



Dear ADGA District IV Members:

For those of you who do not know me, my name is Ed Jodlowski, and I have actively been in the dairy goat industry since 1981 when I begged my parents to buy me my first goat, Laura, at the Illinois State Fair. My family had raised and showed Hampshire hogs, but I found a love in the goat world and have been a part ever since. Since my first goat, our herd has grown. We have always raised Alpines, but began raising Lamanchas in the mid 90's. We had much success in the Lamancha breed, but sold out of that breed when my oldest sons went to college. At that time, my son Cameron won two raffle kids, a Sable and Nigerian at the 2012 National Show, and we began a new venture in breeding Sables. The Nigerian did well, but we decided that a third breed was out of the question. We have really enjoyed breeding Sables, and they have truly pushed us to improve our breeding program for both Sables and Alpines.

Our goats have always been a family affair. Between my wife and parents as well as my four sons, the Jodlowski family have always enjoyed the many adventures we have had with our goats. We attend numerous shows including the national show; we participate in ADGA programs such as linear appraisal and DHIA milk testing. I have been an ADGA licensed judge for 25 years and have chaired ADGA committees specifically the Colorama Sale and Judges Training Assessment and Licensing. These leadership experiences have allowed me to visit many parts of our district meeting many of you and talking to you about our industry.

There is no doubt that currently we have a number of challenges for our association. The pandemic, coupled with the current NG rollout, has created many issues. However, I am the type of person who works to find solutions to problems which is the primary reason why I made the decision to run for the ADGA Board of Directors. I believe I have many qualities that could enhance the association. Professionally, I have been in education for 34 years and am currently a high school principal at a rural district in Central Illinois. I deal with a number of issues every day, but approach each problem uniquely trying to find a solution that benefits all stakeholders. That is what I will do for our district and the ADGA membership. I know that District IV is unique which is why I will work with you and others around the country as stakeholders in ADGA.

I do want to emphasize that I love ADGA - I think it is a great organization with amazing people. As an individual who worked with swine registries when I was younger, I was always impressed with ADGA and the forethought of its founding members to develop a highly structured system. With that said, I do believe it is

time to advance our association. We need to re-examine many of our antiquated policies and recognize that our world has changed, and we must change with it. I also believe that leading with accountability is essential. One of the current concerns I hear from district members is that they are concerned about ADGA and ADGA leadership's accountability. I believe that we have to work together as an association to be accountable to the membership. Transparency is essential. As a director, I will work to be accountable to all members representing District IV. Finally, I believe communication must improve. When an organization experiences problems, it must communicate what is happening in order for people to be informed. I believe that I excel in communication and will work to keep you informed.

Finally, and most importantly, I believe that as a director, I will need to make decisions based on the fiscal responsibility of the association. ADGA has seen many financial changes over the last few years, and we must have directors who can look at the larger picture of what is on the horizon financially. Again, as a school administrator, this skill is crucial especially given the shrinking education budgets that we experience. I will work to think outside the box to find solutions that are in the best interest for you as individuals as well as the whole ADGA membership.

Over the years, numerous people encouraged me to consider running for a director position. I have always said that the time was not right. This year I believe the time is right. I chose to run this year because I believe our association could benefit from my skills. I believe that by working together and representing your views, we can modernize ADGA by being transparent, accountable, and through communication.

*Ed Jodlowski*

**Please vote for Ed Jodlowski ADGA #0881649**

