



# the Voice

*We can do it together!*

WINTER 2016  
Volume 43, Issue 1

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## **Kansas Agri-Women Welcomes You to Mid-Year in Wichita**

*By Lynn Woolf*

The Kansas Agri-Women affiliate is looking forward to seeing you in Wichita on March 10–13 for the 2016 Mid-Year meeting. Mid-Year is the time when AAW members shine as we learn about issues, discuss how they impact our members and finalize our legislative positions for the year.

Our vital issues committee members are already hard at work reviewing current issues and researching emerging issues. Before the meeting wraps up, we'll have fine-tuned the messages we'll bring to Washington, D.C., in June at our annual Fly-In.

To enhance the Mid-Year experience, KAW members are also planning some unique, fun and educational events based on the theme of "Food, Fuel and Flight." For instance, we'll tour the Cargill Innovation Center, one of the world's most advanced food innovation facilities. The center features research, development, culinary, laboratory, pilot plant and distribution capabilities.

We'll "fuel up" our leadership skills with experts from the Kansas Leadership Center. Kansas Agri-Women just received a \$10,000 grant to participate in the center's top-notch leadership programs and we look forward to sharing these programs with AAW members.

Wichita is known as the Air Capital of



AAW's 40th Anniversary National Convention attendees celebrate the end of our year-long 40th Anniversary Drive in Portland, Maine.

## **Maine Agri-Women Hosts 40th AAW Convention**

*By Pam Townsend, 2015 convention co-chair*

The 40th annual American Agri-Women (AAW) convention was held in Portland, Maine, recently with 147 in attendance. Maine Agri-Women hosted the convention, titled "Harvesting for the Future."

The Maine delegation included Sue McCrum (National AAW President), Pam Townsend, Carol Adams, Diane Hemphill, Sandra Durepo, Dixie DeLong, Kristie Bray, Nancy Wright, Roberta LaBrie, Martha Lavertu, Kristin Devoe, Mary Anne Buck, Judy Kenney, Joan Flewelling, Valorie Flewelling, Ann Fitzpatrick Jones, Patti McCrum, Brianne O'Leary and Deena Albert Parks.

A variety of issues concerning many aspects of agriculture and the future were addressed by speakers including Maine Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Walter Whitcomb; The Honorable Marge Kil Kelly, Senior Policy Advisor to Senator Angus King of Maine; John Rebar, Executive Director of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. Also speaking were Karen Worcester, Executive Director of Wreaths Across America; Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) John J. McDaniel, founder of Wounded Warriors in Action Foundation Inc. and Kathy Day, RN, Patient Safety Activist/Advocate. A "Maine Lobster Event" was held at Pineland Farms

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## General Information

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**Twitter:** @women4ag

**Facebook:** American Agri-Women

**The Voice is published quarterly by American Agri-Women as a service to members. Contact Jane Marshall, VP Communications (information above). Deadlines: December 15, March 15, June 15, September 10.**



## President's Report

**H**appy New Year and best wishes for prosperity to one and all in 2016. Coming off of the terrific

momentum of our 40th anniversary and our Drive Across America we are looking forward to continuing to move forward. We learned a lot on our Drive as we visited with members, supporters and consumers along the way and you will see new ventures stemming from what we have learned.

Thank you to our current leaders and past leaders for playing a role in getting us to where we are at today. Thank you also to all the leaders who are stepping forward to assist with national committees and activities that will continue to move us forward. If you have not joined us yet, we still have many opportunities for you to be involved nationally, including government affairs, member education, consumer education, student education, working with veterans interested in farming, leadership development; mentoring, membership on-boarding and recruiting, webinars, regional meetings, communications — and much more. We have a large organization and the list is long. Rest assured, we have a place for you to share your skills, talents and interests within the time that you have available to give. Please let us know how you would like to be involved.

We invite you to attend and be active in our upcoming national meetings. For those of you who are new to Mid-Year, Fly-In, or Convention, we are hoping to offer you more information and orientation to enhance your experience, including mentors where possible. Our typical dates have been adjusted for both Mid-Year (March 10–12, 2016) and Convention (November 17–19, 2016), so mark your calendars accordingly. Fly-In will

be held in our traditional time period: June 5–8, 2016.

Thanks to the generosity of Syngenta, the Leadership at Its Best (LAIB) training will be offered this spring to a select group of AAW members. If you are interested in being part of the outstanding LAIB training and have yet to participate, please complete the application found on our website and return it to me by February 15, 2016.

As part of our moving forward we have continued to work on branding efforts to freshen up our look and attract new attention, while maintaining what is at the core of our organization. To this end we will be rolling out our new website which will be easier to navigate and be more useful to both our members and those who want to learn more about us. We are also excited that we have a new logo. The organization has voted to update our logo to reflect our vision for the future while honoring our past. This logo will replace our previous logo wherever a logo is used.

By the time you receive this newsletter, your executive team will have wrapped up their working meeting that will more fully lay out the work of 2016 and the coming years. We look forward to sharing that vision with you in future communications and appreciate your input and support in moving us forward.

We have a busy year ahead of us and we need all of us engaged in working toward a better future whether it be in agriculture policy, consumer advocacy, member education or any of the myriad of other opportunities we have to make a difference. We can all make a positive difference and I and the rest of our leadership team are excited to be working with you to that end.

*Doris Mold*

# Dr. Michael Coffman Receives VERITAS Award

By Jane Marshall

Dr. Michael Coffman of Bangor, Maine, was awarded the 2015 VERITAS Award, AAW's most prestigious award. While the announcement of the award was made at the AAW Convention, the award was presented to Dr. Coffman at his home after convention.

The VERITAS Award is given annually to the person who has given public witness to the "pursuit of truth" in accordance with the principles enunciated in the AAW Statement of Philosophy, "The Call to Power." Dr. Coffman was nominated by 10 AAW affiliates and individual members.

Dr. Michael Coffman is president of Environmental Perspectives, Inc. (EPI) and executive director of Sovereignty International. EPI focuses on providing professional guidance and training in defining environmental problems and solutions based on Judeo-Christian principle of stewardship as well as the preservation of the U.S. Constitutional Rights.

Sovereignty International helps many different organizations to bring a positive message of how national sovereignty, free market enterprise, private property rights and traditional values are superior to the global treaties and agreements leading to global governance proposed by the United Nations in September, 2000. Coffman has a B.S. in Forestry, M.S in Biology, a PhD in Forest Science, and more than 20 years experience in ecology and ecosystem research in both academia and industry.

Dr. Coffman has continuously led in the direction of investigating federal encroachments and over-regulation. He has continuously written and spoken to the public to increase the awareness of the decreasing influence of property owners and the increased government mandates that reduce and



Past president Sue McCrum with VERITAS award winner Dr. Michael Coffman.

hamper the management decisions of landowners. Dr. Coffman is the author of several books, including *Saviors of the Earth?*, *Plundered*, and *How Progressive Ideology is Destroying America*. He has done much to call attention to government agencies that are not being held accountable for the damages they have initiated.

Dr. Coffman played a key role in stopping the ratification of the Biodiversity Treaty in the U.S. Senate an hour before the Senate was scheduled to vote on its ratification. His maps and information have been used by local citizens across America to stop the global agenda at the local level. Dr. Coffman has been featured on TV and radio. He has spoken to audiences in more than 150 cities, in the U.S. and Canada and has participated in UN meetings

in Europe and Africa. Dr. Coffman is married to Susan and has two children and five grandchildren.

## Apply for Syngenta Leadership At Its Best Program

Syngenta's Leadership At Its Best Program will be held in Greensboro, North Carolina, on April 2-5, 2016. You must submit an application to be considered to attend, as there will be a specific number of those who will be selected. If you're interested, visit [americanagriwomen.org](http://americanagriwomen.org) and **submit your application by February 15, 2016.**



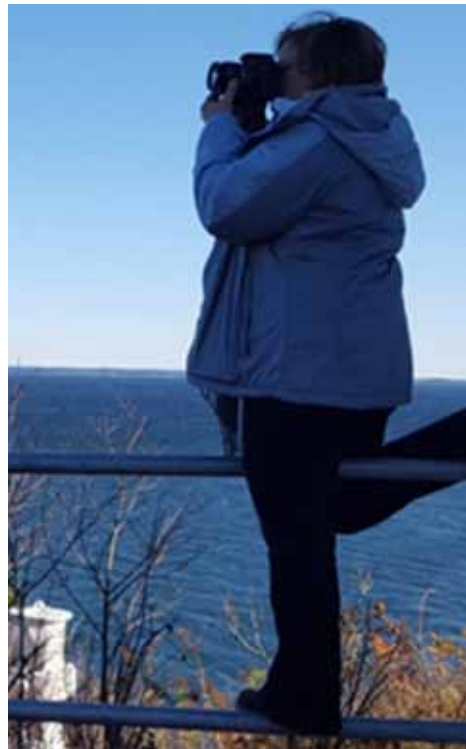
◀ **CONVENTION**, continued from page 1

in New Gloucester with Downeast Humorist Gary Crocker providing entertainment. Also providing entertainment at the annual banquet and awards presentation was the band Ted and the Boys, from Houlton and Portland.

Annual business sessions were conducted Friday and Saturday with issues concerning the many aspects and diversities facing agriculture today. The election of officers was held along with the AAW Business and Executive Board meetings.

The VERITAS award was presented to Michael Coffman, PHD, president of Environmental Perspectives Incorporated ([epi-us.com](http://epi-us.com)) and CEO of Sovereignty International ([sovereignty.net](http://sovereignty.net)) in Bangor, Maine.

Tours during the convention were taken to Pineland Farms Dairy, Hydroponic Greenhouse and Creamery; Green Thumb Farms; Maine Line Products; Allagash Brewing Company; Linda Bean's Lobster Facility; Breakwater Vineyards; and the L.L. Bean Flagship Store along with a stop



Above left, a convention attendee snaps an ocean-side photo. Above right, hydroponic greens at Pineland Farms. Right, dairy at Pineland Farms.



at Owl's Head Lighthouse, and Linda Bean's Maine Kitchen and Topside Tavern.

## Thank You, 2015 Convention Sponsors

Maine Agri-Women wishes to thank the following donors for their support of our 40th annual American Agri-Women convention.

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- RW Edgecomb & Sons Farms
- SW Collins Company
- UTZ Quality Foods
- Willard C. Doyen & Sons

## Four Receive LEAVEN Award

The LEAVEN Award was first awarded in 1977. That selection committee came up with the acronym LEAVEN (Loyalty, Enthusiasm, Anticipatory, Valiant, Effectiveness and Nurturing) to evaluate the candidates. “Leaven” (yeast) is a small element that can interact and influence everything around it. It permeates and raises the elements it’s mixed with. Leaven multiplies its effectiveness for good. AAW presents the LEAVEN Award to those persons who, to an outstanding degree, have acted as leaven, a truly feminine concept since “lady” means “giver of bread.” Congratulations to the 2015 winners!



**Sue McCrum**

Sue McCrum, of Mars Hill, Maine, and Maine Agri-Women, has been the president of AAW for the last two years. She was the driving force behind this summer’s Drive Across America. Sue is a great communicator and “advocate.” She has served on the AAW Foundation Board. Under Sue’s leadership AAW created the new executive assistant position to help AAW become more effective.

Her application summed up Sue in the following manner, “What woman would dedicate five months out of her life as a volunteer to promote AAW, women and family farms? Sue McCrum, of course. Her enthusiasm for AAW and agriculture is obvious when we look at her dedication to the Drive, but we all know that it extends way beyond this. She has been an enthusiastic supporter of agriculture, AAW, people and life for as long as we have all known her.”

“Humbling,” Sue says about the LEAVEN. She went on to say, “This award was given to me by my peers in American Agri-Women. I am grate-

ful for those who supported me over the years of my involvement in AAW. Somewhere it has been said that we are only as good as the company we keep. Fortunately, the company I keep within AAW has been awesome!”



**Karen Yost**

Karen Yost, of Billings, Montana, and Montana Agri-Women, has been the past president of AAW for the last two years. She has been a member of AAW since 1996. She has served as Montana Agri-Women president as well as AAW President. Her nominator said that without Karen, Montana Agri-Women would not exist today. She is described as someone who steps up to take leadership roles and encourages others to do the same. Karen and her husband George have developed their family rodeo and team roping business and own Nutra-Lix, a liquid feed company.

Karen says, “I am grateful to have received the AAW LEAVEN award this year. Working together with my American Agri-Women friends and colleagues for many years has given me respect for each of them: for their talents, abilities and passion for agriculture. So I’m honored to be recognized by them with this much coveted award.”



**Lynn Woolf**

Lynn Woolf, of Milton, Kansas, and Kansas Agri-Women, just completed her two-year term as AAW Vice-President of Communications. She was summed up this way: “Lynn is a visionary, she thinks of the needs of the AAW organization and the needs of others within the organization. As

VP of communications for AAW she has had a big hand in reworking and developing the brand for AAW. Lynn is managing editor of *Rural Lifestyle Dealer* magazine and is public relations chair for Kansas Agri-Women. She and her husband, Vaughn, and children, Elizabeth and Daniel, raise wheat and soybeans on their farm in Milton, Kansas.

“It means so much to me to receive the LEAVEN award. The women of AAW have done so much to inspire me and make me a better advocate. I value their friendships and being part of such an amazing organization,” says Lynn Woolf.



**Karolyn Zurn**

Karolyn Zurn, of Callaway, Minnesota, and Minnesota Agri-Women, currently serves as the AAW chair of U.S. Government Affairs and Vital Issues and the Chair of the Minnesota Agri-Women. She is also part of the Northern Crops Institute, Minnesota Ag In the Classroom, Common Ground and the Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council. Karolyn’s nominator explained, “Karolyn has always encouraged and mentored younger members.” Karolyn and her husband Bill farm with their two sons in northwestern Minnesota. They grow soybeans, corn, sugar beets, alfalfa and wheat.

Karolyn says, “I am humbled and honored to have been awarded the prestigious LEAVEN Award. I am very passionate about agriculture and the future of our families as they try to farm in a very unsure environment. I will continue to advocate and work for our common goals of feeding future generations of Americans and the world. Thank you to my American Agri-Women friends.”

## Mid-Year 101

By Karolyn Zurn, Chair AAW Government Affairs & Vital Issues

The AAW Mid-Year Meeting will be a time to take a fresh stance on our national position statements on issues that impact our members and their businesses. I hope to see some new faces attend as we have several new members. This will be a great place for getting to know each other and show new attendees the process we use to achieve our final position statements.

Mid-Year gives our attendees the opportunity to pore over the AAW positions and update them where needed. Our positions significantly embody who we, as American Agri-Women, are.

We also will finalize our choice of three to five issues for White Papers that we will use at Fly-In in June. Last year we chose to voice our opinions on pollinators, waters of the U.S., taxes, endangered species (sage grouse), and ag labor problems involving E-Verify.

We look forward to seeing you as we begin our position work at our Mid-Year meeting in Wichita, Kansas March 10–13, 2016.

## AAW Unveils New Logo

As you may have noticed, AAW has a new logo! At the 40th-anniversary convention, the board of directors decided to move forward to design a new logo based on the positive feedback from the 40th-anniversary logo. In December 2015, the board voted to approve the new logo design. If you would like to use the logo, please email Lisa Champion, AAW's executive assistant, at [aaw@americanagri-women.org](mailto:aaw@americanagri-women.org) so she can email you the files you need.

◀ **MID-YEAR**, continued from page 1

the World with McConnell Air Force Base calling Wichita home. Some of the world's largest aviation companies have research and design facilities in the city. We're planning a visit to McConnell Air Force Base to learn more about the base's role in our national security.

The executive committee is also planning a special networking event to make long-timers and newcomers feel



welcome.

The meeting will be held at the Hyatt, which is just blocks from Wichita's Old Town and Historic Delano districts, both known for their dining, entertaining, shopping and art establishments.

The Cargill Innovation Center tour is set for 4–6 p.m.

on Thursday. The tour of McConnell Air Force Base on Sunday is optional. It is subject to change and the time is being finalized.

Join us in Wichita for Mid-Year 2016!

## Photo Contest Winners

By Jane Marshall

The winners of the AAW Foundation Photo Contest were announced during the convention. This is an annual fundraiser for the foundation. The 2015 winners were:

- “Potato Blossom” Nancy Wright, Maine Agri-Women
- “Erickson Round Barn” Margene Newton, Minnesota Agri-Women
- “Summer Sun Picture Day” Alisha Nord, North Dakota Agri-Women
- “Antique Wagon” Kristy Bray, Maine Agri-Women
- “Strawberry Season” Kimberly Schmuhl, Michigan Agri-Women
- “Soybean Harvest” Nancy Rys, Minnesota Agri-Women

The six winning photographs are put on note cards and are sold in packs of twelve for \$12 per pack. This is the second year that the runner up photos were put in a 12 month wall calendar. The calendar sells for \$12 as well. Anyone interested in purchasing cards or calendars please contact Katie Yost at [katie@nutralix.com](mailto:katie@nutralix.com). The AAW Foundation would like to thank Lori Bammerlin for taking care of the photo

contest for the last three years. Lori has done a spectacular job with this contest and is solely responsible for the creation of the calendar. Thank you, Lori!

## Save the Dates

**2016 Convention: November 16–19, 2016.** AAW's annual convention will be in Raleigh, North Carolina, at the Embassy Suites. Please check [americanagriwomen.org](http://americanagriwomen.org) for more details. Registration will be up in March.

**2016 Fly-In: June 2016.** AAW's Fly-In will be in Washington, D.C. ([washington.org](http://washington.org)) at the Holiday Inn Capitol. Please check [americanagriwomen.org](http://americanagriwomen.org) for more details. Registration will be up in February.

**2017 Convention.** AAW's executive committee approved a bid from Minnesota Agri-Women to host the 2017 annual convention in November 2017. Please check [americanagriwomen.org](http://americanagriwomen.org) for more details.



# 2016 AAW Mid-Year Schedule (draft; subject to change)

March 10–13, 2016 • Hyatt Regency Wichita, 400 W Waterman, Wichita, KS 67202

## WEDNESDAY, March 9, 2016

*Executive Committee arrives on-site.*

## THURSDAY, March 10, 2016

*Breakfast on your own, lobby*

- 9 a.m.–noon      **Executive Committee Meeting**
- noon–1 p.m.      *Lunch*
- 1–2 p.m.          **Committee Chair Meeting**
- 2–3:30 p.m.      **Foundation Meeting**
- 1–3:30 p.m.      **Registration**
- 2:30–3:30 p.m.   **Planting Our Future: Succession Planning** for AAW — ALL members!
- 3:30–4 p.m.      *Bus departs for tour, lobby*
- 4 – 6 p.m.        **Cargill Innovation Center Tour & Reception**
- 6:30–8 p.m.      Combined **Executive Committee Board and Foundation Meeting**

*Dinner and networking on your own*

## FRIDAY, March 11, 2016

*Bring silent auction items!*

- 7 – 8:45 a.m.      *Breakfast*
- 7:30–9 a.m.      **Board of Directors Meeting** (Exec. Committee and affiliate presidents)
- 9–9:15 a.m.      **Welcome**, Pledge of Allegiance, Prayer and Announcements
- 9:15–10:30 a.m.   **Position Statements Working Meeting** with Karolyn Zurn, Chair of Govt Affairs/Vital Issues
- 10:30–10:45 a.m.   *Break and silent auction bidding*
- 10:45 a.m.–noon   **Position Statements Working Meeting**
- noon–1 p.m.      *Lunch and silent auction bidding*
- 1–3:00 p.m.      **Speakers TBA** followed by **Position Statements Working Meeting**
- 3–3:15 p.m.      *Break and silent auction bidding*
- 3:15–4:30 p.m.    **Position Statements Working Meeting**
- 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.   **AAW Reception**

*Dinner and networking on your own*

## SATURDAY, March 12, 2016

- 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.    *Breakfast*
  - 8:30–10 a.m.      **Position Statements Working Meeting**
  - 10–10:15 a.m.     *Break and silent auction bidding*
  - 10:15 a.m.–Noon   **Speakers TBA** followed by **Position Statements Working Meeting**
  - Noon–1 p.m.      *Lunch and silent auction bidding*
  - 12:45 p.m.        *Silent auction closes*
  - 1–2:30 p.m.      **Position Statements Working Meeting**
  - 2:30–2:45 p.m.    *Break and pay for silent auction items*
  - 2:45–5 p.m.      **Wrap Up AAW Positions – Mid-Year Business Completed**
  - 4–6 p.m.          **AAW Foundation Meeting**
- Dinner and networking on your own*

## SUNDAY, March 13, 2016 (optional activities)

- Breakfast on your own, lobby*
- 8:30–9 a.m.      **Worship Service** – All members are welcome to attend.
- time TBD         **McConnell Air Force Base Tour**



## Thank You, AAW Sponsors

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# Mid-Year Meeting Registration

## March 10–13, 2016, Wichita, KS

**Hyatt Regency Wichita, 400 W Waterman, Wichita, KS 67202**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliate Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate needed? \_\_\_\_\_ Special diet needs? \_\_\_\_\_

Full Registration (breakfast, breaks, lunch on Friday and Saturday): \$150

Full Non-Member Registration: \$175

Partial Registration (Friday or Saturday only): \$75

Collegiate Full Registration: \$75

Partial Collegiate Registration (Friday or Saturday only): \$50

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### To Register

Registration ends March 1, 2016. No registrations will take place on site! Pay online at [squareup.com/market/aaw/mid-year](http://squareup.com/market/aaw/mid-year) or mail a check to American Agri-Women, PO Box 743, Colchester, VT 05446.

### Hotel Information

Room rates start at \$109 per night. This rate is good from March 6 to March 15, 2016. If you need additional assistance, please call 1-888-421-1442. The hotel offers 10 ADA accessible rooms. Please call to reserve your room early to ensure you are accommodated.

### Travel Information

The Wichita Dwight D. Eisenhower National Airport is approximately 10 minutes from the hotel. The hotel offers complimentary transportation for all hotel guests between 5 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. Call 316-293-1234 once you arrive at the airport to arrange pickup by the the courtesy vehicle. Cab service ranges from \$12–\$13: Best Cab (316) 838-2233 and American Cab (316) 262-7511.

### Local Area Information

VisitWichita.com has information about the city such as where to visit and where to go to dinner. The hotel will provide complimentary transportation to the Old Town district and Intrust Bank Arena.

### Silent Auction Information

Each year at Mid-Year, AAW has a silent auction to benefit the AAW Foundation's education projects. Individuals and affiliates alike are encouraged to bring an item to include in the auction. Keep in mind that winners will have to carry or ship their items home, so don't make the item too big or bulky. Thank you!



# AAW Members Assisting Farmers Around the World: Are You Ready to Make a Difference?

**W**hat was your New Year's Resolution for 2016? Perhaps you committed to give more to others, to try new things and to see new places? If so, the USAID Farmer to Farmer program is a great opportunity for you to do something you may never have thought you could, see places in the world others only see on television, and share your expertise as women in agriculture with farmers and their children in need of your help. AAW is partnered with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Farmer to Farmer Program which matches the technical assistance of U.S. farmers, agribusinesses, cooperatives, and universities to help farmers in developing countries improve agricultural productivity, access new markets, and increase their incomes.

The need for expert technical assistance spans across the agricultural sectors, as assignments range from improving production methods, strengthening farm to market linkages, developing agribusiness skills, improving post-harvest handling and processing, and supporting schools and



Carmen Byce, AAW Farmer to Farmer Volunteer. Carmen says: "To other women considering this opportunity, I would say, 'Do it! You have nothing to lose and a world of experiences and new friends to gain.'"

cooperatives with education, research and leadership skill development. Volunteer assignments are typically two to three weeks and timing is often flexible. Volunteers receive one-on-one

support from AAW coordinators (Lisa Champion and Carmen Byce) to prepare and often benefit from talking to past Farmer to Farmer volunteers that have worked in the assignment area.

Each month, the Communique will highlight several volunteer assignments that need to be filled. The Communique will also begin to highlight stories from other AAW members returning from their assignment to give members a glimpse into the communities AAW is affecting through our support of the Farmer to Farmer project.

If you are interested in this opportunity, or even just curious, please contact the AAW F2F coordinators, Lisa Champion (aaw@americanagriwomen.org) and Carmen Byce (carmen.byce@gmail.com) for more information. Join us in making 2016 a great year for AAW to have an impact at home and abroad!

## Examples of Current Volunteer Needs

### Kenya

- Fruit & Tree Nursery Management
- Dairy Production & Processing
- Market Plan Development



### Ethiopia

- Microfinance & Income Diversification
- Integrated Pest Management
- Home-based Fruit & Vegetable Preservation

### Uganda

- Soil Conservation
- Farming as a Business

### Tanzania

- Facilitation Skills Development
- QuickBooks Skills Development

To see all available assignments, visit [farmertofarmer.crs.org](http://farmertofarmer.crs.org)

# Drive Across America: Success!

By Sue McCrum, AAW Past President

**T**hank you for allowing me to represent American Agri-Women on our 40th-anniversary Drive Across America! I had the privilege of visiting with many of you on your home turf. Many of you hosted me and my AAW Drive sidekicks for an overnight in your home. Many of you planned and worked at events to advocate for agriculture as we travelled through your states. We travelled over 17,000 miles through this great country of ours. This Drive project could not have happened without your support and those sponsors of our Drive.

We achieved our five goals for the Drive:

1. Celebrate the 40th anniversary of American Agri-Women
2. Recognize and honor the important role that women play in American Agriculture
3. Develop a stronger network between American agriculturalists and consumers
4. Highlight the exceptional agricultural, food and fiber system in the U.S.
5. Plant the future of agriculture by bringing people together to support and promote agriculture and to

rise to our "Planting Our Future" Challenge

This Drive let our sponsors know that American Agri-Women still has a credible voice within the agricultural industries. We have done this for four generations and plan to be that agricultural voice for the future!

Our AAW executive team, committee chairs, affiliate presidents, and members have been busy this year. We had a vision for our Drive Across America. We needed financial support from sponsors for this. We got it! We needed commitment of time from members to hop on the Drive. It happened! We needed member and affiliate commitments to set up meetings, ag education opportunities, tours, press interviews and lodging for those on the Drive. Done! We participated in parades, state and local fairs, and other events, sharing with consumers our farm and ranch stories.

Our AAW Drive Across America was a great success! There is no one better to share what is going on within our farms, ranches, agribusinesses than those AAW members who live and work there every day!

You have *all* been a part of our AAW Anniversary Drive! Thank you!

## Upcoming Webinars

**Using Technology to Make Your Affiliate More Efficient.** 7 pm Central, February 10. Register at [attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3282780353091223041](http://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3282780353091223041). Presented by Lisa Campion, AAW's executive assistant and attorney with Gale & McAllister, PLLC. In a digital age, AAW is moving towards implementing leading technologies to help us communicate with our members, affiliates and the world about our mission. We want to take the time to make you aware of the new technologies and how you can use them in your affiliate chapters and other organizations you may be involved with.

We will talk about how to utilize Excel, JotForm, Square, FreeConferenceCall.Com and Google to help your affiliate establish membership databases and email lists, online dues payments, online event registrations. We will also discuss how to create an agenda, gain feedback on the agenda, and then collecting feedback after the meeting or event. We will also talk about how to ensure your affiliate "brand" so your communications look professional. Come with questions!

**Affiliate Branding and Best Practices for Officers: Continuity in Transition.** Noon Central, April 15. Register at [attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/438212930151067393](http://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/438212930151067393). Presented by Sarah Fernandez.

**Current Issues and Preparing for Fly-In.** Noon Central, May 13. Register at [attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4048832094395420161](http://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4048832094395420161). Presented by Karolyn Zurn, AAW Issues Chair, and Ruth Jensen, AAW Fly-In Chair.

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# AAW Foundation Scholarship Program

By Ardath DeWall, Scholarship Coordinator

The AAW Foundation has had an exciting scholarship year, with excellent applications, deserving recipients and a very helpful committee. Thank you, Jenny Stelmach, Pam Townsend and Rose Tyron VanCott. Our scholarship program has grown over the last couple years. We give academic and event scholarships for a total of ten scholarships that can be awarded annually.

The **Legacy Kids Scholarship**, given in memory of Trenna Grabowski, was awarded this year to Billy Baker, Montana. It was Trenna's idea to launch a program to provide a vehicle for AAW members to share their enthusiasm and support agriculture and AAW with young people, while encouraging the entry of second and third generation individuals into AAW. A \$200 scholarship award can be given to two youths age 8–18, each year, for expenses to attend the AAW Washington D.C. Fly-In. **Applications are due May 1, and sent to: Pam Townsend, 360 Bubar Rd.**

PO Box 71, Blaine, ME 04734.

The **Gail Mcpherson Fly-In Scholarship** is given in memory of a founding mother of AAW. It is available to any AAW member to attend the annual AAW Fly-In held in Washington D.C. in June. Jane Marshall, Ohio, and Janell Reid, Colorado, were the recipients in 2015. Up to three \$500 scholarships are awarded at the discretion of the committee. The applicant may be any age, but cannot have attended a past Fly-In. **Applications are due May 1, and sent to: Pam Townsend, 360 Bubar Rd. PO Box 71, Blaine, ME 04734.**

We give two **Daughters of American Agriculture Scholarships**. Jean Ibendahl High School Scholarship is for age 18–23 and Sister Thomas More Bertels Continuing Education Scholarship is for age 24 and older. These scholarships were created to honor the memory of those courageous and adventure-some pioneer women who played such an important role in the founding of our national organization and encourage the present generation to continue their education in agricultural pursuits.

These two scholarships are available to pursue accredited courses in agriculture leadership, communications, rural sociology, medicine, or other courses directly related to agriculture. A total of 140 scholarship applications were received this year. Morgan Schreurs, Minnesota, received the High School Scholarship, and Kaitlyn Orde, California, received the Continuing Education Scholarship. A \$1,000 scholarship is given to each age division. **Applications are due June 1, and sent to: Ardath DeWall, 11841 N. Mt Vernon Rd. Shannon, IL 61078.**

**Helen Whitmore Memorial Scholarship** was named to honor a well respected rancher and teacher from California. The scholarship is for any AAW member to attend the annual AAW Convention, who has not attended a previous convention. Up to three \$500 scholarships can be awarded each year at the discretion of the committee. The recipients for the 2015 convention were: Priscilla Koser, Illinois; Meghan Stanley, Montana; and Kristine Ranger, Michigan. **Applications are due August 15, and sent to: Pam Townsend, 360 Bubar Rd. P.O. Box 71, Blaine, ME 04734.**

## AAW Foundation Has Had a Busy Year

By Jane Marshall, AAW Foundation President

At the Convention Banquet, the Foundation awarded four mini-grants for a total of \$1,500:

- Colorado Agri-Women for Membership Campaign: \$500
- Maine Agri-Women for a potato picking book reading in school and donation to school libraries: \$400
- Polk County Women for Agriculture (County chapter of Oregon Women for Agriculture) for a Constitution Essay contest expansion: \$300
- Texas Agri-Women for a billboard project highlighting different ag commodities: \$300

Following the announcement of these

mini-grants, we did our annual Pass the Hat Fund Raiser and gathered nearly \$1,900. Many thanks to all who helped with that.

We said goodbye to three members. The Foundation would like to thank Ardath DeWall, Jacquie Compston and Lori Bammerlin. They have helped move the Foundation to where we are today and they have left big shoes to fill. We also welcomed three new members: Deb Whalen of Minnesota, Merlynn Verstuyft of Texas, and Kim Schmuhl of Michigan. We look forward to working with you all.

We also elected our officers: Jane Marshall, President, Janell Reid, Vice President, Jenny Stelmach, Secretary, and Katie Yost, Treasurer.

Ardath DeWall donated a \$500 Dairy Scholarship to Janelle Remington, Wisconsin, on behalf of International Women in Dairying.

Make sure to include all parts of the scholarship application in one packet when you submit it. Not including all portions will disqualify your application. We encourage everyone eligible to apply for a scholarship.

**Donate to AAW via Amazon Smile**  
Go to Smile.Amazon.com, select AAW Foundation as your charity, and anytime you make a purchase, Amazon Smile provides a small percentage of your purchase to us. It does not cost you anything, but helps our Foundation grow!





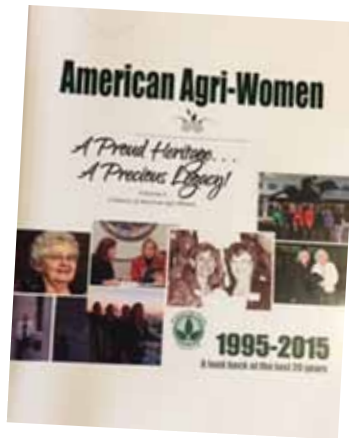
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## History Book is the Cherry on Top of 40th Year

A group of AAW past presidents have had a super busy year writing a book. Not just any book, but a history book that covers the last 20 years. The book, *1995-2015: A Look Back at the Last 20 Years*, was unveiled at the 2015 convention.

The committee was Alice Dettwyler (chair), Ardath Dewall, Marcie Williams, and Karen Yost.



The proofers were Arlene Kovash and Linda Swiercinsky. AAW wants to extend our sincere thanks to these ladies for all their hard work on this wonderful book that memorializes AAW history.

This book is for sale for \$20. If you are interested in buying one, please contact Lisa Campion, AAW's executive assistant, at [aaw@americanagriwomen.org](mailto:aaw@americanagriwomen.org).

**Have a membership question? Need to update any of your information?**  
Contact Lisa Campion, AAW's executive assistant, with all membership requests. You can e-mail [aaw@americanagriwomen.org](mailto:aaw@americanagriwomen.org) or call 586-530-1771. You can also write Lisa at American Agri-Women, PO Box 743, Colchester, VT 05446.

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*Contract rates available. Ask about special sizes and display advertising. To advertise, contact Lisa Campion at (586) 530-1771 or [aaw@americanagriwomen.org](mailto:aaw@americanagriwomen.org).*