



Junior Members Raise the Bar

by Association staff

Leadership has always been on top of the list of priorities for the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA). In 2007 the NJAA Board announced its first state officer training program, Raising the Bar. The conference is highly intensive leadership training for officers to build stronger teams within their junior associations and to develop and utilize regional relationships.

Raising the Bar is open to five state officers and two state advisors from each state per region. There are four regions and four conferences. The conference is provided for junior members through financial support from the Angus Foundation.

The workshops cover topics such as the secrets of the American Angus Association, fundraising and budgets, membership brainstorming, public speaking, scholarships, awards and parliamentary procedure.

Members of the NJAA came together for Raising the Bar April 11-13 in Boise, Idaho, and April 18-20 in Baton Rouge, La.

The attendees of the Idaho workshops participated in a team-building activity at a ropes course, a devotional and a social event. Along with the workshops and activities, the conference included an evening mixer with ice-skating at the Idaho Ice World.

Thirty-four junior officers and advisors from seven states were provided the tools to build stronger state associations at the Louisiana workshop.

The attendees participated in a teambuilding activity at a ropes course, icebreakers, a crawfish boil and a Sunday morning devotional. Special guest speaker, Cheramie Viator, a former NJAA Board director, challenged the group to make positive choices for success as individuals and for their state junior Angus associations.

Other Raising the Bar conferences have been in Wooster, Ohio, and Saint Joseph, Mo. The NJAA promotes the involvement of young people in raising Angus cattle, while also providing leadership and self-development opportunities for more than 7,000 active members nationwide. For more information about Raising

the Bar Conferences or the NJAA, look online at www.njaa.info or call the Association at 816-383-5100.



