

General Membership Meeting
Saturday Nov 8, 2025

Zoom

President Diane Clark called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM. She welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for their participation. This is her first Annual General Membership Meeting (AGM) as president and she appreciates all the work the office puts into organizing this meeting. Also, thank you to John Ligo for all his support while in her new officer role and to those who lead committees, Gatherings, the National Show & Sale and other Highland events. She explained the proof of meeting notice was mailed with ballots and also meeting invites were posted in blasts, on the website and in *The Bagpipe*.

Approval of Agenda

Diane Clark asked if there were any additions, corrections or omissions to the preliminary agenda; there were none. Jennifer Lewis moved: Adopt the agenda as presented. Second by Jacquelyn Chotkowski. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Diane Clark asked if there were any additions, corrections or omissions to last year's meeting minutes which are available on the website; there were none. Jan Larson moved: Approve the minutes from the November 2, 2024 Annual General Membership Meeting. Second by Ginny Green. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Diane Clark asked that all introduce themselves so each can be recognized. She asked for any public comment.

Jacquelyn Chotkowski said she would like to figure out how to get more members to attend this membership meeting. The virtual format brings in far less than the in-person that has been held at the annual Gatherings in the past. Please consider making a change.

Steve Williams said he and his wife, Pam, have been members for 29 years. They have been attending the National Show & Sale (NS&S) for 30 years and went to the 2nd International Gathering that was held in Sheridan in 2006. They run 30 Highlands and provide beef and breeding stock locally. They promote cattle a lot at their ranch with visitors, many of them repeat. They've purchased and supported the National Sale. They thoroughly enjoyed the 5th International Gathering of Highland Breeders in Scotland earlier this month. The Autumn Show in Oban was wonderful and they liked there was no fitting and the judge put his hands on all the animals. They appreciate the office and how great they are to work with along with all committees and the magazine staff for such a good publication.

Operations Manager's Report

Ginnah Moses said she generally starts out by saying how great AHCA office staff is and she'll do that again this year. Brandy, Amber and Lindsey are all hardworking, conscientious of deadlines, willing to help each other and do extra projects. They all have different personalities and strengths but strive for a nice work environment. Thank you to them for working hard and for the 100+ volunteers that selflessly spend time helping AHCA and the Highland breed.

- Turnaround time: it is generally 2 weeks for membership, registrations that don't need DNA or have issues, transfers with no issues and DNA kits. If it has been longer than that and you haven't received an email from us needing further information, please call or email. Keep in mind that the DNA lab can have samples for 4-6 weeks for processing.
- You will hear more about the new website on this call. The Website Committee worked really hard with Webolutions to design a fresh, new, user-friendly site. Please be patient as we are learning with you and now many of the updates, postings, etc. the office does in-house. The payment module is new for memberships, gifts & materials, classified ads, etc.
- Two office staff went to the World Congress in Scotland a few weeks ago. It was fantastic and always shows what a small world it is. You'll hear more about that during this meeting and also in the next issue of the magazine.
- The NS&S deadline is Mon Nov 10th. NWSS will turn off their entry system at 11:59 pm on Nov 10th so don't wait until the last minute. No late entries are allowed. All exhibitors and attendees need to fill out the AHCA Sale Entry & Ticket Order Form by Nov 10th also. It's combined to make it easy. If you aren't consigning to the sale, just fill out the top and bottom of the form.

Thank you all for your continued support of AHCA and the staff!

Treasurer's Report & AHCA Outlook

The 5/25 Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss were reviewed. They reflect 12 months or 100% of the fiscal year (June 1-May 31). On both please note last year is included as a comparison. On the Balance Sheet, we see that the years are similar with not many changes. One big difference is we opened 5 CDs with \$25,000 each out of the savings account that are safely earning AHCA a decent return. Total assets are up \$26,000 so similar to last year. Other accounts are holding steady with total liabilities & equity at \$509,066.49. Twenty years ago that number was about \$90,000. We are in a strong cash position but growth has slowed.

On the Profit & Loss, it is good news that two of our big income items, dues and transfers, are up about 10%. Registrations are up slightly too. We split out the following enterprises several years ago to help understand the income/expense of them including a payroll allocation. The magazine, Gathering and NS&S have tremendous value to the membership and association. The National Sale is a good contributor even with a low commission fee, while the National Show runs a small deficit. We make some money from DNA but consider it a service to the membership also. Income is up about \$24,000 compared to last fiscal year. On the expense side, payroll is the same proportion of the income as 20 years ago while we have greatly increased the workload of the office (with more staff). This is a great value and we of course wouldn't be able to run without it. The total expense increased \$38,000 with net profit/loss down about \$10,000. The proposed budget to the board was approved at essentially a break even. It is always conservative which we consider risk management.

The 990-tax return was filed with the IRS by AHCA's accountant. Randi Johnson is on the Finance Committee and has a lot of working knowledge with budgets and using assumptions as a tool to make better projections and evaluation of the finances. She is working on a 5-year forecast with different scenarios. In December the Finance

Committee will meet again to look at cutting expenses, which isn't easy to do and possibly raising fees. Treasurer's report approved unanimously by consensus.

Board of Directors' Report

Diane Clark reported that in 2025, the AHCA Board of Directors conducted the following items of business.

- AHCA has a nice, fresh new website that we are excited to start using this month. It will go live shortly and we'll look forward to getting your feedback.
- We've been defending our copyrighted herdbook which is the foundation of AHCA.
- Our trademarked AHCA logo, QHB logo, name, etc. is also being worked through with a trademark attorney. We want to protect all of AHCA's valuable assets and intellectual property.
- This past year we had the highest grossing National Sale ever, even with lowering the commission. This is due to the committee's hard work, quality of the sale consignments and popularity of the cattle.
- Office staff will be visiting the new Legacy Building and cattle barns at the National Western Stock Show and will keep us posted on that.
- The board meets 4-5 times a year but also does a lot of work on their respective committees and other events they are involved in.
- We have many new members and lots of interest in the breed.

Standing Committee Reports

Governance

Pat White said the Governance Committee is responsible for a quarterly review of the directors' attendance. Each of their meetings for 2025 has revealed no delinquency of any director. They completed the annual selection and recruitment of a slate of members to form the Nominations Committee. Governance then reviewed all the members selected by the Nominations Committee as possible directors, with comments concerning selections given back to the Nominations Committee for consideration in the committee's final selections. (Governance has voice but no vote or veto power in selection of possible directors.)

Governance requested a review of the named insured on all our insurance policies from our attorney and this did reveal a conflict in the Directors and Officers Liability Policy. This has since been corrected. Other policies which include Special Event Policy, Cyber Policy, General Liability (GL) Policy and Workers' Compensation (WC) Policy, require no correction.

Governance again has worked extensively on the review and revision of the AHCA by-laws throughout the year, including our attorney's input in a semi-final review, to ensure no conflict between our proposed By-Law changes and our existing Rules and Regulations. We anticipate completion and a motion for the board's consideration by the January 2026 meeting.

Breed Protection

The January 9th meeting was a combined meeting of Breed Protection and Highland Promotion after the split of BP&P into the two new standing committees. After the January meeting the two standing committees began functioning separately. Breed Protection consists of the subcommittees: Pedigree, Bagpipe, Juniors, Education and Genomics. Highland Promotion consists of the subcommittees: Digital Communications, Beef Marketing, National Sale, Advertising and Gathering. Ginny Green chairs Highland Promotion and she will report on their activities.

As required by the Board of Directors, Breed Protection has adopted the following rules and structure.

Members: 8 maximum, consisting of the chairs of Breed Protection's 5 subcommittees, the chair of Breed Protection and up to 2 additional members.

Subcommittees: Pedigree, Bagpipe, Juniors, Education, Genomics

Goals:

1. Advance the Highland breed by protecting the integrity of AHCA registered cattle.
2. Oversee the workings of the subcommittees, report on the subcommittee activities to BOD, and act on subcommittee motions relating to Breed Protection, and motions requiring BOD action.
3. Discuss and act on any issues relating to the protection of AHCA registered Highland cattle which lie outside the scope of the subcommittees.

Selecting members of the committee:

1. Breed Protection members must be AHCA members.
2. Prospective members should submit a short, written request to join the Breed Protection Committee. The request would then be presented to the committee at the next meeting and a vote taken to approve or reject the request. If there is not a position open on the standing committee the requests will be taken up by the committee in the order they are received.
3. Majority vote required to add a new member.
4. If the prospective member is approved, the chair of the committee will notify AHCA.

Removing members:

1. If a committee member misses two or more meetings in a year their membership automatically comes up for consideration as a motion to remove the member from the committee at the winter meeting.
2. If a member of a committee is removed from the committee, the chair of the committee will notify AHCA.

Committee rules and policies:

1. Motions pass or fail on majority vote.
2. Committee loosely follows Robert's Rules of Order in the conduct of its meetings.
3. Committee meets quarterly.
4. Public comment allowed at quarterly meetings.

Subcommittee rules and structure.

1. Maximum of 8 members per subcommittee.
2. Minimum of 3 subcommittee members required for a subcommittee to take action.
3. Chairs of the subcommittees will be selected by the subcommittee and presented to the standing committee for approval.
4. A quorum is required for a subcommittee to take action.

Rules for selecting a chair of Breed Protection:

1. Any member of the Breed Protection standing committee may nominate a candidate for BP chair.
2. The candidate must be a member of the Board of Directors and have agreed to serve as chair if selected by the committee.
3. After candidates are nominated the committee will vote to select the prospective chair. The candidate with the highest number of votes will be selected.
4. How the vote is conducted is at the discretion of the committee.
5. The AHCA Board will then be notified of Breed Protection's recommendation for chair.
6. The AHCA Board will then appoint the chair of Breed Protection.

After the 11/8/25 annual meeting and before the January '26 Breed Protection meeting, Breed Protection will conduct an online election to select a new chair to recommend to the BOD.

Subcommittee Reports:

Pedigree: (Chair-Jacquelyn Chotkowski) (Members-Nick Self, Pat White)

Pedigree has dealt with DNA and pedigree issues associated with embryo flushes and the importation of semen and embryos, noting that the DNA of dams should be tested prior to flushing, as well as the necessity for importers to meet AHCA requirements in the importation of semen and embryos.

Pedigree has had a motion passed that eliminates line "2" from paragraph B. section II. **REGISTRATION OF SOVEREIGN (CROSSBRED) BREEDING CATTLE & STEERS** in the Rules and Regulations (this removes the weight requirement from registering Sovereigns), and a motion passed that gives every 50th bull registration a free DNA kit for its dam if the dam is not already on file.

Bagpipe: (Editor/Publisher-Anne Proctor) (Associate Editor-Randi Johnson)

The Bagpipe has continued its tradition of publishing timely and informative articles and information pertinent to AHCA members. This year its summer issue focused on Pasture, Grazing and Land Management. Commencing with the fall issue, Randi Johnson has been added as Associate Editor of the magazine.

Juniors: (Chairs: Mandy Brammer & Jackie May Smith) (Members: Matt Cross, Bailey McConnell-Carlson, Laura McDowell-May)

Mandy Brammer and Jackie May are the new co-chairs of the Junior Subcommittee. Spencer Reetz stepped down from the Junior board after the NWSS and is looking for someone to fill his spot. At the NWSS this year there was a livestock judging contest and a junior showmanship clinic.

Tristan Carmack was awarded the AHCAj Cattleman Award.

Juniors are considering: having a plaque for the Cattleman Award and raising the award from \$1500 to \$2500, presenting awards during the Highland Hangout at the 2026 NWSS. A motion was passed to have two junior reps join the Junior Committee for a two-year term. Lauren Cowell (Minnesota) and Tristin Carmack (Kentucky) were asked to interview for the spots. A future goal is to establish a National Junior Board.

Education: (Chair: Jennifer Lewis) (Members: Kristin Carmack, Kay Clemans, Kimber King, Seth King, Jacob Larson, Jan Larson)

Education material supporting the breed standard is tentatively planned to coincide with the new website. The committee has discussed improving the Coo Cattlemen podcast and increasing awareness of the Sovereign program. Education reviewed the information and new membership packets and requested the Marketing Committee write a new welcome letter as well as take a look at the crossbred and breed brochures. Education has been discussing ways to get people to utilize ABRI more by inputting and updating data. Education is also looking for somebody to do a webinar on entering data on ABRI.

Genomics: (Chair: Josh Krenz) (Members: Jacquelyn Chotkowski, Mark Johnson, Jennifer Lewis, Tom McConnell, Mathias Schulte, Pat White)

ABRI has provided AHCA with information on the phenotypical data it has in its database. The new contract for nt821 testing went into effect in February which says AHCA can use and publish the test results unless a written request is made to not publish it. At this point it has not been decided on how to publish the test data. Genomics has had a conversation with IGS (International Genetic Solutions) about genetic testing and the possibility of developing enhanced EPDs for AHCA registered Highlands. An article on nt821 by Jacquelyn Chotkowski is in the fall magazine. Josh Krenz, Jacquelyn Chotkowski and Mark Johnson met with Claire Simonetta, Iain Graham, Iain Mackay, Hugh Saggars and others in Scotland to see if there is interest in working together on the issue of genetic trait testing. It was determined that information on the IGS offering will be sent to an HCS group with the intention of following up with another meeting.

Highland Promotion

Virginia "Ginny" Green reported the committee members are Andy Anderson, Heather Bailey, Josh Krenz, Tom McConnell, Jose Rodriguez, Bruce Schmitz, Dax West and Ginny Green. Highland Promotion is made up of five subcommittees: Advertising, Digital Communications, Beef Marketing, Gathering and National Sale. Most of the work in Highland Promotion is done in the subcommittees.

Advertising – Josh Krenz

BQA trademark attorney John Huddle is assisting with the review and submission of all of the potential trademarks for AHCA. The committee has reviewed *The Bagpipe* so the publication is up-to-date on trademarks. The committee is looking at the promotional info that is sent out to the new members for needed revisions or updates. This will include the new member letter and other items in the new member packet. The committee is also working on press releases to promote AHCA activities.

Digital Communications – Bruce Schmitz A proposal from a company called Webolutions was selected to design the new AHCA website. Finishing touches are being made to the new website. The launch has been pushed to late November 2025. The

staff and committee have received training on how to update the new website once launched.

Gathering – Tom McConnell There was no AHCA Gathering scheduled for 2025 due to the World Congress and Gathering being held in Oban Scotland. The 2026 AHCA Gathering will be held at Sheppard Farm on Apple Hill in Hanover, PA. This Gathering will be hosted by Heather Sheppard Lunn & Peter H. Sheppard along with Mid-Atlantic Highland Association. The 2027 Gathering that will be hosted by the North Central Highland Cattle Association, is planned to be held in the Des Moines, IA area. As always, we welcome proposals for future Gatherings from individuals and or regional associations to be hosts in upcoming years. The farther out they can be planned, the better the plan can be brought to fruition.

Beef Marketing – Jose Rodriguez

The committee decided the association should continue the Quality Highland Beef (QHB) trademark and program. The lawyer will work on suggested language and send back to the Beef Marketing Committee for review. The committee wants to make sure there is continuity between all subcommittees under the standing committee that are related to Marketing, Advertising and Digital Communication.

National Sale – Heather Bailey The success of the 2025 Sale was phenomenal! The goal for 2026 will be to have 25-35 live lots of quality Highland females. We will not limit the females but will continue to encourage top quality selections only. The National Sale Committee will continue with the refusal of any animals that do not fit the sale requirements of the best selection of Highland breeding stock. The genetic lots will be limited to 30-40. All attempts to prevent repetitive consignments from previous years will be made. Semen lots will have a minimum of \$100/straw opening bid. Embryos will have a minimum of \$250/embryos. If the opening minimum can't be met, the lot will be a no sale and consignor will not be charged a commission; only the entry fee. Entry and commission will remain the same as last year's sale. 8% commission; \$250 live lot entry with \$150 credited to the commission; genetic lot will be \$100 with no credit to the commission. After speaking with NWSS, the committee agreed that a sale preview area will be next to the AHCA booth. We would like to utilize red carpet/curtains for backdrops for sale animals to be stalled in for a couple hours on Thursday, Friday and pre-sale on Saturday. Consignors will bring their animals to the area at designated times for viewing. Our goal is to provide a first-class presentation. Benchmark Graphics has been selected to provide the advertising, sale catalog etc. Auctioneers will be Sheridan Auction Services. Catalog cover will be a Hillary Barker print. Committee has opted to use: Two Cows at Woodland Edge #4 for the 2026 cover. Form for release of semen/embryos prior to checks being sent to consignors must be completed. We have had a couple hiccups in communication between consignors/buyers. Committee feels this is between buyers and consignors; however, it will be clear communication that is an attempt to alleviate this type of issue going forward. Jesse Silva will be transportation coordinator again this year. Committee also decided that there will be no exceptions for payments due on sale day. Any buyer must pay tab at the time of sale. Any purchases in the sale are not subject to any type of refund or refusal of payment due to second thoughts. The sale has experienced non-payment for the last couple of years.

Show

Heather Bailey spoke due to chair Collin Demuth's absence. She said the Show Committee met on Nov 6th and discussed the ROE awards, utilizing the showman app

for all ROE shows and reviewed the 2025 show numbers. For the showman app they are waiting to find out about cost but know it is easy to use. New issues include receiving email inquiries about junior show rules. This has been tabled until the next meeting on Jan 8th. They have also discussed how they can help with the National Show to lighten the load on chair Frank Silva and the office. They recently approved the TN State Fair held in Aug and run by Veronica Minnear, as an ROE show. Denver entries due Nov 10th; no late entries allowed.

Ethics

Chair John Chotkowski said his committee also includes Jan Larson, Mark Johnson and Richard Muntz. Their job is to receive ethics complaints, review them and send to the board for decision. They don't meet regularly, only when necessary. The committee has dealt with two issues this past year. One was an allegation of breach of contract. Because it was an issue between AHCA members but did not directly involve AHCA, it was judged that the issue was outside of the purview of AHCA and should properly be pursued in civil court and Ethics recommended to the Board that the complainant be so informed. The second issue involved non-payment by a member for purchases at the 2025 National Sale and the Ethics Committee is presently assisting the Board in settlement.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

Regional Association Reports

Mid-Atlantic

Matt Cross reported that the Spring Classic show was a success with over 50 head and will be May 16, 2026 next year. The York Fair was around 40 entries and will be held again in 2026. The sale was good and we are planning to have another in Aug next year. Membership had a slight upturn but is holding steady. KILE was lower numbers due to people going to the International Gathering.

Midwest

Richard Muntz said the Midwest association has zoom meetings nearly every month. The annual meeting was held in Reed City, MI on June 22, 2025 following the Camping with the Coos junior weekend, where the juniors gathered at the Osceola County Sheriff's Posse facility for fellowship and education on animal care and showmanship. The Midwest had two shows, both in conjunction with other breeds. The Yooper Classic was a super point show in Escanaba, MI in conjunction with the UP State Fair. The MWHCA Show was held in conjunction with the Michigan State Fair over the Labor Day Weekend. There was discussion of a possible show in Ohio and several breeders participated in the Indiana State Fair. The Midwest no longer participates in the St. Joseph County Fair, as no one was interested in their requirement that the cattle remain there for seven days.

Mountain States

No report

North Central

Jan Larson stated the current membership numbers 207. Focus has been on expanding membership, education and website updates. For education they are having seminars at their annual meeting. Also webinars are being planned for calving and show and sale registration/preparedness. The website updates include listing beef producers and doing podcasts and webinars. This coming year 2026 includes projects: 1) continuing to expand membership; 2) making some changes to the shows; 3) working on planning the 2027 Gathering in Des Moines, IA.

Northeast

John Chotkowski stated the membership is holding steady at nearly 50 farms. Members have been financially supportive via sponsorships and auction item donations and we are presently on firm financial footing. We have an active website and Facebook page keeping members involved and informed as well as offering free advertising for member sale animals and goods. Board meets quarterly and we have an annual membership meeting. This year an enjoyable and informative meeting was hosted by members Rick and Helen Ketterer at their Thatcher Shadow Farm. NEHCA hosts its Spring Show in Springfield, MA which continues to maintain super point status. Two additional Highland point shows in the area include the Boonville Fair in Boonville, NY organized by Dick, Joyce and Sue LeClar and the NYS Fair in Syracuse, NY.

Northwest

Jennifer Lewis said their region has continued to offer educational content, both in person and virtually. In June the Annual General Membership Meeting was hosted by COPA Farms. They combined it over two days to include a fitting and showing workshop. At that meeting they finally recruited a volunteer to chair a Show Committee. They're hard at work contacting and working with local fairs to increase Highland presence and doing a feasibility study to put on a stand-alone Highland show in 2026. The NWHCA Annual Production Sale was a success and they are continuing that for 2026.

South Central

Dax West reported over the past fiscal year the South Central Highland Cattle Association (SCHCA) held its Fall Gathering at the Choctaw Resort and Casino in Grant, OK. The event was an informal gathering allowing members of SCHCA to dine, socialize and network together. The same weekend the association hosted McPeak's Be A Champ Camp in Hugo, OK. The event allowed for all breeds of show cattle open to juniors aged 9 to 18. The Champ Camp was well attended and the Fall Gathering allowed for great discussion for future goals of SCHCA. The annual Route 66 Highland Classic was at the Creek County Fairgrounds in Kellyville, OK in April 2025. This year's event featured a junior and open show and was our largest attended show yet with more than 30 farms represented and 70 head of cattle competing in the showing. Beginning in 2026 the Route 66 Highland Classic will be an AHCA ROE super point show. Over the past several months the Board has been planning the show which will be held April 11, 2026. They are also currently working with Hired Hand Software to update the website to better coordinate and promote the regional association and future events. In addition to the new website, the association's newsletter, *The Cattle Keeper*, was sent to members to share association news, future events and informational articles. The future goals of SCHCA include continuing to host biannual events including the Route 66 and a second

non-show related event. They strive to continue growing the membership in the region and promoting the needs of the members as well as the Highland breed.

Southern

Andy Anderson reported:

- One year anniversary of regional association.
- 91 paid members. 101 have signed up but only 91 paid.
- First show was March 8, 2025 in Clemson, SC. Had over 35 head exhibited.
Received AHCA ROE designation.
- 3 sessions of Vet Talks with average of 14 attendees each session presented by Jon Todd via zoom.
- Breeding and Genetics Part 1 with 12 attendees via zoom.
- Asian Tick and Theileria Session with 14 attendees via zoom.
- Planning for 2026:
 - 2nd Annual Show March 13, 2026 in Clemson, SC. (AHCA ROE approved)
 - 1st Regional Association Sale March 14, 2026 in Clemson, SC
 - 3-4 sessions of Vet Talk
 - Breeding and Genetics Part 2
 - New World Screwworm session
 - Highland Conformation educational event
 - Junior Showmanship Clinic
 - Goal is membership over 150 by end of 2026.

National Sale

Heather Bailey said the committee consists of Collin Demuth, Jan Larson and her and they met on July 25. Discussion Online vs. Live: Heather Bailey presented her conversation with Jenn Boka from NWSS about Jenn's concerns of historical statistics showing a partial online sale typically drops average prices. Jenn said that in her tenure with the Red Angus and Simmental breeds that any time a live sale was combined or ran as an online, sale averages declined as a result. After a lengthy discussion of pros and cons, including member reactions to last year's limiting of semen/embryo sales, it was decided to remain a live sale with limitations. Some of the same details shared earlier in the Highland Promotion report were reiterated here. After speaking with NWSS, the committee agreed that a sale preview area next to the AHCA booth would be a better idea than the traditional type of the past. They would like to utilize red carpet/curtains for backdrops for sale animals to be stalled in for a couple hours on Thursday, Friday and pre-sale on Saturday. In addition, Heather said consignors will bring their animals to the area at designated times for viewing. Possibly offer snacks/drinks at these times. Goal is to provide a first-class presentation. They would also recruit volunteers to keep the area clean and encourage buyers to set up bidder numbers during this time. Heather will reach out to Jenn to make sure there is a 10-lot spot in the auction area to prevent any stall in auction procedures. The committee contacted consignors from last year for commitments for the 2026 Sale. They also sent an email blast to the entire membership in late August. The sale has experienced a non-payment in each of the last couple of

years. Request will be sent to AHCA to change Terms and Conditions so it implements a non-payment clause. Jesse Silva will be the transportation coordinator again this year. As always, deadline for show and sale entries is Nov 10th; no late entries will be accepted.

2025 Scottish World Congress and Gathering Wrap Up

John Ligo highly recommends everyone who can attend an International Gathering, to do so! About 120 AHCA members and breeders from several countries took the 3-hour ride from Glasgow with a farm stop on their way to Oban. They rolled out the red carpet with several fold visits on the itinerary, dinner at the Royal Hotel several evenings, two special meals with ceilidhs (dances) and the 128th Autumn Show and Sale. Prices were good at the sale. We were supremely well hosted with lunch at several farms and an abundance of great cattle to see. There were breeders from Finland, Germany, Switzerland, Canada and several other countries. Angus Mackay served as Chieftain and did a great job. John presented Angus and the Highland Cattle Society a bronze in appreciation for the wonderful friendship and for hosting the event. You won't want to miss the next one which they are discussing now, possibly in Europe in three years.

76th Annual Gathering Update

Tom McConnell reported that the upcoming Gathering in Gettysburg/Hanover, PA will be June 18-19, 2026. The headquarters will be Sheppard Farm on Apple Hill with a pasture ride and Sheppard tractor museum tour. Speakers include Joal Salatin and the Farm Babe, with others to follow. Robust sponsorship opportunities will be available. There will be more information in the winter issue of the magazine with the registration flyer coming out in the spring.

Highland Cattle Foundation

President Mark Schulz said that in 2002, the Highland Cattle Foundation was established as a Section 501(c)(3) corporation. We are a separate but related entity from AHCA. Operations and finances are separate from AHCA, but our board is approved by the AHCA board every three years and we support the Highland breed in every way we can.

The Highland Cattle Foundation Board of Directors is composed of:

- Mark Schulz
- Bill Roberts
- Wally Congdon
- Cindy Weideman
- Ginnah Moses

The goals of the Foundation are:

- Providing scholarships to junior AHCA members.
- Preserving Highland genetics by providing semen to the National Animal Germplasm Program (NAGP) and making semen/embryos available for purchase.
- Supporting educational projects, including the *AHCA Highland Breeder's Guide*.
- Making selected research grants.

For 2025 we were able to award nine AHCA juniors with \$1500 scholarships for their pursuit in post high school education. Every year we find it amazing to see all of the things these young people are involved in and their stories about their involvement with Highland cattle. These young people are the future of our American Highland Cattle Association and the promotion and preservation of the Highland Breed. This year we did not have any opportunities to support the National Animal Germplasm Program or any educational programs. In addition, we did not receive any applications for research grants although there are several concepts being discussed. We continue to receive monetary donations, semen and embryos that we then sell on the many sales around the country to get these genetics out and in use and to raise additional funds for future scholarships and research projects. Our financial balance as of the end of our fiscal year on May 31, 2025 was \$141,293.27.

Election of Directors

John Ligo said the Teller Committee is comprised of AHCA office staff and a total of 596 counted votes came through the office. The list of nominees was read: Josh Krenz, Princeton, MN; John McLaughlin, Jackson, MI; Kelley Morris, Prosperity, PA; Pat White, Charlotte, MI. All have signed and returned the Expectations of AHCA Directors. Attendees were reminded that all voted by mail and needed to have their ballot postmarked on time. Congratulations to the directors elected: Josh Krenz, Kelley Morris and Pat White. Terms run from Jan 1, 2026-Dec 31, 2028. For new directors, the first meeting is in January in Denver. Thank you to all the exceptional nominees who ran on the ballot. Keep in mind, the nomination form is in two issues of the magazine during the year. If you have a good candidate who is willing and able to serve and they have leadership qualities with committee work as a bonus, please nominate them.

Highland Member of the Year & Hall of Fame

The Nominations Committee is continuing their work reviewing potential candidates for recipients of AHCA's two highest honors, Highland Member of the Year and Highland Hall of Fame. These are awards that should be celebrated in person so both recipients/families will be invited to the National Show & Sale banquet in Denver this Jan. We hope they will be able to attend to receive their beautiful bronzes. Full bios and photos will be in the spring issue of the magazine.

Diane Clark thanked everyone for attending and said she appreciated all the support this first year of her term as president. She recognized the service of Mark Johnson, John McLaughlin and Carolyn Miller for their dedication and hard work for many years on the board. They are all rolling off the board but will continue to be involved on committees and in the breed.

Diane Clark asked if there was any other business; there was none. Mark Schulz moved: Adjourn meeting. Second by Tom McConnell. Motion passed unanimously by consensus. Meeting adjourned.