

Soon Accepting Nominations

From April through June, members of the American Angus Association can nominate themselves or other members to represent their district.

by *Shauna Rose Hermel*

If you are an active life or active regular member of the American Angus Association, in a couple of weeks you will receive a mailing asking you to nominate someone from your state or district to represent you as a delegate to the Annual Convention in Louisville, Ky., this fall.

While casting a nomination seems routine, each year nominations and ballots are cast incorrectly, and therefore not counted. And questions often arise as to why someone was or wasn't on the ballot. In this article, we want to clarify the process and the rules surrounding it to make sure your nomination is counted.

Representative government

Rather than having membership meetings, the Association Bylaws specify that the business of the Association will be conducted by a Convention of Delegates selected by the membership to represent them. Article III, Section 3 details how delegates are to be chosen and the scope of what they are asked to do (see the *Breeder's Reference Guide* available online at www.angus.org to read Article III, Section 3 in full).

Nominating someone to serve as a delegate is the first step in selecting the voting body that will elect officers and directors to the Board and vote on any changes to the Association's Charter and Bylaws that may be considered in November. It's an important responsibility. Last November, the delegates elected five individuals from a slate of 10 candidates to serve on the Board of Directors and approved four amendments to the Association Bylaws.

YOUR ASSOCIATION *Your Business* THIS MONTH: Nominating Delegates

In February we embarked on a series of articles highlighting the structure and rules governing the American Angus Association with the goal of helping you make the most of your membership experience. Last month we looked at the committee structure of the American Angus Association. This month we look at the process for nominating delegates to the Annual Convention of Delegates.

Three of those amendments actually clarified who could nominate delegates and who could be nominated, as well as how to resolve instances in which multiple individuals representing a single membership are nominated.

"The amendment revisions were offered to the delegates in an effort to more clearly define the intent they were written in, to provide one membership with one vote," explains Don Laughlin, Association director of member services.

The nomination process

During the last week of March, members will be mailed a nomination form that looks a little different than in the past (see Fig. 1). The new form is intended to make it clearer

that this is a nomination form determining the slate of nominees (it is not a voting ballot) and how to properly fill out and submit the form. Each form is customized for its receiver, so your nomination form will have your name, address, member number, etc., already filled out. All you have to do is write in a nominee, with their address and information, sign the nomination form, and return it.

Each active life and each active regular member is allowed to nominate one "eligible" member who "resides" in the nominator's state or district. To be eligible to be a delegate, an individual has to be an active life or active regular member of the Association. For a life member, that means they must have registered an animal through the Association within the last three years. A regular member is considered active if they have joined the Association in one of the last two fiscal years or have paid annual dues in the current fiscal year.

The Bylaws specify that the term "resides" means the district in which the nominator/nominee engages in breeding and registration of Angus cattle. However, no member can be a nominee from more than one state.

As clarified at last November's Annual Convention, each membership can nominate only one person. It's best to nominate someone who is willing, if elected, to attend the Annual Convention. Otherwise, your state may miss out on votes to which it is entitled.

If you want to see who from your state is available to nominate, a handy option is to do a Member Lookup on the Association's website. When you visit www.angus.org, toward the upper left corner there is a Membership Search. Type in the name of your state or use the drop-down menu to select your state, then click the magnifying glass to conduct the search. This will produce a list of active life and active regular members in your state as of the day you do the search (They'll need to keep their membership active to be placed on the ballot). Only 30 will fit on a page, so be sure to click through other pages.

The Member Search is also a handy way to find the member code and address of the individual you are nominating to include on the nomination form.



If you know who you want to nominate, but want to get his or her address information, you can search for an individual. Rather than specifying a state, just click the magnifying glass. You'll get a page where you can narrow the search to a membership name within a state, for instance.

Remember, too, it is quite appropriate to nominate yourself.

Once you nominate someone, be sure to sign the nomination form! Otherwise, the nomination is not executed properly, and it cannot be considered.

CEO Bryce Schumann will accept nominations at the American Angus Association April 1-June 30. Be sure to give the U.S. Postal Service ample time to deliver your nomination.

Nominations are verified and entered individually into the Association's electronic system as they are received. A ballot is formed for each district (state or territory), with the names of all the eligible nominees listed in the order received. So, if you want your nominee to be listed toward the top of the ballot, send your nomination in as soon as you get the nomination form.

If multiple people representing one membership are nominated, the Association will make its best effort to contact the individuals to give them a choice as to which one individual should be placed on the ballot. For instance, the Association may receive nominations for both a husband and a wife who have a single membership under a farm or ranch name. They would be contacted to see which one of them they would rather have listed on the ballot. In cases where no one can be reached, the first nomination received will be placed on the ballot.

Each district's ballot will specify the date of the Annual Convention and the number of delegates and alternate delegates to which the district is entitled.

Number of delegates

That number is dependent on how many active regular and active life members the district has on April 30 of the current year and the number of registrations processed for the district during the prior fiscal year. (Canada is considered a district, as is each state or territory of the United States.)

Each district is automatically entitled to one delegate and one alternate delegate. In addition, each district is entitled to an additional delegate/alternate delegate for every 100 active life or regular members within the district as of April 30 (rounded up or down to the nearest whole delegate number) and for every 3,000 registrations recorded from the district in the prior fiscal year. If a state has more than 25 active life and active regular members but not more

Fig. 1: American Angus Association Delegate Nomination Form

This form will be mailed prior to April 1 to active members of the American Angus Association.

AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION®
Nomination of Candidate for Delegate
to the November 14, 2011 Annual Convention

<p>Member Name Member Address 1 Member Address 2 City, State Zip</p>	<p>Member Code Member Email Address Member Herd State Member Phone Number</p>
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This nomination is made by the undersigned, a member of the American Angus Association.

Signature _____

★ **Mail this signed nomination form to the Chief Executive Officer,**
American Angus Association, 3201 Frederick Avenue, St. Joseph, Missouri 64506. ★
The form must be received no later than JUNE 30, 2011.

Bryce F. Schumann
 Bryce F. Schumann, Chief Executive Officer

Nomination procedures are set forth in the Bylaws of the American Angus Association in Article III Convention of Delegates, Section 3.6 Nomination of Delegates. The Bylaws can be found in the Rules and Forms section at www.angus.org and in the Breeder's Reference Guide.

- Use this form to nominate a member to be placed on the ballot to elect delegates and alternates from your state or district. (This is not a vote to elect a delegate.)
- Delegates elect the President and Chairman of the Board, the Vice President and Vice Chairman of the Board, and members of the Board of Directors at the Annual Convention. Delegates vote on proposed amendments to the Charter and the Bylaws of the Association.
- A member can nominate himself or herself.
- Each membership can send in only one nomination.
- Only one individual from each membership can be placed on the ballot.
- It is best to nominate a member who, if elected, will attend the Annual Convention.
- Names are placed on the ballot in order of date received as directed in the Bylaws.
- After the nomination period closes on June 30, ballots are prepared and mailed to members for voting.

I NOMINATE:

Name of Nominee _____

Membership or Farm Name _____

Nominee's Member Code _____

Rural Route or Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

IMPORTANT: The nomination form must be signed.

►Note that this is not an official form. Your official form will be mailed to you the last week of March and will have your name and member information at the top of the page.

than 150 and fewer than 3,000 registrations in the prior fiscal year, it is entitled to an additional delegate and alternate delegate.

So, if your state has 480 eligible members and registered 25,000 head through the American Angus Association, it would be entitled to 1 + 5 + 8 = 14 delegates and 14 alternate delegates.

While the number of registrations recorded in the last fiscal year is already determined, to ensure your state gets its full voice at this year's annual convention, remind members from your district to make sure their membership is active by April 30.

"Participation in the nomination process is an important first step in helping guide the direction of the American Angus

Association," emphasizes Schumann. "The strength of your organization relies on grassroots participation; it is a fundamental part of the process. Choosing to participate means you have helped to shape the governance of our organization."

The next step at which you can participate in the process will be voting for the nominees placed on the ballot for your district that you want to serve as delegates. The Bylaws specify ballots be mailed to the membership at least 120 days prior to the Annual Convention of Delegates, which will be mid-July. We'll follow up with an article in the July *Angus Journal* to explain how to cast your ballot to elect delegates to represent your state or territory.