

June 2021

Dear District 8 Members,

I hope this letter finds you and yours well after an unprecedented 15 months. As I sit at the San Joaquin Ag Fest with my FFA students for the livestock auction, it is clear California is well into its post-COVID transition and it is time for us to collectively look forward to what that looks like for the American Dairy Goat Association and its membership, and how we get there from here.

Most organizations experience growing pains at some point in their lifespan and it would be presumptuous to believe that with 117 years of service to dairy goat breeders around the world that ADGA would manage to escape. However, in order to grow and remain relevant, ADGA leadership needs to set the example and embrace the characteristics to be mirrored by the organization. These include:

Accountability and Communication: Most of us have experienced challenges completing business during the rollout of ROSS-NG. Change is required for progress to happen. It isn't always smooth, but accountability of leadership to make wise and fully informed decisions (even if it is an unpopular one) is a primary responsibility of a director. Likewise communication – one on one for members in need, and reliable public dissemination of information. Change does not have to be seamless as long as communication channels, and the trust associated with good communication, remain open. I have regularly assisted District 8 members through a variety of communication methods, and will expand on that if given the opportunity to serve as a District 8 director.

Vision and Passion: An association as diverse and extensive as ADGA needs a constant influx of new ideas, and the passion and dedication to develop those ideas into tangible products and solutions. When I chaired the Youth Annual Meeting and Education in 2019 we had one of the most varied and innovative Convention programs in a number of years, including introducing quality assurance training and newly developed educational materials. As a director I look forward to enthusiastically bringing fresh ideas and perspective to the association and helping you introduce your vision for the association as well.

Inclusive and Adaptable: ADGA is teeming with talent and ideas across the country. We need directors familiar with their members who seek to build relationships, and expand and recruit talents effectively and efficiently for committee work, educational events, and community outreach. And after each year, reflect to help the association continue to adapt and improve our volunteer leadership system. As an ag teacher and FFA advisor, I can bring to the table these same skills I utilize each time I find the 'right niche' for a student to grow and blossom.

I know it has been a hard year with many frustrations but as the transition continues I would like to offer a friendly and empathetic ear and serve as your voice for District 8. I am always open to questions or concerns. You can reach me at 209-499-1090 or jlibertyra@gmail.com. Thank you for your support and taking the time to vote!

Respectfully,

Jenn Tereba
#1466669