

Candidates seek seat for Area 9 - Midwest

Larry Ellison has decided to withdraw his name as a candidate for Area 9 - Midwest for a second term because of a major illness in his immediate family, and due to starting a new business venture that will require a significant amount of his time.

Two members have added their names to the candidate list for the RAAA Board of Directors' seat.

Dr. Dave (Doc) Hehli



Dr. Dave (Doc) Hehli of Strum, Wis., is seeking election to the position of Director for Area 9 – Midwest.

Hehli is a 1968 graduate of Marquette Dental School and has been married to his wife Mary for 51 years. They have four children and 14 grandchildren. Pete, Todd and Beth are

all dentists and Angie is a dental hygienist. No, they didn't talk dentistry around the supper table! In the mid-1980s, Hehli owned 33 dental offices, the most in the U.S. at that time. He also has been the president of the American Academy of Dental Group Practice.

He grew up on a 320-acre Wisconsin dairy farm. He bought his first Red Angus in 1996. His seedstock and show cattle trace back to Bootjack, Messmer and other great donor cows.

Damar Farms has 1,200 momma cows and about 600 embryos are transferred each year. Damar's goal is to have a complete registered herd. They sell 150-200 bulls at Lorenzen Ranch's spring sale and 100 on their own sale. The Best of Both Worlds female sale is usually the last Saturday in September.

Hehli would like to do his part to help Red Angus grow on both the bull and the show side. His passion is raising good, sound Red Angus. It's particularly pleasing to him to see the growing number of young people involved in the Red Angus show ring.

Kurt Rich



Kurt Rich of Vinton, Iowa, is seeking election to the position of Director for Area 9 – Midwest. Kurt and his wife Jane make their living raising seed corn, commercial corn, soybeans, hay and Red Angus cattle on 2,000 acres in east central Iowa. They have four sons, a daughter and three grandchildren.

In the early 1980s, Kurt's dad purchased two Red Angus heifers at the Iowa Beef Expo for the two oldest boys, and today Rich Red Angus consists of over 130 cows.

Rich Red Angus utilizes In Vito fertilization, embryo transfer, AI and top-quality herd sires in their breeding program with the emphasis on the momma cow.

Raising seedstock has been one of the most rewarding adventures in the family business. Calving season is like Christmas every day and then to raise and care for those calves to see what they become is exciting.

Rich Red Angus markets some of their elite genetics through spotlight sales and the Kick-Off Classic Female Sale, and they market their bulls through the Finch/Rich Bull Sale. They have sold genetics from Mexico to Canada and Maine to Oregon, but Kurt says his greatest thrill is to sell a bull to a cowman or cow woman who take home their first Red Angus bull and come back and buy bulls year after year.

Service is a very important aspect of Kurt's life having served on the school board and local agriculture production boards. He is a Sunday school teacher and elder of the Oak Grove Church. Kurt believes that it's by God's grace and mercy that he and his bride Jane have been blessed with their family, the ability to work with God's creation and to be a farmer.