

Message from the Board

by Steve Andras, RAAA President

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Truly, A Great Convention!

Thanks and congratulations to the Southwest district and all who worked so hard to make this convention such a success. We had 334 registered attendees, our largest ever. Equally encouraging, we had one of our largest 'first time attendees' meeting.

Convention is a time to reflect on the past and to be inspired for, and be part of, the future. It is a wonderful time to greet old friends and to make new relationships that will last for decades. We gather as breeders with a common goal: the advancement of the Red Angus breed. Convention allows for personal and public dialogue where we can discuss opinions, philosophies, and have a hand in guiding breed direction and purpose. These are truly opportune times for everyone to be educated and to share opinions, without limitations. This is precisely why your attendance at the annual convention is so important.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize John Montgomery, Larry Croissant, and Seth Leachman for serving on your Red Angus board. We have been fortunate to have men willing to serve and represent us with their level of knowledge, foresight, and integrity. Gentlemen, thank you.

It has been my distinct honor to

serve with our past president Frank Wedel. Frank has served our Association with honesty, forthrightness, wisdom, and dignity. He has never wavered, and was always willing to make the right decisions for the betterment of the Association, no matter the difficulty or political costs. I admire the fact that his decisions were made thoughtfully and prayerfully. He has truly been an example for all who served with him...Thank you Frank.

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It is with similar passion for this breed, I am taking the reigns. I must acknowledge and thank so many of you for your support and encouraging words as your new president. Your confidence toward me is humbling and it does not go unnoticed, nor unappreciated. The

future is at hand, and I would like to welcome our new board members: Laurence Mendoza, Esther Fischer, Tommy Coley, Ryan Ludvigson, and Forest Dunning. These are exciting times to be a leader in such a progressive organization as this, and I look forward to working side by side with each of you.

Lastly, I want to thank you, the Red Angus membership, for your support in electing me as your new president. I covet your prayers, support, understanding, and suggestions as we all press forward into a new era as Red Angus breeders. ■