



RAAA National Convention- A Junior's Perspective

By Amber Leaf, JRA President,
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With a cattle sale in the ballroom of our hotel and a temporary barn that was a tent in the hotel parking lot, for me, Convention was awesome! For those of you juniors that have never been to Convention, it is a time where we have the chance to mingle and share thoughts with the adults in the Association, to attend committee meetings and observe the business workings of the Red Angus Association of America.

To give an idea of what happened at Convention for us juniors, here is a day by day breakdown.

Wednesday: The JRA Board arrived in San Antonio, Texas. We had the chance to go to the River Walk and the Alamo, and once our whole crew had arrived, we headed to Kerrville. Upon arrival, we were able to attend a social where we had fajitas and appetizers. There was even a mariachi band! After all that fun, we had tons of work left to do! We had to get our display set up. We set up the photo contest pictures, which were silent auctioned. We had the entries from the power point contest playing on a computer. Plus, we had a display board that included all of the fun things that we do throughout the year. We also sold Red Angus clothing for one of our fundraisers.

Thursday: After a late night on Wednesday, Thursday morning came way too fast. Thursday started with our "One heck of a year!" presentation that the JRA Board gave. It recapped everything that we have done in the past year and thanked everyone for all of their support. Thursday afternoon we had our Junior Activities Committee meeting and the Show and Sale committee meeting. After all of the work was done, we all headed out to the YO Ranch. There we got to see all sorts of wild, Safari type of animals. We even got to feed giraffes and camels! Plus, we had an awesome steak dinner from Meyer Natural Angus. After that full day, it was time to head back to the hotel for a little bit of shut eye! Well, sort of, the Junior Board was on barn security for the night (watching over the History In The Making Sale con-



signments) so we all had to take a shift to make sure the cows in the parking lot were safe.

Friday: Friday morning included meetings, caucuses and elections for the Senior Association. After some lunch, the "History in the Making" sale started. As juniors, we need to be especially thankful because the 5L Ranch, the Mehlhoff family from Sheridan, Mont., donated a flush from the buyer's choice of any cow in their program! This donation flush was the lead off lot in the Sale and all of the proceeds went to the JRA. Brian and Karen Whisnand, Whitewright, Texas, purchased the flush. Plus, the Canadian AA donated Calgary Stampede posters and a ceramic Red Angus cow that were auctioned off to support the JRA. Marcine Moldenhauer, Cargill Meat Solutions, Wichita, Kan., donated 32 Sterling Silver Steaks to auction for us. After the sale, the Junior Board met for their board meeting, and then we all went and got fancied up for the banquet. At the banquet, many RAAA awards are presented, including the Outstanding Junior of

the Year. This year, Megan Minten, New York Mills, Minn., was the hard working junior who received that award. Convention was concluded with the banquet.

The JRA thanks everyone who so generously supports our programs and activities!

Those who purchased Calgary posters: Marcine Moldenhauer, Wichita, Kan.; Thistle Farms, Lillian Yontz, Senecaville, Ohio; Mont Vue Farms, Dr. John and Gayle Montgomery, Lenoir City, Tenn.; Coley Cattle Company, Birmingham, Iowa; Bola Red Angus, Ken and Marja Bower, Forestburg, Texas; and Looking Glass Farm, Brian Heinz, Roseburg, Ore. Gini and Jack Chase, Buffalo Creek Red Angus, Leiter, Wyo., purchased the ceramic cow.

Those who purchased steaks: Sonsetegard Cattle Co., Montevideo, Minn.; Hurley and Sarah Jenkins, Jenkins Red Angus, Caddo Mills, Texas; Two Bit Ranch, John and Carla Eklund, Van Alosty, Texas; Ocho Vaca Red Angus, Brent and Patti Johnson, Nunn, Colo.

Those who purchased semen: Ray and Gwyn Atkinson, Atkinson Red Angus, Pulaski, Tenn.; Harr Ranch, Maureen Harr, Richland, Mont.; 5 Mile Cattle Services, North Platte, Neb.

Fischer Red Angus, Ron and Esther Fischer, Harlowtown, Mont. - purchased embryos. Those who purchased JRA Photo Contest entries: Alaina Burt, Jacobson, Minn.; Gini Chase, Leiter, Wyo.; Jean Croissant, Briggsdale, Colo.; Sue Sliger, Barry, Texas; Sue Dunning, Sheridan, Wyo.; Montgomery Dempsey, Millington, Tenn.; Lane Ladewig, Forestburg, Texas; Jo Forbes, Sheridan, Wyo.

Wayne and Judy Kay Ferguson, Lewisville, Texas, and their family - who donated a framed, original Red Angus oil painting from the 50th anniversary Convention! The painting was purchased by Richard Luciano, R2 Ranch, Fisher, Texas. Proceeds from the painting were divided equally between the JRA and the Texas Junior Red Angus Association. Looking Glass Farms, Brian Heinze, Roseburg, Ore, who donated a B-B-Q set.

Convention makes for a few busy days, but it sure is worth it. I am excited to see what Convention 2007 in Dodge City, Kansas brings! ■