

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Members of the American Angus Auxiliary gathered for annual events during National Angus Convention & Trade Show in Overland Park, Kan.

by **Jena McReil**, digital editor

For more than 60 years, the American Angus Auxiliary has fostered valuable connections throughout the Angus business.

By connecting likeminded women with one another, awarding Angus youth with scholarships or visiting with consumers about the *Certified Angus Beef*[®] (CAB[®]) brand, the Auxiliary invests much time and effort into the Angus breed's future.

Recently the group of volunteer leaders gathered for annual activities, hosted during the Angus Means Business National Convention & Trade Show Nov. 3-5 in Overland Park, Kan. The Auxiliary hosted the organization's Annual Meeting, Annual Breakfast, the Miss American Angus competition, and many other social events.

During the Auxiliary's Annual Meeting on Nov. 3, the group elected the 2015-2016 officers and regional directors. Members of the newly elected officer team are President Shally Rogen, Brandon, S.D.; President-elect Julie Murnin, Huntley, Mont.; Secretary-treasurer Leslie Mindemann, Sullivan, Wis., and Advisor Lynne Hinrichsen, Westmoreland, Kan.

The new president, Shally Rogen, Brandon, S.D., has been

involved in the American Angus Auxiliary for nearly 20 years. Together with her husband, Dick, and two sons, Andrew and Alex, they raise registered-Angus cattle in southeastern South Dakota. She has served as an Auxiliary regional director for more than three years, and has been an advisor to the South Dakota Junior Angus Association for 16 years.

"The American Angus Auxiliary is really a blessing of friendship," Rogen said. "It's amazing how many friends you can make across the country who can get together and have that bond of Angus cattle and our

children. It's just the love of wanting to do more for our youth and the Angus breed."

Members are also proud to welcome President-elect Julie Murnin of Huntley, Mont. She is a past regional director for the Auxiliary and a member of the Montana Angus Auxiliary, serving as the vice president. She and her husband, Jared, are advisors for the Montana Junior Angus Association, and they have two children, Claire and Cooper.

Leslie Mindemann, Sullivan, Wis., was elected secretary-treasurer. Leslie has been a junior advisor, Region 5 director, a leader in both the Wisconsin Angus Association and



PHOTOS BY KASEY BROWN

► American Angus Auxiliary past presidents in attendance at the 2015 Auxiliary Breakfast included (seated, from left) Nancy Sullivan, Ardyce O'Neill, Lynne Hinrichsen, June Hagenbuch, Anne Patton Schubert, (standing, from left) Anne Lampe, Mary McCurry, Yvonne Hinman, Sharee Sankey, Kathi Creamer, Nancy Thelen, Cortney Holshouser and Michelle Rieff.



► 2016 American Angus Auxiliary officers and regional directors are (seated, from left) Shally Rogen, president; Julie Murnin, president-elect; Leslie Mindemann, secretary-treasurer; Lynne Hinrichsen, advisor; (standing, from left) Kathy Dubs, region 1 director; Deanna Hofing, region 5 director; Cindy Ahearn, region 2 director; Melanie Kiani, region 4 director; Gina Hope, region 6 director; and Karla Knapp, region 3 director.



► Distinguished Women in attendance at the Auxiliary Breakfast included (from left) Yvonne Hinman, Ardyce O'Neill and Anne Patton Schubert.

the Wisconsin Auxiliary Association and chair for the 2002 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Milwaukee. Leslie and her husband, Rick, have three sons.

The retiring president, Lynne Hinrichsen, has served as president of the Kansas Angus Auxiliary, regional director for the American Angus Auxiliary, and is a member of the American Angus Association and Kansas Angus Association. Along with her husband, Ron, and children, Cale and Eva, the Hinrichsen family raises Angus cattle on R&L Angus in Westmoreland, Kan.

The Auxiliary's 2015 Regional Directors are: Region 1, Kathy Dubs, Montana; Region 2, Cindy Ahearn, Texas; Region 3, Karla Knapp, Iowa; Region 4, Melanie Kiani, Mississippi; Region 5, Deanna Hofing, Indiana; and Region 6, Gina Hope, Virginia. Regional Directors are a source of information for interested members throughout the country.

"You don't have to be a mom to be an Auxiliary member," Rogen said. "We encourage young women who have aged-out of the National Junior Angus Association to become Auxiliary members. It's a way they can give back to the programs they were involved in as junior members. We want them to know we welcome them with open arms."

Annual traditions

The Auxiliary hosted its Annual Breakfast Nov. 4 at the Sheraton in Overland Park, just prior to the day's National Angus Convention events. Nearly 275 people enjoyed the meal, which featured the CAB brand, followed by entertainment by cowboy poet Ron Wilson.



► **Above and below:** A packed room had the chance to win a \$5,000 jewelry shopping spree donated by designer Kerri Votaw Kliever.

Kansas was in the spotlight during the event, as the Auxiliary paid tribute to Lynne Hinrichsen, retiring president, and her home state. Each attendee received a beautiful Angus bracelet.

In addition, 2015 Miss American Angus Madison Butler addressed the crowd on her year of service to the Angus breed.

The Angus Gift Barn is also a popular fundraiser for the Auxiliary each year, and National Angus Convention participants enjoy shopping their newest items for sale. Angus clothing, jewelry, household items, framed prints and much more were available for purchase in Overland Park.

"If you're looking for gift ideas throughout the year, we'd encourage you to visit the Angus Gift Barn online at angusgiftbarn.com, and you can also submit your membership online," Rogen says. "All proceeds go toward supporting our breed's next generation through scholarships and awards."

Learn more about the American Angus Auxiliary online at www.angusauxiliary.com.

More news from the National Angus Convention & Trade Show, online summaries, speaker presentations, photos, videos and much more can be found in the Newsroom at www.angusconvention.com.



► **Poet Ron Wilson** entertained the crowd with a specially written poem for the American Angus Auxiliary.



► **Lynne Hinrichsen** celebrated a successful year as American Angus Auxiliary president before passing the president's gavel to Shally Rogen.



► **Shally Rogen** expressed her excitement for the year ahead.



► **Auxiliary Breakfast attendees** were introduced to the five Miss American Angus contestants (from left) Jordyn Wagner, Jera Pipkin, Katelyn Holmes, Claudia Hissong and Cassandra Garcia. Whitney Trospen (right) is the co-chair of the Miss American Angus contest.

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