



by Rachel Wulf-Marthaler
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As I near the conclusion of my 16 years as a NALJA member, there is a great deal to reflect on.

I could write for hours about how you should be part of a regional and national junior show, participate in satellite events, and run for the junior board. Although I feel those things are important, I want to share what I feel is the most important part of being a NALJA member with you today: passion.

First, let me take you back a few, well, quite a few, years.

“Hey dad, look at this! Quick, before it falls!” I would say as I strategically balanced my entire container of jiggly yogurt on my spoon, while riding on

the armrest of the bouncy feed wagon tractor. And let me tell you, this was not an easy task!

I’ll never forget those early morning rides in the feed tractor with my dad. The reason I was able to go and not my older sisters? Because they were in school. This special time with my dad was by far one of the best parts about being one of the youngest kids in my family. As they were sitting at a desk, I was watching the sun come up, discussing everything a 4-year-old girl and a 34-year-old dad have in common, watching the cattle run to us as we drove up in the feed wagon, and balancing yogurt. Life doesn’t get much better than this.

It was at this young age my love for the farm, the beef industry and Limousin cattle began. Since then, it has grown

into my biggest passion. Long hours on the farm, involvement in agricultural organizations and my NALJA membership have all instilled this passion in me.

As a NALJA member, what is your passion? Is it looking forward to feeding your cattle every morning as the sun comes up, building fence in the heat of summer or looking forward to your next cattle show? Whatever it is, embrace it, tell people about it, and show enthusiasm for your passion and the Limousin breed.

I will leave you with a quote from one of my favorite authors, John Maxwell, “A great leader’s courage to fulfill his vision comes from passion, not position.”

I encourage you to be a leader in your life, discover your vision through your passions and fulfill it to the best of your ability. **LW**

2007-2008 NALJA LEADERSHIP

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