

Daniel James Louie

ADGA #1490062

\* P.O. Box 191 Alexandria, MN 56308 \* (530)598-2304 \* dan@blissberry.com \*

---

Hello ADGA District IV Members,

I'm reaching out to you to ask for your consideration and support as I run for Director of District 4. I wanted to share a little about me and my perspective on ADGA.

First, I was not born into goats. I got into dairy goats as a young teenager. It gave me a world I felt at home during a time when I desperately needed it. I started with the Oberhasli breed and at that time had no desire to show or do anything more than milk a few does. A friend asked me to go to an ADGA show a couple years later and I guess you could say I caught the ADGA bug. I continued breeding my herd as I got my degree in animal science/pre vet at California State University, Chico. In the fall of 2010, I took a leave of absence from vet school at Washington State University, Pullman. During this transition time in my life, I sent my herd off to live with trusted friends while I figured out what was next for me. One of those herds was the Blissberry herd.

In early 2012 I decided to make the move to join my Oberhasli and now partners Sara Koehn-Walberg and Scott Walberg at Blissberry Dairy Goats. We currently breed and raise Purebred Nubians and American Saanens all under the Blissberry herd name. We utilize all of the performance programs, attend 3-4 club shows annually as well as exhibit at the ADGA National Show and attend the ADGA Annual Meeting/Convention.

I have served on various ADGA committees over the years and currently I'm on Reproductive Technologies, Genetic Advancement and am an ex-officio member of Linear Appraisal committee. I served as a member of the Linear Appraisal Task Force this last winter/spring as well.

I'm a strong believer and supporter of the ADGA Performance Programs. I currently work for ADGA as a Linear Appraiser. I look forward to doing all that I can to assist and help move the LA program forward for members as we enter this new chapter for LA. I know without this program I and Blissberry would not have had the same success in our breeding program that we see today. I understand that for some members they prefer that their directors not be employed with ADGA. I respect that and understand their concern. However, I can promise that I will only offer my opinions and abstain from voting on all things that related to my job in the association as an appraiser. Where my value would be as a director when considering LA is my knowledge of the program. Especially in the field work area as well having the knowledge of what is important to members when it comes to appraisal sessions.

I have lived in four different districts of ADGA. I have been involved at most levels of the association from just breeding a couple goats for milk to competing at a national level and utilizing all of the ADGA programs available. I understand that this association serves a very diverse group of members and that it takes us all to make it work.

I do not have a social media presence. I understand that a social media presence is valued by some members and that I may not be a good fit for those members. I have chosen to not participate in social media for a couple reasons. First, I have found that many post things they would never say in person. It opens conversations up to be very negative and people even bullied for their ideas at times. Secondly, as much as I love to see pretty goats, I enjoy that the first time that I get to see most of them is when I am scoring them in person on their farms. I also enjoy meeting people in person as opposed to knowing of them previously in a social media setting. It's just another level of potential subconscious bias removed for me.

In the age of social media I strongly feel we have lost a lot of voices of our members. Most conversations are dominated by the loud voices of a few. Those ideas and opinions at times win out even when they are not representative of the majority of the membership. It shouldn't matter your herdname, family name or level you participate in ADGA, your voice should be heard. I understand that each of our lives has shaped our views as well as our skill sets. I'm a strong believer that the best ideas don't come from one person but a group of people with different views and ideas working together and hearing each other's thoughts to come up with the best solution

Daniel James Louie

ADGA #1490062

\* P.O. Box 191 Alexandria, MN 56308 \* (530)598-2304 \* dan@blissberry.com \*

---

possible.

Mistakes have been made in ADGA, especially over this last year. We all make mistakes but how we handle those mistakes and what we learn and take from them is what defines us. We are at a very difficult time in our association. We've had a lack of leadership and a failure of communication from our leadership. We've had a failure to hold leadership accountable especially in the form of keeping directors and the membership informed on decisions being made for ADGA. I believe more communication and honest updates to the membership from leadership is in order. I truly appreciate the work of the directors who have been trying so hard to get the conversation going again and I think progress is slowly being made.

I cannot promise you that I have all of the answers and solutions to ADGA's problems. But I can promise you that I always do and will stand up for what I feel is right for the association. I will listen to all ideas and I will have constructive conversations with everyone who is willing. I will do my best to hold people accountable for their actions and do everything I can to help support and move the association forward. If you have any questions or concerns that you would like to share with me, I can be reached through email at dan@blissberry.com or through text or call on my cell at 530-598-2304. I thank you for your time and consideration. I would appreciate your vote if you feel that I would be a good fit to represent you.

Respectfully,

Daniel James Louie  
#1490062