

Will Your Ballot Count?

Follow these tips to make sure it will.

by *Shauna Rose Hermel*

In last year's delegate election process, 4,084 ballots were received by the deadline, but only 3,968 were counted. Including the ballots that arrived late, 190 ballots weren't included in the election process. Here are some tips to make sure your ballot counts this year.

Nominations of delegates to the American Angus Association's Convention of Delegates closed June 30. Those nominated will be checked to make sure they are active members and that only one representative per membership is presented on the ballot. Ballots will be drawn up by state and mailed to active regular and life members. Nominees will be listed on the ballot in the order in which their nomination was received.

Members have until Aug. 16 to vote for whom they would like to represent them in Louisville Nov. 14. To ensure your vote is counted:

► **Be sure your membership is current.**

Only active regular and life members as of July 1 will receive a ballot.



In February we embarked on a series of articles to highlight the structure and rules governing the American Angus Association with the goal of helping you make the most of your membership experience. We started with a look at the Association's committee structure. In March we explained the process of nominating delegates to the Annual Convention, in April we presented a brief overview of how the Board functions, and in May we discussed how to run for the Board. This month we discuss tips for making sure your ballot to vote for state delegates counts.

► **Turn it in on time.** Last year, 74 ballots arrived after the deadline and, by rule, were

not counted. According to the bylaws, ballots must be received 90 days prior to the Annual Convention of Delegates, meaning this year they must be received by CEO Bryce Schumann by Tuesday, Aug. 16. Don't count on the mail getting to Saint Joseph in two or three days. When you receive your ballot in mid-July, fill it in and return it.

► **Sign your ballot.** Last year, 100 members failed to sign their ballot. Your ballot can't be counted unless it has your signature.

► **Vote for the correct number of delegates.** The election ballot will say how many delegates your state is entitled to have at the convention. Vote for no more than that number. If your state is eligible for seven delegates and you vote for eight, your ballot will be null and void. You can, however, vote for fewer than the allowed number. So, in the instance above, if you were to vote for six members, your six votes would count.

You can write in the name/address of and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 72

Will Your Ballot Count? CONTINUED FROM PAGE 50

vote for an active life or regular member from your state who is not presented on the ballot. Remember, write-in votes count in your number of votes.

► **Mark your ballot correctly.** This year's ballot will look a little different, but the instructions will be clearly marked. To vote for someone, completely fill in the oval beside the name using a No. 2 pencil or a black or blue ballpoint pen. Don't use a felt tip pen. Xs and checkmarks will not register in the automated tallying.

At its June meeting the American Angus Association Board of Directors elected two election observers — Landi McFarland of Iowa and Gerald Theis of Kansas — to come to Saint Joseph Wednesday, Aug. 17, to oversee the counting of ballots. These two people are responsible for making sure the voting is done properly and for answering any questions that might arise.

It takes about two weeks to certify every state's delegate list. Membership status is again checked. As spelled out in the bylaws,

ties are broken by drawing names. The person receiving the most votes within the state will be elected chairman. Once certified, the list of delegates and alternates for each state is posted online at www.angus.org (about Sept. 1) and published in the *Angus Journal* (October issue).



Editor's Note: *If you have additional questions about the delegate election process, contact Schumann or Diane Strahm at 816-383-5100.*