uctioneer

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LOSES INTERNET?



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John Nicholls, AARE, AMM NAA President

National Auctioneers Association President John Nicholls, AARE, AMM, is a second-generation Auctioneer who has made it his business to lead in the world around him.

As President of Nicholls Auction Marketing Group, Inc.. John conducts and oversees more than 300 auctions per year for Fortune 500 companies, while he also serves the NAA membership and auction industry as an official, speaker, and educator. He has appeared on the TODAY show as a past NAA IAC Champion, and has served as a leading voice for the auction profession for many news outlets and publications.

Aside from winning IAC in 2006, John has won a slew of awards and honors. A few of those include: 1994 Virginia State Champion Auctioneer; 2003 World Automobile Auctioneer Champion; and 2016 Virginia Auctioneers Association Hall of Fame inductee.

John resides in Fredericksburg, Virginia, with his family.

Thank you, states!

'n less than four months, we will meet in Columbus, Ohio to elect new leadership for the National Auctioneers Association. It is difficult for me to believe that at that time. I will have only one year left to serve on the NAA Board of Directors.

I have been blessed to serve with people who genuinely care about this organization, and what I know about the candidates who are up for election this year is that they genuinely care about NAA as

Many members may be concerned because we have a limited field of candidates - I am concerned about this as well. According to the Bylaws, the Nominating Committee may endorse up to two candidates per position. Those candidates who are not selected may still run, but they must notify our CEO, Hannes Combest, by April 1 so that they can be included in the absentee ballot process. Using that language gives the Nominating Committee the flexibility to find the best candidates for the NAA.

I believe that this year's smaller field is abnormal. In early March, the Governance Committee met and discussed this among many other issues. Specifically, this group discussed what we need to do to ensure that candidates are identified. developed and supported for future NAA leadership positions. The Governance Committee includes Kurt Aumann, Lori Jones, Mark Rogers, Tom Saturley, Lance Walker and is vice chaired by Scott Shuman. I have the opportunity to serve as chair. This group is dedicated to ensuring that the electoral process for the NAA provides the membership the most informed, best-educated candidates possible. To see which candidates the Nominating Committee endorsed, see page 12.

All of us on the Governance Committee have talked with people about running for the Board in the future. Several candidates have indicated to us they plan to run in Jacksonville - that waiting for a year was important to them as most had personal or business-related issues this year. The good news is if everyone follows through with what they said to us personally - our slate of candidates in 2018 in Jacksonville should be very strong!

Rest assured, we still have great candidates this year. It will be a race between two fine Board members for Vice President, and the other positions all have outstanding candidates as well.

Overall, the volunteer pipeline is well supplied. We have people who are learning about NAA, growing in their leadership capabilities and are committed to the NAA. The future is strong.

Before I close, I also want to thank those state association leaders who attended the State Leadership Conference in March. During our dayand-a-half together, I learned so much and enjoyed our time of fellowship.

I was proud of our Advocacy Committee and Promotions Committee as their Chairs (David Whitley and Tim Mast) presented what is happening in those committees to more than 80 people representing 30 state associations. I thoroughly enjoyed listening to Cissy Tabor who talked about how she publishes Colorado's newsletter and Russ Hilk from Wavebid and Kim Hemingway from Kentucky about how to incorporate vendors into your state's convention program. For more information about the State Leadership Conference, check out page 30.

It is thrilling to see the auction industry in such capable hands as it is in with all of the leaders in attendance, and I am very excited about future NAA efforts with the states. Because of that and the continued hard work put in by so many volunteer members, I know we are working hard to ensure NAA is led with the educational, promotional and advocate-minded direction it needs to be to ensure NAA members are the preferred auction professionals used in the marketplace.

Thank you for all you do on these fronts and for your support!









COVER: What can you do if you lose internet?

It's a pretty terrifying scenario when you stop to consider it. Thankfully, there are solutions out there that can help auction professionals get their online auction completed in such cases.

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 #NAAPro poster. Here are tips on using it!
- 12 2017 NAA Election
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- **#NAACS17: Explore Columbus!**Arts, coffee and ale trails, a riverfront walk, and more lots to see at Conference and Show!
- NAA unveils "Learning from the Legends" recording series
 Hall of Fame members share stories and advice in free, 30-minute episodes.

How to turn leads into sellers That was just one tonic explored at February

That was just one topic explored at February's NAA Auction Marketing Summmit.

NAA launches Contract Auctioneer Specialist designation The newest offering soft-launched in Chicago

The newest offering soft-launched in Chicago and appears ready to take off.

Why IJAC is so important now, and for the future

For ages 12-18, the contest has proven to hold big value for young, aspiring auction professionals.

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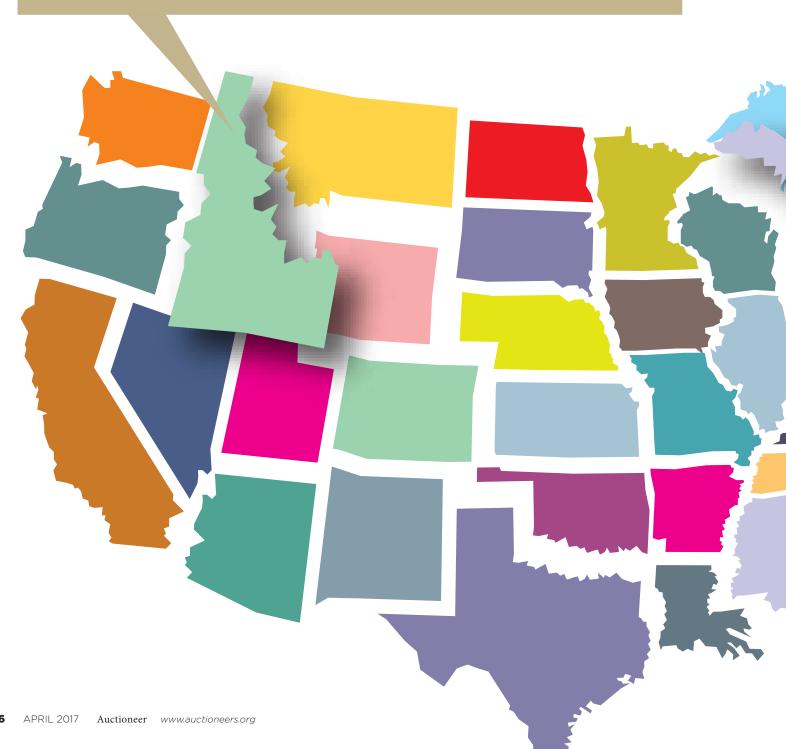
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State watch

IDAHO

A strong group of 30 attended the annual convention of the Idaho Association of Professional Auctioneers, Jan. 13-14, at the Oxford Suites in Boise. In addition to taking part in networking and education events, attendees watched J.R. Baker win Auctioneer Champion in the 2017 competition. Rookie Champion went to NAA member Luke Nolte and Ring Person Champion to Tanner Beymer.

Results of the annual election include the following new officers: President – Rod Elson; Vice President – Paul Adams, CAI; Directors – Tate Heinzerling, Chad Macomber, NAA Member Mark Gustafson, and Jim Casad.

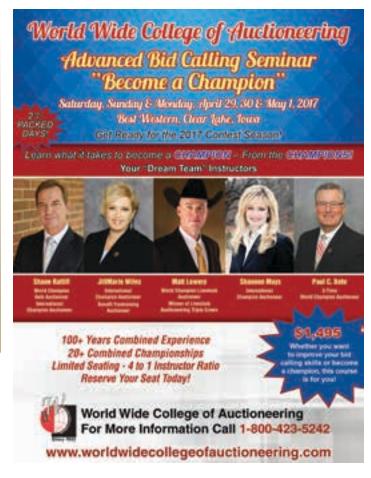


MICHIGAN

The Michigan Auctioneers Association inducted Jerry Cole of Beulah, Michigan, and Willis Yoder, CAI, of Shipshewana, Indiana, into the MAA Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony took place at the President's banquet during the MAA Conference hosted Jan. 19-21.

The annual conference was attended by 112 registrants in Traverse City, where Patrick J. Donadio and Beth Rose, CAI, AARE, were featured speakers. Rose, the 2016 NAA International Auctioneer Women's Division Champion, also received the President's Award of Distinction at the conference. Championships were awarded to NAA Member Eli Troyer for Michigan Auctioneer and Willis Yoder for Ringman. Results of the annual election show four NAA members joining the state's board: President - Chuck Ranney; Vice President - Joseph D. Sherwood; Secretary - Jordan Miedema; and Director: Robert Poole, GPPA. And Ryan Hanson rounds out the newly elected as a Director.







How to use your NAA poster

Your printed April issue of Auctioneer included a fold out poster for you to use and help spread the "Success with our **#NAAPro"** message!

By NAA Staff

art of this year's National Auctioneers Week activities (and the year in general) includes a new message for NAA members to share with their clients and customers.

"Success with our #NAAPro" provides a great way to gather visual testimonies from the general public and share them visually. The idea is that while it is okay for you tell others how good you are at your job, when someone else speaks highly on your behalf, the message carries far more weight.

Therefore, here is a plan for you to follow in order to get the most out of your sign and really drive home the point that #AuctionsWork during National Auctioneers Week!

Don't forget the sign. Sounds easy, right? Well, you can't use the sign you don't have. Take it out of the plastic and unfold it. Lay it flat in order to get any major creases out. The sign is • built to be a little sturdier than normal, but if you can, perhaps think about laminating it in order to give it a little extra support against wear and tear.

Make sure you use the sign everywhere you go. Now that your sign is ready to go, keep it handy. Put it in your auction vehicle so that you have it for appointments. You don't have • to wait until a sale day to use it. Did you have a successful planning session? Was it just a quick check-in meeting with an existing or former seller? Don't be afraid to get a video or image (see the next point) with anyone who can help you spread the message that working with you works!

Get video AND photos. In today's marketing and social media environment, video is quickly becoming even more important than photos. So, if you have the tools (i.e., a smart device phone, tablet, etc.), make sure you capture a quick video with your client smiling and saying "We have success with our #NAAPro!" Then, also snap a couple of quick images, and you're good to go!

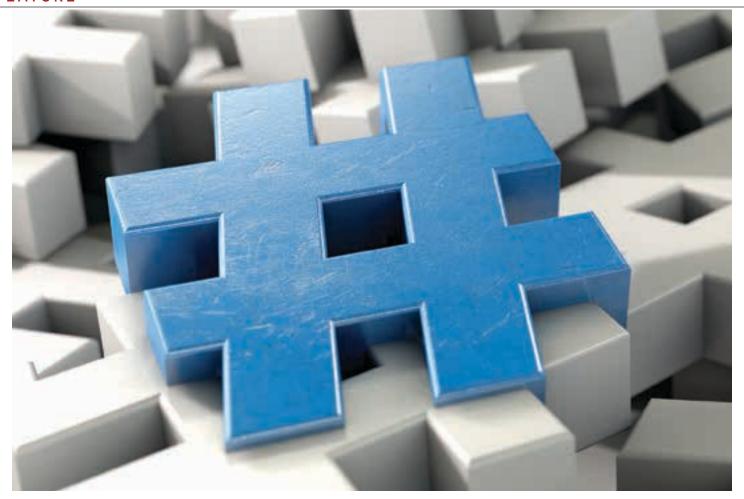


Use those videos with hashtags and tags. So, now that you are collecting those videos and images, what should you do with them? Tag and share everywhere you can. Use the #NAAPro and #AuctionsWork hashtags. Tag the people who appear in your videos and pictures (they will love this!), and put your visual content on all of your social media feeds – Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Twitter, etc. Sharing a steady collection of your testimonials will bolster your standing as the go-to person for client and customer needs, and it

will help spread wide the message that success happens when the public uses an #NAAPro!

And remember, during National Auctioneers Week (April 3-8), Wednesday, April 5 is "Success Wednesday"! That day especially, make sure you share your clients' successes as we've described here. For more information, visit auctioneers.org/national-auctioneers-week-toolkit. ❖

Cess with our #NAAPro!



It's a hashtag, not a pound sign

By Adele Lind-Nichols

Ed. note: This article originally appeared in the 'Colorado Auctioneer' but the information regarding hashtag use is something that appeals, or should appeal, to a larger audience. -ck

ashtags – yes, that symbol which "back in the day that was a pound sign or tic-tac-toe." In today's world, abound with social and digital media, it is so much more. WHAT is a hashtag, WHY should you care, and HOW do you use one?

Ironically, you have to resort to an online dictionary for a definition. In my Webster's Dictionary, copyright 1996, there was no such thing. Dictionary.com defines a hashtag as a noun "(on social-media websites) a word or phrase preceded by a hash mark (#), used within a message to identify a keyword or topic of interest and facilitate a search for it." According to hashtags.org "Simply put, a hashtag is an easy way for people to categorize, find and join conversations on a particular topic. The hashtag is used to highlight keywords or topics within (social media)..."

WHAT?

A hashtag is a tool used to help sort and identify topics in social

Think of your kitchen as an example – now we all know some are more organized than others but the majority separate silverware, plates, baking equipment, sharp knives, cutting boards, and mixing bowls into different areas such as cupboards and drawers. We do this for ease of access and efficiency.

By putting the # character in front of a term or word (without spaces!) it becomes a clickable link. Examples which are important to you include #ColoradoAuctioneer and #AuctionsWork. (Hashtags are non-case specific, therefore #coloradoauctioneer and #auctionsWork would offer the same result.) If you were reading this text on a social media site such as Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram and you clicked on say #ColoradoAuctioneer you would be directed to recent and popular posts where others used the same hashtag.

Social media is BIG, but we can help provide direction. Hashtags drive people interested in a topic to one area.

Back to the kitchen – go to the drawer that contains silverware and you will find silverware and related items!

WHY?

Social media is BIG, but we can help provide direction. Hashtags drive people interested in a topic to one area.

At the time of this writing, upon clicking on #AuctionsWork on Facebook, I am taken to recent posts which include #AuctionsWork ; an ongoing real estate auction, an advertisement for an upcoming real estate auction showing, a post about a world record set at auction for the sale of a diamond, and an advertisement for a timed auction ending today at 2 p.m. ... The list goes on and yields similar results on Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest.

Hashtags help people interact with others interested in the same topic – a customer interested in the auction method of marketing versus other methods might be scoping out recent auctions. They click on #AuctionsWork and are taken to dozens of examples where the auction method of marketing worked, and they see examples of how Auctioneers market their product.

Back to the kitchen again – if I want a fork is it necessary to hunt all over the kitchen? No, all I need to do is go to the drawer with the silverware.

How? #ItsEasy

In the past, there have been digital ideas we thought might take over the world and be the next big thing - QR codes, anyone? The problem with those things is they often are not effective as they require multiple extra steps. Implementing hashtags requires one extra step.

Finally, think about creating your own hashtag. Remember, hashtags are not case specific, but your readers are. Perhaps capitalize each word for ease of reading. No symbols, no spaces, no punctuation, numbers are ok. Like most things, don't go overboard or you risk looking unprofessional, and let's face it, #TooManyHashtags are obnoxious.

In our now familiar kitchen analogy – this is your recipe, get your neatly organized utensils and just cook.

I challenge each of you who engage in social media to take it a step further in the name of auctions! �



PROVEN LEADERSHIP

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2017 NAA Election

The NAA Nominating Committee has announced its endorsements for this year's election.

By NAA Staff

head of the annual election to be held during the Annual Business Meeting in July, the NAA Nominating Committee has concluded its work for the 2017 election. A total of five candidates are endorsed for three positions – including vice president (two candidates), treasurer, and two director seats (two candidates).

The following candidates will be running for election at the annual meeting on July 13 at the 68th International Auctioneers Conference and Show in Columbus, Ohio:

Vice President

Timothy Mast, CAI, AARE

Darron Meares, CAI, BAS, MPPA

Director

Trisha Brauer, CAI, BAS

David Whitley, CAI, CES

Treasurer

Thomas Rowell, CAI, AARE.

While the treasurer serves a two-year term, serving on the board is a three-year commitment for the Vice President and Directors. The Vice President serves a one-year term, ascends to the presidency the following year, then concludes service as Chairman of the Board. Directors may serve two, three-year terms. Two Directors are elected each year.

Absentee ballots will be available on May 1, 2017, for members only, at auctioneers.org. Ballots must be received in the NAA office by 4 p.m. on Monday, July 3 in a sealed envelope with the member's name and member number on the outside of the envelope. Individuals who vote by absentee



ballot and then decide they wish to vote in person may request their ballot be returned prior to the closing of the polls at the annual business meeting.

The nominating committee's process for recognizing candidates consists of reviewing applications and interviewing each candidate. Detailed descriptions of each position as well as the qualifications, knowledge, and skills needed based on the competencies required for the board are outlined on the NAA website. Candidates are given until the end of February to complete and return an application to be considered to serve on the board.

Per NAA Bylaws, up to two candidates per position may be endorsed by the committee. Candidates who do not receive an endorsement may still run for election by notifying NAA headquarters by April 1 to be included on absentee ballots. This year, all candidates received the Committee's endorsement.

Last fall, the NAA Board of Directors approved bylaw changes that allow an individual member of the board to seek a second consecutive term on the Board of Directors.

The five-member Nominating Committee includes: Spanky Assiter, CAI, AARE, Chair, NAA Chairman of the Board; John Nicholls, AARE, AMM, NAA President; Janine Huisman, CAI, AMM, BAS, CAS, GPPA, EI Trustees, Vice Chair; J.J. Dower, CAI, AARE, AMM, CES, NAA Foundation President; and Jason Miller, CAI, State Representative from the Ohio Auctioneers Association. �





C&BUS, OHIO CONFERENCE AND SHOW 2017

Explore Columbus!

Arts, coffee and ale trails, a riverfront walk and more, this year's Conference and Show host city offers a ton of stuff to see and do.

By Nancy Hull Rigdon, contributor



t this year's NAA International Auctioneers Conference nad Show, NAA members can step away from the event and quickly arrive at one of many destinations unique to Columbus, Ohio.

So that members can not only take advantage of the event's professional opportunities but also make the most of the location, we bring you several exploration ideas. Whether you'll only be able to fit in a quick stroll or are tying C&S into a family vacation, the following list highlights some top options.

1. Walk the historic arts district

The Greater Columbus Convention Center, located in the heart of downtown Columbus, plays host to C&S.

"If you walk just north of the convention center, you'll hit the

Short North Arts District, where you'll find dozens and dozens of locally owned art galleries and boutiques for all tastes along with incredible local food options," says Megumi Robinson, associate director of public relations at Experience Columbus (the city's convention and visitors bureau).

Seventeen colorful arches line the district – a feature that earned Columbus a nickname as "the arch city."

2. Experience German Village

From the venue, hop on the CBUS – a free circulator bus that hits stops every 10 minutes – to visit German Village. The neighborhood features brick-lined streets and beautifully preserved historic homes built in the late 1800's. Plus, the area includes boutiques as well as Schiller Park, where you'll find a free Shakespeare theater series in the summer.



3. See the Riverfront

"July is a great time of year to spend outdoors in Columbus, and I encourage everyone to make their way to the Riverfront," Robinson says.

A multi-million dollar restoration recently transformed the area by way of green space, connected pathways and pedestrian bridges. The destination is Battelle Riverfront Park, which runs along the east side of the Scioto River in downtown.

4. Bike the city

Break from the conference for some exercise and exploration via Columbus' bike share program, named CoGo.

5. Hit a fun kind of trail

Columbus offers a "coffee trail," "ale trail" and "made-in" trail. Grab a trail map at the convention center and head out to participating businesses. If you go to all the shops on the coffee trail, you'll score a free t-shirt.

"Columbus has a thriving coffee scene," Robinson says. "The coffee trail is a great way to dive in and explore not just the coffee scene but the neighborhoods as well."

Visit all establishments on the ale trail? You earn a pint glass. The made-in trail, which is the newest addition to the city's trail family, highlights locally owned businesses.

6. Venture out to visitor staples

Robinson also recommends seeking out a classic Columbus destination. The Columbus Museum of Art recently underwent a massive renovation and expansion. You'll see gorgeous Chihuly glass artwork at Franklin Park Conservatory. COSI (Center of Science and Industry) features a space theme this summer. Columbus Zoo and Aquarium has a kid-friendly claim to fame: the only zoo with a water park.

She encourages NAA members to take advantage of the city's various transportation options to explore the city. There's Uber, Lyft and car-sharing service Car2go in addition to CBUS.

"It is very, very easy to get around Columbus," she says.

For details on these highlighted attractions as well as information on many other things to see and do in Columbus, check out the convention and visitors bureau at experiencecolumbus.com.

breakout Register now for Conference and Show in Columbus! Visit conferenceandshow.com. *



2017 NAA HALL OF FAME

Name of Nominee				
Residence Address				
City	State	Zip code		
Phone				
BUSINESS INFORMATION				
Name of Firm				
Position in Firm		Number of Associates or Partners in Firm		
Business Address				
City	State	Zip code		
Phone				
PERSONAL AND FAMILY INFORMATION				
Spouse's Name				
Does spouse participate in the auction professio	n? 🗆 yes 🗆 no			
If yes, please explain:				
Number of Children				
Do any participate in the auction profession?]yes □no			
If yes, please explain				
PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION				
How long has the nominee been associated with	the auction business?years.			
What percentage of the nominee's time is actively spent in the auction business?%				
Number of years this nominee has been a member of NAA? years.				
Does the nominee specialize in any particular field of auctioneering?				
If yes, please explain				
State Association(s) of nominee				
NAA ACTIVITY				
List NAA involvement of the nominee, including – offices held, current and past; designations earned; committees; instructor at CAI, Conference				
and Show, designation classes, summits, seminars; etc.:				

NOMINATION FORM



	-	
STATE ASSOCIATION ACTIVITY		
List state association involvement, offices held, etc.:		
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT		
List any notable community activities:		
Please reflect your personal assessment of the nominee and opinion of why he/she should be elected to the NAA Hall of	Fame:	

Nominations must be postmarked no later than June 1st of each year. Mail to:

NAA Hall of Fame Committee c/o National Auctioneers Association 8880 Ballentine Overland Park, KS 66214

NOTE: Nominee will remain on the ballot for five (5) years. If not elected, they will be removed from the ballot and are eligible to be nominated again after one year.

Submitted by (please print)		
Address		
City	State	_Zip
Phone		





Kurt Bachman Attorney and licensed Auctioneer from LaGrange, Ind. He can be reached at (260) 463-4949 or krbachman@ beersmallers.com.

Kurt R. Bachman and Beers Mallers Backs & Salin LLP appreciate the opportunity to review and answer legal questions that will be of interest to Auctioneers. The answers to these questions are designed to provide information of general interest to the public and are not intended to offer legal advice about specific situations or problems. Kurt R. Bachman and Beers Mallers Backs & Salin LLP do not intend to create an attorney-client relationship by offering this information, and anvone's review of the information shall not be deemed to create such a relationship. You should consult a lawyer if you have a legal matter requiring attention. Kurt R. Bachman and Beers Mallers Backs & Salin LLP also advise that any information you send to **Auctioneer** shall not be deemed secure or confidential. Please visit one of our offices to ensure complete confidentiality.

Avoiding online Buyer's Remorse

Do your terms and condition stand up in litigation?

Question: How can you pursue collection of payment from an "Online Only Auction" buyer who had buyer's remorse after the auction closed? During the registration process a bidder selects the little box agreeing to the terms and condition, but how well does this stand up in litigation?

Answer: Electronic contracts are generally as enforceable a standard written contract. All states--with the exception of New York, Illinois, and Washington have adopted versions of the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act ("UETA"), a model law drafted by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws ("National Conference") in July 1999. National Conference, the organization that also drafted the Uniform Commercial Code, brought together experts in contracts, the Internet and business issues to create a model law governing electronic contracts. After creating the model law, states then chose to adopt it as the law of their state.

similar federal law, the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act ("E-Sign Act"), governs transactions subject to federal law. These laws legally recognize electronic signatures and contracts. It considers electronic signatures and electronic contracts to be essentially the same as paper writings and manually-signed signatures. These laws were intended to remove barriers to electronic commerce.

The keys to enforcement of the electronic contracts are the following: (1) having a good registration process; (2) having a good registration agreement or terms and conditions of the auction agreement; (3) having a good website and keeping good records.

A. It is important to have a good registration process where bidder's register for the online auction and agree to the terms and conditions of the auction. With identity theft in the online world becoming more common, Auctioneers should take steps to verify the identity of the individual registering for the auction. This could include, for example, requesting a copy of a government issued ID such as a driver's license or passport.

Auctioneers should also take some precaution to make sure the registered bidders have contractual capacity. The parties must be able to legally enter into a contract. A minor (generally an individual under the age of 18) or someone who was found to be incompetent does not have the capacity to enter into a written contract. Requesting a date of birth or a copy of a government issues ID, such as a driver's license, will help verify whether someone is over the age of 18.

B. The terms of the contract must be clearly established. The elements required for a legally binding contract are an offer, an acceptance, a "meeting of the minds", and consideration. In a reserve auction, for example, a bidder makes an offer to purchase the table for \$200, the seller accepts the offer to sell the table for \$200, and there is mutuality in the both parties understand the terms of the agreement and are talking about the same table.

If the parties were talking about different table, there could be a mutual mistake or a lack of mutuality. Consideration is an interesting element; it means that something of value must be some exchanged. In this example, there is good consideration. The buyer is paying \$200 in exchange for a specific table.

C. An Auctioneer seeking to assert the validity of the contract must be able to prove the intent of the signer to be bound by the contract. It must also be able to show the security of the website and authenticate the contract. The security of the website is important. If there is a possibility that the contract could been altered or tampered with after it was signed, it will make enforcing the contract more difficult. There should be protocols to ensure that documents and audit records cannot be accessed by unauthorized parties.

Audit logs are important and should be time stamped, detailed, and secure. Finally, the company or Auctioneer must be able to authenticate the contract. The most common ways to authenticate the identity of a signor of an electronic contact are by something the signer knows (such as a password, pin, etc.) or something the signer has (such as a security card).

D. There is also a practical component to this issue. An "Online Only Auction" could have bidders from all over the United States of America or all over the world. Will Auctioneers seek to enforce a contract again an individual in China, Switzerland, or Spain? Even in the United States, will Auctioneers seek to enforce a contract against individuals in Florida, Maine, California, or Delaware? There are costs associated with seeking to enforce a contract and whether an Auctioneer will enforce a contract usually depends on the facts and value of the contract.

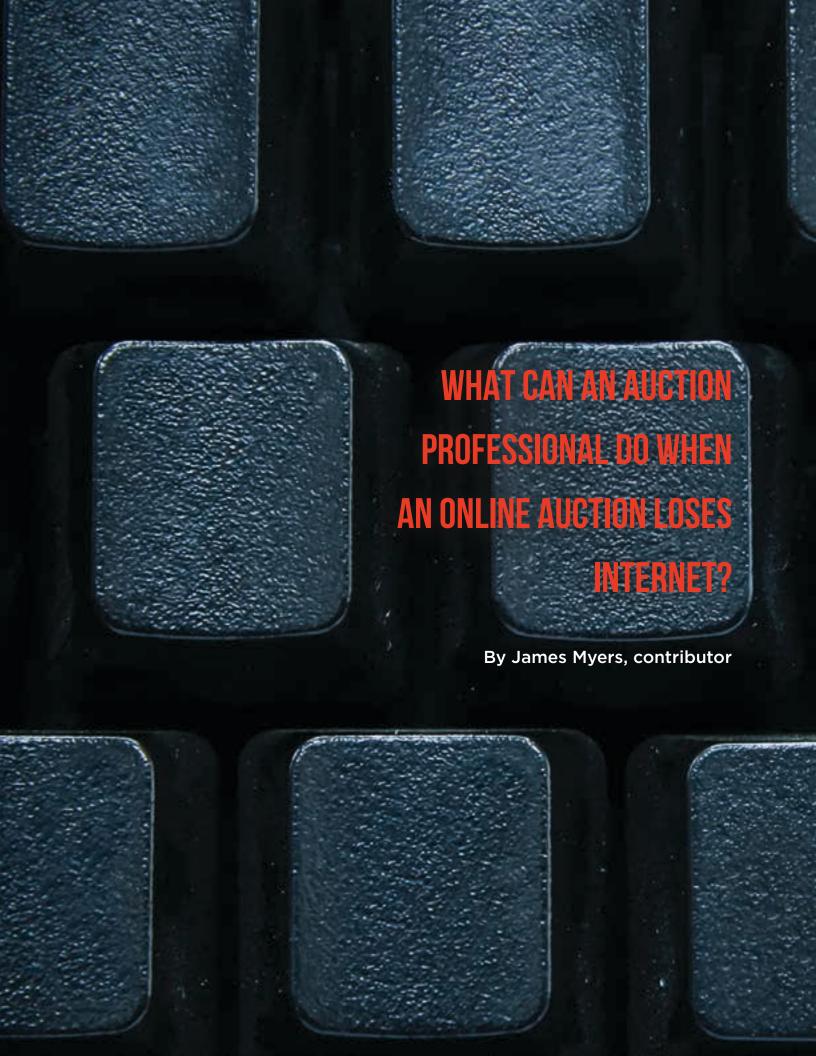
Auctioneers can take steps to protect themselves. They could, for example, only accept bids from individuals in the United States. There could also be choice of law clauses and venue clauses. These are terms that provide something similar to the following: "This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Indiana, without regard to its conflict of laws provisions. For all disputes relating to this Agreement, each Party submits to the exclusive jurisdiction of the state and federal courts located in Allen County, Indiana, and waives any jurisdictional, venue, or inconvenient forum objections to such courts." These provisions will generally make enforcement of the contracts easier by allowing the Auctioneer to take action in a local court.

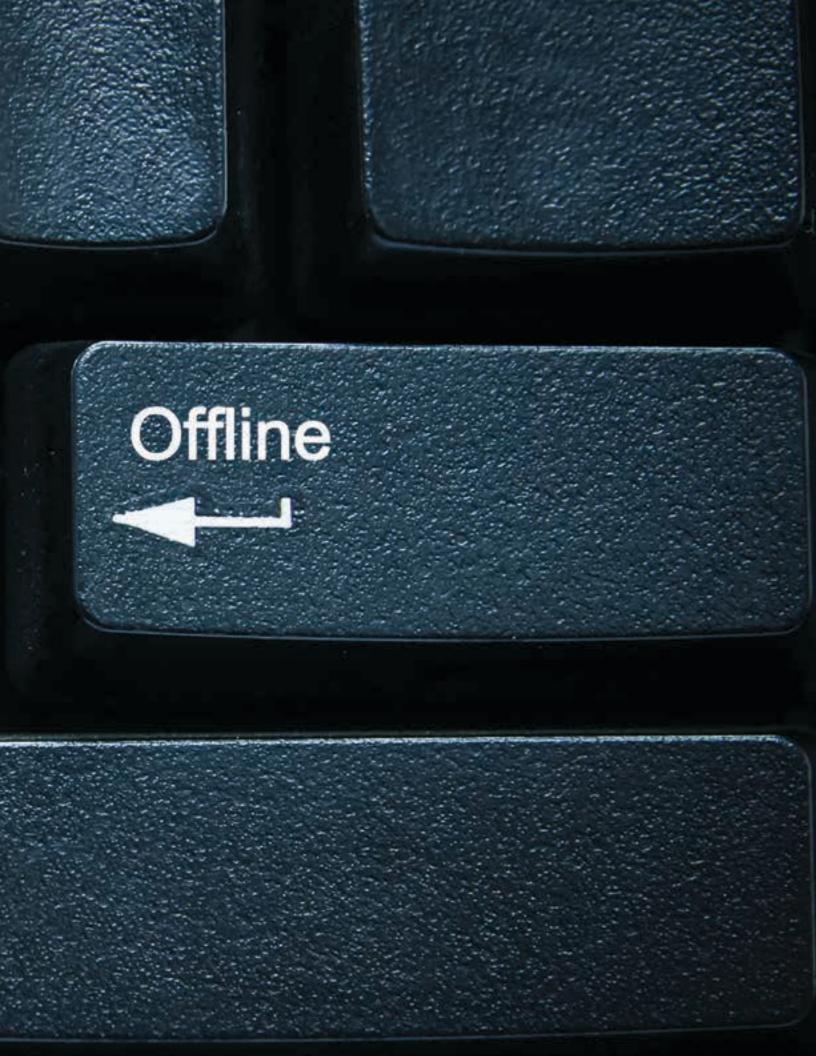
The terms of the registration agreement should be clear, available for review, and can be saved or printed. Also, the bidder must take an action that indicates a clear and unambiguous manifestation of consent. This is usually checking the "I AGREE" box and then the "SUBMIT" button for registration. Under the E-Sign Act, the party proposing an electronic agreement must also describe any hardware or software requirements necessary to read and save the electronic documents. A party should also be allowed to opt out and use a paper contract instead.

E-commerce is big business. Auctioneers should take the time required to properly set up for "Online Only Auctions." If completed properly, the contract should generally be enforceable. Auctioneers should be aware of the issues relating to the enforcement of the final contract and consult with a licensed attorney to help them with the preparation of the registration agreement and the registration process. •











espite the growing availability of Wi-Fi hotspots and expanding data coverage offered by mobile providers, there are times when an auction professional works in an area where there is no viable internet connection.

When that happens, what can they do to save their online auction?

The good news is that auction professionals can download mobile apps that allow them to catalog their entire auction without an internet connection, so it doesn't matter how remote their location is, they can still take advantage of the software.

The bad news is that if you are going to host an auction with an online component, an internet connection is mandatory at some point.

NAA member Lenny Mullin, BAS, a real estate broker and Auctioneer, found himself in a situation recently and reached out via Facebook to pose a question to the auction community. Mullin, using a popular software program called Auction Flex, wanted to know the best or fastest way to catalog a 400 lot online auction with no internet connection, as he was in a remote location.

Mullin has now logged hundreds of items using Auction Flex and is fairly proficient in it, but his question to the community on Facebook deserves a closer look due to the fact that there are many Auctioneers who are new to this technology, especially those cloud-based, Software as a Service (SaaS) solutions that can be tough to grasp as a concept.

Max Webster, a Cincinnati-based NAA auction professional, was quick to respond to Mullin's question, offering good advice on

how to use Auction Flex to his advantage. Webster has had his share of remote auctions where getting a connection was tough, including in Southeast Asia a decade ago when he used a slow and expensive satellite service.

Webster said in his region, about half of auction professionals are still doing live auctions, but he sees the industry in his area moving toward the online component just as it is everywhere else.

"If you find yourself in a pinch," Webster said of remote auctions with no connectivity, "you haven't done your research."

The important thing to know about Auction Flex and another auctioneering solution called Wavebid, Webster noted, is that they don't require an internet connection to catalog an auction.

NAA member Russ Hilk, AMM, GPPA, has a unique perspective on the topic of utilizing software that doesn't require an internet connection, but the efficiency component of the software is equally impactful. Following the recession of 2007-2008, he was incredibly busy with auctions, managing most of his tasks manually.

"We didn't have the tools we needed to be productive," Hilk said. "I said, 'Let's build some software and make life better for a lot of people."

He established Wavebid in 2011, creating a SaaS solution that also works without internet. He and his Wavebid team knew most people have internet access most of the time, but the company wanted to "plan for the inevitable circumstance when the Auctioneer didn't have internet."

Auctioneers can download the Wavebid app to their phone or



TRISHA BRAUER FOR NAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS www.voteforTrisha.com

"The National Auctioneers Association needs dedicated and experienced auctioneers who are willing to put forth their time and energy to advance the mission of the NAA for its membership. As a former NAA Director, I recognize this as a vital need for a board member and believe we have an opportunity to achieve this in Trisha Brauer.

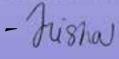
Our company highly recommends and endorses Trisha Brauer as a 2017 NAA Director and I personally encourage you to make your vote count with this in mind."

-Shawn Terrel Broker/Auctioneer United Country - Kansas City Auction and Realty



TRISHA BRAUER, BAS, CAI, MBA

I GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR VOTE AT CONFERENCE & SHOW OR BY ABSENTEE BALLOT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.







Kansas City Auction and Realty





AD DESIGNED BY:





Auction Flex and Wavebid both offer offline solutions for auction professionals who need bidding platforms in non-internet



tablet and use the app to catalog auctions, even when they're in a "non-internet environment." Once they are back to an area with internet, all the items can be bulk uploaded to Wavebid's cloudbased service.

"Should you be in an area without internet," Hilk added, "we designed an offline Wavebid product that can be downloaded to your computer. It mimics everything you do online, but it's all done in a local environment."

Mullin notes that since he started using his mobile app, his auction have become much easier. It wasn't long ago that he had to tag every item in the auction, take a picture of it, write a description of it in a notebook and move the item to the auction house or live auction location and log everything into a computer.

"With this mobile logging," Mullin said, "you can just waltz through."

Mullin's estate sales no longer include emptying entire cupboards

of their contents and logging them. He simply takes a picture and closes the door.

Hilk said users of his software enjoy the fact that multiple people can log an auction at the same time with a single repository holding the information. For people who haven't had these tools and have meticulously carried out every task manually, adopting the technology can be a revelation.

"I've been on trainings where people have honestly cried because the amount of work they didn't have to do anymore," Hilk said. "It's that powerful to them."

Kris Kennedy, support manager and the manager of marketing and sales for Auction Flex, explains that Auction Flex is the company's management software that handles in-person, onthe-ground management services, such as checking in buyers, clerking, invoicing for buyers, settling with consigners, etc. It's also the interface and management console for their online component called HiBid, which is an integrated web service and internet bidding solution.

Should an Auctioneer know he or she is going to host an auction without internet, Kennedy recommends using something called internet absentee bidding, which is a component of HiBid that allows bids to be taken up to the time of the live auction start. Most auctioneers will close the early bidding a few hours before the live auction and pull those bids into the Auction Flex management software for use during the auction.

But, what about hosting a live auction with an online component from a place that had internet before something catastrophic happens to the network? Kennedy said it's definitely not a good situation to be in, but there is a way to utilize the auction software and continue on.

For example, Kennedy notes that Auction Flex is offline, natively, which means the lack of internet does not affect the local live, in-person auction. However, with no internet connection, the online bids need to be accounted for somehow, which can be done through a phone relay with someone who does have internet connection. For instance, an auction employee using Auction Flex can follow the online bidding and communicate via phone to a clerk at the live auction to update what's going on with the online bids.

"You're setting up a phone relay," Kennedy explained. "Someone back at your office can log into your webcast auction and they can be the interface with the clerk. If you can give them some way to hear the floor bids, they can relay those floor bids online. Usually, this is done with a couple of cell phones." �



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Never too late

NAA member Kevin Troutt found a way to learn from his Hall of Fame father, Ken, even after his dad passed away.

By Brittany Lane, NAA Content Developer

o Kevin Troutt, riding a unicycle is a lot like being an Auctioneer.

You see, to operate the unconventional cycle that is often associated with the circus, you need a great sense of poise and direction. Kevin, BAS, personally understands this as he picked up riding one for fitness when he turned 51. A decade later, he still rides a mountain unicycle through sloped trails in Boise, Idaho for physical training and endurance.

"What I've learned about being tenacious - which is a good trait for an Auctioneer – some of it came from unicycling," he muses. "You must have balance, tenacity, and you have to be willing to look goofy to accomplish your goal."

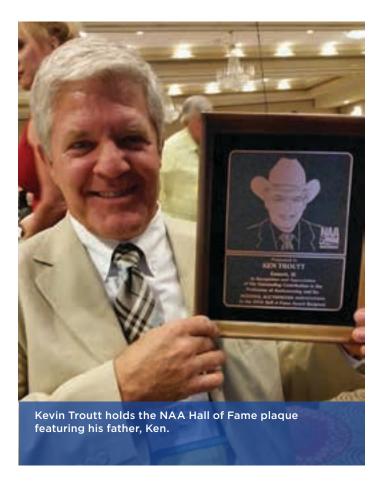
One thing is clear: Kevin is passionate about his life. The excitement is brimming in his voice whether speaking about hobbies like cycling, his family, or his career as a benefit Auctioneer raising money for good causes. With so much zeal, one wouldn't think the second-generation Auctioneer ever had any indecision about going into the family business. After all, as the middle son of famous Auctioneer and NAA Hall of Fame member Ken Troutt, auctioneering is in his blood.

Renowned for his hard work in the livestock industry, the late Ken Troutt was a high-powered Auctioneer who believed in helping the little guys, sometimes even taking on sales when he could see the person needed help. He passed away 23 years ago, but he is still remembered for his "beautiful" bid chant, which won him a World Livestock Auctioneer Championship in 1967.

Despite growing up in the business, however, Kevin didn't always want to be an Auctioneer like his father.

It was his brothers, Kenny and Kelly, who saw his potential and pushed him to really take on auctioneering. Four years after their father's death in 1994, Kevin was assisting his brothers with auctions and learning the basics. He went from working as a "wingman" to building his own auction empire alongside his brothers who also carry on their father's legacy with their own companies in Idaho.

"I didn't do a lot of auctioning, but then I thought I'm going to start doing this. I endeavored to do it," Kevin said.



Kevin says the generosity of NAA Members like Larry Flynn, BAS, and Chris Brown helped him get work doing bid calling and overflow auctions. In a remarkable moment, Brown even aided Kevin in getting a lesson from beyond with his late father. Brown gave Kevin a ride one day and there was an auctioneer's chant playing on his car stereo.

"I said, "Hey, that's my dad! What are you doing with that?' He said, 'Oh, I'm listening to it to get better.' I copied the CD and started listening to it. So, my dad taught me how to auction years after he passed," Kevin recalls.

With Brown's encouragement, Kevin joined the Idaho Association of Professional Auctioneers and then joined the NAA. By the time his father was posthumously inducted into the NAA Hall of Fame in 2014, Kevin was successfully auctioneering





full time and working to earn the NAA Benefit Auction Specialist designation.

Specializing in benefit auctions came naturally to Kevin after he was asked to do the bid calling at many charity events early in his career. He enjoys the rewarding challenge of finding solutions that raise money for his clients and earn him a paycheck.

"Many nonprofits don't have a budget to have an Auctioneer, so I must figure out creative ways to make a living so that it doesn't cost them," he said. "It has to make sense to the nonprofit or else it's me focusing on me.

A successful benefit Auctioneer, Troutt said he's learned about being tenacious – a "good trait for an Auctioneer" – through unicycling.



"I don't want it to ever be about me. I want it to be about them and to show that I'm not just another guy. I care."

He now runs an auction company called Boise Benefit Auctions. At present, he and Flynn are the only two fundraising Auctioneers with the BAS in Idaho.

Kevin is pursuing the professional goal to do one auction a week this year for a total of 52 events. Assisting him with business is his son, Sam, who lends a hand whenever help is needed.

"I've done car auctions and farm sales, but the reason I'm uniquely qualified to be a fundraising Auctioneer is because fundraising involves a lot of passion," Kevin said. "This isn't a 'me' business. It's a 'them' business. I think that's what made my dad so successful; he was all about the cattlemen. He cared more than they did." •



Watch Ken Troutt's posthumous induction into the NAA Hall of Fame at auctioneers.org/archives/videogallery/ken-troutt-emmett-id.



Hall of Fame members share stories and advice in free, 30-minute episodes.

By Sarah Bahari, contributor

ammy L. Ford, CAI, chatted about the difficulties of getting started in the auction business.

Barry Gordon, CAI, AARE, CES, discussed why, even as a Canadian, he joined the National Auctioneers Association.

The veteran Auctioneers shared their stories and doled out advice on "Learning from the Legends," a new recording series produced by the National Auctioneers Association. Airing once a month, the series features half hour-long interviews with past NAA Hall of Fame inductees.

Brandi McGrath Kong, NAA Membership Manager, said the new content provides a platform for informal mentorships between veterans and novices.

"Our longtime Auctioneers have a lot of insight and knowledge they can offer to those just starting out," McGrath Kong said. "This helps encourage new Auctioneers while keeping our Hall of Famers engaged in the industry." Learning from the Legends initially began in 2015 as an annual roundtable discussion at Conference and Show, in which veteran professionals chatted about their careers, changes to the industry and challenges they faced, among other topics.

NAA officials thought a monthly recording based on the same concept would expand upon that effort while reaching professionals who could not travel to Conference and Show, McGrath Kong said. All episodes are free to NAA members.

"A podcast format makes our Hall of Fame members much more accessible," said Kong, who conducts the interviews. "We can really reach our full membership this way."

In each episode, interviewees discuss how they got started in auctioneering, what they know now that they wish they had known before, and how the NAA has influenced their career.

McGrath Kong also asks Hall of Famers to offer advice to new Auctioneers who are trying to find business.

In the first edition, Ford, who has worked as an Auctioneer in Kentucky for 50 years, said starting in the business involved frustration, disappointment and rejection.

"I wish I had known how tough it was going to be to get started," he said in the interview. "... We had some tumultuous times getting started. I could remember thinking, 'Man, I'm going to have a breakthrough. I'm going to get the sale.' Then I would look and a competitor would have it."

Ford, CAI, continued, "I also learned persistence pays off. You can't give up. You can't quit. You've got to move right on, even though there are roadblocks in the way."







From left to right: Barry Godron, Don Shearer, and Sammy Ford all have recorded episodes and given valuable insights in the new NAA's new recording series.

Ford was inducted into the NAA Hall of Fame in 1994.

The second recording featuring Gordon, touched on the benefits of NAA membership and education. Gordon is CEO of Gordon's Estate Services and has been an Auctioneer since 1977 and realtor since 1978.

Inducted to the Hall of Fame in 2010, Gordon urged new Auctioneers to think of the industry's big picture.

"The quote that always hangs in my mind is 'Keep your eye on the things you can't see," he said. "Recognize that we are all blinded by our understanding of what's possible and how things get done. It is understanding the importance of paradigms."

For instance, he said, the rise of the ride-sharing network Uber signaled a big paradigm shift.

Reception to the series has been strong, McGrath Kong said.

"Everyone has been very enthusiastic," she said. "We are helping both audiences stay relevant to each other and learn from each other. This is relationship building through education." *

Support the kids of St. Jude by participating in **Auction for Hope.**

Jordyn is an 11-year-old gymnast with more than 90 medals to her credit. But since 2014, she has been channeling her winner's spirit into fighting acute lymphoblastic leukemia at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.® "We knew St. Jude was the best place for childhood cancer," said Jordyn's mom. St. Jude is leading the way the world understands, treats and defeats childhood cancer and other life-threatening diseases.

Though still receiving chemotherapy, Jordyn has already been able to return to the gym on a limited basis. "Jordyn is passionate about being athletic," said her mom. "She's passionate about saying, hey, this happened to me, but I'm going to bounce back."







Auctioneer



30 states attend NAA State Leadership Conference

Attendees soaked in peer-to-peer insights through roundtable discussions and caught up on current NAA initiatives.

By NAA Staff

n what is believed to be the largest gathering of states for this event, more than 70 representatives from 30 states convened in Kansas City, March 7-8, for the NAA State Leadership Conference.

Among a bevy of leadership seminars and NAA program presentations, the fantastic spread of viewpoints and backgrounds laid the groundwork for solid peer-to-peer discussions in roundtable format.

Five topics were covered – education, advocacy, promotions, governance, and state conventions – with each diving into best successes, challenges, and opportunities. The result of the roundtable exercise, which took several hours to complete, showed nearly 94 percent of survey participants either strongly agreed or agreed that the format was beneficial to them as a state auctioneer association leader.

Following the roundtables, NAA Advocacy Committee Chair David Whitley, CAI, CES, led "Advocacy 101", an enthusiastic presentation on basic government procedures and how to be involved with and influence elected officials.

On Tuesday, sessions were dedicated to best practices in the publications and exhibitor & sponsor sectors.

NAA member Cissy Tabor, BAS, began the morning and showed the room several ways she builds the Colorado Auctioneers Association newsletter, including the best way to incorporate color and large photography. Following her, NAA members Kim Hemingway, GPPA, and Russ Hilk, AMM, GPPA, divulged a host of tips on what works and what doesn't when it comes to maximizing vendors' and exhibitors' experiences at a state convention.

After Hemingway and Hilk, NAA Promotions Committee Chair Tim Mast, CAI, AARE, explored the upcoming National Auctioneers Week schedule – providing insight into the week's activities and explaining the creation of this year's "Success with our #NAAPro" theme that follows 2016's #AuctionsWork / #NAA Pro campaign.

The State Leadership Conference then wound to completion as NAA President John S. Nicholls, AARE, AMM, and CEO Hannes Combest, CAE, talked with the room in greater detail and took questions about the recently revealed NAA Communities of Practice. �





NAA member Josh Puffenbarger is using social media to



Now that we've made the switch, we reach a lot more people. The online aspect is reaching people that wouldn't normally attend your auction.

tilizing the internet effectively can be a fantastic tool for an auctioneer. After seven years in the business, Josh Puffenbarger is harnessing the power of social media and the web to take his company to the next level.

It's working. The self-proclaimed rookie is seeing the fruits of his labor and the auction community is taking notice.

The Virginia Auctioneers Association honored Puffenbarger as Auctioneer of the Year for 2016 in a ceremony that took place in January of this year. He joins an elite group. Less than 50 have received the honor since the VAA began recognizing exceptional auctioneers in 1968. He also holds the Virginia State Champion Auctioneer title of 2015 and serves on the VAA Board of Directors.

"The recognition is the biggest thing," Puffenbarger said. "Just to be one of the guys that gets to share his name on the list with a lot of the great Virginia auctioneers means more to me than anything."

In addition to enjoying the honor of Auctioneer of the Year, Puffenbarger recently launched an online auction component to his company, Allied Auctions. Going online adapted his business solutions to meet the needs of the ever-changing auction industry.

Allied Auctions Online combines every aspect of the auction buying experience and brings it directly to buyers and sellers. The company touts itself as a bit traditional (with previews and pickups), a little bit eBay (online bidding), and something altogether different (event based, photo catalogs and credit card only payments).

Business, he says, has been very, very good. Better sales are being realized, which maximizes the return to clients.

"Now that we've made the switch, we reach a lot more people. The online aspect is reaching people that wouldn't normally attend your auction. We live in a society where everyone's busy. They don't have time to stand around in the evening or attend a Saturday morning auction," Puffenbarger said.

Before including online auctions in his business, Puffenbarger had been a live Auctioneer only. With a broad range of experience liquidating assets of all types, Puffenbarger says he's auctioned everything from grandma's dishes to livestock to vehicles.

The first-generation Auctioneer boosts business by posting content regularly to Facebook and Instagram, tools he believes are invaluable for advertising products and letting people know what Auctioneers do. He engages with potential clients and cross promotes fellow auctioneers all in a few clicks.

"The power of social media is amazing right now," Puffenbarger said. "I don't know the numbers, but it seems like everyone has a Facebook account or an Instagram account. There's no other way that I'm aware of that you can reach so many people in a short time frame like you can do with social media."

These smart social media strategies didn't come naturally. In his mid-thirties, Puffenbarger is not someone who is naturally techsavvy.

"Technology is not one of my strong suits. I grew up in a rural area. I'd always been a hands-on person. It was something I had to learn," he said.

His wife, Amber, assists with the business based out of Mount Solon, Virginia, where they live with their four dogs. He credits hard work, networking, and gaining knowledge from seasoned veterans for helping him realize his dream of becoming a full-time Auctioneer. Growing sales online and contributing to the auction community by being involved locally and at the national level are in his plans for the year.

"I want to continue to have a positive impact on the industry," Puffenbarger says. "My other goal would be to win the [NAA] IAC contest. I still love doing live auctions." •

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Ambassador Spotlight

Who I am: Ruth Lind, BAS, GPPA

Who I represent: Moxie Auctions, LLC

Where I'm from: Stockton Springs, Maine

What about your membership in NAA do you value?

Education and networking. Designation classes, Conference and Show workshops, iSeries – all of these have boosted my skillset considerably. And, professional associations within NAA open new opportunities and friendships daily!







How to turn leads into sellers

That was just one topic explored in February at a content-rich NAA Auction Marketing Summit.

By Curtis Kitchen, NAA Director of **Publications and Trade Show**

t's not farfetched to say being an effective marketer is the single most important tool or skill an auction professional must have behind being able to conduct the auction itself.

So, it shouldn't come as any surprise at how jazzed attendees were at the NAA Auction Marketing Summit, held Feb. 20-21 in Atlanta, Georgia, as they dove head first into deep marketing topics ranging from content and influencers, converting leads into sellers, managing modern, data-driven campaigns, and hearing about specific equipment and tactics their peers are effectively using in the field.

Kicking off the event was Jon Wuebben, Founder and CEO of Content Launch and author of "Future Marketing: Winning in the Prosumer Age."

In his session, Wuebben detailed what it is that today's "prosumer" (that person who becomes an advocate for a product or brand through their influence on others online and through social media) is most likely to find appealing.

"People will buy experiences," Wuebben said. "[The] value of the experience lasts."

For auction professionals, Wuebben suggested, that would mean finding ways to center their content marketing on the experience concept. Some ideas would include: How to buy at auction; how to sell at auction; the top myths about auction, and fun facts about auction. The idea is to educate someone so that they build an anticipation of the experience of taking part in an auction, before delivering the best experience possible when they attend or participate in an auction.

The modern, data-driven marketing campaign

Following the keynote, NAA member John Schultz, AMM, brought his online marketing prowess to the front as he walked the room through concepts and information on psychometrics and measuring psychological traits of a person via their Facebook profile. (Schultz based much of the psychoanalytics conversation on data provided by Dr. Michal Kosinski, who showed he could pretty accurately capture someone's demographic profile based on an average of 68 Facebook pages they liked or didn't like.)

This is critically important, Schultz said, as it provides the clearest direction yet on knowing how best to target buyers and sellers via Facebook advertising campaigns (along with being able to apply that information in other marketing channels).

Being able to deliver a consistent message to the right audience across cross-channel campaigns is huge when one considers it

takes far more than a one-time exposure to a brand or product before a consumer makes the decision to purchase. In fact ...

"It will take an average of seven touchpoints for a consumer before they will interact with a brand," Schultz said.

How to view your data

Next, conversation shifted from assimilating data to being able to use it effectively in decision making. That can be a problem for many when they begin to feel overwhelmed by stacks of analytics reports. Flatly, they don't know where to begin.

NAA member Bryce Gartner, an industry leader in marketing and technology for more than 20 years, explained it doesn't need to be intimidating, or even take long.

Gartner's company, icimo, LLC, specializes in data visualization – the art and science of turning data into easy-to-comprehend analytical graphs, charts, and other similar products in order to make quick, data-driven decisions.

That's not to confuse what Gartner's product, Tableau, does compared to reports built in Microsoft Excel. To that, Gartner said there is a huge difference – one where a lot of companies believe they are using data visualization but actually aren't.

"If you do [analytical reporting] in Excel, you get caught up in the mechanics," Gartner said. Mechanics refers to the process of putting all data together. Data analytics is having a data and decision-focused conversation.

Turning leads into sellers

A day after a solid exhibitor panel featured representatives from Wavebid, 1-800-The-Sign, Satellite Prolink, AuctionLook, and Blue River Digital, discussing effective marketing techniques and auction industry trends, the event's final session explored an oft-overlooked but extremely critical marketing component – turning leads into sales.

"Matching benefits of our service against the wants and needs of the client – that's the most important piece to sales," said presenter and Tranzon, LLC President/CEO Scott King, CAI, AARE, AMM, as he led attendees through his personal experiences with growing as a salesperson.

One of those experiences involved a conversation with his father just before the pair entered a sales call. King said he wanted to know exactly what would be accomplished and how. His father



answered with
"We're just going to go
in and talk with him."

"I was disappointed," King said. "I wanted nuts and bolts."

The lesson learned, however, was that identifying the needs and wants of a client has to happen before any successful pitch is made. A salesperson has to listen and ask questions in order to find out all of the information he or she can in order to weigh just how qualified the lead is. Why is that important?

"If you want to close the deal, then close the right prospect," King said.

Some of the questions he offered up:

"Do you mind if I ask your reason for selling?" "What is it about the auction method that interests you most? Can you elaborate?"

The answers, to that last question especially, are what clues an auction professional into the "match" he or she should offer their services to. ��

Kenneth Wilcox, the 1990 World Champion Livestock Auctioneer, is a brand new NAA member. "I'm looking forward to learning more about the Contract Auctioneer Designation," he says.

By Martha Hollida Garrett

enneth Wilcox, the 1990 World Champion Livestock Auctioneer, recently joined the National Auctioneers Association for the very first time during the Arkansas Auctioneers Association Convention in February.

"I don't know why I haven't attended before, but I really enjoyed the networking, the fellowship and camaraderie. I realize now that it's important to be involved at this level as these organizations provide education and are on top of any regulatory changes that might affect our livelihood," Wilcox said.

Growing up in West Fork, Arkansas, Wilcox loved math and he loved numbers. That may explain how he came to love auctioneering, even though his original plan was to become an engineer.

"I spent a lot of time with my uncle growing up, and he really wanted me to become an Auctioneer," Wilcox said. "When I started high school, he insisted I at least learn to chant. So he arranged for me to spend time with a friend who was an Auctioneer in the area.'

After he developed his style of calling, he thought his uncle would be appeased and that would be the end. However, folks soon found out about his skill. This led to opportunities in high school, where he would call pie suppers, labor fundraiser auctions and white elephant type auctions.

"My uncle hauled feeder pigs from Arkansas to Iowa, and I

would go with him on the 24-hour long drives. He would have me selling the whole trip. He said it entertained him and kept him awake, but I was still thinking math degree and college," Wilcox said.

In January of his senior year of high school, an Auctioneer who lived nearby invited him along to Jane, Missouri, for a large horse sale. He let Wilcox sell some tack, and even though that was a bigger stage than his auctions in West Fork, he still did not see this as something he would do as a career.

"I got applause from the folks – in fact a standing ovation when they heard it was my first real auction. That word spread at home, and I helped with some farm and estate sales that spring."

Wilcox was looking at attending college that fall nearby, but one phone call changed the course of his life.

"Jack Addland, who owned the sale barn in Grove, Oklahoma, called me at 10 p.m. on a Friday night. His Auctioneer had been taken to the hospital for an emergency appendectomy. He needed an Auctioneer at 10 a.m. the next morning, as it was sale day. I had never sold anything like a sale barn auction, but he told me he just needed a body on the block that could sell the next morning," Wilcox said. "I would do that for four weeks, and he kept me on when his other Auctioneer returned.

"I became involved in the barn's ownership, and we added a sale barn in Kansas. Things changed for me very quickly."

38

From that time on, he has specialized in livestock auctioneering. He currently sells at four barns every week in Arkansas and Oklahoma. Over the past four decades he has sold for 31 sale barns and four video companies in five states.

In 1990, Wilcox was named the World Livestock Auctioneer Champion at the annual contest sponsored by the Livestock Marketing Association. LMA member sale barns in the contest sponsor competing auctioneers annually.

"I went to the contest for the first time in 1980. I competed and found out real quick I needed to improve," he said. "I practiced and competed every year but one in that 10-year span, until I won it. I really enjoyed the competition and the competitors, plus I felt real fortunate to have sale barns that would sponsor me each year."

His time at the top was followed by a low period that gave him greater appreciation for his life today. At one point in the mid-90s, a broken marriage and alcohol addiction combined to see him let go from every sale barn he was selling.

"It was a rough time for me, but through my faith, God's grace and my wife now of 18 years, Claudette, I overcame the addiction. I regained my life and my career," he said.

Wilcox says he approaches every auction with this mindset: "I want to handle this offering in the way I would want it handled if I was the sale barn owner, and if I was a buyer or sellers that day."

He also remembers advice from early in his career.

"The Auctioneer who gave me the initial training told me, 'Be clean and crisp, and don't worry about being fast,' and that's worked for me. I hear all the time, 'Boy, you're plain,' and I take that to mean clean and crisp and easy to understand," he said.

In addition to selling four sales each week, he and his wife own and operate a 600-acre commercial cattle operation in West Fork. They have a daughter, Bretta, now a student at the University of Wyoming, and 13-year-old son, Carlton.

His love for numbers never left him and by adding that clean and crisp chant, he has made a living as a livestock Auctioneer. Still, the world champion and 40-year veteran has his eyes set on ways to expand.

"I'm looking forwarded to learning more about NAA's Contract Auctioneer Designation Program," he said. ❖



NAA launches Contract Auctioneer Specialist designation

The newest offering soft-launched in Chicago and appears ready to take off.

By Nancy Hull Rigdon, contributor



Instructors and attendees of the first NAA Contract Auctioneers Specialist designation class pose for a photo. Front row: Laura Mantle, CAI, CAS; Renee Jones, CAI, AARE, BAS, CES. Back row: Doak Lambert, CAS, instructor; Perry Walden; Shane Ratliff, CAS; Jeffrey Fortenbaugh; Darren Bok, CAI; Jeremy Robinson; Peter Gehres, CAI, CAS, CES.

uction professionals who have proven themselves as bidcallers and want to take the next step of turning the skill into a business have a new option: the NAA's Contract Auction Specialist designation.

The course debuted with a February soft launch in Chicago, resulting in the first CAS class.

"It was a great initial offering of a course," says Aaron Ensminger, NAA Director of Education. "I'd expect this designation to become a 'what next?' designation. There are a lot of people who come out of auction school knowing how to call bids and auction assets.

"This class will go a long way toward turning that skill into a marketable business."

The course covers the business of becoming a Contract Auctioneer. Industry stalwarts Shane Ratliff, CAS, and Doak Lambert led the class in Chicago.

"We gained a lot of knowledge that we can use in developing the course even farther, and with two of the greatest teaching, we have a fantastic base to build from," Ensminger says.

Peter Gehres, CAI, CAS, CES, attended the Chicago launch and said the course continues NAA Education's tradition of serving as a critical resource and catalyst for change when auction professionals experience career transitions.

"CAS offers professionals the tools they need to climb the often high barrier to entry so that they can achieve their goals," Gehres says. "This designation will provide a clear pathway to a rewarding and long career."

The course, Gehres says, equips the established professional with techniques that can help secure the spot of preferred marketplace provider. Plus, when necessary, course graduates can leverage their CAS experience in negotiations and new markets.

"It is no secret that the contract position can change quickly due to market fluctuations and management changes," Gehres says. "CAS, coupled with an NAA membership, sends a clear signal that a professional has gone above and beyond to ensure the highest level of professionalism and proficiency."

The 2015 NAA International Auctioneer Championship Men's Division winner stresses the weight of the designation.

"Working as a contract auction professional, you represent more than yourself," Gehres says. "You owe it to yourself and your employer to be as professional and prepared as possible."

The next CAS offering

Next up for CAS: Conference & Show. The course will be offered again during the convention in Columbus, Ohio, this summer.

Members of the designation's first class are encouraging others to follow in their footsteps.

"Learning from Shane Ratliff and Doak Lambert is hard to put a value on. The information I received in two days has already helped me improve as a Contract Auctioneer and NAA member," says Laura Mantle, CAI. "I highly recommend this designation to anyone who works as a Contract Auctioneer, ringman or clerk." *

Check out the NAA Education Calendar online! Visit auctioneers.org/events.





5 trends and factors to impact cyber security

in 2017



't's become news that's not unexpected any more. We awaken to learn that yet another national retailer has been hacked and once again credit-card information for millions of customers is at risk.

Yet, despite all the publicity these security breaches receive and all the warning consumers hear, cyber criminals still achieve success and seem more brazen than ever.

"Sometimes it can feel like the cyber criminals are working harder than the people who are supposed to be protecting our information," says Gary S. Miliefsky, CEO of SnoopWall (www. snoopwall.com), a company that specializes in cyber security.

But when consumers and businesses are vigilant, he says, they can foil those cyber criminals despite all their scheming. To that end, Miliefsky says some cyber security trends and factors worth knowing about for the rest of 2017 and beyond include:

 Serious breaches still take too long to discover. As unsettling as it is to think about, Miliefsky says, the truth is that there's generally a long lag time between when a breach happens and when it's discovered. The average is 280 days, which means if cyber criminals hack your system today, it could be about nine months before anyone realizes there's a problem.

- Employees will continue to be critical to protection. For just about any organization, employees are the first line of defense - and the weakest link. Typically, when a breach happens behind a firewall it's because someone was tricked into clicking on a link they shouldn't have. Employees need to be educated, Miliefsky says.
- Cyber insurance is hot and growing hotter. A breach can prove costly to companies, which is why cyber insurance is a growing field, Miliefsky says. Just as homeowner's insurance doesn't keep your house from catching fire, though, cyber insurance doesn't guard against a breach. But a policy can help the company that's hit by a breach regain its financial footing.
- Companies may begin to realize the importance of managing their intranet. Most breaches happen behind firewalls. "You'll need more than antivirus to stop the bad guys," Miliefsky says. This includes anti-phishing tools, network access control (NAC), zero-day malware quarantining and other next-generation approaches focusing on the root cause of how you get breached.

Without a NAC solution, you won't be able to tell who is on your network, including if the cleaners are plugging in a laptop at midnight or if a consultant is on the wrong VLAN, like human resources or payroll where you don't want them to have access, he says. In addition, you should find and fix all your common vulnerabilities and exposures. You can learn more about them at the National Vulnerability Database at nvd.nist.gov or cve.mitre.org. "By finding and fixing your holes, you'll have a stronger, less exploitable infrastructure," Miliefsky says.

The best protection for consumers is still self-protection. Consumers can't always count on how well their bank or their favorite retailer handles cyber security. But anyone can take steps to be safer, Miliefsky says. Change passwords frequently. Put a sticker over your laptop's webcam when you're not using it. Protect your smartphone by turning off WiFi, Bluetooth, NFC and GPS except when you need them. Delete cookies and your browsing history regularly. When consumers learn the importance of mobile-device "hygiene," both they and the places they work are at less risk of suffering a data breach or loss.

"We should be asking ourselves: Why not prevent breaches instead of reacting to them?" Miliefsky says. "Corporate America and consumers don't need to sit around waiting to become cybercrime victims." �

NATIONAL AUCTIONEERS ASSOCIATION

EDUCATION CALENDAR

Certified Auctioneers Institute

Bloomington, Indiana - Indiana University - March 18-23, 2017

2017 NAA Conference and Show

Columbus, Ohio - July 11-15, 2017

2017 Benefit Auction Summit

Cancun, Mexico · August 27-29, 2017

CONFERENCE AND SHOW EDUCATION SCHEDULE

AARE • July 12-15

AMM • July 9-11

CES · July 9-11

BAS · July 9-11

Internet Auction Methods • July 11

Interpersonal Communications for Auction Professionals • July 10-11

USPAP (15-Hour) • July 10-11

USPAP (7-Hour) • July 15





Why IJAC is so important now, and for the future

The International Junior Auctioneer Championship title has proven to hold big personal and professional value for young aspiring auction professionals.

By NAA Staff

ach July, while most NAA Conference and Show attendees turn their attention toward education, evening events, and the International Auctioneer Championship, there is a smaller but extremely important competition taking place.

For ages 12-18, the junior version of IAC, or IJAC, provides a platform for young, aspiring auction professionals to hone their skills and receive professional feedback from judges while competing in front of a live audience.

"The IJAC benefitted me professionally more than I could have ever imagined," said 2007 champion Trev Moravec. "The contest put me in a spotlight and in front of an audience that I would've never been able to reach.

"In result of the IJAC, I was invited out to an auction in Atlanta, Georgia, being conducted by Ritchie Brothers Auctioneers," Moravec continued. "A few months later, I was hired as a full-time Auctioneer; right place, right time. Nine years later, I'm still working for them and enjoying every bit of it. This was absolutely a direct result of the IJAC."

That kind of experience can happen regardless of whether someone is a first-generation auction professional or multi-gen.

"As a first-generation Auctioneer, the road to achieving this dream of mine wasn't easy," said 2010 Champion Nolan Richard Bell. "If it hadn't been for one mentor who believed in me enough to invest in my future, I would not have been able to compete.

"The experience I gained and connections I made influenced the course of my career and ability to succeed within the industry. Competing in the IJAC is such an impactful experience that I hope no young person will ever let the cost or any other obstacle stand in their way."

Some of those obstacles might take the form of self-doubt or a level of stage fright. IJAC presents the chance for someone to work through those and become stronger Auctioneers.

"[IJAC] caused me to put myself out of my comfort zone," said Julia Sparks, BAS, 2012 champion. "Throughout my years of competing, I learned how to gain control of my nerves and enhance my stage presence. By sharpening my professional tools, I was able to gain more contract work and clientele."

2016 Champion Brooke Gillespie also saw the contest as a way to overcome her hesitations.

"I first competed in the IJAC when I was just 14 years old and 5 months, [and] out of auction school. I had no idea what I was getting myself into, and actually hesitated to even compete," Gillespie said. "I was always hesitant to get up in front of big crowds, compete in a male-dominant industry, and ultimately, I was afraid to fail.

"When I attended my very first NAA Conference and Show in Louisville, Kentucky, I was welcomed with open arms by my new auction family. Competing in the IJAC gave me confidence, a drive to succeed, job opportunities, and introduced me to some of my best friends."

In terms of the future, IJAC can also help unearth hidden passions someone may have for the auction industry at large, said 2013 Champion Halie Behr, BAS.

"I was always a die-hard basketball player, and it was my passion to play the game. Once the game ended for me, I lost that love and that fire to compete," she said. IJAC, however, brought it all back

"That extra push aided me in becoming a champion once more and with it brought forth something far greater – my desire, passion, and respect for a truly prestigious and unparalleled industry," Behr said.

2011 Champion Curtis Wetovick has seen his title help propel his business in an ultra-competitive market.







(left) 2013 IJAC Champion Halie Behr and 2012 IJAC **Champion Julia Sparks**

"The agricultural auction industry in central Nebraska is one that is tough to break into, but I know that my first-place finish has helped me to get the leads I have gotten tremendously," he said. "I plan to continue to work hard to develop my reputation as a professional Auctioneer, compete as much as possible, and remain open to any auctioneering opportunities that may come my way."

Of course, IJAC gives younger auction professionals a chance to grow and develop their own personal networking relationships - just like their parents, families, and older friends are doing during Conference and Show.

"When I attended my first Conference and Show, I knew absolutely no one," said 2014 Champion Justin Croy. "But by competing in the IJAC, I made lifelong friends and contacts within the industry that I still hold close today. The IJAC taught me so much about the auction profession, but it taught me more about who I was and who I wanted to become both personally & professionally."

To a person, all of the champions encouraged up-and-coming auction professionals to participate in the 2017 IJAC competition and beyond. That included 2015 Champion Jeremy Garber.

"The IJAC for me was one of the highlights of my short career so far," Garber said. "The IJAC also helped jump start my contract auctioneering, by giving me the opportunity to showcase my talents to the business owners and auction friends.

"Not only that, but I've met some of my closest friends through IJAC! I would definitely encourage any young Auctioneer to strongly consider competing!

The 2017 IJAC competition will be held in Columbus, Ohio, during the NAA Conference and Show, July 11-15. For more information and to register, visit conferenceandshow.com/ international-auctioneer-championship and fill out the IJAC online entry form.

(Special thanks to NAA member Julia Sparks for her work and *contribution on this story.*) ❖







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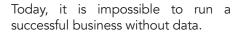
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Data-Driven Decision Making

Dear Reader,



The phone numbers and email addresses we collect provide access to our clients' and customers' social habits as well as their purchasing ones. Auction businesses even use data internally – all the way down to tracking and knowing which of their lots are proving to be the most popular among buyers and sellers at any given time.

"Data" isn't a new phenomenon by any means, but the amount of accessible, relevant data is something all industries, including auction, are trying to harness and put to work. The world's population has never left such a footprint as it now does digitally, and this onslaught of information has given businesses of all sizes the chance to grow larger than they ever thought possible simply through expanded reach.

We can find audiences easier. We can target audiences better. We can

hone our brand message delivery and with a surgeon's precision meet customers and clients at their exact purchase decision moment. And, on the flip side, businesses also now face new challenges that come with being data collectors. How do you protect your (and your clients') information?

that it works for you, protecting data, understanding steps to take if your data is breached, and the importance of data visualization – the next big step in making your data work for you.

A-DRIVEN DECISION

Series

Presented by the National Auctioneers Association

All of this is now part of the business landscape, and NAA members know

Businesses now face new challenges that come with being data collectors. How do you protect your (and your clients') information?

Is the business liable for protecting that data? What happens when small businesses are the target of hackers?

All of these things are on the discussion table daily, or should be.

That said, data isn't scary, but it is big. So, read through the following pages for information on ways to grow and maintain data, cleaning that data so

full well the importance data has in their businesses. That is why the National Auctioneers Association has put together this information for its members as part of the iSeries slate. Because iSeries is about you!



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- March 1, 2017 Your Data Guide (White Paper)
- April 5, 2017
 Turning Prospects into Seller
- June 7, 2017
 National Advocacy Update

Pair of Lowndes paintings draws more than \$10k each







MONROVIA, Calif. - Moran's Feb. 21 Decorative Art Auction, the first Decorative Art aution of 2017 for the company, featured 413 total auction lots, offered in two contiguous sessions.

The first session kicked off with a standing-room-only crowd; throughout the entirety of the auction, Moran's achieved an 87-percent sell-through rate, with many pieces picked up by buyers casting their bids online. The auction started out strong, with silver and European works of art doing particularly well throughout the evening.

Two of the evening's highest hammer prices were for works of art by British painter Alan



Lowndes (1921-1978). Executed in Lowndes's typical bright, colorful and painterly style, each example realized \$10,200. "The D'Jango Club, Manchester," depicts a jazz trio mid-session, while the more subdued "An Actor (Charles Laughton)" depicts its subject with his head bent, slowly moving through the backstage area of a theater.

Multiple phone bidders were registered to bid on each lot; the same telephone bidder cast the winning bid on both pieces.

A rather rare Italian antiphonal choir book illuminated page fragment dating to 1476 proved an intriguing highlight to collectors of illuminated manuscripts. Especially rare because of its excellent condition and its self-referential depiction of a choir mid-song, the page was estimated to bring between \$15,000 and \$20,000 at the block; the final selling price was a very respectable \$18,000.

French painter Eugène Galien-Laloue (1854-1941 French) was represented in Moran's February catalogue by the charming "Place de la République," a snow-dusted Parisian street scene; consigned from the Los Angeles Goldfield Collection, the work was expected to earn \$4,000 to \$6,000. Thanks to competition between two telephone bidders, the work brought \$5,400.

Traditional sculptures in bronze and marble performed well throughout the evening, including a number of pieces representing classical subjects. An apparently unmarked patinated bronze sculpture of a standing Heracles with club and lion's pelt under one arm (modeled after the 4th century BC marble by Greek sculptor Lysippos) was conservatively estimated to earn \$1,000 to \$2,000.

The sculpture of Heracles inspired half a dozen bidders to register for telephone lines and a few others to participate online; the winning bidder took the piece home for \$4,500. "Laocoön and His Sons," after the artist Christophe Fratin (1801-1864 French) was offered for \$1,000 to \$2,000. The bronze sculpture, modeled after the Laocoön group, a monumental Hellenistic marble statue unearthed in 1506, sold to a determined online buyer for \$4,200.

A carved marble sculpture by Italian artist Antonio Frilli (1860-1920), modeled after the 2nd-century BC "Winged Victory of Samothrace", was consigned from a private Long Beach, Calif. collection; the marble achieved \$5,700, just over the estimated \$2,000 to \$4,000.

Select high-quality examples of French furniture found eager buyers, including a superb example of 19th-century craftsmanship by French cabinetmaker François Linke (1855-1946). The Louis XVI-style gilt bronze-mounted fern stand was brought to the block with a \$4,000 to \$6,000 estimate, and earned \$9,600 after competition from floor bidders.

Silver tableware did quite well throughout both sessions, however select results from the first session were particularly impressive. A 19th-century silver-plated duck press, marked for Parisian maker Cailar & Bayard and notable because of its





handsome elephant-form base and excellent condition, was brought to the block with a conservative \$1,000 to \$2,000 estimate; the piece ultimately went to a private collector bidding via the Liveauctioneers online platform for \$5,100. Hailing from the same Santa Paula collection as the duck press, a collection of 24 circa 1920s Gorham sterling silver dinner and bread plates in excellent condition brought an impressive \$11,400 (pre-auction estimate: \$1,200-\$1,800).

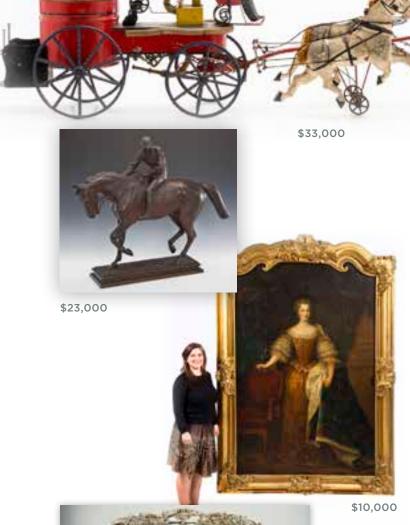
Later in the sale, a Mexican sterling silver coffee and tea service complete with tipping kettle, burner, and dual-handled tray, all marked with unidentified maker's marks "CLS", earned \$4,200 (estimate: \$2,500-\$3,500).

Additional highlights from the second-session offerings include:

- A gilt-bronze sculpture of a swimming man by Richard Thuss (1865-1953 Austrian/American) exceeded expectations when multiple telephone and online bidders jumped into the fray; the work brought \$3,000 (estimate: \$200-\$300).
- A group of Chinese snuff bottles in various styles and motifs were brought to the block late in the sale, achieving \$1,320 thanks to a handful of competing bidders on the floor (estimate: \$400-\$600).
- A bronze sculpture of a horse, signed "Palandra 1915" and consigned from the Los Angeles Lauer Collection, flew to an impressive \$3,000 price realized (estimate: \$1,000-\$1,500).❖



Bidder collapses, continues to bid remotely at winter antique and fine art auction



HARRISBURG, Pa. – Despite a brief interruption for a medical emergency, Cordier's Winter Antique and Fine Art Auction attracted top prices for items in a variety of categories on Feb. 11, 2017.

A bidder collapsed mid-way through the sale, but the quick thinking of a fellow attendant halted the auction so that EMT's could be called. After they wheeled the conscious man out, to relieved applause from the room, the auction continued unabated. The stricken bidder continued to participate in the sale remotely.

A 19th-century tinplate and wood toy fire pumper exceeded expectations to become the top lot of the auction, finally selling to a buyer on the floor for \$33,000 after extensive competition between live, phone, and absentee bidders.

Also garnering great attention was a cast bronze signed by Isidore-Jules Bonheur (French, 1827-1901) and bearing the Hippolyte Peyrol foundry mark. The finely chased casting was expected to become one of the forerunners of the sale, and finally achieved \$23,000 to an enthusiastic phone bidder.

Another featured lot, a life size portrait of 18th century royal Marie Leszczynska, was won by a bidder online for \$10,000.

A massive Goldsmiths & Silversmiths Company (London) 204 troy ounce sterling silver tray was among the top performing lots in the silver and jewelry category, hammering down at \$7,500. A platinum and 2.2 carat diamond solitaire ring also performed well in that category, selling for \$6,500. A Leica Black M6 camera with accessories was the top selling lot in collectibles, bringing \$4,700.

In artwork, a charcoal sketch on paper by Violet Oakley (American, 1874-1961), which had been passed down to the consignor by a grandmother who had been friends with the artist, sold for \$5,000. Known for her mural and illustration work,

\$7,500







\$4,100

\$4,000

Oakley completed one of her most significant commissions in 1902, "The Creation and Preservation of the Union" which consisted of a series of large murals for the walls of the Governor's Reception Room in the State Capitol Building in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

A copy of Cocteau Picasso de 1916 – 1961 Editions du Rocher brought \$4,200, while a large canvas piece measuring 85-1/2" x

92" by Phillip Wofford (American, B. 1935) titled "The Tattooed Man" sold for \$3,600.

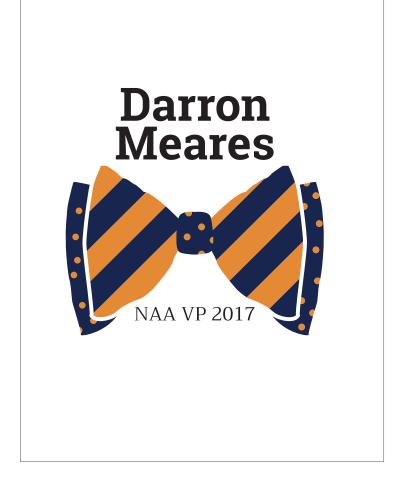
Furniture and rugs also performed well, with a Jacob and Bernard Hendel Carlisle tall case clock selling for \$4,000 and a beautiful Persian room size rug bringing \$4,100. A French revival Louis XV style inlaid table and chairs brought \$3,000.

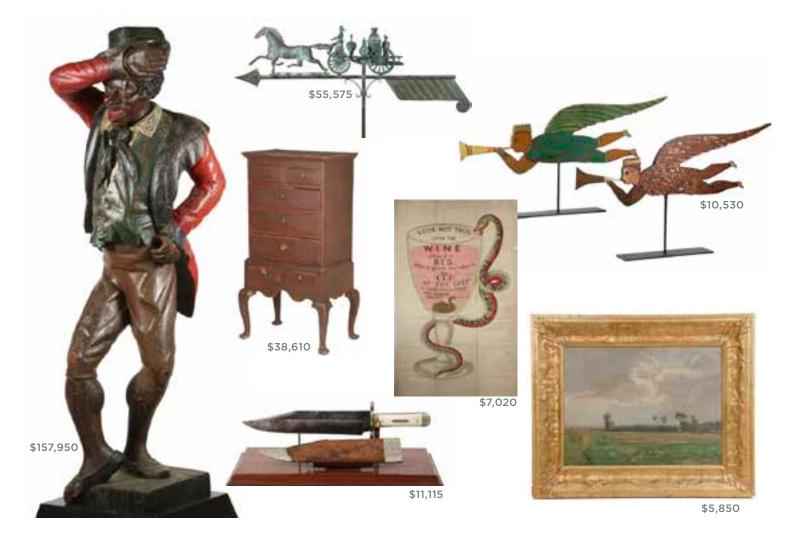
Despite snow, folk art fires up bidders in Maine

THOMASTON, Maine – An impending blizzard did not diminish bidder enthusiasm at Thomaston Place Auction Galleries' winter feature sale Feb. 11-12. An enthusiastic crowd, including over 2,500 in house, online and telephone participants, battled for extraordinary pieces from the Leo Wilensky collection, plus a diverse array of fine art and antiques, throughout the two day auction.

"I was very impressed at the strength of the high end and mid-range folk art items that performed extremely well in this auction," Thomaston Place Auctioneer and President Kaja Veilleux noted.

Top lot was an important, circa 1870 American carved polychrome wooden minstrel figure of "Jim Crow" or "Daddy Rice" that brought \$157,950.





These characters were placed outside of theaters and cigar shops, and this was one of the finest original examples known to exist. A tobacconist trade figure of an American Indian carved by William Rush (1756-1833), once displayed in an early 19th Century Philadelphia shop and probably the earliest surviving example of a Native American figure as tobacco advertisement, sold for \$64,350.

Another standout item from the Wilensky collection, a 7-foot wide 19th-century weathervane in the form of an American fire engine steam pumper drawn by two horses, fetched \$55,575, and an exquisite Centennial patchwork quilt with highly detailed needlework depicting a marriage scene with church, village houses and people sold for \$19,890.

A rare, child-size red painted Queen Anne period highboy from the Delaware Valley Region brought \$38,610 after enthusiastic bidding, and a cased prisoner-of-war made ship model from the Napoleonic era raised \$16,380 after heated competition between phone and floor bidders.

A circa 1800 mahogany, rosewood and brass inlaid liquor chest reputedly owned by Commodore William Bainbridge (1774-1833), known for his victory over the HMS Java during the War of 1812 while in command of the USS Constitution, raised \$14,188.

There was applause after strong competition for a Chinese blue lacquered panel with decoration hardwood and cloisonné enamel decoration depicting flowers drove the selling price to \$21,060 against a presale estimate of \$2,000 to \$3,000.

Many other items also greatly exceeded their presale auction estimates, such as: a pair of folk art sculptures of angels in flight by Earl Cunningham (Florida/Maine, 1893-1977) that created excitement when they rocketed past their \$3,000 to \$5,000 presale estimate and sold for \$10,530; and a 17th-century English oak hall bench with linen fold carved back panels that reached \$9,945 versus a \$3,000 to \$5,000 estimate; a pair of Chinese huanghuali wood 19th-century armchairs that brought \$9,000 (\$1,000-\$1,500 estimate); an unusual hand painted 19th-century Prohibition broadside from Pennsylvania that reached \$7,020 (\$2,000-3,000 estimate); and an oil on panel painting titled "Sunken Meadow" by George W. Picknell (CT/VT/France) that sold for \$5,850 (\$800-1,200 estimate).

Other high flying lots included: an English-made circa 1860 Civil War presentation naval bowie knife that brought \$11,115; a pair of Josiah Loring (Boston) desk-top globes dated 1833 and 1834 in their original stands that fetched \$9,000; a triple scarab form inkwell by Tiffany Studios that achieved a selling price of \$9,945; and a 17th-century English Wrotham ware pottery posset pot that sold for \$8,190. �



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NAA Advocacy Committee holds call with U.S. Reps. Long, Duncan

A revised Public Policy Agenda will be issued soon, based on the Committee's recommendations.

By NAA Staff



The NAA Advocacy Committee: (from left to right) Hannes Combest, CAE; Chad Johnson, CAI, BAS; Scott King, CAI, AARE, AMM; Rich Ranft, CAI, AARE, AMM, GPPA; Charlotte Pyle, CAI; Braden McCurdy, CAI; Dick Kiko; David Whitley, CAI, CES, Chair; Brandi McGrath Kong, NAA Staff liaison.

s part of its meeting held March 5 in Kansas City, the NAA Advocacy Committee hosted a teleconference with U.S. Representatives Billy Long (R-MO) and Jeff Duncan (R-SC) to discuss issues of importance in relevance to the auction industry.

Among items presented by the Congressmen: Congress' introduction of a new Health Care Act; Tax code reform; Border Tax adjustments; the sale of firearms via auction; the possibility

of privatization of sales by the General Services Administration; and the importance of leveraging personal relationships in an age where digital media floods voicemail and email inboxes.

The call lasted approximately 40 minutes and provided crucial Federal insight for the Advocacy Committee to consider as it later moved on to reviewing the NAA Public Policy Agenda and forming Agenda recommendations for NAA Board of Directors discussion.



"The Advocacy Committee is committed to representing, and encouraging members to represent, the interests of NAA members on a national level."

"The recent advocacy committee meeting reinforced to me how fortunate we are to have an Advocacy Committee made up of informed, engaged members who desire to make the auction profession better for all NAA members," said Advocacy Committee Chair David Whitley, CAI, CES. "Our country is undergoing a large change in political leadership, and the meeting gave the committee the opportunity to discuss, within the committee and with Congressmen Billy Long and Jeff Duncan, issues and opportunities the NAA will face in the coming year.

"The Advocacy Committee is committed to representing, and encouraging members to represent, the interests of NAA members on a national level."

The current Public Policy Agenda consists of five items: Professional licensing; Ivory regulations; Court-ordered sales; Firearms auctions; and Government assets. As for next steps, the NAA Board of Directors will discuss the Committee's recommended revisions to the Public Policy Agenda for the coming year at its April meeting.

"I am extremely pleased and proud that in less than two years we have been able to go from no sustainable advocacy work for NAA members to having a fully functioning effort that is consistently monitoring and acting on issues that affect NAA members," Whitley said.

Other items discussed by the Committee included reviewing marketing efforts focused on the 2017 NAA Day on the Hill event in September, brainstorming additional partnership opportunities for NAA on advocacy initiatives, and additional items to include in the NAA Resource Library. ❖



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Nathan Glessner



My Grandfather was a member of the NAA for many years and is in the Kansas Auctioneers Hall of Fame. I strive to achieve what he accomplished and hope the NAA can help pave the way for me as well."

Nathan Glessner Paola, Kan.

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How to set effective appointments with government officials

Here are a few tips on getting those important meetings scheduled, including knowing how long they should be.

By NAA Staff

hen it comes to the NAA Day on the Hill event or any other similar situations, there are specific steps you should take when setting your appointments.

Of course, make sure you have your agenda pitch (this can include simply wanting to meet and discuss the industry and your business!) practiced and timed so that you communicate all of your intended points.

Before any of that occurs, however, your best practices begin well in advance.

- Start by getting your desired office's contact information at https://www.congress.gov/members.
- You will want to make your appointments as soon as possible and should plan to spend approximately 15 minutes with the official and/or his or her staff. These appointments should be scheduled between 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.
- Try to reach the Member's scheduler when possible. Many times you will be put into voicemail and be asked to send in your request electronically in writing by fax or email.
- Once you have a scheduler on the line, identify who you are, the reason for your visit and that you are from the state/district. You want to make sure they understand you are a voter!
- In cases or events where you plan to have more than one meeting, try to build a "cushion" between appointments to allow for time to travel between offices or if the Member's schedule is running behind.

Remember, events like NAA Day on the Hill are essential to helping you connect with your legislative officials in order to share the issues facing your auction business as well as share the positive impact the auction method of marketing can have on government and regulatory agencies. �



See page 31 for more information on NAA Day on the Hill 2017.

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IN THE RING

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"What I've learned about being tenacious - which is a good trait for an Auctioneer some of it came from unicycling. You must have balance, tenacity, and you have to be willing to look goofy to accomplish your goal."

Kevin Troutt. BAS

Boise Benefit Auctioneers Boise. Idaho

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"Matching benefits of our service against the wants and needs of the client - that's the most important piece to sales."

Scott King, CAI, AARE, AMM

President/CEO, Tranzon, LLC Gadsden, Alabama

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"The recent advocacy committee meeting reinforced to me how fortunate we are to have an Advocacy Committee made up of informed, engaged members who desire to make the auction profession better for all NAA members."

David Whitley, CAI, CES

Rocky Mountain Estate Brokers, Inc., Whitley Auction Eaton, Colorado

AROUND the **BLOCK**

- Two fans of the National Football League's Green Bay Packers recently bought the team's 1923 NFL membership certificate at auction for nearly \$20,000.
- NAA member Harry Burgess, CAI, GPPA, recently had the opportunity to share his story on turning a childhood interest into the job of his dreams as he was featured in the Leavenworth (Kan.) Times. (We appreciate the shoutout, Harry!)
- March 5-11 was National Consumer Protection Week a time to "help people understand their consumer rights and make well-informed decisions about money," according to consumer.ftc.gov. NAA shared the link on its Facebook feed.
- NAA member McCurdy Auction sold the Wichita (Kan.) residence of new CIA Director Mike Pompeo in March.



MEMBERS' CORNER

Community & industry innovation

In March, NAA member Dave Webb and his company, Webb & Associates Auctioneers & Appraisers, helped sponsor a local "Farm Profit Conference" event in Paola, Kansas.

The evening event featured a free dinner for attendees before they listened to several key agriculture industry players presented on various related topics all built to help local agricultural business.

"We started doing these a couple of years ago and have increased our sponsorship with WIBW radio," Webb said. "They secure the speakers, and we, as sponsors, pay for the dinner."

In an email to *Auctioneer* before the event, Webb said it was expected to draw about 150 people considering reception to the format had been good.

Great idea, Dave, and continued good luck with the event!❖



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Coming up in May

SHIPPING: Once upon a time, shipping was considered to be a decent or even great revenue stream for auction professionals. However, we wonder if that has changed along with consumers' "Amazon experience" and increased expectations of free, fast shipping. We'll explore that in May.

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