

## RAAA Board of Directors

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# Message from the Board

by Joe Mushrush, 1st Vice President/ District 6 Director - Midwest

## The more things change, the more they stay the same.

Reflecting back upon the past holiday season, I was reminded of the old adage, "The more things change, the more they stay the same." Our family is definitely changing. The kids are growing and maturing as they broaden their horizons and prepare to enter adulthood.

During semester break, both college boys brought home girls to 'meet the family' for the first time. In an effort to entertain the girl friends and embarrass their brothers, the younger siblings dug out a box containing two decades worth of old photographs depicting various antics of the Mushrush household. As we went through the photographs, telling the stories that went with each, it was amazing how each kid's personality, which makes them who they are today, was evident at a very early age.

Always one to look for a landing spot after making the leap, son #2 is a case in point. Yes, the same one that locked the babysitter in the bedroom and rode a trike down the basement stairs for the fun of it at age four appeared on national T.V. sitting on the goal post after Kansas State's stunning upset over Texas this past November.

What do cute stories about Mushrush kids have to do with the Red Angus Association of America? Quite a bit actually. Just like our family has grown and changed over the years, the RAAA also has also matured and developed. Inevitably this brings changes, as our associa-

tion as well as the people determine which paths they will take. Unfortunately this has been the undoing of some breed associations as they lacked a common focus and direction. Fortunately for us, our Red Angus personality was well grounded in its infancy.

In 1954, Waldo Forbes wrote what has become Core Policy #1. It remains in Waldo's own words still today:

*The policy of the (Red Angus) Association is to discourage the more artificial practices in purebred cattle production... and to place its faith instead in objective tests, consisting for the most part of comparisons within herds of factors of known economic importance and known heritability....By making this an integral part of the registration system, Red Angus breeders feel that even faster progress can be made toward the ultimate goal of more efficient beef production.*

**Just as in our early years, we still are a performance driven breed. Our main function is still to provide bulls for our commercial customers.**

Just as in our early years, we still are a performance driven breed. Our main function is still to provide bulls for our commercial customers. Bulls that have the most objectively described and accurately predicted genetics in the industry. And we are still the first to grasp cutting edge technologies and methods to obtain these predictions.

When you invest in genetics this spring, have confidence that when it comes to Red Angus 'the more things change, the more things stay the same'. ■