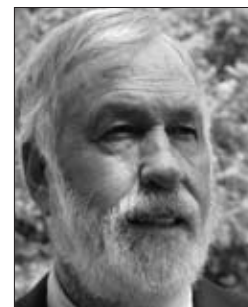
The past three years have been challenging for the Angus breed, and Jim has been an active board member representing the industry and finding solutions to difficult issues. He recognizes that some of the industry's biggest challenges are not from within the breed but from the outside, such as organizations against animal agriculture and state and national politicians who do not understand what it takes to produce safe food.

Jim's experience, knowledge and wisdom through his business career and decades in

the Angus industry will continue to benefit the American Angus Association Board of Directors. He would appreciate your support.

Kenny R. Totty

Kenny R. Totty, "KT," is dedicated to the Angus breed and helping other small-scale breeders like himself. As a sixth-generation farmer in a small community in middle



Kenny Totty

Tennessee, KT has worked to both organize and sustain small grassroots organizations to support Angus breeders throughout the state. Because of these efforts, he has received

unanimous support from the Middle Tennessee, Upper Cumberland, East Tennessee, and the South Central Tennessee Angus associations.

KT graduated from Middle Tennessee State University in 1970 with a bachelor's degree in business administration. After working for the Tennessee Department of Conservation, Division of Strip Mine Reclamation, for a few years, he left his employment with the state to found his own company.

For 20 years he successfully operated Appalachian Reclamation and Consulting Company (ARC). ARC worked primarily in the mountains of East Tennessee and Southeastern Kentucky, reclaiming land devastated by the strip mining of coal. ARC also worked as an engineering consultant with coal operators to establish better conservation practices. This experience provides KT with the necessary knowledge to care for his land properly. He feels that it is important to impart this knowledge to others so that we all can be good stewards of the land.

After the birth of his two children, KT left ARC to return home to the small community of Totty's Bend to fulfill his lifelong dream of raising cattle and raising his children in the environment in which he had grown up. Both his grandfather and father had raised commercial beef cattle, with his father using Angus bulls in more recent years. KT determined from the beginning that the Angus breed was the premier cattle breed and purchased his first Angus females in 1992.

KT says we must continue to aggressively market our brand and the CAB program so that both breeders and consumers continue

CONTINUED ON PAGE 58

10 Vie For Board Seats CONTINUED FROM PAGE 57

to perceive the Angus breed as the premier breed. All breeders are experiencing difficulties in this economy. We must ensure that the consumer appreciates the quality of our product through the efforts of both the CAB program and the Angus Foundation.

From the beginning, Totty's Bend Angus Farm has been family owned and operated with only occasional hired labor. This has been harder in recent years with both of his children away at college and the growth of his wife's business. Jannie, his wife of 28 years, is a full-time certified public accountant (CPA) and maintains all the Totty's records. She also helps with hay and working cattle.

Son Ben has a bachelor's degree in animal and life science from Mississippi State University and is now working on his master's degree in natural resources economics at the University of Tennessee. His daughter, Abigail, is a senior at the University of Tennessee pursuing a degree in public relations. Both talk of returning home, so KT hopes that one of them will become the seventh generation to farm in Totty's Bend. This past Fourth of July, KT and Jannie organized a bicentennial celebration for the Totty's Bend community that was originally settled by one of his ancestors.

KT has taken a leadership role in several local and regional organizations. He served on the board of directors of the Hickman Farmer's Coop for six years and was chairman of the board for two years. He has served as both vice president and president of the Middle Tennessee Angus Association. KT is currently serving on the board of directors of the Upper Cumberland Angus Association. Through the relationships he has developed in working with the members of these various organizations, KT has gained a unique perspective on the struggles that both large- and small-scale cattle breeders face in these tough economic times.

Several years ago, KT saw the need for an effective marketing tool for the small-scale producer. As a result, he founded the Duck River Angus Classic Female Sale in 2008. An alliance of three grassroots Angus associations in Tennessee, it has allowed small-scale producers to share both marketing and facility expenses to fashion a sale that is large enough to attract many buyers. Some of the larger-scale producers who have their own sale each year have also participated in this sale, which is hosted each fall in a centralized location and has enjoyed great success.

KT is committed to the advancement of the Angus breed. He says we must continue to support our breed and address any genetic issues we currently face or may face in the

future. We cannot let these issues undermine our "brand." As Angus breeders, we must be prepared to meet the challenges of the future, whether genetic, economic, animal rights activism, environmental issues, or government restrictions.

With support from the majority of Tennessee breeders, KT would be honored to serve on the board of directors of the American Angus Association.

Kevin Yon

The South Carolina Angus Association unanimously endorses Kevin Yon of Ridge Spring, S.C., as a candidate for the American Angus Association Board of Directors. Kevin



Kevin Yon

is a first-generation Angus breeder who got his introduction into the cattle business at the age of 14. It was then that he borrowed money to purchase an Angus heifer.

Thirty years later, Angus cattle are still a way of life for Kevin. His platform running for the Board is simple — to give back service to the breed and the people who have afforded him the opportunity to grow his business and family successfully.

Kevin met his wife, Lydia, at Clemson University where they were both pursuing degrees in animal science. After college, they got their feet wet as a couple in the cattle industry by landing their dream job of managing a registered Angus operation, Congaree Farms, near Columbia, S.C. After seven and a half years of growth there, the owner decided to disperse his cattle operation. Out of a job, but not their dream, the Yons took the plunge in 1996 and started their own Angus operation, Yon Family Farms.

By this time, the Yons were the proud parents of three children under the age of 6, who made the move with 100 head of Angus females to embark on the venture that would become the family's sole source of income to this day.

With both parents working fulltime on the farm, the children have essentially "grown up" with the farm and have been part of its development every step of the way. Angus cattle have been an integral part of their lives and they have been very involved in NJAA activities, as well as 4-H and FFA. The eldest, Sally, is currently serving as Miss American Angus. The Yon children have all borrowed

money to purchase their own cattle and have all worked on the farm as they attended school. Sally and Drake are both at Clemson University pursuing degrees in ag education and ag economics, respectively. Corbin is a rising high school junior.

What began on 100 acres with additional leased land has evolved into an operation utilizing more than 2,000 acres that maintains approximately 500 head of Angus brood cows and 200 commercial cows. Two annual sales (one in November and one in February) are hosted at the farm each year. More than 200 Angus bulls and about 100 head of females are sold at auction.

The Yons stress the importance of utilizing all the tools available and are strong proponents of performance testing, running an on-farm bull test for two groups of bulls each year. Their operation is forage-based and focuses on producing cattle for their customer base, which is made up mainly of progressive commercial cattlemen.

Kevin has held leadership positions in numerous ag groups, beginning as president of the Block & Bridle Club at Clemson University, where he was also on the livestock judging team. He has served as president of the South Carolina Angus Association and South Carolina Cattlemen's Association, and as chairman of the South Carolina Farm Bureau Beef Advisory Committee.

He most recently served on the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) board of directors and on the advisory council to the National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium (NBCEC). Kevin has participated in the YCC tour for young leaders sponsored by the NCBA and has served on NCBA committees.

Yon Family Farms was named the 2009 National Environmental Stewardship award winner. Kevin has been a delegate to the American Angus Association annual meeting for numerous years. He has been a speaker at both the CAB Annual Conference and the National Angus Conference & Tour. In addition to serving in these cattle leadership roles, Kevin is active in his community and church, serving as an officer in the Ridge Spring Volunteer Fire Department, Little League Baseball coach, 4-H Livestock Club volunteer leader, board member of the Ridge Farmer's Mutual Coop, commissioner of the Saluda Soil and Water Conservation District, and as a deacon at Ridge Spring Baptist Church.

Kevin, his family and Angus friends are enthusiastic about the opportunity for Kevin to serve as a Board Member and give back to the breed that he loves.

