

NHW Passing on the Baton

The song “Auld Lang Syne” always conjures up friendship memories at the beginning of a new year, but it is just as appropriate when the National Hereford Women (NHW) board of directors say goodbye to retiring members and welcome new members during the organization’s annual meeting each fall. This event is just one of several that were on the board’s agenda Oct. 31 to Nov. 2, during the American Royal in Kansas City, Mo.

November is the month of leadership changes for NHW. Carol Priefert, NHW president, presented the gavel to President-elect Alise Nolan during the organization’s annual meeting on Saturday, Nov. 1.

“I am so pleased to have served as NHW’s president during the last year, and I know that there is not a more qualified person to pass the gavel to than Alise,” Priefert says. “She has great leadership qualities, enthusiasm and experience she brings to the position. The NHW is truly blessed.”

Priefert says she is grateful for the board being forward thinking and the positive results it means for NHW’s mission — supporting

Hereford youth. “NHW continues to keep raising funds and planning events and programs for our youth. Annually awarding more than \$10,000 in scholarships, contests and awards, sponsoring well-attended events like the CHB (Certified Hereford Beef) grill-off contest and leading the National Hereford Queen program and its sponsorship are what we do best.”

Five board members are retiring, following their four-year board commitments: Shannon Mehaffey, Grandview, Texas; Susan Hayhurst, Terre Haute, Ind.; Lori Riffel-Hambright, Chapman, Kan.; Catie Sims, Edmond, Okla., and Denise Billman, Newcomerstown, Ohio.

“What we do, what we build, is to benefit our Hereford youth,” Hambright says. “That has been my goal as an NHW board member. As we were a new board blending the histories, goals and objectives of two major separate women’s boards, many more challenges were added to the plate. I believe we have championed that cause and have even more exciting and new programs that our now 12-member board will be doing in the coming years. I thank my fellow NHW board members for their friendship, their insight and especially their willingness, also, to volunteer many hours and dollars to our ‘Hereford cause’ of promoting Herefords and our youth.”

The next NHW column will detail the newly elected board members, officers and committees as well as the schedule of social and networking events for 2015.

Queen program to celebrate milestone

The National Hereford Queen program will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2015. It is one of the oldest breed queen programs in the nation, and it has given hundreds of young women opportunities to

grow in leadership, poise and public speaking. These women have also developed a stronger understanding of the Hereford breed and its breeders, agriculture and the livestock industry and have assisted in the development of future Hereford leaders.

“This program would not be possible without the support of all the breeders who welcome the state and national queens and encourage Hereford youth,” says Priefert. “The new queen sponsorship program is making sound strides and we welcome your participation at several different levels.”

Queen program sponsors are listed on the NHW website, HerefordWomen.com. Contact Suzanne Matheny, queen chair, 606-584-0557 for program information.

NHW to partner with CHB

CHB LLC’s Andrew Brooks recently asked NHW to help promote the brand. “There is a great story to tell when you are a part of the Hereford heritage,” Brooks says. “That story is what connects the consumer to our end product of CHB. NHW will be a great partner in communicating the merits of our product.”

Brooks says he envisions NHW contributing to the CHB blog, co-hosting Twitter parties, continuing to partner at the Junior National Hereford Expo through the CHB grill-off and assisting with event speaking engagements.

“NHW is very excited about this new opportunity with CHB, and we look forward to marshalling our resources to further promote Hereford beef,” Priefert says. “I am confident our membership and potential members will see this as an important step in furthering our mission.” **HW**

National Hereford Women

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President – Carol Priefert, *St. Joseph, Mich.*

President elect – Alise Nolan, *Gilmer, Texas*

Vice president – Shannon Mehaffey, *Grandview, Texas*

Treasurer – Beth Blinson, *Buies Creek, N.C.*

Secretary – Susan Hayhurst, *Terre Haute, Ind.*

Historian – Lori Riffel-Hambright, *Chapman, Kan.*

Queen co-chairwoman – Carol Priefert

Ways and means chairwoman – Alise Nolan

Communications – Lori Riffel-Hambright

DIRECTORS

Michelle Beran, *Clafin, Kan.*

Denise Billman, *Newcomerstown, Ohio (ex officio)*

Lauren Echols, *Arlington, Va.*

Suzanne Matheny, *Mays Lick, Ky.*

Maddee Moore, *Pendleton, Ore.*

Catie Sims, *Edmond, Okla.*

Becky King-Spindle, *Moriarty, N.M.*

HerefordWomen.com