

AAA Convention Report | Robert Groom



The American Angus Association held their 136th annual convention of delegates in Reno, NV over the first weekend in November. For the 5th year this was combined with a trade show and educational program as a stand alone event, having been previously conducted in Louisville, KY for many years as part of the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE).

The convention attendees were hosted at the Peppermill resort with the trade show and educational program conducted at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center about a mile away. Shuttle buses were provided throughout the day between the Peppermill and the center.

Due to flight times I missed the opening speakers for the convention on the Saturday morning but did make it in time for the trade show opening and the candidates forum. This year there were 8 candidates, 5 of them incumbents running for a 2nd 3yr term who each gave an approximately 10 minute speech to the delegates and members present. The speeches are a good way for candidates to

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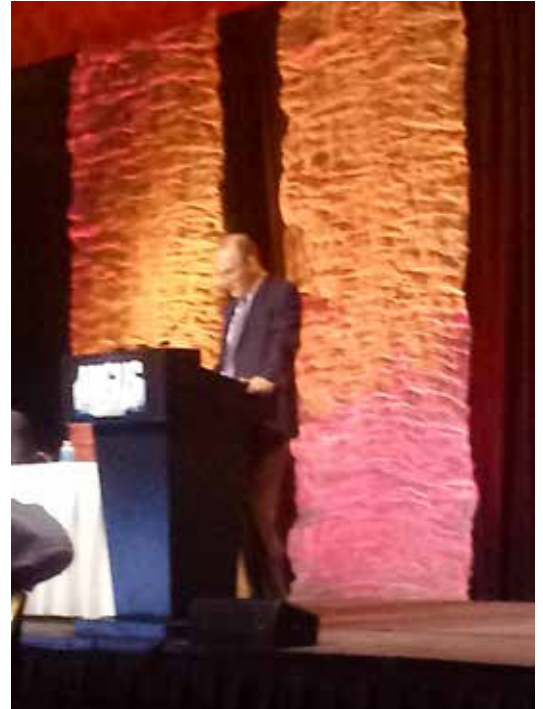
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introduce themselves personally to the delegates as a whole, though it is an extremely daunting process. After this many of the larger state delegations will host each of the candidates individually at their caucuses. I was grateful to the Kansas and Mid-West caucuses for allowing me to sit in on theirs, it gave me a different perspective on several of the candidates.

Sunday was a day of educational programs on many aspects of the associations businesses and programs. The day started with several speakers in the main ballroom where the forum had been held previously. The first speaker was a pastor from Texas who conducted the ecumenical service, he was excellent and thought provoking. The second speaker was Beck Weathers https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beck_Weathers who spoke about his attempt to climb Mt Everest that was dramatized in the film "Thin Air". Very inspiring and personal story and message.



The remainder of the day was taken up with educational meetings, the trade show, a big prize drawing for attendees including a complete Priefert cattle handling system, John Deere gator and a tub grinder. The day concluded with a free concert by Flatland Cavalry.

Monday was the convention of delegates in the ballroom at the Peppermill. 297 delegates were present to elect 5 members of the board along with a new President and Vice-President of the association. Voting was conducted electronically using iPads. On the first round of voting the 5 incumbent candidates, Richard Dyer, Dave Gunman, Alan Miller, JP Perry and Barry Pollard were re-elected to their 2nd terms. The convention then passed 2 new amendments to the bylaws that concern eligibility to be delegates and/or directors of the association. Incoming Vice President David Dal Porto gave a thorough treasurers report that detailed the current financial state of our association, this report is available at www.Angus.org

Our new CEO Mark McCully gave his first report to the convention and was very well received by the membership.

The meeting concluded with the election of new President Don Schiefelbein, VP Dave Dal Porto and the announcement that Jerry Connealy would serve as Treasurer for the upcoming year.

Thank you to the membership of the New York Angus Association for electing me to represent you at the Convention, it is my honor to serve.

Respectfully submitted, Robert B Groom.

Photos of Financial Report and CEO Mark McCully