

Accepting Nominations

From April through June, members of the American Angus Association can nominate themselves or other members to represent their district.

by *Shauna Rose Hermel*, editor



If you are an active life or active regular member of the American Angus Association, in April you should have received a mailing asking you to nominate someone from your state or district to represent you as a delegate to the Annual Convention in Overland Park, Kan., this fall.

While casting a nomination seems routine, each year nominations and ballots are cast incorrectly, and therefore not counted. Questions often arise as to why someone was or wasn't on the ballot. In this article, we want to clarify the process and the rules surrounding it to make sure your nomination is counted.

Representative government

Rather than having membership meetings, the Association Bylaws specify that the business of the Association will be conducted by a Convention of Delegates selected by the membership to represent them. Article III, Section 3 details how delegates are to be chosen and the scope of what they are asked to do (see the *Breeder's Reference Guide* available online at <http://www.angus.org/general/gnr/newmem.aspx> to read Article III, Section 3 in full).

Nominating someone to serve as a delegate is the first step in selecting the voting body that will elect officers and directors to the Board and vote on any changes to the Association's Charter and Bylaws that may be considered in November. It's an important responsibility. Last November, the delegates elected five individuals from a slate of 11 candidates to serve on the Board of Directors.

The nomination process

During the last week of March, members were mailed a nomination form (see Fig. 1). This is a nomination form determining the slate of nominees. It is not a voting ballot. Each form is customized for its receiver, so your nomination form will have your name, address, member number, etc., already filled out. All you have to do is write in a nominee with his or her address and information, sign the nomination form, and return it.

Each active life and each active regular member is allowed to nominate one

"eligible" member who "resides" in the nominator's state or district. To be eligible to be a delegate, an individual has to be an *active life* or *active* regular member of the Association. For a life member, that means they must have registered an animal through the Association within the last three years. A regular member is considered active if they have joined the Association in one of the last two fiscal years or have paid annual dues in the current fiscal year.

The Bylaws specify that the term "resides" means the district in which the nominator/nominee engages in breeding and registration of Angus cattle. However, no member can be a nominee from more than one state.

As clarified at the 2010 Annual Convention, each membership can nominate only one person. It's best to nominate someone who is willing, if elected, to attend the Annual Convention. Otherwise, your state may miss out on votes to which it is entitled.

If you want to see who from your state is available to nominate, a handy option is to do a Member Lookup on the Association's website. When you visit www.angus.org, toward the upper right corner there is a Membership Search. Type in the name of your state or use the drop-down menu to select your state, then click the magnifying glass to conduct the search. This will produce a list of active life and active regular members in your state as of the day you do the search (they'll need to keep their membership active to be placed on the ballot). All members may not fit on the first display page, so be sure to click through to other pages.

The Member Search is also a handy way to find the member code and address of the individual you are nominating to include on the nomination form.

If you know who you want to nominate, but want to get his or her address information, you can search for an individual. Rather than specifying a state, just click the magnifying glass. You'll get a page where you can narrow

the search to a membership name within a state, for instance.

Remember, too, it is quite appropriate to nominate yourself.

Once you nominate someone, be sure to sign the nomination form! Otherwise, the nomination is not executed properly, and it cannot be considered.

CEO Bryce Schumann will accept nominations at the American Angus Association April 1-June 30. Be sure to give the U.S. Postal Service ample time to deliver your nomination. It must be received by 4:30 p.m. CDT June 30.

Nominations are verified and entered individually into the Association's electronic system as they are received. A ballot is formed for each district (state or territory), with the names of all the eligible nominees listed in the order received. So, if you want your nominee to be listed toward the top of the ballot, send your nomination in as soon as you get the nomination form.

If multiple people representing one membership are nominated, the Association will make its best effort to contact the individuals to give them a choice as to which one individual should be placed on the ballot. For instance, the Association may receive nominations for both a husband and a wife who have a single membership under a farm or ranch name. They would be contacted to see which one of them they would rather have listed on the ballot. In cases where no one can be reached, the first nomination received will be placed on the ballot.

Each district's ballot will specify the date of the Annual Convention and the number of delegates and alternate delegates to which the district is entitled.

Number of delegates

That number is dependent on how many active regular and active life members the district has on April 30 of the current year and the number of registrations processed for the district during the prior fiscal year. (Canada is considered a district, as is each state or territory of the United States.)

Each district is automatically entitled to one delegate and one alternate delegate. In addition, each district is entitled to an

additional delegate/alternate delegate for every 100 active life or regular members within the district as of April 30 (rounded up or down to the nearest whole delegate number) and for every 3,000 registrations recorded from the district in the prior fiscal year. If a state has more than 25 active life and active regular members but not more than 150 and fewer than 3,000 registrations in the prior fiscal year, it is entitled to an additional delegate and alternate delegate.

So, if your state has 480 eligible members

and registered 25,000 head through the American Angus Association, it would be entitled to $1 + 5 + 8 = 14$ delegates and 14 alternate delegates.

To ensure your state gets its full voice at the annual convention, remind members from your district to register their calves and to make sure their membership is active by April 30 each year.

“Participation in the nomination process is an important first step in helping guide the direction of the American Angus

Association,” emphasizes Schumann. “The strength of your organization relies on grassroots participation; it is a fundamental part of the process. Choosing to participate means you have helped to shape the governance of our organization.”

The next step at which you can participate in the process will be voting for the nominees placed on the ballot for your district that you want to serve as delegates. The Bylaws specify ballots be mailed to the membership at least 120 days prior to the Annual Convention of Delegates, so this year’s ballot will be mailed by July 8.



Fig. 1: American Angus Association Delegate Nomination Form

This form is mailed prior to April 1 to active members of the American Angus Association.

AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION®
Nomination of Candidate for Delegate
to the November 5, 2015 Annual Convention

<p>Member Code Member Email Address Member Herd State Member Phone Number</p>	<p>Member Name Member Address 1 Member Address 2 City, State Zip</p>
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This nomination is made by the undersigned, a member of the American Angus Association.

★
Signature _____
★

IMPORTANT: The nomination form must be signed.

Mail this signed nomination form to the Chief Executive Officer,
 American Angus Association, 3201 Frederick Avenue, St. Joseph, Missouri 64506.
The form must be received no later than 4:30 PM Central Daylight Time on JUNE 30, 2015.

Bryce F. Schumann, Chief Executive Officer: *Bryce F. Schumann*

I NOMINATE:

Name of Nominee _____

Nominee’s Membership or Farm Name _____

Nominee’s Member Code _____

Nominee’s Rural Route or Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Nomination procedures are set forth in the Bylaws of the American Angus Association in Article III Convention of Delegates, Section 3.6 Nomination of Delegates. The Bylaws can be found in the Rules and Forms section at www.angus.org and in the Breeder’s Reference Guide.

- Use this form to nominate a member to be placed on the ballot to elect delegates and alternates from your state or district. (This is not a vote to elect a delegate.)
- Delegates elect the President/Chairman of the Board, the Vice President/Vice Chairman of the Board, and members of the Board of Directors at the Annual Convention. Delegates vote on proposed amendments to the Charter and the Bylaws of the Association.
- A member can nominate himself or herself.

- Each membership can make only one nomination.
- Only one individual from each membership can be placed on the ballot.
- It is best to nominate a member who, if elected, will attend the Annual Convention.
- Names are placed on the ballot in order of date received as directed in the Bylaws.
- After nominations close, ballots are prepared and mailed to active life and active regular members.

FOR ASSOCIATION OFFICE USE ONLY

Signed: _____

Entered: _____

Ballot: _____

►Note that this is not an official form. Your official form was mailed to you the last week of March and will have your name and member information at the top of the page.