

NHW Honors Retiring Directors, Welcomes New Leaders

The welcome and warmth of fall brings the National Hereford Women (NHW) board to one of its favorite times of the year — the annual membership and board of directors' meetings, held during the American Royal in Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 1-3. In this column, NHW honors retiring directors, heralds new board members, offers a recap of the year's programs and successes, and launches a new queen program sponsorship effort.

Celebrating history

"Considering our initial two-year planning process of merging the National Organization of Poll-ettes and American Hereford Women, we are entering into our fifth year as National Hereford Women," Denise Billman, NHW president, says. "We are confident we have set a solid foundation, set standards high, and planned attainable goals. The 2014 NHW board, and henceforth, have all the tools they need to continue the education, enrichment and stimulation for our Hereford youth."

Part of NHW's treasured beginning is the group of women who stepped up to make

the merger happen. The last of the organization's founding directors retired during the fall annual meeting. Those who were recognized included Denise Billman, Newcomerstown, Ohio; Paula Acheson, Woodbine, Kan.; Shellie Collins, Chattanooga, Okla.; Jill Bielema, Ada, Mich.; Beth Burns, Pikeville, Tenn.; and Gay Maddox, Zionsville, Ind.

"The NHW board has grown leaps and bounds and we have these ladies and the others who went before them to thank. The organization will continue to only get better by empowering Hereford youth and women in the beef industry with knowledge, opportunity and drive," Billman says.

Annual meeting

Prior to the annual meeting on Saturday, Nov. 2, three new director nominees were selected, based on nominations from the membership. The nominees presented for election were Becky Long Chaney from Nebraska, Northwest quadrant; Maddie Moore, Oregon, Northwest quadrant; and Suzanne Boyd, Kentucky, Southeast quadrant.

"The three new directors will make for a very well rounded and equally distributed representation of the entire country on our board," Billman says.

NHW's Junior National Hereford Expo activities in Kansas City were also reviewed including the scholarship applications received and the outstanding juniors who received the awards. The creative arts contest continues to be a hit with the younger juniors, and the queen's tea made for wonderful memories.

"We're thrilled to sponsor the queen and princess event, where the younger members get a glimpse of what it's like to be the queen and her ladies-in-waiting," Billman says. "We're definitely keeping this activity as an NHW tradition."

Queen sponsorship program

The prestigious National Hereford Queen program is a centerpiece of commitment and pride for NHW. Being selected queen is an intense and rigorous process but worth the time and effort made to represent the breed throughout the country.

"As with any organization, we are always looking for new opportunities and programs," Billman says.

"Our National Hereford Queen is sponsored by NHW, but we do need support for her because it is a very expensive venture for these young ladies. In an effort to continue the growth of the queen program, we unveiled a new sponsorship program during the American Royal that we are confident will not only meet our needs but provide a wider opportunity for more breeders, businesses and organizations to be part of the queen program.

"There will be opportunities on various monetary levels. We realize that today planning, strategies and budgeting are essential, so we are also offering a variety of commitment levels. It may be a one-time donation, a set donation each year, or sponsorship of a particular outing where the National Hereford Queen represents the breed and the beef industry. We anticipate this sponsorship program will flourish and will allow for the continuation of this prestigious program."

President's farewell

"I've been truly blessed the last four years to have worked with incredible women from across our great country that share my enthusiasm not only for Hereford cattle but for the youth and what NHW stands for," Billman says. "I've made friends from ages 4 to 78, and I cherish all of them. I urge you to take a look around during the shows and see what these NHW ladies are doing. They need your support to continue all of the scholarships and wonderful programs." **HW**

National Hereford Women

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President – Denise Billman, *Newcomerstown, Ohio*

President elect – Lauren Echols, *Arlington, Va.*

Vice president/membership chairwoman – Paula Acheson, *Woodbine, Kan.*

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

Treasurer – Shellie Collins, *Chattanooga, Okla.*

Assistant treasurer – Beth Blinson, *Buies Creek, N.C.*

Parliamentarian – Beth Burns, *Pikeville, Tenn.*

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

Queen co-chairwomen – Jill Bielema, *Ada, Mich.;* Carol Preifert, *St. Joseph, Mich.*

Ways and means chairwoman – Denise Billman

Communications – Lori Riffel-Hambright

DIRECTORS

Mary Ann Berg, *Dalton, Ohio (ex officio)*

Gay Maddox, *Zionsville, Ind.*

Shannon Mehaffey, *Grandview, Texas*

Alise Nolan, *Gilmer, Texas*

Catie Sims, *Oklahoma City, Okla.*