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Board Commentary

by Steve Andras, RAAA President

An Association in Capable Hands

We have much to be proud of in Denton.

I'd like to start by thanking Ann Holsinger for her labors as interim-Executive Secretary. Ann is a very capable individual and we are fortunate to have had such a competent leader step to the helm to take on the responsibilities of Executive Secretary. Ann, we sincerely thank you for your hard work and for your dedication to the success of our great breed Association.

It is always a privilege to welcome new staff members to our Red Angus family. This past March, we hired Mikalena Randazzo as Commercial Marketing Specialist. Mikalena graduated in 2007 with an Animal Science degree from Oklahoma State University. At the time of her hiring, she was serving the Red Angus Association as an intern with the FCCP's supplier evaluation process. In her new position, Mikalena will assist producers and feeders with enrollment and other FCCP functions. She will also serve as content manager of RAAA's website, and help Red Angus breeders with marketing efforts through website links, listings and providing sale catalog data.

By means of a staff development program, our own Kip Lewis, RAAA Director of Information Technology, recently completed testing to become a Red Hat Certified Engineer (RHCE). Red Hat Certified Engineer (RHCE) is a performance-based test that measures actual competency on live systems, and is considered the "crown jewel" of Linux certifications. The RHCE exam is a grueling 5 1/2 hour "hands-on" exam where Kip was presented with different "broken-system" scenarios, and given a time limit to fix them. Further, Kip achieved a 100% pass rate on each section of his RHCE exam. Kip performs a number of IT roles for RAAA; his pri-

mary responsibility is maintaining the function and security of the Red Angus database, which operates on Linux based servers. In addition to storing RAAA's data, these servers work constantly, executing every web-based data search, ProCow listing, EPD lookup and workgroup generated by the registration department. It is good to know we've got such a competent individual in charge of such an integral part of RAAA's operation. Congratulations Kip on a job well-done.

This past month, Betty Grimshaw celebrated her 40th year with the Red Angus Association. Betty has been an integral part of the office staff for decades and we are fortunate to have her leadership, experience and wisdom. The Denton office is a well-oiled machine, and due in no small part to Betty keeping things organized and marching forward. On behalf of a grateful membership, thank you Betty.

Your Red Angus Board of Directors has hired Greg Comstock as Executive Secretary of our great breed. I would like to personally thank the many, highly-qualified applicants that took the time to apply for the Executive Secretary position. We are very fortunate to have Greg take the reigns, as one who not only knows the nut-and-bolts workings of this Association, but has tremendous understanding and insight into the beef industry. We are quite proud to have had Greg serve this Association over the past five years and look forward to his leadership in the years to come. Greg, thank you for your dedication to the continued success of our great breed.

I am proud to work with each of these, in addition to the rest of the Red Angus staff in Denton. We have the very best working for us and from the membership to the staff, we say "thank you" and keep up the great work. ■