

Christine Knoblach

For District 6 Director

ADGA # 1344464

When the letter arrived from ADGA that I got one of the nominations for director I thought, "Awesome! I now have a chance to make a real difference!" Then I began to wonder, "How do I explain to each of you who I am and how I believe I can make a difference in ADGA?"

A great, wise person once told me "If you want to get something done, ask the busiest person you know." If you take a moment to think about what that really means, you'll see who the people are who accomplish the most for themselves, their communities, and their environments. Its not the ones sitting around, it's the ones who have their boots on the ground and are out there working their tails off to get it done!!

We have been ranching on our 150 acre ranch since 1882 and I'm proud to say I'm the 5th generation here. My mother has always been the kind of person who never stopped and growing up as a kid she wanted us to follow in those foot-steps learning that same responsibility. My sister and I each joined 4H at age 8 and we saw the program through till we were both 18. When my sister Amy was in her first year in 4H showing her market steer, it proceeded to drag her right out the ring. My mom, being the wise woman she is, decided maybe sheep are a little better sized animal for 8-9 year olds. Well, when you get sheep, the goats soon follow to raise the bum lambs. Our first registered Alpine goats made the Knoblach Ranch and Laz U 2 Bar (our herd names are based in our historical cattle brand of Lazy u 2 bar from the early 1900's) home in 1988. In 1989 my mom bought me my first ADGA membership and this 4H project began. My father said there will never be more then 6 milking goats on this place at a time, little did he know just how far this project would go. After 1996 we really started to get into showing, Linear appraisal and DHIR until about 2007. The herd as a whole has been appraised about ½ dozen times over the last 2 decades and we have been on DHIR for the majority of the time since the late 1990's. We showed heavily throughout Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico until 2007. In 2002 Colorado saw the worst drought on record and our farm only produced enough hay to be able to feed either the sheep, cows or goats, not all three. We decided the goats were where our hearts and passions lay and all the other species of animals were sold.

In 2007 my mom retired from teaching school after 28 years and in her full blown insanity we started a commercial artisan cheese dairy. Well as the dairy came online and the production increased we found it harder and harder to continue showing. From 2007-about 2015 we didn't attend many shows at all and we focused on the dairy solely. In 2015 or so we started rejoining the local show scene and in 2019, attended nationals in Redmond, Oregon again where we did very well!

In spring of 2020 when COVID hit, we saw sales plummet as restaurants were forced to close. This forced our dairy to change our markets and we moved into more retail direct consumer sales and less restaurant based sales, but at the end of a very long year the PNL (Profit and Loss statement) showed that we could adapt to this and overcome odds that once looked like we could be put out of business. Today the dairy is milking 80 head and demand is out pacing production.

So now you ask, "What's all this got to do with ADGA??" 3 major things: 1st - ADGA needs new representation for all areas of its membership, not just the small hobby show herd, or the backyard breeder, or the commercial dairy and at one point in my goat life I have been all of these. I believe I can

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feel and put myself in each of those people's shoes. 2nd ADGA needs somebody to step up and say "what are the unintended consequences of the implementation of a new or remodeled program on our membership and on our financial budgets". And 3rd - ADGA needs directors who will communicate with the board AND its members and say we don't know the answer but we will try to find it for you!!

ADGA needs someone who has leadership skills from running their own business and who interacts with customers every day! ADGA needs change in its leadership to bring it forward into the future in these very uncertain times and these skills are often best found in the younger generations, such as myself, who have the ability to think on their feet and dive in with everything they have. So in life, "If you want to get something done ask the busiest person you know" and right now I would love to be a little busier representing the ADGA membership! BUT, the most important part of this is that you do vote!! Your voice deserves to be heard and I promise you that if I am elected, I WILL listen and be a voice for you!

Respectfully,
Christine Knoblach
For ADGA District 6 Director
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