

Angus Elects New Board Members and Officers

The American Angus Association hosts its 130th Annual Convention of Delegates in Louisville, Ky.

by *Carrie Heitman, American Angus Association*

The American Angus Association announced new members and officers for its board of directors during the 130th Annual Convention of Delegates in Louisville, Ky. Those elected by the delegates to serve the Association for three-year terms are:

- ▶ Tom Burke, Smithville, Mo.;
- ▶ John Elbert Harrell, Opelika, Ala.;
- ▶ Leo McDonnell, Billings, Mont.;
- ▶ John Pfeiffer Jr., Mulhall, Okla.; and
- ▶ Kevin Yon, Ridge Spring, S.C.

Harrell, McDonnell, Pfeiffer and Yon are serving their second term on the board. Burke will serve his first three-year term.

Gordon Stucky, Kingman, Kan., was elected as the Association's president and chairman of the board. He succeeds Phil Trowbridge, Ghent, N.Y. Cathy Watkins, Middletown, Ind., was chosen by delegates to serve as Association vice president and vice chairman of the board. Jim Sitz, Dillon, Mont., was chosen by the board to serve as treasurer.

A total of 311 elected delegates from 42 states and Canada represented Association members during the Annual Convention of Delegates, which was convened at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center (KFEC) in conjunction with the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) Super-Point Roll of Victory (ROV) Angus Show.

Stucky's roots in Kingman County trace back to 1937, when his parents established a diversified crop and livestock operation. Stucky began the transition to a registered-Angus cattle herd in 1976. After graduating from Kansas State University with an animal science degree, he returned to the ranch to fulfill his lifelong commitment to the Angus breed.

Stucky has four children: Jesse, Jacob, Elizabeth and Jonas.

Cathy Watkins, the incoming vice president and vice chairman of the board, has been a dedicated leader for the Angus breed for several years, including serving as Association treasurer in 2012-2013.

Watkins and her husband, Bob, raise Angus cattle at Beaver Ridge Farm in east-central Indiana. They also work with Schaff Angus Valley in Saint Anthony, N.D., which is one of the oldest ongoing Angus herds in North America. Watkins divides her time between both operations.

A graduate from Michigan State University, she has a degree in animal science. While there, she was a member of the meat-judging team and the livestock-judging team. Off the farm, Watkins worked for the Internal Revenue Service for 33 years, retiring in 2007.

Jim Sitz, who manages and operates Sitz Angus Ranch in Dillon, Mont., will serve as the next Association board treasurer. The Sitz Angus Ranch was started in 1928 by Will and Frieda Sitz, Jim's grandparents.

Sitz Angus Ranch has since grown and has become known as one of the top sources of Angus genetics in the country. A graduate of Brigham Young University-Rexburg in Idaho, Sitz holds a degree in business and agricultural management. He has served on the Montana Angus Association and the Montana Beef Council for the Montana Stockgrowers Association.

Sitz, and his wife, Tammi, have four children: Amber, Ashley, Tyler and Tucker.

Class of 2014

Thomas Burke, Smithville, Mo., is a fourth-generation cattleman who has

Meet the officers

As the Association's newly elected president and chairman, **Gordon Stucky** will help guide the course for the business breed and its more than 25,000 members across the United States and Canada. Most recently, Stucky served as vice president and vice chairman of the board. He and his family own Stucky Ranch, which is located west of Wichita, Kan.



▶ **Above:** Delegates to the 130th American Angus Association Annual Convention of Delegates elected leadership for the coming year. Directors elected to serve a three-year term are (from left) Leo McDonnell, Billings, Mont.; John Pfeiffer Jr., Mulhall, Okla.; Kevin Yon, Ridge Spring, S.C.; John Elbert Harrell, Opelika, Ala.; and Tom Burke, Smithville, Mo.

▶ **Left:** Elected to serve as officers of the American Angus Association are (from left) Cathy Watkins, Middletown, Ind., vice president and vice chairman of the board; Gordon Stucky, Kingman, Kan., president and chairman of the board; and Jim Sitz, Dillon, Mont., treasurer.



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PHOTO BY SHAINA ROSE HERMEL

conducted registered Angus sales across the United States, Canada and the Caribbean through his work at the American Angus Hall of Fame. He owns the Burke Farm, homesteaded 125 years ago in southeastern Minnesota.

Burke has served on boards of the Missouri Angus Association and Atlantic National, as well as serving as chairman of The All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity.

John Elbert Harrell, Opelika, Ala., has 44 years of experience breeding and marketing Angus cattle. He and his partner, Mitch Lazenby, own and operate Highlander Ranch, where they raise 100-plus registered-Angus females and develop 150 bulls each year.

Harrell is a director and past president of the Alabama Angus Association. He and his wife, Ann, are strong supporters of junior Angus members. They have two children.

Leo McDonnell, Billings, Mont., 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.

McDonnell has been involved in several industry groups, being a past chairman of the

Montana Cattle Feeders; a delegate in the mid-1990s for Montana on the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) International Trade Committee and the Research and Education Committee; a co-founder for the Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund-United Stockgrowers of America (R-CALF-USA); and currently a director of the U.S. Cattlemen's Association and Cattlemen's Beef Board.

John Pfeiffer, Mulhall, Okla., and his wife, Gaye, have been married 32 years and have two sons. The family operates a diversified farming operation consisting of 2,200 acres of crops and pasture. Much of the wheat, alfalfa and corn go directly toward the 140 registered- and 75 commercial-Angus cows.

Pfeiffer has been president of the Oklahoma Angus Association, a member of the first Oklahoma Ag Leadership Program, a director for the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, and president of the Logan County Cattlemen's Association.

Kevin Yon, Ridge Spring, S.C., and his wife, Lydia, established Yon Family Farms in 1996. The operation is now home to 700 head of Angus brood cows and 300 commercial cows.

Yon 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, among other positions.

He and Lydia have three children: Sally, Drake and Corbin, who are active in the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA).

The American Angus Association is the nation's largest beef breed organization, serving more than 25,000 members across the United States, Canada and several other countries. It's home to an extensive breed registry that grows by nearly 300,000 animals each year. The Association also provides programs and services to farmers, ranchers and others who rely on Angus to produce quality genetics for the beef industry and quality beef for consumers.

For more information about Angus cattle and the American Angus Association, visit www.angus.org.



Editor's Note: *Carrie Heitman is communications coordinator for the American Angus Association.*