

# AHW, NOP Members Form National Hereford Women

When Halloween is your birthday, it is easy to remember. The National Hereford Women (NHW) has just such a birthday — born on Oct. 31, 2009, as the result of an overwhelmingly positive vote by the membership.

The vote was the culmination of 10 months of preparation by the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC). The final proposal for the combination of the American Hereford Women (AHW) and National Organization of Poll-ettes (NOP) into one new entity had been thoroughly discussed, modified per member feedback and formulated to extend our legacy and retain the very best of both earlier organizations. Our members considered the proposal and approved it to move forward as one.

## The decision

AHW membership meeting vote:

70 yes; 0 no to combine\*

70 yes; 0 no to accept SPC proposal\*

\*proxy votes cast at the meeting included

NOP membership meeting vote:

45 yes; 15 no to combine by absentee

33 yes; 3 no to combine by attendees

35 yes; 5 no to accept SPC proposal\*

\*Four members who voted absentee on question 1 only then voted at the meeting on question 2

Two significant changes were made to the proposal as a result of member input and board action:

1) a simplification of the name to National Hereford Women in response to member suggestion and approval at the membership meetings and 2) a change in dues to \$20 per year or \$400 for lifetime in response to financial forecasts discussed at our board meeting.

Otherwise the proposal as presented in early September was unchanged and will be the plan for the coming year. In October 2010 we will review the documents of incorporation and organizational bylaws with our membership and ask for their input and approval of the dues amount and any additional changes made during the year. While we do not anticipate additional changes, we realize the process of incorporation and start-up might necessitate something additional.

## First NHW board meeting

After the vote to approve the combination, the 12 members of each board of directors met to form the combined NHW board of directors. Per the proposal the board is composed of 24 directors, 1 SPC advisor and 2 co-presidents (see list below). During this initial meeting, officers and initial committee assignments were decided. The board will immediately begin the task of managing all current programs while simultaneously taking the appropriate steps to transition all activities to NHW. Later this year the dissolution of both AHW and NOP will be completed. Plans are already under way for events to mark the retirement of AHW and NOP as well as an event to mark the first birthday of NHW, all in Kansas City next October.

## Membership and renewals

All of the current 800-plus members of AHW and NOP have been added to the initial membership roll for NHW. When renewal time occurs this spring, membership renewals will be available for NHW.

As outlined in the proposal, NHW will be a national umbrella organization which will seek affiliation with state organizations for Hereford women comprised of horned, polled and combined memberships. By doing so NHW will serve the same role AHW and NOP previously did as separate organizations.

Over the years, AHW and NOP have made many important contributions to the Hereford community; these contributions collectively comprise a chain of successive generations of women who have supported the growth of our breed and evolved our organizational structures to match the needs of the Hereford business and the women within it.

The latest chapter, combination to form NHW, represents 10 years of discussion and collaboration between AHW and NOP toward one new organization to serve as the association for women in the Hereford business.

NHW's organizational structure combines the best of AHW and NOP with features added that reflect similarity with the American Hereford Association. NHW will continue all legacy missions of the respective groups and will additionally enhance initiatives directed to professional development for women in the breed.

These new initiatives are in response to the interests of the next generation of women in the Hereford business. The result is both a renewal of our long-standing commitments and a forward-thinking shift in structure and mission, which respect legacy and ensure future relevance. **HW**

## National Hereford Women

### Officers and committee chairs

Cheryl Evans, co-president  
Susan Gebhart, co-president  
Jessye Goertz, vice president  
Ann Guess, secretary  
Shellie Moore Collins, treasurer  
Brook Herring-Gandy, parliamentarian  
Barbara Ernst, historian  
Margeaux Firestine, queen 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 Ehlike, *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, *Mershon, Ga.*  
Courtney Wirtjes, *Durand, Ill.*  
Brook Herring-Gandy, *Beaumont, Miss.*  
Gail Blagg, *Grass Valley, Calif.*  
Donna Curry, *McAlester, Okla.*