

Association Honors Recent Retirees

by **Association staff**

With more than 224 combined years of serving the breed and cattle producers across North America, seven members of the Angus team have retired from the Association, including Susie Brown, Linda Campbell, Bev Curran, Shirley Holland, Chris King, Marcia Roberts and Carol Waller. Lauralee West retired from Angus Productions Inc. (API).

During their years of service, these individuals became part of a familiar network of friendly faces and voices that serve Association members and others interested in Angus genetics.

"These ladies have become Angus institutions," Bryce Schumann, Association CEO, says. "They have set the standard for the rest of us. Their efforts enabled the Association to provide unsurpassed customer service. They are the reason we were able to set excellent customer service standards, such as one-day turnaround of registrations and data entry."

Further putting these accomplishments into scope, Schumann adds, "That's a standard that no one else in the industry can meet."

Susie Brown

Susie spent 20 years of dedicated service working in the Association's Pre-audit Department. She says she's enjoyed the variety and the professional challenges that her position offered her, adding, "I enjoyed most everything that we did."

Now that Susie's retiring, she plans to tackle tasks she hasn't had time to pursue. Susie's looking forward to painting, cleaning and putting a new roof on her rental property.

"A friend of mine said I'll have the cleanest house she's ever seen," she jokes, adding "when you're working full-time, there are so many things you let go."

With cleaning aside, Susie will also enjoy spending time with her husband.

"We'll probably do some traveling," she says of she and her husband. "My husband works for Callaway Detailing Company doing computer-aided drafting. So he's going to have to support me for another four years until he retires."

Linda Campbell

Linda Campbell joined the Association 12 years ago when Dean Hurlbut, then director of activities and events, hired her as the department's administrative assistant. Most recently, she worked in events and meetings.

"I've enjoyed working with so many people — everybody from the breeders, to the folks at the office to the regional



PHOTO BY MATHEW ELLIOTT

► American Angus Association and API staff gathered to celebrate the retirements of "Angus institutions," including (back row, from left) Carol Waller, Susie Brown, Marcia Roberts, Linda Campbell, Lauralee West, (front row, from left) Shirley Holland, Chris King and Bev Curran.

managers," she says. "People become your friends, and that's been the best part of my job."

"Linda was always the person who would take new people under her wing," says Shelia Stannard, director of activities and events. "She's always been a woman of strength."

Linda has accepted a sales-support position with BioZyme Inc., a livestock nutrition company based in Saint Joseph, Mo. She will continue to maintain her home in the country south of the city.

"I've always been involved in agriculture," she says. "This job has taught me a lot about Angus cattle. They truly are a great breed of cattle. I will always be trying to sell people on using them."

Bev Curran

"Bev always made you laugh," Karen White says. "If you were feeling down, you talked to Bev."

A native of northwest Missouri, Bev joined the Association's Data Entry Department 20 years ago. She believes the number of cattle she's entered into the database would number more than a million head. "I've done a lot of data entry," she says.

"Growing up, I was a city girl, so this was new to me," she recalls. "Now, I live on a small farm and have two Angus steers."

Now that she's retired, Bev plans to relax, but will continue to enjoy life.

"I'm not planning to do a whole lot," she says. "I'm going to enjoy my six grandkids, take some time off, and travel around when we want to. The biggest thing I'm going to enjoy will be not having to get up when the alarm goes off. That sounds pretty good to me, although I will miss my friends at the Association."

Shirley Holland

Shirley served in the Association's Member Services Department. After 35 years of service, she says some of what she'll miss are the little things. For example, she says, "I'm going to miss waking up each day and getting dressed up just to go to work." That's no surprise, since Shirley is a fan of fashion.

In addition to some shopping, Shirley is hoping to spend time tending to a lot of things at home and getting caught up around the house. "There's a lot of things you don't get around to doing [when you're working full-time]," she says.

Shirley is most looking forward to more chances to enjoy some of her hobbies — like pruning her roses. Also, both she and her husband, Virgil, enjoy dancing and traveling. Although the two are planning to wait until Virgil retires before doing extensive travel, they do plan to spend their travel time going RV-ing and visiting destinations such as Branson, Mo., so they can enjoy time with each other and with friends.

Chris King

Chris joined the American Angus Association Oct. 13, 1964. Throughout all those years she has worked hard to serve the Angus industry.

"I started out at the bottom and worked my way up to supervisor of the Pre-audit Department," she says.

It was the people she worked with who made it enjoyable to come to the office every morning. Chris also liked to work with individual breeders and to help them solve their problems.

"When Chris walks out the door, she'll take a lot of information and history with her," Laughlin says.

Following retirement, Chris plans to

spend her free time cleaning up the house and garage, “and catching up on 45 years of whatever else needs to be done,” she said. “After my husband retires, we’d like to go to Alaska.”

Marcia Roberts

Marcia started with the Association in 1987 where she spent two years with the Pre-audit Department and 20 years with the Registration Department. She’s spent a lot of time on the phone with breeders, helping answer their questions and fixing any problems they may have had.

“It was an enjoyable experience working here,” she says. “I learned a lot more about Angus cattle than I ever thought I would know. It’s really been a lot of fun.”

Marcia has one daughter and three grandchildren, and she’s intending to spend a lot more time with them following retirement. She plans to work in her hometown of Cameron, Mo., and is looking forward to not having to make the 35-mile drive back and forth every day.

“I hope to get a few rooms painted in the house, [a task] that I’ve been putting off,” she says. “I also belong to the Elks Lodge. We have a big Veterans home where I do a lot of volunteering. I look forward to spending more time there, and helping people out.”

Carol Waller

Carol has served the Association for 39 years, working in the Member Services Department.

Carol plans to take advantage of her retirement by staying fit with her walking program, working around the house, and spending time catching up with family and friends. Late this fall she plans to “do a few crafts such as crocheting and needlework and just relax with a good book.”

Carol is also planning to document her time and the many memories at Angus with a scrapbook.

Spending time with her husband, Lloyd, and traveling will also be an important focus of retirement. In 2010, she and her husband will visit Germany for a unique, historically rich experience.

“We’re going to Prague-Oberammergau, Germany, to a Bavarian village of Oberammergau to witness a performance of the Passion play,” Carol says. “The original performance dates back to 1634 and during the Thirty Years War, the village was spared the Black Plague. The villagers vowed that every 10 years they would give a play to honor the life of Christ.”

Lauralee West

Lauralee joined the Association in 1963,

serving both the Association and API. She began as a checker, working for 13 years in the Association’s Member Services Department. She rejoined the Angus family in 1989, working for API as an advertising coordinator and then as a coordinator for the Special Services Department.

For most of the last 10 years, she’s been the friendly voice on the phone, operating the API switchboard.

“Lauralee performed in just about every department with API,” says API General Manager Terry Cotton. “Whenever we needed someone, Lauralee stepped in and did what needed to be done.”

Reflecting on work, Lauralee states, “I enjoyed the people the most. I liked the people I worked with, and I also liked the breeders. I enjoyed visiting with the people who didn’t work here, too, the service people who delivered the mail, worked on the copy machine and so on.”

Following retirement, she says, she is especially looking forward to “quilting for my grandchildren, trying all the recipes that I’ve pulled out of the magazines over the years, and taking a lot of day trips.”

She also plans to work on her family’s genealogy, and in the next few years, she’d like to travel to Scotland to see firsthand where her family came from.

