

Reflections

Stop. Look. Listen. These are three words you probably learned as early as elementary school as the three steps of safety when crossing a road. The last three years on the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) board have made both of us stop, look and listen. With the encouragement and support of state associations and our families, we chose to “stop” and fill out the application to be an NJHA board candidate. Not only did we “look” for the opportunity to serve as NJHA board members, but we had a desire to give back to the association that has so greatly touched both of our lives.

This next step is what most people seem to pass over without taking it seriously. Each of us “listened” to mentors in our lives. These special people ultimately directed us in our decision-making processes while sharing their wisdom. We took the time to “listen” to the concerns of parents and juniors because this is what being a board member is truly about — lending a helping hand and making juniors’ involvement in NJHA a positive experience. It has

always been our goal to leave our legacy by being the leaders we would want to follow.

What a neat experience it has been to become friends with so many of the Hereford breeders and juniors. Thank you to everyone for allowing us to have the opportunity to serve on the board.

We would like to say thank you to our amazing families and friends for all that you have done and continue to do to help us along the way.

Many doors open and close throughout each chapter of your life, and it is important that you “stop,” “look” and “listen” to what you feel is best suited for your talents. We have loved serving you the last three years, but it is our time to pass the torch to another set of highly qualified group of leaders. Take this time to become more active in the contests at the Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) this summer. This is a perfect way to begin polishing your skills and abilities to become a more equipped leader in the future. Can’t wait to see you in Indy!

— **Katlin Mulvaney and Kimber Evans**

When we ran for the board in 2007, we never could have imagined what all was in store for us following the handing down of the blazers at the banquet. For Hannah it was Mark Sullivan and for Kandi it was Catie Sims. But regardless of which retiring board member handed us our maroon blazers that year, it is the experiences we have had while serving our association in those blazers that has forever changed our lives.

Although three years may seem like a long time, our three years as junior directors have flown by, filled with late nights in the barns tying calves out long after everyone else has left the barns after the banquet, learning to navigate Kansas City without a map and without a single person with a sense of direction, watching a midnight showing of “Hairspray” in Memphis while waiting for other board members’ flights to arrive, finding pharmacies in Reno in the middle of the night

in a cab, logging countless airline miles, sending numerous texts to the rest of our board stating that Kandi and Hannah are rockstars, seeing awesome cattle and making some of the best friends in the entire world by just working together to better our association. We have watched as our breed continues to grow within the beef industry, and we couldn’t be more excited about the future!

Our experiences on the board have taught us that it doesn’t matter if you have 2,500 cows at home or three show heifers, your unique involvement in the industry is what allows the NJHA to develop creative and innovative programs and ideas tailored to all juniors, because every Hereford junior comes from a different Hereford background. Although more than 1,500 miles separate us, with Hannah being an East Coast Virginia girl and Kandi a true Texan, one never could imagine what close friends we would become. Yet in the end, if we would never have had the courage to get out of the stalls and become involved, our friendship might have never happened. Therefore, we owe it all to this amazing association.

It has been three wonderful and eventful years on the board, and as we come into the final stretch of our careers as junior members and junior directors, we would like to take a moment to encourage all of you juniors out there to take the time to reflect on your involvement in the Hereford, beef, and agriculture industries. You should be really proud of your Hereford involvement. Step out and meet other juniors, at junior nationals and Program for Reaching Individuals Determined to Excel (PRIDE) Convention and even on Facebook, and share your story as well as listen to the stories of other juniors.

It has been an honor to serve each of you as directors on the NJHA board and we look forward to seeing each of you in Indianapolis for the JNHE and in Idaho for PRIDE this summer. Safe travels and God Bless!

— **Hannah Wine and Kandi Knippa**

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