



Leading the Business Breed

The American Angus Association elects new Board members, officers.

by **JENA McRELL**, *digital editor*, & **SHAUNA ROSE HERMEL**, *editor*

Members serving as delegates to the American Angus Association's 131st Annual Convention of Delegates in Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 6, elected five new directors, a president and a vice president to help lead the organization

in the coming year. Elected to serve the Association as directors for three-year terms are Jerry Connealy, Whitman, Neb.; David Dal Porto, Brentwood, Calif.; John Grimes, Hillsboro, Ohio; James Henderson, Memphis, Texas; and Dave Nichols, Bridgewater, Iowa.

Steve Olson, Hereford, Texas, was elected Association president and chairman of the Board of Directors.

Jim Sitz, Dillon, Mont., was elected to serve as Association vice president and vice chairman of the Board of Directors. Charlie Boyd, May's Lick, Ky., was appointed by the Board to serve as the 2014-2015 treasurer.

A total of 305 elected delegates from 39 states; Washington, D.C.; and Canada represented Association members during the Convention of Delegates convened

at the KCI Expo Center in conjunction with the first-ever Angus Means Business National Convention & Trade Show.

Meet the officers

President Steve Olson developed a love for production agriculture while growing up on a farm and cattle operation south of Hereford, Texas. After receiving

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Elected to lead the American Angus Association Board of Directors in 2015 are (from left) Jim Sitz, Dillon, Mont., Association vice president and vice chairman of the Board; Steve Olson, Hereford, Texas, Association president and chairman of the Board; and Charlie Boyd, May's Lick, Ky., Association treasurer.



Candidates elected to serve their first three-year terms on the American Angus Association Board are (from left) Jerry Connealy, Whitman, Neb.; David Dal Porto, Brentwood, Calif.; Dave Nichols, Bridgewater, Iowa; James Henderson, Memphis, Texas; and John Grimes, Hillsboro, Ohio.

PHOTOS BY SHAUNA ROSE HERMEL

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a bachelor's degree in animal science from Texas A&M University in 1974, he returned to Hereford to begin a diversified agriculture operation with his wife, Ginger.

Living and working on the diversified farm and ranch has been Steve's lifelong occupation. The operation consists of a 200-head herd of registered- and commercial-Angus cows. Stocker cattle and commercial replacement heifers are wintered on wheat pasture and marketed in the spring. He has retained ownership of calves through the feedlot, marketing them on a grid basis. He utilizes consignment sales and private-treaty sales to market Angus cattle.

In addition to the cattle, crops of corn, wheat, sorghum silage and alfalfa hay are grown on an irrigated farm with center-pivot sprinklers.

Steve served two three-year terms on the Board of the American Angus Association, beginning in November 2006. During that time he garnered experience on committees including industry relations; breed improvement; information and data management; activities and events; communications and public relations, including as chairman; and two years on the Executive Committee.

Steve served on the boards of Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI), Angus Productions Inc. (API) and Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB), serving two years as chairman of CAB. He also served as the Board's chaplain and a representative to the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Product Enhancement Committee.

He succeeds Gordon Stucky of Kingman, Kan.

Jim Sitz owns and manages Sitz Angus Ranch along with his brother, Bob. Registered Angus were first brought home to the ranch in 1928 by their grandparents Will and Frieda Sitz. The herd has since grown to become one of the top sources of Angus genetics in the country.

The Sitz program markets more than 900 bulls each year to seedstock and commercial cattlemen throughout the United States. They also market both registered- and commercial-Angus females.

A graduate of Brigham Young University-Rexburg in Idaho, Jim holds a degree in business and agricultural management. He has served as president and two terms as a director of the Montana Angus Association, as well as serving on the Montana Beef Council for the Montana Stockgrowers Association.

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

Charlie Boyd's sons, Blake and Logan, represent the fifth generation of the Boyd family to be involved in the cattle business. Though Boyd Beef Cattle is a multi-generation seedstock business, it was Charlie who introduced the Angus herd that sons Blake and Logan intend to carry on.

The family-owned operation is managed by Charlie; his wife, Paula; their two sons; and Charlie's parents. The

Right: A total of 305 elected delegates from 39 states; Washington, D.C.; and Canada represented Association members during the 131st Annual Convention of Delegates in Kansas City, Mo.



PHOTOS BY KASEY BROWN

operation hosts two production sales each year, from which they derive 100% of the family's income for the farm.

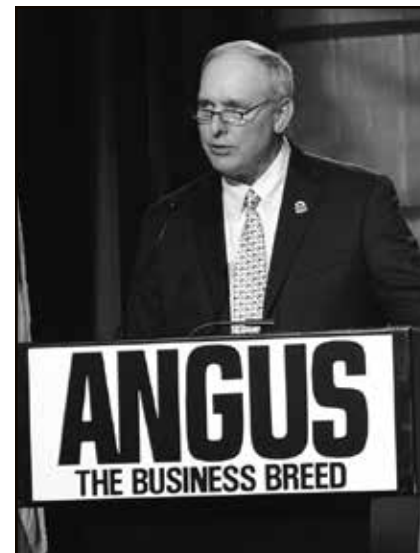
The family is active in the junior programs at the state and national level, and Charlie and Paula served as adult co-chairmen of the 2012 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS).

In 1987, Charlie earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from

the University of Kentucky, where he was active on the livestock judging team and was high individual at several contests. He continues to be recognized as a livestock evaluator, judging many breeds of cattle at the national level, including the NJAS, the National Western Stock Show, the North American International Livestock Exposition, the Atlantic National and the All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity.

Meet the new directors

Jerry Connealy is one of seven children raised on the family ranch south of Whitman, Neb., by his parents, Marty and Donnie. Jerry began artificially inseminating (AIing) cattle alongside his father at the age of 13 and returned to the ranch with his wife, Sharon, after graduating from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1981. They are



Gordon Stucky, Kingman, Kan., gave his outgoing address as 2013-2014 president.

joined on the ranch today by son Jed and his wife, Kara. Jerry and Sharon's other children are Ben, Hannah and Gabriel.

David Dal Porto was born in Oakley, Calif., where he was raised on his family's commercial cattle and farming operation. He and his wife, Jeanene, still manage their registered- and commercial-Angus operations near Oakley, Brentwood and other areas of northern California. They have three children, Lindsey, A.J. and Dawson.

John Grimes is a second-generation Angus breeder who was raised on his family's Angus and commercial cow-calf operation, Maplecrest Farms, near Decatur, Ohio, where the family remains involved in the farm's management and operation. He graduated with an animal science degree from Ohio State University in 1983 and returned home to manage the family farming operation. He and his wife, Joanie, have two daughters, Lindsey and Lauren.

James Henderson was born in Kerrville, Texas, as a fourth-generation rancher in the Texas Hill Country. He received a degree in animal science in 1977 from Texas A&M University, and moved to a career in the meatpacking and processing industry. In 2004, James married Mary Lou Bradley, and the couple continues the time-tested traditions of Bradley 3 Ranch. James has two daughters, Hayley and Mary Katherine.

Dave Nichols of Bridgewater, Iowa, was raised on his father's small cattle-feeding operation. Starting as a tenant farmer, Nichols Farms has now grown to 5,500 acres, breeding 1,500 head this spring and maintaining a small feedlot. Nichols Farms oversees the breeding of and marketing of an additional 1,500 cooperator and franchise cows. Nichols Farms' managing partners are Dave; his wife, Phyllis; and his sister-in-law, Lillian.

For more information about the directors, see their candidate bios in the October 2014 issue of the *Angus Journal*.