

NHW Thanks Leaders

During the National Hereford Women (NHW) meeting in late October, the organization welcomed new leaders to the board and thanked six women for their years of service.



Jill

Jill Tucker, N. Platte, Neb., is a new board member as a result of nomination and appointment.

She will fill the unexpired term of Della Ehlke, who submitted her resignation as a northwest area director.

Jill was born and raised in Pawnee, Okla. She was active showing cattle growing up. She attended Oklahoma State University and received a degree in hotel and restaurant management with a minor in marketing. Following college, she worked in various marketing positions with hotels and corporations.

Today, Jill is involved in the day-to-day operations of her family's cattle business with her husband, John. They have two sons, Blake, 15, and Mitchell, 11. The boys are extremely active in sports, high school rodeo and many other activities. Jill enjoys supporting the boys in all their endeavors. She has served in numerous leadership roles with the North Platte school system and as a den leader for the local Cub Scout chapter for the past eight years. In addition, she works part-time with a local kitchen and bath design center, overseeing its marketing efforts. In her spare time, she can be found landscaping around her home south of North Platte.

Jill, John and their boys have raised and shown Hereford cattle for the past eight years. Although John grew up in the Hereford business, Jill did not. She has developed a love of Hereford cattle and, most especially, the Hereford people. "They have been so welcoming to me and my family. I have learned so much about the breed as well as the organization behind it," Jill says. "The junior national is an incredible event. The experiences and opportunities it provides the kids, even beyond the showing, are outstanding. These memories are some of the fondest we have of our family vacations."

As a newly elected member of the NHW board, Jill is excited to learn more about the infrastructure of the Hereford organization and hopes to be of service, particularly in the areas of junior events and scholarships. "The juniors are our future, and anything we can do to help them achieve their goals and aspirations only better the breed," she says. "These kids have so many great ideas. We as adults can learn so much from them."

Founding directors retire

Gail Blagg, Deb Carlson, Donna Fulton and Susan Rader were the first of the NHW founding directors to retire. These women dedicated time and talent to their respective organizations prior to the inaugural year of NHW. See "Retiring directors' thoughts."

Brooke Gandy, southeast, and Katie Peebles, southwest, also join the retiring founding directors. They

came to the NHW board with a strong National Organization of Pollettes (NOP) background, continuing a family tradition. Both of their mothers previously had served on the NOP board.

Ways and means

The 2010 Junior Hereford National Expo (JNHE) in Indianapolis is long over. Ribbons were won, memories were made, and pictures were taken. Yet, in the minds and memories of many JNHE exhibitors, those six days made a lasting impression.

Those exhibitors' lives were touched by awards presented by the NHW. Some of those exhibitors walked away with substantial scholarships to assist in their educational goals; one lucky individual walked away with a heifer; four young ladies walked away with added bonus checks for exhibiting the heifer that they had purchased with the assistance of funds from the NHW the previous year. These are examples of just a few of many programs that are in existence due to the hard work and persistence of the NHW.

NHW members work year-round planning and executing ideas to generate funds that allow them to continue the rewards and stimulation of the Hereford youth. This year was the beginning of what we hope will be an annual ways and means project.

We have been talking about it, dropping clues, even giving previews. The final project has been named and is now entering its final phases. The original print

National Hereford Women

Officers and committee chairs

Cheryl Evans, co-president
Susan Gebhart, co-president
Jessye Goertz, vice president
Ann Guess, secretary
Shellie Collins, treasurer
Brook Herring-Gandy, parliamentarian
Barbara Ernst, historian
Margeaux Firestine, queen chairman
Denise Billman, ways and means chairman

NHW start-up team

Cheryl Evans, *Winona, Miss.*
Susan Gebhart, *Claremore, Okla.*
Cindy Lambert, *Oroville, Calif.*
Barbara Ernst, *Windsor, Colo.*
Susan Rader, *Mt. Vernon, Texas*
Donna Fulton, *Lexington, N.C.*
Shellie Moore Collins, *Chattanooga, Okla.*
Carolyn Wilson, *Anita, Iowa*
Margeaux Firestine, *Womelsdorf, Pa.*
Jessye Goertz, *Berwyn, Neb.*

AHW transition team

Deb Carlson, *Royal Center, Ind.*
Ann Guess, *Jayton, Texas*
Janelle Bischoff, *Huron, S.D.*
Della Ehlke, *Townsend, Mont.*
Gay Maddox, *Zionsville, Ind.*
Beth Burns, *Pikeville, Tenn.*
Paula Acheson, *Woodbine, Kan.*
Denise Billman, *Newcomerstown, Ohio*

NOP transition team

Mary Ann Berg, *Dalton, Ohio*
Katie Peebles, *Hotchkiss, Colo.*
Jeanine Radel, *Spring Green, Wis.*
Diann Strickland, *Merston, Ga.*
Courtney Wirtjes, *Durand, Ill.*
Brook Herring-Gandy, *Beaumont, Miss.*
Gail Blagg, *Grass Valley, Calif.*
Donna Curry, *McAlester, Okla.*



"Setting Precedence" by Amanda Raitchel

"Setting Precedence" by artist Amanda Raitchel was auctioned at the American Royal during the Boots & Brew social.

The proceeds will be divided between the NHW and the Hereford

Youth Foundation of America. This print is an exclusive limited edition with only 135 copies being made available. To obtain your copy, simply contact Denise Billman at herefordmom33@hotmail.com. The prints are \$90, and a remarked print is \$150. Shipping is additional and determined by actual cost. We look forward to offering a new, unique print at each American Royal for many years to come.

Retiring juniors, free membership

The NHW will offer women in their final year of National Junior

Hereford Association (NJHA) membership a paid, complimentary NHW membership. To promote and encourage NHW membership, the board will also wave dues for these members their second year of NHW membership. This decision is in accordance with the mission of the NHW — to promote women and youth of the Hereford breed.

The NHW board encourages all members to complete the Masters of Beef Advocacy Program. Information about the program is available on our Web site www.herefordwomen.com and blog www.barnaisle.blogspot.com. **HW**

Retiring directors' thoughts

Gail Blagg

As I retire from the founding board of the National Hereford Women (NHW), I see a great future ahead for this organization. I enjoyed every minute of service with the American Hereford Women and as a member of the founding NHW board.

I believe the consolidation of the women's organizations has been and will continue to be a positive thing for all the members. I believe this is especially true for the youth activities and Hereford promotions this group supports.

I can truly say in all the organizations I have served I have never encountered such a group with the dedication and vision of these ladies. These women truly believe in the Hereford breed. They have an unwavering faith in the youth and their impact on the future of the breed and the industry.

I will miss the e-mails and phone conference calls that made me feel connected to the breed and the industry on a national level. It was a great reminder of the many Hereford breeders out there near and far and a wonderful sense of camaraderie. I will remember and consider my fellow board members as friends always. I will look forward to seeing all the great things this group will continue to accomplish and highly recommend membership to all women interested in the breed and the youth that will keep our industry viable.

Deb Carlson

What a quick four years! My four years on the women's board has been a great growing experience for me. I have gotten to know many "great" Hereford women from all over the U.S. I truly believe "behind every good Hereford man is a good Hereford woman!"

The highlight of my tenure with the Hereford women was the annual spring board meeting outings; they were a great time to get to know and visit with fellow board members. After my four years with the Hereford women, I am not only going away as the "chore girl" for Carlson Cattle, I am an advocate for the Hereford breed.

During the school months, I will continue to serve as the 7th, 8th and 9th grade school counselor for Pioneer Jr./Sr. High School in Royal Center, Ind.

Summer vacation will find me in the showbarn our son-in-law built, working with the show string. I will also be in "Grandma Training," because Rachel will kick off our calving season the first of

March with our first grandchild. You will find me pushing a stroller around at junior nationals in Kansas City! Thanks for the memories.

Donna Fulton

I have enjoyed the opportunity to travel and meet many of the outstanding Hereford breeders across the country. One of the most rewarding experiences has been supporting the youth that continue to promote one of the foundation breeds of the country. As my tenure on the board comes to an end, I will continue to co-own and manage H&C Hereford Farm near Lexington, N.C., with my husband, Rodney, and my mother, Maxine Koontz. Our two daughters, Tristen and Abigail, are active in local, county, state, and national junior Hereford shows. I will also continue teaching at North Davidson High School.

Susan Rader

What an experience I have had for four years on the national board. It was a thrill last year to be part of the newly formed NHW.

My family has been in the Hereford business for over 25 years. My husband, Mike, and I have two children, Steven and Sara. Steven teaches high school ag science, and Sara is a sophomore at Tarleton State University.

We have all been very active with the Hereford industry. Serving as an officer and director and eventually president of the Texas Pollettes prepared me for the national board.

As both of my children have served in multiple offices and both as president of the Texas Junior Polled Hereford Association, Mike and I were head advisors. Working with the juniors and their parents was truly a blessing. Lifelong friendships were formed!

For the past 10 years, I have been secretary for the Northeast Texas Hereford Association. Getting the annual consignment sale ready each year has been exciting and, some years, a challenge.

I am employed with Jordan Health Services, one of the largest home health agencies in Texas, as an administrative assistant. This year marked my 10th year.

When I am not tending to the cattle, my hobbies include reading, oil painting (which I haven't had time to do in years), traveling and being with family.

Thanks to everyone who voted for me four years ago to be on the national board! It has truly been the most wonderful experience of a lifetime. **HW**