

# Beginnings, Endings and A Lot of Fun

by *Barb Wilkinson, AHW treasurer*

What do you get when you mix a group of ladies who believe in a breed of cattle, the youth of today and the importance of women, then gather 'em in a hotel in Kansas City on an October weekend? You get a DVD featuring the Hereford breed's premier historian Bud Snidow, the first Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) sponsorship from the American Hereford Women (AHW), a lot of happy smiles captured in pictures during casino night, the beginnings of a Certified Hereford Beef (CHB) ambassador program, the dedication of an AHW past president plaque, the recognition of the AHW Woman of the Year and a lot of laughs mixed in between!

Anyone interested in the Hereford breed will want to order the newly AHW-produced DVD, "Bud Snidow — A Hereford Legacy." Special thanks go to Bud Snidow; Eric Grant, Wahoo! Productions; Dale Heikes, AgriVision; and JoAnn Lawrence, AHW board member, for working hard to put together a top-quality history of the Hereford breed. It is a must for every Hereford library. The DVD can be purchased from

the AHW for \$20. Visit the AHW Web site, <http://ahw.hereford.org>, for ordering details.

Every year in Kansas City when the Hereford women meet, there are moments of excitement for new beginnings with the announcement of new directors, and moments of sadness in saying goodbye to those retiring from the board. This year we say thank you to Kathy Geffert, Kansas; Sherry Pope-Smith, Oklahoma; and Lisa Sparrow, Arkansas. Ladies, you left your footprints on the organization and in our hearts.

Welcome to the new members of the board: Deb Carlson, Indiana; Gail Blagg, California; and Donna Fulton, North Carolina. Also congratulations to Terrill Spencer, Nebraska, the 2007 AHW president! The rest of the officer team includes: President-elect Bonnie Coley-Malir, Ohio; Vice President Cheryl Evans, Mississippi; Secretary Susan Turner, Texas; Treasurer Barb Wilkinson, Colorado; Parliamentarian JoAnn Lawrence, Minnesota; Historian Debby Mrnak, North Dakota;

## American Hereford Women

### President

Terrill Spencer, *Brewster, Neb.*

### President-elect

Bonnie Coley-Malir, *Dublin, Ohio*

### Past president

Marsha Middleswarth, *Torrington, Wyo.*

### Vice president

Cheryl Evans, *Winona, Miss.*

### Secretary

Susan Turner

*P.O. Box 254, Rochester, TX 79544*

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### Treasurer

Barb Wilkinson, *Johnstown, Colo.*

### Parliamentarian

JoAnn Lawrence, *Coon Rapids, Minn.*

### Historian

Debby Mrnak, *Bowman, N.D.*

### Newsletter

Kay Morgan, *Burwell, Neb.*

### Directors

Gail Blagg, *Grass Valley, Calif.*

Deb Carlson, *Royal Center, Ind.*

Donna Fulton, *Lexington, N.C.*

Hereford Works at [www.herefords.net](http://www.herefords.net)

Newsletter Editor Kay Morgan, Nebraska; and Past President Marsha Middleswarth, Wyoming.

Be watching for details regarding a new CHB LLC ambassador program for both youth and women beginning in 2007. Until next time, keep smiling! **HW**

# Thank You

My term on the National Organization of Poll-ettes (NOP) board of directors and my second year as chairman is coming to an end. I have been fortunate to serve with several wonderful women

during my term and I would like to thank these ladies.

The Poll-ette organization is fortunate to have talented ladies willing to represent their areas and unselfishly give their time and

talents to promote the breed and support youth.

To Sherry Herring and Lynn Sumner, who were elected to the board with me, it has been a fun four years. You also made my years as chairman much easier by sharing the responsibilities of leadership. A special thank you to Kelly Owen for her generosity and the leadership she has given to the Poll-ettes. Few people actually know how much Kelly has contributed to the Poll-ettes and the juniors through the years. She was untiring and unwavering in her support during her time on

by *Dianne Peebles, NOP chairman*

## National Organization of Poll-ettes

### Chairman

Dianne Peebles, *Hotchkiss, Colo.*

### Vice chairman

Starr Whaley, *Dalton, Ga.*

### Secretary-reporter

Betsy Beck

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### Treasurer

Lynn Sumner, *Axtell, Texas*

### Directors

Martene Firestine, *Womelsdorf, Pa.*

JoAnne VanEck, *Kelseyville, Calif.*

Ruth Espenscheid, *Argyle, Wis.*

Sherry Herring, *Beaumont, Miss.*

Anna Rhodus, *Greenwood, Mo.*

Paula Tracy, *Rupert, Idaho*

Susan Gebhart, *Claremore, Okla.*

Brenda Teeter, *Mooresville, N.C.*

the board. And thank you, Kelly, for being a special friend.

Thank you also to Starr Whaley for all your efforts this past year as vice chairman. Your advice, counsel, leadership and friendship have been special to me.

Thank you to all of you who have donated to the program and have sponsored activities. I have said many times that we cannot function without your generosity and support. May we never waver in our support of polled Herefords. May we never waver from the direction set by our founders in support of Hereford youth programs.

The queen program has always been special to me. Thank you to all who contribute and support the young ladies on the state and national level. And to all the young ladies who have graced our program as queens, I hope that you have fond memories of your time as queen and that you support the program in years to come.

A special thank you to my family. Serving on the board not only takes a personal commitment but a commitment from your family.

Thank you to all the staff at the American Hereford Association

(AHA) for your special efforts and support of the Poll-ettes.

To each Poll-ette member, you are the lifeblood of our organization. Your efforts at home, in your community and in your state are vital to the strength of the Poll-ettes. We thank you for your commitment and belief in our breed and our organization.

The NOP is strong. It is financially sound. Leadership is dedicated. We believe in the charge set forth by our founders and are guided by their principles. I leave the board of directors proud of our organization and accomplishments. Thank you all! **HW**

## A note from Sherry

In January 2003 I had the honor of joining the National Organization of Poll-ettes (NOP) board as the Area 8 director. I joined the board that year with Dianne Peebles and Lynn Sumner — the three musketeers. While on the board, I have had the honor of serving as vice chairman, secretary and chairman of several different committees.

One of my favorites was the speech contest committee. When you see the peewees walk into the contest room with their artificial insemination (AI) kit and so much enthusiasm about the Hereford industry, you know that you're doing something right.

Another memorable trip was in the spring of 2005, when Kelly Owen invited the entire NOP board to have a board meeting in Myrtle Beach, S.C. We all had so much fun. Thanks, Kelly, for what you did for the Poll-ettes and the youth program.

A person never realizes how many friends they have until a natural disaster strikes, like Hurricane Katrina. There are not enough words to say how much my family and I appreciate all the Hereford friends we have. The e-mails, phone calls and all the supplies were beyond appreciated. You will never know how much we at Punkin Ridge are thankful to be a part of such a great breed of cattle and people. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve on the national Poll-ette board. As I retire from my position, I leave it in the good hands of my daughter, Brook Herring-Gandy.

— **Sherry Herring**, retiring NOP director