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# **Association Commentary**

by Dr. Bob Hough, Executive Secretary

We had a great Convention this year at Kerrville with the largest attendance in history. The Southwest was an excellent host, and we had lively, enthusiastic committee meetings. I was especially pleased with the membership participation and passion for issues and the breed. Although there were differences, there were more similarities aimed at making Red Angus the Number One Performance breed in the industry with a leading commercial bull market share.

Although Conventions are primarily happy events, it is also a time of reflection for the excellent leaders that are retiring from the Board. First among these is President Frank Wedel. Frank was a great leader who was level headed and far sighted. I think an analogy for his presidency would be the presidencies of Melvin Leland and Lee Leachman. Under Melvin, the Association adopted an aggressive plan of work that was largely implemented while Lee was president. A similar situation occurred when a plan of work was developed under Frank's presidential predecessor, Harold Hughes, and then it was during Frank's tenure that it was largely implemented. I think history will rightly judge Frank as one of Red Angus' impact presidents.

Also leaving the Board are John Montgomery, Seth Leachman and Larry Croissant. Each made an

imprint in their own way. John was an independent thinker who always did what he thought was best for the breed on the whole. He also served on the constitution and by-laws committee with distinction, tackling the issue of president accession. Seth was a long time Board member who served on a number of committees including the show and sale. He always managed to keep the mood light just when it was needed. Larry Croissant distinguished himself on the demanding technical committee, and had one of the most balanced backgrounds both feeding cattle as well as raising seedstock.

The Convention also brings the excitement of new leadership and new board members. Steve Andras is perhaps one of the most experienced people to ascend to the presidency having served on and off the board since 1994. Also new to the executive committee is Joe Mushrush. Joining the board are Forest Dunning, Esther Fischer, Ryan Ludvigson, Laurence Mendoza and Tommy Coley. This is the largest board turnover during my twelve year tenure at Red Angus, so I am looking forward to the dynamics of the new personalities.

Again, I would like to congratulate the Southwest on hosting a great convention, and I look forward to another great year for Red Angus. ■