



Next Generation

► Postcard from an NJAA director and state spotlights. Compiled by **Mathew Elliott**

Leaders

A leader is a person who guides others toward a common goal, showing the way by example, and creating an environment in which other team members feel actively involved in the entire process. A leader is not the boss of the team, but instead, the person who is committed to carrying out the mission of the venture.



Alisha Nord

Leadership skills are valuable whether you want to lead an organization, be part of a club, or serve a cause. Leaders are rarely (if ever) born. Personal traits may play a role in determining if they will or will not be comfortable leading others, but a strong sense of ethics and work developed over years is what makes a leader. A leader must

be able to communicate his or her vision while inspiring others to believe in it. A good leader is always in pursuit of the vision, but is someone who remembers they are there to serve, not to be served. Leadership qualities are described with a variety of words, including some very specific to the individual: emotional stability, conscientious, maturity, empathy, intuitiveness, social boldness, team orientation and charisma.

It is important to remember that people are forever learning and changing. The new leaders of tomorrow are visionary, and are both learners and teachers.

Leadership traits are built on character and virtue, as is the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA). Honest, forward-looking, competent, inspiring and intelligent are the five most important traits of a good leader. These words also describe the kind of people who brought the Angus breed,

business and associations to the success we share today. It's hard not to recognize the similarities of good leaders and that of the Angus associations. I think it's safe to say we are producing great cattle and great leaders. As a new leader in our NJAA, I am excited to share and develop my leadership skills, and I look forward to the challenges we as a board will take on during the next year.

I have the utmost respect for my fellow board members and our advisor, as well as many of the American Angus Association staff we have had the pleasure to get to know. As one of your NJAA leaders I will be energetic, optimistic and enthusiastic as we work to build integrity in our members and our Association. I want to leave you with a quote by Eric Hoffer, "The leader has to be practical and a realist, yet must talk the language of the visionary and the idealist."

— **Alisha Nord, Minnesota**

NJAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TERMS UP IN 2011

BRITNEY CREAMER, Colorado, **chairperson**, britney_creamer20@hotmail.com

CODY SMITH, Missouri, **vice chairman**, cody_bball1@hotmail.com

CLINTON LAFLIN, Kansas, **communication director**, superc336@hotmail.com

JENNIFER ANN SMITH, Texas, **Foundation director**, jenniferann.smith@yahoo.com

JACLYN UPPERMAN, Pennsylvania, **membership director**, jupperma@su.edu

DANIELLE FOSTER, Michigan, **leadership director**, fostdani@umich.edu

TERMS UP IN 2012

AUSTIN BRANDT, Iowa, brandtfarms@wildblue.net

SHANE CLARY, Virginia, shane.clary.08@cnu.edu

LINDSEY GRIMES, Ohio, grimes.159@buckeyemail.osu.edu

GARRETT KNEBEL, Indiana, garrett.knebel@okstate.edu

ALISHA NORD, Minnesota, alisha.nord@ndsu.edu

CLAY WILLIAMS, Georgia, dcw3791@uga.edu



Visit the NJAA web site at www.njaa.info.

► Maryland Angus Ass'n Annual Social, Centreville, June 6



► Maryland Angus royalty are (from left) **Kelsey Stabler**, queen, and **Shelby Stabler**, princess, both of Gaithersburg.



► Below: Pictured receiving awards are (from left) **Robert Velisek**, Gaithersburg, Golden Pitchfork; **Brittany Full**, Mount Airy, Outstanding Senior Member; **Emily Velisek**, Gaithersburg, Outstanding Intermediate Member; and **Taylor Clarke**, Rocky Ridge, Outstanding Junior Member.

► Maryland Jr. Angus Ass'n board of directors and officers are (front row, from left) **Jimmy Full**, Mount Airy, treasurer; **Kelsey Stabler**, Gaithersburg, junior representative; **Robert Velisek**, Gaithersburg, vice president; and **Jessica Clarke**, Rocky Ridge, president; (back row, from left) **Ethan Whiteside**, Queenstown, reporter; **Taylor Clarke**, Rocky Ridge, membership director; **Victoria Ritter**, secretary, and **Christina Ritter**, communications director, both of Laytonsville; and **Emily Velisek**, Gaithersburg, historian.



► The **Velisek family**, Gaithersburg, was named Junior Family of the Year. Pictured are (from left) Robert, Emily and Pam Velisek.