American Agri-Women
1974 - 1994

A Proud Heritage -
A Precious Legacy

"We CAN do it TOGETHER"

A history of American Agri-Women
INTRODUCTION

In reading the history of AAW, one can get a sense of the agricultural industry over the past years and develop a perception of the direction agriculture will unfold in the future. We can detect the strides our organization took over the years and how the agricultural economy is an integral part of history.

AAW is a networking powerhouse of information about all things pertaining to agriculture or that could impact American Agriculture. It is a sharing of ideas and talent to solve or ameliorate the many problems we face. We recognize that we are a vital part of our individual farms, local communities, states, nation and world. We are in an era when all must be involved in and contribute to enhance the future of our agricultural industry.

Andoth O'Wol
American Agri- Women President
Note From the Editors

Working on this book, documenting the history of American Agri Women, has been a pleasure. We marvel at the wisdom and insight of our founding mothers, who created an organization both flexible and strong, an organization both feminine and powerful, an organization respectful of the rights of others and herself deserving of respect.

Many AAW members worked on this project. We give special thanks to our President, Ardath DeWalt, for her support, encouragement and work, and to our longtime historian Florence Rachwal of Wisconsin, Doris Huffman of Ohio, Arlene Kovash of Oregon, and Victoria Coughlin of Wisconsin. And special thanks to Pat Conill of Michigan, author of “Women in Agriculture” and charter member of WSAM and AAW. Sharon Steffens, our first National Coordinator, contributed a great deal of insight into our history. Thank you also to Audrey Sickinger, JoAnn Vogel and Jean Ibaroaht. All of these women, with assistance from past national presidents, provided the history of the individual years.

Special credit goes to Jeanne Mertz, Past AAW President, of Kansas, who spent many days researching, typing, proofreading, and communicating with other members asking for additional information and pictures. Her efforts have greatly enhanced the final product. Finally, thank you to all of the affiliates who spent hours and hours putting together their pages to preserve their history for the future.

There are many, many other AAW members who contributed—-we thank you all. For any errors, we take responsibility. For the depth and breadth of information, we credit the members of AAW. The finished product belongs to American Agri-Women—-the Great Lady of Agriculture.

The heritage of American Agri-Women is proud, a potent force for good and reason. The legacy we pass on to our daughters and sons is precious beyond measure.

Trenna A. Grabowski
Christina M. Wilson

November 14, 1994
This book is

Dedicated

to

American Agri-Women

women working together for agriculture

and to the

families which have supported them in their endeavors
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AAW President Ardath DeWall and Immediate Past President Tranna Gliabowski utilized a grant for their use from Past President Mitzi Perdue to begin this History of AAW's First 20 Years.

The Beginning of American Agri-Women

Bogged with many serious problems, American Agriculture, as a fragmented industry, lacked a single voice through which to speak to bring about effective change. Many felt agriculture needed to develop a voice to speak for the entire industry. Women were to play an important role in developing a united voice for agriculture.

In 1969, a group of women in Oregon organized as a result of government regulations banning farmers burning fields. Oregon Women for Agriculture (OWA) stood alone, for their husbands were too busy farming to respond and fight the forces that were determining the course of American Agriculture.

Two years later, in 1971, Connee Canfield, unaware of OWA's existence, founded Women for the Survival of Agriculture in Michigan (WSAM). The WSAM's realized that the problems of agriculture were national in scope and required a national organization to respond effectively.

The first official attempt at organizing a national convention of farm women was made when the just-organized Women for the Survival of Agriculture in Michigan chartered a bus to Washington, D.C. to call on the Secretary of Agriculture. Each representative from WSAM made one suggestion to Secretary Earl Butz. Among issues raised by WSAM was one made by Eileen Nutting that WSAM would like to see some very positive action come from this meeting to show your concern for women and the family farm. We would like WSAM to call a national conference of farm women in October or November to make suggestions, bring in speakers and formulate policies for a public relations program. We offer to serve as hostesses for this conference.

When it became obvious such a conference was not a top priority for USDA, WSAM decided to sponsor its own national convention. WSAM's Laura Husea and Pat Cohill began traveling to speak to and organize other women in Canada and the United States beginning with Wisconsin, Washington and New York.

Several WSAM members went to Oregon and the two groups exchanged ideas on how to counter a common threat. Funds were needed and many organizations and supportive individuals undertook the women's expenses to travel to testify at hearings; to produce educational materials on agriculture; to organize other groups; and to give speeches to inspire others to action for the industry which provides their income and their way of life.

Especially helpful was the Chevron Chemical Company. Early in 1972, Pat Cohill wrote the president of the company, outlining her vision of a national network of women for agriculture. Women would be able to multiply their effectiveness in influencing those forces which affect the food and fiber producers' self-determination and their ability to feed and clothe this nation and an increasing portion of the world. She requested an appointment to meet with them in their San Francisco headquarters and further requested they pay her traveling expenses. Chevron agreed. At the conclusion of the meeting which included the company's President, Mel Wieringa; Dr. Robert Wallace; Garry Lindahl Ottosen and Linda Barnes of OWA; and Millie Schultz and Pat Cohill of WSAM; Lou Czutin, Director of Chevron's Public Relations Department remarked, "I believe we are witnessing an historic moment." Chevron offered to pay all printing and postage costs involved in organizing a national organization.

WSAM inspired the idea of a national farm women's meeting as previously suggested to Secretary Butz. Farm Wife News (FWN) magazine called WSAM's Laura Husea to ask if WSAM had considered a national convention and learned that WSAM was in the process of organizing one. FWN offered to join forces and coordinate the first National Farm Women's Forum. WSAM, after reviewing the suggested Forum program, decided that deeper issues affecting agriculture must be
addressed. Laura Heuser was the keynote speaker.

WSAM invited all farm and ranch women's organizations to a special coalition meeting immediately following the Forum. The invitation suggested that women's groups interested in establishing a coalition come to the meeting with authorization of their membership to join. Because the purpose of the Forum to WSAM members was always to establish a national coalition, WSAM raised the funds and invited all attending the Forum to a reception to promote the idea and encourage them to attend the coalition meeting.

WSAM's members came prepared with exhibits, buttons, favors, educational materials and a mission that they must convince people of the need for a national coalition. The theme used by WSAM throughout the week was, "WE CAN DO IT TOGETHER!" When the opportunity for action came, the women were unstoppable in their eagerness, meeting at all hours to develop a purpose and goals to form a coalition.

Pat Cohill had arranged with President Gerald Ford's staff to have greetings sent to Sharon Steffens, WSAM State Chairman, to be read to those attending the National Farm Women's Forum. The telegram text follows.

November 12, 1974 The White House

It is a pleasure to extend greetings to your first National Farm Women's Forum and to know that women are joining together for the benefit of agriculture.

We all know that urban people have not lost their basic dependence upon farm people, despite the diminishing numbers living and working on the farms of America, and while we often pay tribute to farms, we too seldom salute farm women for their role in helping meet the food and fiber needs of everyone.

Therefore, let me congratulate you on your objectives to bring about greater understanding of the enormous productivity of farming and the benefit of the U.S. Agriculture.

Gerald R. Ford

Speakers at the coalition meeting were Mr. Joseph Wright, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture; Corky Larson, a California family grape grower who had personally negotiated contracts with Chavez and the Teamsters; and Sister Thomas More Bertels, Professor of History and organizational specialist, Silver Lake College, Wisconsin, who spoke on "Coalition or Annihilation."

Four organizations came prepared to join: Women for the Survival of Agriculture in Michigan; Wisconsin Women for Agriculture; Oregon Women for Agriculture; and the Washington Women for the Survival of Agriculture. Two other groups, the United Farm Wives of Kansas (Kansas Agri-Women) who had organized in 1973 and Illinois Women for Agriculture (Illinois Agri-Women) who had organized in 1974, ratified their memberships intentions to join the coalition during that first chartering year. It was decided that both individuals and organizations could belong to the coalition. The name, AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN was chosen, with the organization officially launched on November 14, 1974, at the Marc Plaza Hotel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Sharon Steffens, WSAM State Chairman, was named Temporary Coordinator of AAW.

A Statement of Purpose and three areas of concern were adopted. The three areas of concern urged that consumers be informed as to the country of origin and the standard of quality of imported products; that government agencies utilize input from the agricultural industry to prevent unnecessary and ill-advised regulations; and that national legislation be passed immediately which would enable farmworkers to use their rights to choose by secret ballot elections, which union, if any, is to represent them.

--written by Sharon Steffens and Pat Cohill, WSAM
Some of the Early Organizers of AAW & AAW Affiliates

Connee Cantfield, MI

Mary Holzapfel, OR

Working toward a meeting of minds regarding power, how to build it, and how to rein it in once built, are (seated) Marilyn Carney and Corky Luson of California Women for Agriculture (CWA), Sr. Thomas More, Wisconsin Women for Agriculture (WWA), and Gloria Racchetti (CWA); Standing are Kay Wilson (CWA), Pat Cohn, Women for the Survival of Agriculture in Michigan (WSAM), and Carmie Horton (CWA). Because they worked in the garage at Lake Arrowhead, the composers of AAW’s Call to Power are known as “The Arrowhead Seven.”

Laura Heuser, MI

Barbara Bausch, KS
Twenty Years of Service to Agriculture
Coalition Meeting
November 14, 1974

Location National Farm Women’s Forum inspired by WSAM and coordinated by 
Farm Wife Magazine, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Two hundred people attended the meeting.

Program Highlights Three speakers were followed by a business meeting. The program 
was entitled, “Encounter with Truth.” The speakers included Mr. Joseph Wright, Assistant Secre-
tary of Agriculture, who spoke on “President Ford’s Inflation-fighting Policies and How They Will 
Affect Agriculture”; Corky Larson, a Coachella Valley, California, table grape grower who had 
negotiated contracts with both Chavez and the Teamsters; and Sister Thomas More Bertels, 
Professor of History, Silver Lake College, Manitowoc, Wisconsin, on “Coalition or Annihilation.”

Business Official delegates from Women for the Survival of Agriculture In Michigan, 
Women for the Survival of Agriculture in Washington, Oregon Women for Agriculture, and Wis-
consin Women for Agriculture, voted unanimously in favor of a coalition. Representatives from 
several other groups joined following their return home. Kansas (United Farm Wives of America) 
had organized in 1973. At a meeting in December, they voted to become an affiliate of American 
Agri-Women. Illinois Women for Agriculture and AMPI Women also joined upon returning home.

Sharon Steffens of WSAM was elected temporary coordinator of the new coalition named 
American Agri-Women which would be the first organization to represent all segments of the 
aricultural industry. The name American Agri-Women, was one of three proposed, and was 
selected by the delegates.

AAW immediately adopted a Statement of Purpose and identified three areas of concern.

Statement of Purpose: ‘We, as women’s agricultural organizations and individuals, 
united together to communicate with one another and with other consumers to promote agri-
culture for the benefit of the American people and the world.’

Areas of Concern 1) Urging that consumers be informed as to the country of origin 
and the standard of quality of imported products. 2) That government agencies utilize input from 
the agricultural industry so as to prevent unnecessary and ill-advised regulations which created 
hardships for producers, processors and consumers, and 3) That national legislation be passed 
immediately which will enable farmworkers to use their right to choose by secret ballot elections 
which union, if any, is to represent them.

Highlights In June, 1975, AAW participated in a USDA program for Department of 
Agriculture employees in Washington, D.C., entitled, “Women in Agriculture and the Changing 
World.”

During the first year, a bimonthly mimeographed paper was edited and mailed out by 
temporary coordinator Sharon Steffens, volunteer secretary Bernadette Rasch, and as many 
women and children as were available at the moment. Proposed bylaws were also developed 
and plans for a chartering meeting completed.
Chartering Meeting
November 13, 1975

Location  Marc Plaza Hotel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It was held following the 2nd National Farm Women's Forum, coordinated by Farm Wife News.

Program Highlights  The program was entitled, "Setting Goals for American Agri-Women." Speakers included Dr. Sylvan Wittwer, Director of Experiment Stations, on "World Food Situation," and Donna Sweeney, Organizational Specialist, both from Michigan State University.

The bylaws were approved; several areas of concern were adopted; and a slate of officers was elected.

First Elected Officers
National Coordinator  Sharon Steffens, Michigan
Assistant Coordinator  Nancy Smidle, Wisconsin
Secretary  Alice Weimers, Texas
Treasurer  Sharon Knight, Washington

Note  The first VOICE of the American Agri-Woman was published in April, 1976.
1976 - 1977

First Annual Meeting
November 15-17, 1976

Location  Radisson-Muehlbach Hotel, Kansas City, Missouri

The meeting was organized after the National Farm Women's Forum was canceled. Two
hundred fifty individuals from 33 states attended.

Convention Highlights  The Theme of the convention was "Working Together."
A panel of consumer leaders and farm women; speakers on trade; legislation and labor
solutions; threats to cooperatives; and research were program highlights.
The first AAW awards were presented.

Notes  Position papers, after much input from the affiliated groups and AAW Comittee
Chairmen were compiled by Gail McPherson, Goals Chairman. They covered several areas of
concern and were distributed in Washington, D.C.

The 1977 Farm Bill was a major concern of many AAW members. Members from several
states went to Washington, D.C. to talk with legislators.

In September, Sharon Steffens was invited to the White House for the signing of the Food
and Agriculture Act of 1977. This recognition acknowledged the impact that farm and ranch women
were having.

Mid-Year Meeting  Silver Lake College Convent, Manitowac, Wisconsin. It was hosted by
Sister Thomas More Bertels and the Wisconsin Women for Agriculture. The bylaws were completely
revised under the direction of AAW professional parliamentarian, Mary Mann, Indiana.

1976-1977 Officers:

National Coordinator  Sharon Steffens, Michigan
Assistant Coordinator  Nancy Smidle, Wisconsin
Secretary  Betty Harlin, Oregon
Treasurer  Sharon Knight, Washington
1977 - 1978

Second Annual Meeting
November 8-11, 1977

Location: Port Plaza Inn, Green Bay, Wisconsin

Convention Highlights: "Growing Together" was the theme of the convention.

The program included an energy panel; seminars on organization, education, and estate tax; Dr. Fran Hill on "The American Farm Wife - Who is She?"; Dr. Randall Torgerson on "Farmers Need for the Capper-Volstead Act"; and Dr. Gordon Guyer on "Agriculture and Red China."

Corky Larson, California, had been concerned that when AAW attained power it would not abuse it as she had seen the United Farm Workers Union do. Thus she called together what is now referred to as the "Arrowhead 7 plus 1." They met in the garret of a garage at Lake Arrowhead, having already researched the work of Ghandi, Saul Alinsky, and Bonhoeffer. The result was the creation of what AAW is and how it operates. Besides Corky, the group included Kay Wilson, Gloria Bachetti, Tammy Horton, Marilyn Carney, all of California; Pat Cohill, Michigan; and Sister Thomas More Bertels, Wisconsin. The "plus 1" included Carolyn Leavens, California, who was not present at the meeting but contributed a key phrase to the "Call to Power."

At that point in time, the American Agriculture Movement was growing. AAW was under great pressure to take a stand. The following statement was approved by the convention and distributed to the media and AAW members:

"American Agri-Women pleads for unity in agriculture. We deplore the farm economics crisis, as well as, the resulting impact to the national economy. We urge AAW members to obtain complete information about the American Agricultural Movement, which is not affiliated with American Agri-Women. Each individual member is urged to participate in the movement to whatever extent their personal opinion dictates. We challenge all farm organizations - the general farm organizations, commodity groups, cooperatives - to join with us to achieve a united voice for agriculture. We need to reconcile long-held philosophical differences regarding agricultural economics by all in favor of common goals that will better insure the survival of the family farm."

Notes: In December, 1977, AAW represented the United States (one of two representatives) at the Inter-American Commission of Women involving the U.S. and twenty-two countries, in Washington, D.C. Pat Cohill participated in this meeting sponsored by the Organization of American States.

Growing numbers of AAW women were being appointed or elected to boards of directors, Agricultural Technical Advisory Committees, other USDA advisory committees, school boards, and other entities on local, state and national levels.
1977-1978 Officers:
National Coordinator
Joan Adams, Oklahoma
Assistant Coordinator
Sharon Knight, Washington
Secretary
Evelyn Cooper, Michigan
Treasurer
Trena Grabowski, Illinois

1978 - 1979

Third Annual Meeting
November 9-11, 1978

Location  Sheraton Century Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Convention Highlights  "Issues and Answers" was the convention theme.
The program included a "welcome" from newly-elected Senator David Boren and an address
by Sarah Weddington, Assistant to the President of the United States.

Business highlights included discussion and approval of staggered terms of office, additional
officers, and new titles for the top leadership posts.

Notes  On February 14, 1978, Joan Adams, National Coordinator, was invited to the White
House to join other national leaders of agricultural organizations to meet with President Jimmy
Carter. The purpose was to discuss the agricultural economic situation and offer constructive
suggestions.

In October, Rosalyn Carter, First Lady, accepted Honorary Membership in AAW.

The VOICE was moved to Washington, D.C. with Nadra Carpel, Farm-Corn-Inc., as editor.
1978-1979 Officers:
President
First Vice President (Vital Issues)
Second Vice President (Public Relations)
Third Vice President (Education)
Secretary
Treasurer

Joan Adams, Oklahoma
Corky Larson, California
Betty Roberts, Oklahoma
Mildred Kelly, Kansas
Evelyn Cooper, Michigan
Trenna Grabowski, Illinois

1979 - 1980

Fourth Annual Meeting
October 31 - November 3, 1979

Location Vacation Village, San Diego, California

Convention Highlights The theme chosen was "We're Partners - Bridging the Gap."
The convention included an all day farm tour of Southern California agriculture; workshops
on "Power Negotiations", energy and resource programs; and several top speakers.

One of the most important resolutions to come out of this convention was the Definition of
the Family Farm. (See page 45). This definition, as well as testimony on many other issues were
offered at several of the "Structure of Agriculture" hearings held by Secretary Bob Bergland. This
was a major part of the "dialogue" on what the future structure of small agriculture should be.

1979-1980 Officers:
President
First Vice President (Vital Issues)
Second Vice President (Public Relations)
Third Vice President (Education)
Secretary
Treasurer

Evelyn Landis, North Dakota
Ruby Ringsdorf, Oregon
Mike Selbert, California
Mildred Kelly, Kansas
Evelyn Cooper, Michigan
Trenna Grabowski, Illinois
1980 - 1981

Fifth Annual Meeting
November 9-13, 1980

Location  Hershey Motor Lodge, Hershey, Pennsylvania

Convention Highlights  AAW members had the opportunity to become acquainted with three farm women from Australia, Lyn Johnson, Wilma Byrne, and Dorrie Mason.

Sperry New Holland sponsored a media workshop for those interested in this area of promotion. A tour included the Sperry New Holland plant, driving through the Amish Country, visiting a dairy farm and dinner at a quaint New England house.

Notes  Contact was made during the year with both Canadian and English farm women who have organized agricultural groups.

USDA sponsored a Farm Women's Forum, in Washington, D.C. in October. AAW First VP Ruby Ringsdorf and the presidents of the National CowBelles and Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE), served as a steering committee with the USDA staff in development of the program which addressed how the family farm could have input into the 1981 Farm Bill.

The first AAW directory, containing the history, annual report, Call to Power, and affiliated organizations' leadership was published. Sharon Stellens served as the editor.

Participation in the "Structure of Ag" hearings, the White House Conference on Families, and the Ag Lands Conference were major activities of AAW and its affiliated groups.

Mid-Year Meeting  It was combined with visits to USDA and legislators in Washington, D.C.

1980-1981 Officers:

President  Evelyn Landis, North Dakota
First Vice President (Vital Issues)  Ruby Ringsdorf, Oregon
Second Vice President (Communications)  Emilie Welsh, Pennsylvania
Third Vice President (Education)  Patricia Zee, New Jersey
Secretary  Audrey Sickinger, Wisconsin
Treasurer  Trenna Grabowski, Illinois
Sixth Annual Meeting
November 10-14, 1981

Location  Marriott Inn, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Convention Highlights  "Free Enterprise-America's Strength; Agriculture-America's Strength" was the theme of the convention.

Program highlights included Sister Thomas More Bertels discussing "Power"; Patty Newman on "The Mystery of Chavez"; officials from USDA and the State Department; and publication of two convention newsletters and a follow-up edition for the total membership in conjunction with an editor's workshop. A major bylaws change creating a Board of Directors consisting of the Executive Committee and the President of each affiliate or her duly-appointed representative was approved.

Notes  AAW accomplishments during 1981 included repeal of the Widow's Tax, signed by President Ronald Reagan, which finally resulted after years of effort on the part of AAW and its affiliates, along with a united effort with many other farm and commodity organizations. Doris Royal, a Nebraska farm wife, was instrumental in getting AAW involved in this very important issue. Laura Lane, Farm Journal Magazine, was very helpful. She wrote many articles in support of AAW's position.

AAW continued to testify, write letters, and express views on various issues besides estate taxes, such as the use of chemicals in agriculture; food and dioxin issues; labor; and imports. Animal Care was a new issue generating much concern and action.

AAW sought constantly to project a positive image of the role of today's farm women. This had brought AAW members recognition and credibility in their states and in Washington, D.C. AAW also continued to network agriculture and its organizations by learning more about people across the nation and sharing problems and solutions.

AAW members were no longer the token women on the committees but had become an integral part of committees on which they served. To assist the new administration in 1981, AAW established a Talent Bank of farm women who were interested and qualified for appointments to various advisory committees.

President Ruby Ringsdorf met with over 100 Australian women during a trip to their country, and spoke to them about American Agri-Women and women's role in American agriculture.
1981-1982 Officers:

President
First Vice President (Vital Issues)
Second Vice President (Communications)
Third Vice President (Education)
Secretary
Treasurer
Past President

Ruby Ringsdorf, Oregon
Joan Vogel, Wisconsin
Emilie Welsh, Pennsylvania
Patricia Zee, New Jersey
Audrey Sickinger, Wisconsin
Trenna Grabowski, Illinois
Evelyn Landis, North Dakota

1982 - 1983

Seventh Annual Meeting
November 14-17, 1982

Location Regency Park Resort & Convention Center, Overland Park, Kansas. There were 248 registrants.

Convention Highlights Resolutions were adopted concerning Animal Rights and World Hunger groups.

Senator Nancy Landon Kassebaum was the keynote speaker. Dr. Margaret Maxey, University of Texas, impressed the audience when she spoke for an hour without any notes. A tour included the National Agricultural Hall of Fame at Bonner Springs and the Farmland Research Farm. Members and guests attended the American Royal rodeo after feasting on a roast pig dinner.

President Ruby Ringsdorf had surgery and was unable to attend. JoAnn Vogel presided at the business meetings.

Notes Membership had reached 3335 individual members and 24,000 members by affiliated memberships.

President Ruby Ringsdorf was invited to meet with Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block in January of 1983 in Washington concerning the payment in kind (PIK) program, and was one of three women included in the Secretary’s Ag Summit in July of that year. She was appointed to Ford Tractor’s new Ag Women’s council, representing AAW.
1982-1983 Officers:

President Ruby Ringsdor, Oregon
First Vice President (Vital Issues) JoAnn Vogel, Wisconsin
Second Vice President (Communications) Emilie Welsh, Pennsylvania
Third Vice President (Education) Millie Schultz, Kansas
Secretary Jeannie Mertz, Kansas
Treasurer Julia Hinner, Oklahoma
Past President Evelyn Landis, North Dakota

1983 - 1984

Eighth Annual Meeting
November 13-16, 1983

Location Valley River Inn, Eugene, Oregon
There were 291 registrants.

Convention Highlights AAW voted to support legislation to amend the Delaney Clause in keeping with the revolutionary and technological changes in food safety and that “no risk” policy be changed to one that shows “no significant risk.”

Notes AAW sent four members to the USDA’s Ag in the Classroom conference. AAW agreed to publicize and support the project.

Ford Tractor Company announced the establishment of a Women’s Advisory Committee. It would consist of ten members, serving one year terms. AAW would have one of five permanent positions on the committee.

Mid-Year Meeting It was held in Washington, D.C. A legislative reception attracted 85 guests. The National Ag-Chemicals Association had developed a Media Public Relations Guide for Agri-Women to use. "The Farming Game" was distributed to every Member of Congress.

1983-1984 Officers:

President Carolyn Leavens, California
First Vice President (Vital Issues) Jean Ibbendahl, Illinois
Second Vice President (Communications) Mitzi Ayala, California
Third Vice President (Education) Millie Schultz, Michigan
Secretary Jeanne Mertz, Kansas
Treasurer Julia Hinner, Oklahoma
Past President Ruby Ringsdor, Oregon
1984 - 1985

Ninth Annual Meeting
November 13-16, 1984

Location Peoria Continental Regency Hotel, Peoria, Illinois
There were 216 registrants.

Convention Highlights AAW Policy Papers were approved after a great deal of discussion. Jessica Lange, star of the movie "COUNTRY" was presented a scroll signed by the members at the convention. It was to express AAW's appreciation of her sensitive portrayal of country life and the strong, heroic image of the farm wife in the face of adversity. Carolyn Leavens made arrangements and presented the scroll to Ms. Lange in Hollywood.

Wendy Welland, was a guest at the convention. She represented British Woman's Farming Union, a group similar to AAW.

Union Carbide offered to present a two-day leadership conference intended to help AAW function more effectively. The workshop would be held at the 1985 mid-year meeting.

A milestone was marked as W.I.F.E. and AAW presidents exchanged convention appearances. Carolyn Leavens spoke to the W.I.F.E. delegates at their convention, and their president addressed the members of American Agri-Women.

Mid-Year Meeting The board met at the Clayton Inn, Clayton, Missouri (suburb of St. Louis). Union Carbide conducted a two day training session. It was an excellent Leadership Conference for the board members.

1984-1985 Officers:
President Carolyn Leavens, California
First Vice President (Vital Issues) Jean Ibendahl, Illinois
Second Vice President (Communications) Mitzi Ayala, California
Third Vice President (Education) Carol Ann Gregg, Pennsylvania
Secretary Treasure Omdahl, Minnesota
Treasurer Julia Hinther, Oklahoma
Past President Ruby Ringsdorf, Oregon
Tenth Annual Meeting
November 10-14, 1985

Location  Holiday Inn, Phoenix, Arizona

Convention Highlights  A Bed & Breakfast project was discussed. It would be for AAW members traveling across the country.

John Deere announced it would sponsor a contest for AAW members with three winners receiving expense paid trips to the St. Paul convention in 1986.

American Agri-Women voted to support agricultural policy encouraging our farm products to move freely to the markets in the United States and the world. This would lead to a farm program which would stabilize the economics of the industry, without unrealistic high supports, loans, and target prices which lead to unneeded production and result in burdensome surpluses.

AAW supported "THANKS, INC." in its national effort to have U.S. food processors label American grown and processed food.

AAW supported action to modify or withdraw the 1973 Federal Trade Commission Consent Order banning "fat free" milk advertising.

The farm labor unrest was spreading into the Midwest. FLOC (Farm Labor Organizing Committee) was quite active. Farm labor issues were of great concern to the members. One of these concerns was the table grape boycott by the National Farm Worker Ministry.

Notes  In an effort to strengthen the AAW education program, subcommittees were appointed to work under the direction of Carol Ann Gregg, Education VP. The committees were: Ag in the Classroom; Ag Women's Leadership Project; Bed and Breakfast; and Consumer Education. By involving more women there was more time to focus on each area.

Chris Wilson had been appointed Legislative Chair. She instituted a "legislative hotline" to be used for critical calls to congressmen, and she wrote a monthly legislative column which was mailed to everyone on the president's mailing list.

Jean Peltibone and Trenna Grabowski were Marketing Co-Chairs. They worked hard or emphasizing the need to utilize alternative crops. (Ed. Note - AAW was perhaps ahead of our time, for while many doors were closed to us, now we are seeing and hearing much more about alternative crops.)

Jean Ibbendahl, chairman of the subcommittee for Ag in the Classroom, introduced a new project, the Ag Science Fair project promoting the use of alternative crops.

Mid-Year Meeting  Hilton Plaza Inn, Kansas City, Missouri

Many issues were discussed. Meetings on various topics ran late into the night.
1985-1986 Officers:
President
First Vice President (Resolutions & Vital Issues)
Vice President, Public Relations
Vice President, Education
Secretary
Treasurer
Past President

Jeanne Mertz, Kansas
Mitzi Ayala, California
Sandy Greiner, Iowa
Carol Ann Gregg, Pennsylvania
Trevor Omdahl, Minnesota
Julia Hinther, Oklahoma
Carolyn Leavens, California

1986 - 1987

Eleventh Annual Meeting
November 9-13, 1986

Location Radisson Hotel, St. Paul, Minnesota

Convention Highlights AAW adopted Resolutions:
* In support of soybean quality standards, wheat quality standards, and corn quality standards.
* To oppose casein imports.
* To oppose agricultural products used as tools in negotiations with other countries.
To oppose the California Table Grape Boycott.

Caesar Chavez had infiltrated into the midwest and had received a "special motion" from the Kansas City, Missouri City Council, to boycott table grapes. AAW members throughout the midwest had made calls and sent letters opposing the boycott. Other farm organizations also expressed their displeasure. The original city council motion was later overruled.

AAW members agreed to do everything possible to encourage the use, on a state-by-state basis, of identification and usage of alternative industrial crops. (Alternative industrial crops as defined by AAW are non-edible and non-feed.)

A Town Hall Meeting was open to everyone who had an issue they wished to discuss. It drew a large attendance.

Notes Chris Wilson, Legislative Chair, planned and organized an AAW Fly-In to Washington, D.C. which included the Executive Committee, Affiliate Presidents and Committee Chairman.

Mid-Year Meeting Airport Marriott Hotel, Kansas City, Missouri
Peter Myers, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and John Lankester, Director of Purchases, Proctor & Gamble Products Division, addressed the AAW Board of Directors.

1986-1987 Officers:
President
President-Elect
First Vice President (Resolutions & Vital Issues)
Vice President, Communications
Vice President, Education
Secretary
Treasurer
Past President

Jeanne Mertz, Kansas
Mitzi Ayala, California
Carol Ann Gregg, Pennsylvania
Sandy Greiner, Iowa
Nita Wilson, Oregon
Ardath DeWall, Illinois
Julia Hinther, Oklahoma
Carolyn Leavens, California
Twelfth Annual Meeting  
November 6-9, 1987  

Location  Embassy Suites, McAllen, Texas  

Convention Highlights  AAW adopted Resolutions:  
* Supports legislation to allow a farm spouse to qualify for farm program payments, up to the $50,000 payment limitation, providing they contribute management and capital to the farming operation.  
* Supports ethanol production from agricultural products, helping U.S. to become more fuel efficient.  

All states were encouraged to check laws on country of origin and work for improved labeling.  


Concerns - Importation of 270,000 feeder lambs from New Zealand to the Port of Portland, Oregon. Submitted to USDA.  

AAW members were given an opportunity for a "firsthand" look at an alternative crop when they toured a Kenaf field as part of the tour event.  

Dr. Michael DeBakey, a pioneer in open heart surgery, was presented the Veritas Award. He spoke to a standing room only crowd of members and guests.  

Notes  A major leadership training initiative was undertaken, resulting in the development of a leadership training course and book for use by all affiliates.  

Mid-Year Meeting  Airport Marriott Hotel, Kansas City, Missouri  

Steve Kopperud, Animal Industry Foundation Executive Director, conducted an animal rights workshop.  

1987-1988 Officers:  
President  
First Vice President (Resolutions & Vital Issues)  
Vice President, Communications  
Vice President, Education  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Past President  

Mitzi Ayala, California  
Sandy Greiner, Iowa  
Kay Egle Shideler, Oregon  
Nita Wilson, Oregon  
Ardath DeWall, Illinois  
Julia Hinther, Oklahoma  
Jeanne Mertz, Kansas
1988 - 1989

Thirteenth Annual Meeting
November 16-20, 1988

Location  Holiday Inn Center City, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Convention Highlights  Mitzi Ayala introduced her husband, Frank Perdue, to the members of AAW.

AAW passed resolutions which included:

* Supporting the continued negotiations at the interim review of GATT in Montreal, December, 1988.

* Opposing any future legislation which would include the provision of "The minimum health benefits for all workers act of 1987" proposed and defeated in the 100th congress.

Leadership Manuals were available for distribution at the convention. Robbie Robinson conducted a leadership training session.

Notes  New Holland announced they had established an Agri-Women's Council. AAW members were appointed to serve on it.

AAW attended and helped coordinate the Agricultural Women's Leadership Summit at the Winrock Center, Little Rock, Arkansas. The Agricultural Women's Leadership Network was chartered, October, 1988. Mitzi Perdue and Sandy Greiner, AAW, Ardath DeWall and Vicki Coughlin, AMPI, and Fern Krahbiel, American Sheep Industry Women, attended. Ardath DeWall was elected president.

A Washington Fly-In was held in June, with participation by AAW officers, committee chairs and affiliate representatives. The group met with numerous policymakers and distributed information packets to every Member of Congress.

Sister Thomas More Bertel's book, "In Pursuit of Agri-Power" was published.

Mid-Year Meeting  Tiffany Springs Sheraton, Kansas City, Missouri

Dixon Hubbard, USDA Extension Service addressed the board.

1988-1989 Officers:

President  Mitzi Perdue, Maryland
President-Elect  Sandy Greiner, Iowa
First Vice President (Resolutions & Vital Issues)  Trenna Grabowski, Illinois
Vice President, Communications  Kay Egle-Shidler, Oregon
Vice President, Education  Ardath DeWall, Illinois
Secretary  Gail McPherson, Pennsylvania
Treasurer  Julia Hintter, Oklahoma
Past President  Jeannine Mertz, Kansas
1989 - 1990

Fourteenth Annual Meeting
November 10-13, 1989

Location Westward Ho, Grand Forks, North Dakota

Convention Highlights AAW members would support:
* Actions by the FDA to better inform the public with food label statements
* The "Rural Health Improvement Act of 1989" maintenance of the Federal Milk Market Orders.
* Lower favorable tax treatment for capital gains.

The office of president-elect was omitted as noted in bylaw changes.

A Canadian tour followed the convention, furthoring international outreach objectives of AAW, in a roundtable discussion with Manitoba women.

Notes A new AAW display, sponsored by Pioneer, was available for national conventions and affiliates use. The display was used in a booth at the National Extension Homemakers Council Convention, Manhattan, Kansas, and at the Association of Country Women of the World Convention in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mid-Year Meeting Best Western Noah's Ark, St. Charles, Missouri
Paul Wagner, Ag Council of America, explained the new FOODWATCH program being implemented by the Agriculture Council of America. Members attending on Friday afternoon had a media training session conducted by Mary Ann Ford.

1989-1990 Officers:
President Sandy Greiner, Iowa
First Vice President (Resolutions & Vital Issues) Trenna Grabowski, Illinois
Vice President, Communications Gen Long, Texas
Vice President, Education Ardath DeWall, Illinois
Secretary Gail McPherson, Pennsylvania
Treasurer Cynthia Adkins, Oklahoma
Past President Mitzi Perdue, Maryland
Fifteenth Annual Meeting
November 8-12, 1990

Location  Red River Inn, Sacramento, California

Convention Highlights  AAW would support:
  * Concept of the Food Watch Program as planned by the Agricultural Council of America.
  * Community Stability Act of 1990. AAW endorses uniform reporting of contaminants as authorized in the Food Agricultural Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 for improved risk communication to consumers and for better consumer understanding.
  * 100% deduction of Health Insurance costs of self-employed individuals.

Focus Issues: Food Safety, Animal Rights, Water

Projects: Oral History project, From Mules to Microwaves, was coordinated by Carol Ann Gregg, to document the life-styles of rural women ancestors. (The portfolio of oral and written histories received from throughout the country was presented to the Agriculture Hall of Fame in Bonner Springs, Kansas, at the 1992 Mid-Year Meeting.)

Notes  AAW had a booth at the National Extension Homemakers Council Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Fifteen members participated in a Leadership Academy sponsored by CIBA-GEIGY, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Carol Ann Gregg was invited to speak at the "Fly in for Freedom."

AAW members visited with DuPont officials at Wilmington, Delaware. The purposes of the trip were to acquaint them with agricultural chemical research, learn the process necessary for chemicals to receive clearance for sale and learn more about manufacturing.

Sandy Greiner and Chris Wilson went to Washington, D.C. where they met with administration and capitol hill officials concerning the reporting of contaminants in a standard unit of measurement. AAW was seeking to have agencies use a standard unit for measurements, in order to reduce consumer confusion over the potential health risks when statistics are reported in the media. (Contaminants include pesticides, natural substances such as insect parts and rodents excrement, and other substances not desired in food or water.) Commitments were made by administration officials to begin reporting contaminants in a standard unit of measurement.

Mid-Year Meeting  Best Western's Noah's Ark, St. Charles, Missouri
1990-1991 Officers:
President
First Vice President (Resolutions & Vital Issues)
Vice President, Communications
Vice President, Education
Secretary
Treasurer
Past President
Sandy Grainer, Iowa
Trenna Grabowski, Illinois
Gen Long, Texas
Judy Loudenslager, Ohio
Jean Pettibone, Kansas
Cynthia Adkins, Oklahoma
Mitzi Perdue, Maryland

1991 - 1992

Sixteenth Annual Meeting
November 7-11, 1991

Location State House Inn, Boise, Idaho

Convention Highlights AAW supported the Family Tax Relief and Savings Act of 1991.
The convention included many worthwhile speakers. Members enjoyed a tour to an area
agriculture related operations.

Other Activities Legislative and regulatory concerns included private property rights, the
reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act, middle income tax relief and a capital gains ex-
emption, minor use pesticides, integrated pest management, wetlands legislation, ethanol and
proposed EPA regulations, the Farm Animal and Research Facility Protection Act, Adams Fruit and
the exclusivity of workers compensation, the deductibility of health insurance premiums, grazing
tees, food safety and a reasonable approach to residue measurement and the possibility that the
estate tax exemption might be lowered as a part of the Long-Term Care Family Security Act of

We continued to monitor activities of radical environmental organizations and joined with other
groups in coalitions to work for responsible regulations in the environmental area. Past President
Mitzi Perdue is writing a weekly column of positive environmental stories which is carried by the
Scripps-Howard syndicate.

The annual Fly-in to Washington was a great success under the able hand of Carol Ann Gregg,
legislative chair. Many of our women stayed for the annual Farm Women’s Forum.
The AAW booth was well traveled among the affiliates. In addition, the national organization
had displays at the National Corn Growers Meeting and at the National Extension Homemakers
Meeting.
AAW President Trenna Grabowski had the honor of representing American Agri-Women at a White House Meeting with President George Bush and representatives of other selected agricultural organizations. She was appointed during this year to serve on the Agricultural Advisory Committee of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

**Mid-Year Meeting**  
Airport Marriott Hotel, Kansas City, Missouri

**1991-1992 Officers:**
- President: Trenna Grabowski, President  
- First Vice President (Resolutions & Vital Issues): Ardath DeWalt, Illinois  
- Vice President, Communications: Christina Wilson, Kansas  
- Vice President, Education: Judy Loudenslager, Ohio

![Image]

**1992 - 1993**

Seventeenth Annual Meeting  
November 12-15, 1992

**Location**  
Holiday Inn, Worthington, Ohio

**Convention Highlights**  
AAW supports Oregon Women for Agriculture's recommendation that the United States of America oppose the recommendations of the Earth Summit, June, 1992, in Rio De Janeiro. Any international forum proposing to solve global concerns must base its decisions on the facts and not on emotion.

**Other Activities**  
Legislative concerns included the estate tax exemption, carryover basis and the possibility of taxing capital gains at death, as well as the Endangered Species Act, Minor Use Pesticides, the Delaney Clause and other issues which continued on from the preceding year. We were involved with the Arkansas Best Coalition on hedging of agriculture commodities, worked on the Food Quality Protection Act and other legislation favorable to agriculture. We took these and other legislative and regulatory issues to the Fly-In, and many AAW women stayed in Washington for the Farm Women's Forum.

Fifteen women took part in the Ciba-Geigy leadership training program.

We distributed Ag Day kits from the Agricultural Council of America as a part of the 20th
anniversary of National Agriculture Day--the theme was "American Agriculture--Growing Better Every Day."

AAW participated in USDA field hearings on restructuring (Chris Wilson, Communications V.P.), international trade (Ardath DeWall, First Vice President) and agricultural policy and income support (Trenna Grabowski, President).

The American Agri-Women Devotions Book, edited by Eunice Guell, was introduced at Convention and was a great success.

In anticipation of AAW's 20th anniversary, planning continued for a 20-year history book.

A Strategic Planning Committee was appointed to begin developing a strategic plan for AAW's growth into the next century.

Mid Year Meeting
Embassy Suites, St. Louis, Missouri

1992-1993 Officers:
President
First Vice President, Resolutions & Vital Issues
Vice President, Communications
Vice President, Education
Secretary
Treasurer
Past President

Trenna Grabowski, Illinois
Ardath DeWall, Illinois
Christina Wilson, Kansas
Donna Ulseth, Minnesota
Alice DeFtwyler, Oregon
Cynthia Adkins, Oklahoma
Sandy Greiner, Iowa
Eighteenth Annual Meeting
November 10-14, 1993

Location Wyndham Hamilton Hotel, Itasca, Illinois

Convention Highlights The Associated Milk Producers Women were the first commodity affiliate to host the annual convention. They chose as their theme, “Chicago, don’t miss it!”

Other Activities AAW’s Strategic Plan was developed through membership surveys and input to a strategic planning committee. The committee proposed a vision and mission statements and four major objectives, with strategies and action items for each objective.

START - the Strategic Action & Response Team was implemented. The START is comprised of a chairman and four coordinators who oversee commodity and issue committees and identify issues which need a coordinated AAW response. The coordinators work with their committee chairs to provide a report from each area for each issue of the VOICE. The START assists the President and officers in planning effective action to address issues.

Notes AAW’s position on Health Care Insurance was presented at the Rural Health Care Symposium sponsored by Agricultural Women’s Forum, Washington, D.C. Written testimony was submitted to the Health Care Committees of Congress.

A delegation of 20 AAW members attended the First International Conference for Women in Agriculture at the University of Melbourne in Australia. The conference title, “Farming for our Future” recognized the vital contribution made by women in agriculture throughout the world. The conference drew 850 women representing 33 nations.

The AAW History Project documenting the history of AAW and affiliate organizations is underway.

Issues of concern Health Care Insurance; Clean Water Act; Biodiversity Treaty; Property Rights; New Forest Plan; Endangered Species and Worker Protection Standards.

Mid Year Meeting Holiday Inn Citi Centre, Kansas City, Missouri

1993-1994 Officers:
President Ardath DaWall, Illinois
First Vice President, Resolutions & Vital Issues Jean Pettibone, Kansas
Vice President, Communications Judy Loudenlager, Ohio
Vice President, Education Donna Ulseth, Minnesota
Secretary Alice Dettwyler, Oregon
Treasurer Dawn Jarolimek, North Dakota
Past President Trenna Grabowski, Illinois
Our National Presidents

Sharon Steffens
1974-77
Michigan

Joan Adams
1977-79
Oklahoma

Evelyn Landis
1979-81
North Dakota

Ruby Ringsdorf
1981-83
Oregon

Carolyn Leavens
1983-85
California

Jeanne Martz
1985-87
Kansas

Mitzi Perdue
1987-89
Maryland

Sandy Greiner
1989-91
Iowa

Trenna Grabowski
1991-93
Illinois

Ardath DeWall
1993-95
Illinois
American Agri-Women Affiliates

By Year of Affiliation

1974-75

Oregon Women for Agriculture, 1969
Women for the Survival of Agriculture in Michigan, 1971
Wisconsin Women for Agriculture, 1973
Washington Women for the Survival of Agriculture, 1973
Kansas Agri-Women (United Farm Wives of America), 1973
Illinois Agri-Women (Illinois Women for Agriculture), 1974

1976

AMPI Morning Glory Farms LEAP (Associated Milk Producers, Inc., Mid-States Region Women), 1973
California Women for Agriculture, 1976
Texas Women for Agriculture, 1976
Washington State Dairy Women, 1954

1977

The American Hereford Auxiliary, 1968
Nebraska Agri-Women (Nebraska Ag Gals), 1977
National Peach Partners, 1977
Oklahoma Women for Agriculture, 1977
Penn's Agri-Women, 1977

1978

Idaho Women for Agriculture, 1978
Minnesota Agri-Women, 1978

1981

Arizona Women for Agriculture (combined with AZ Agri-business women to form AZ Agri-Women), 1980
Ohio Agri-Women (Women for Ohio Agriculture), 1980
Women of National Agriculture Aviation Association, 1977

1982

Indiana Agri-Women (Indiana Women for Agriculture), 1980

1983

North Dakota Agri-Women, 1983

1984

California Women in Timber, 1979
American Angus Auxiliary, 1952
Saler Belles, 1983
Red River Valley Potato Growers Auxiliary, 1975
Texas Agri-Women, 1985

Alaska Women in Timber, 1978
American Sheep Industry Women (National Sheep Growers Auxiliary), 1929

Kansas Sheep Auxiliary, 1960
Kansas CattleWomen, 1952
Iowa Agri-Women, 1987

California Women for Turkeys
Colorado State Wool Growers Auxiliary, 1940
Missouri CattleWomen, 1953

Michigan Peach Sponsors

Fur Farm Animal Welfare Coalition, Ltd.
Lake States Women in Timber, 1984
Missouri Agri-Women, 1990
North Dakota CattleWomen, 1951
Oregon women in Timber, 1978

Idaho Women in Timber
New Mexico Wool Growers Auxiliary

Maine Agri-Woman, 1992

Texas Vegetable Association
Texas Citrus and Vegetable Association

Ohio Holstein Women

¹ Affiliation dates determined by AAW membership directories
² Year affiliate was founded, if available
Honors and Awards
LEAVEN AWARD

At the Mid-Year Meeting, 1977, the previous Award Winners Task Force developed the LEAVEN AWARD. The Committee determined to use the letters L.E.A.V.E.N. as a means of evaluating the candidates. "Leaven" (yeast) is a small element that can interact and influence everything around it. It permeates and raises the elements with which it is mixed. Leaven multiplies its effectiveness for good. American Agri Women 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."

Recipients of the LEAVEN AWARD include:

1977  Sharon Steffens, Michigan
      Nancy Smidle, Wisconsin
      Patricia "Corky" Larson, California
      Joan Adams, Oklahoma

1978  Evelyn Cooper, Michigan
      JoAnn Vogel, Wisconsin
      Mary Myres, Oklahoma
      Elizabeth Hamlin, Oregon
      Ande Hofman, Oregon

1979  Treonna Grabowski, Illinois
      Audrey Sickinger, Wisconsin
      Mary Mann, Indiana
      Betty Roberts, Oklahoma

1980  Sally Shannon, California
      Gail McPherson, Pennsylvania
      Helen Henert, Illinois
      Eileen Nuding, Michigan
      Marta Rusch, Wisconsin

1981  Mildred Kelly, Kansas

1982  Jean Ibandahl, Illinois
      Jeanne Mertz, Kansas
      Mildred Schultz, Michigan
      Alice Wierners, Texas

1983  Deanna Dyksterhuis, Oregon
      Norma Hanson, Minnesota
      Stella Rothe, Texas

1984  Ruby Ringsdorf, Oregon

1985  Ardath DeWall, Illinois

1986  Eunice Guelt, Wisconsin
      Esther Harford, Illinois
      Evelyn Landis, North Dakota
      Ruth McKenry, California
      Jean Pettibone, Kansas

1987  Carol Ann Gregg, Pennsylvania
      Julia Hinther, Oklahoma
      Linda Wright, Minnesota
      Connie Canfield, Michigan

1988  Shirley Butvidas, California
      Marion DeBoer, Minnesota
      Imogene Woodside, Washington

1989  Helen Bausch, Kansas
      Barbara Brookshire, Indiana
      Mitzi Perdue, Maryland

1990  Sr. Thomas More Bertels, Wisconsin
      Viola Dodge, Kansas
      Ethel Gross, Pennsylvania
      Sandy Greiner, Iowa

1991  Betsy Campbell, California
      Christina Wilson, Kansas
      Linda Swiercinsky, Kansas

1992  Donna Ulseth, Minnesota
      Kathy Alder, Idaho
      Florence Rachwal, Wisconsin

1993  Loydae Grainger, Oregon
      Lois Schlickau, Kansas
      Marjorie Wendzel, Michigan
VERITAS AWARD

The VERITAS AWARD is presented by American Agri-Women to the person or persons who have given public witness to the pursuit of truth in accordance with the principles enunciated in the AAW Statement of Philosophy, THE CALL TO POWER. Of specific interest is responsible media coverage of issues, events or personalities of critical importance to the agricultural industry.

Coverage may include REPORTING (news stories, features, documentaries); OPINION (editorials, commentaries, surveys) and PICTORIAL REPRESENTATIONS (photographs, cartoon).

PREFERENCE will be given to persons or institutions who are not directly connected with the agricultural industry; that is, they are not required to rely on agricultural interests as a means of livelihood.

Past VERITAS AWARD recipients are:

1981
Paul Harvey, Commentator

1984
The Reverends Cragg and Barbara Gilbert, Harvest of Hope TV documentary, Wapato, WA

1985
John Stearns, Ag USA, Pacific Palisades, CA

Gail McPherson enjoyed presenting AAW's prestigious Veritas Award to the wonderful Dr. Michael DeBakey.

1987
Dr. Michael E. DeBakey, Chancellor of Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX

1988
Dr. Bruce Ames, University of California, Berkeley, CA

1990
Julia Child, Food Specialist, Cambridge, CT

1991
Dr. Dixy Lee Ray, Former Governor of Washington, Author of "Trashing The Planet"

1992
Dr. C. Everett Koop, Former U.S. Surgeon General

1993
Alston Chase, Pleasant Valley, Montana Columnist and Author of "Playing God in Yellowstone: the Destruction of America's First National Park"
AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN AWARDS

In 1976, American Agri-Women recognized the need to honor outstanding achievements. Awards that have been presented are:

1976
- Agri-Woman of the Year Doris Royal, Nebraska
- Award to Laura Lane, Farm Journal Magazine, Pennsylvania
- Award to Sister Thomas More Bertals, Wisconsin
- Award to Lou Czufin, Chevron Chemical Co., California
- Coordinator Award to Pat Cohill, Michigan

1977
- Communications Award to Laura Heuser, Michigan

1978
- President's Award to:
  - Betty Roberts, Oklahoma
  - Sharon Knight, Washington

1979
- Special Recognition:
  - 1978 Woman of the Year Sharon Knight, Washington
  - 1979 Woman of the Year Corky Larson, California
  - AAW Founder's Award Connie Canfield, Michigan
  - President's Award:
    - Nedra Carpel, Farm Com-Inc., Washington DC
    - Claire Davis-Jones, National Rural Electric Coop Assoc., Washington DC
    - Dottie Moorehouse, California

1981
- President's Award:
  - Bill Jones, USDA, Washington DC
  - Dale Smith, Farm Journal Magazine, Philadelphia PA

1983
- President's Award:
  - Christina Mosher Wilson, USDA, Washington DC
  - Russell Weisensei, Wisconsin

1984
- Special Recognition:
  - Esthar Harford Illinois
  - Ruth McKenry California
  - Sherry Boyd Ohio
  - Barbara Radewald Michigan

1985
- President's Award:
  - Ruth McKenry, California
  - Gail McPherson, Pennsylvania
  - Liz Lathan, Idaho
  - Joan Ibenzahl, Illinois
  - Mildred Kelly, Kansas
  - Jeanne Mortz, Kansas
1986  President’s Award:
Fern Krehbiel, Oklahoma
Christina Wilson, Kansas
Irene Bailey, Kansas
Alice Weimers, Texas
Trenna Grabowski, Illinois
Linda Swiercinsky, Kansas
Jean Ibendahl, Illinois
Jean Pettibone, Kansas
Shirley Butvidas, California
Helen Bausch, Kansas
Liz Lathan, Idaho

1988  President’s Award:
Marilea Chase, Iowa
Rosenbluth Travel Agent, Penn.
Yuki Harada, California
Kristin Juliar, Minnesota
Jean Ibendahl, Illinois

1989  President’s Award:
Jeanne Mertz, Kansas

1990  President’s Award:
Marilea Chase, Iowa
Deanna Dyksterhuis, Oregon
Christina Wilson, Kansas

1991  President’s Award
Marilea Chase, Iowa
Christina Wilson, Kansas

1992  President’s Award
Jeanne Mertz, Kansas
Mary Mann Coulson, Ind.
Jean Ibendahl, Illinois
Helen Henart, Illinois

Special Recognition:
Jean Pettibone, Kansas
Judy Loudenslager, Ohio

1993  President’s Award
Christina Wilson, Kansas
Martha Rittinger, Ohio
Carol Ann Gregg, Penn.
Kathy Reavis, Texas
Cindy Adkins, Oklahoma
Eunice Guell, Wisconsin
Gail McPherson, Penn.

JoAnn Vogel, Doris Royal, Dale Smith, Bill Jones, Laura Lane, as Smith and Jones receive recognition in 1981.

Alice Weimers receives the President’s Award from Jeanne Mertz in 1986.
More Photos of AAW Award Recipients

Alice Weimars, Jean Ibsendahl, Millie Schultz, and Jeanne Mertz received the Leaven Award in 1982.

Loyde Grainger, Marjorie Wendzel and Lois Schlickau received the Leaven Award in 1993.

Alice Dettwyler presented the Veritas Award to Governor Dicy Lee Ray.

Julia Child, Veritas Award recipient, with Mitzi Perdue.
A Tribute to Sister Thomas More Bertels

What has Sister Thomas More Bertels contributed to the phenomenal mobilization of women in agriculture? She has never held an office. She has never dictated policy (she has an occupational hazard of teachers). However, she preached (and still does) the gospel of unification of effort within the agricultural community in order to build a power base in both the economic and political arenas to insure the production of the effects farm and ranch families intend.

Her role is that of resource person, always on tap as needed. Examples: She was present in Milwaukee when AAW was formed as well as when some state affiliates were born; at Lake Arrowhead (CA) when AAW's philosophy and Goals were delineated; on the committee that developed the "family farm" definition; when the Agricultural Women's Leadership Network was in its infancy. She authored a book, "In Pursuit of Agri-Power" that tells what Americans should know about farmers but have never asked, as well as articles, newsletters and letters to editors on issues of farm labor management, land use, environmentalism and biotechnology. Fortunately, Silver Lake College administrators never asked for an accounting of time or money spent in any and all of her endeavors.

Thank you, Sister Thomas More.
The AAW Resource Center

From the very inception of AAW in 1974, it was felt that education was a prime goal. To help achieve that goal, the AAW Resource Center was established in the late seventies.

It has a 501(C)(3) educational rating by IRS which makes contributions tax deductible. With that rating, the AAW Resource Center can receive grants from foundations. Financial support is solicited through grants, gifts and donations.

The Education Committee of AAW elects the 5-member Board of Directors of the Resource Center. The annual meeting of the Resource Center is held in conjunction with the AAW National Convention each year.

The objectives are threefold:
A. Formulation and dissemination of educational materials portraying true facts of agropolitan America for use by teachers, school children, and the general public.
B. Improving and supplementing materials pertaining to the agricultural industry--providing factual information.
C. Initiating and promoting an educational program to advance the interests and welfare of agriculture.

Active membership in the AAW Resource Center is open to all members in good standing in AAW who serve on its education committee. A proposal would expand the board of directors to nine members in 1995 and provide for geographic representation.

In 1993, Mitzi Perdue established the Helen Whitmore scholarship through the Resource Center. This scholarship, in honor and memory of devoted AAW Helen Whitmore of California, who inspired so many young women, provides assistance for young women to attend the AAW Convention for their first time.

The 1994 officers of the AAW Resource Center are Laura Tower, President; Loydeee Trainger, Vice President; Gail McPherson, Secretary; Marjorie Wendzel, Treasurer; and Doris Huffman, Director.
DOCUMENTS
OF
AAW
Statement of Purpose

We, as women's agricultural organizations and individuals, unite together, to communicate with one another and with other consumers to promote agriculture for the benefit of the American people and the world.

AAW Definition of the Family Farm

A family farm is a form of business enterprise in which the entrepreneurial decisions are made by a family engaged in the production of food, feed, fiber, forest products and/or flora for profit which provides a major source of income and capital for reinvestment.
AAW's Vision*

We are a force for truth:
a reasoned, nonpartisan voice
for the agricultural community
to the public.

AAW's Mission Statement*

We will:
build and strengthen alliances
communicate
inform
cooperate
with individuals and organizations to affect
perceptions of agriculture.

*from AAW's 1994 Strategic Plan
CALL TO POWER

History will be kinder to us if our capacity to affect change is implemented in the right way and for the right reasons. Our dedication to truth and our identification with the institutions that foster justice and goodwill provide our rod and staff in the struggle to put away untruth and injustice.

When the responsibility for change falls to only a few, the resulting sense of powerlessness is dehumanizing. The feeling of helplessness institutes a plague of apathy and fosters the growth of philosophies that troubles us.

But who has not tasted the sweetness of success in effecting change and been inspired to try again and seek greater challenges? By its very nature, the capacity of one alone to effect change is limited; but the scope expands when the common cares of more than one give birth to unity of purpose. From the beginning of time, the hallmark of any group has been its ability to produce intended effects—the very definition of power itself; the power gained in these efforts is the force which has mobilized mankind.

The use of the power that springs from unity and commonality, and the degree to which the group is organized within the framework of sound, human-oriented principles, will determine its ability to survive the stresses from change to renewal.

The need for power is not shameful, nor is it to be feared. When power is used to overcome injustice and untruth, we must assume that the Hand of God is still at work perfecting His creation.

As we move to build power, we affirm the following principles:

- The constant pursuit of truth must lie at the heart of our purpose and actions.
- The manner in which we seek truth must be thorough and without prejudice.
- As we search for truth, we recognize other's equally valid searches and seek to remain open to their wisdom.
- We are never better than the means we use.
- We reject the use of violence in either action or words; however, one should not confuse vigorous expression of truth with violence.
- Rejecting the idea that it is necessary to foster hate, we are called to this responsibility in the spirit of goodwill.
- We affirm our responsibility for the generations yet unborn.

POWER IS A NEUTRAL CONCEPT, one that is neither good nor bad. Philosopher Bertrand Russell defined it as "the production of intended effects." What effects do we intend? Can we produce these effects? If we can, we have power.

Unfortunately, too many people fear power, identifying it with Hitler, Stalin, the Red Brigade—those who have abused power; more unfortunately, too few people find fault with those who neglect or refuse to use power, which can also be an abuse. "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." Said Edmond Burke, British statesman of the American revolutionary period. Put another way: "Whatever happens, somebody plans it and the rest of us permit it. We are all responsible."

We must want and use power; that is, we must produce the effects we intend. What do we intend? For the membership of American Agri-Women, that is no secret. Our intentions are voiced in our seven goals. We intend...
...to forge the true image of the farm entrepreneur;
...to foster collaboration with the system;
...to formulate fair market practices;
...to foster cooperation among producers;
...to fight oppressive forces;
...to form leaders.

How many AAW affiliates and their chapters keep these goals in mind when planning policies and actions? What activities are conducted in each affiliate that can be categorized as an implementation of each goal? How many evaluate chapter performance regularly? How successful have we been in achieving each goal? HOW MUCH POWER DO WE ACTUALLY HAVE?

What difference does it make? A great deal of difference! The most important task facing farm entrepreneurs today is capturing a significant degree of influence over the policy-making function as it relates to food, feed, fiber, forest products and flora. If producers were perceived as having power, they would not be ignored when policy is being formulated.

Today, however, farm entrepreneurs are conspicuous by their absence in the arenas of power. That scenario must change. To date, producers have waited patiently for the scenario to change. It won’t, unless they themselves change it. “Patience without pressure is perceived as paralysis” said Herb Cohen, the famous negotiator who addressed AAW in San Diego several years ago. The powerless cannot pressure. We have been CALLED TO POWER. What is your response?

Sister Thomas More Bertels, OSF
Wisconsin Women for Agriculture
THE PRIME TRUTH which explains the purpose of AAW's existence.
GOALS which direct our action, and some
STRATEGIES by which we hope to accomplish our goals.

PRIME TRUTH: THE FAMILY FARM SYSTEM MUST BE PRESERVED AS THE BULWARK
OF THE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM. (Private enterprise is the best method to develop
human potential.)

GOAL I: To present the real identity of American farmers to urban consumers, politicians,
media and church leadership.

Strategy A To foster a positive self image.
Strategy B To correct the inaccurate images presently accepted within and outside the
agricultural community.

GOAL II: To develop an appreciation within and outside the farming community of the interde-
pendence of the components of the agricultural system.

Strategy A To institute dialogue between the agricultural community and other segments
of the consuming public such as labor unions, women's organizations, churches, media.
Strategy B To promote an understanding of the interdependence of agriculture and the
consumer.
Strategy C To clarify the interdependence of the diverse segments of agriculture and its
support systems

GOAL III: To support a marketing system which makes quality food and fibers available to all on
a reasonable cost basis and at a fair profit to the farmer.

Strategy A To ensure farmers are represented in the decision making processes whenever
price formulas, tariffs, embargoes, aid and trade negotiations are involved.
Strategy B To inform the public about the nature and value of the free enterprise system.
Strategy C To provide standby authority for a supply management option as part of the
existing price support program to be used during times when government purchases of surplus
dairy products exceed a specified reasonable level, which would provide dairy farm families viable
opportunity to adjust their production to the needs of the world.

GOAL IV: To seek that common ground which provides the foundation for a united agriculture.
Strategy A: To foster communication and cooperation among the various agri-businesses, farm organizations, commodity groups, farming regions and individual farmers.

Strategy B: To promote positive attitudes and understanding among all components of the food and fiber systems.

GOAL V: To effectively stand against coercive methods which unjustly attack the agricultural system.

Strategy A: To identify oppressive attitudes and actions which prey upon the agricultural community.

Strategy B: To respond with appropriate actions accepting our responsibility to future generations.

Strategy C: To aid the industry in the protection of agricultural commodities.

GOAL VI: To develop allies to broaden agriculture’s influence in the marketplace and in the political areas on all levels: local, state, regional and national.

Strategy A: To initiate dialogue with potential allies.

Strategy B: To pursue and to develop common ground.

GOAL VII: To develop a responsible and accountable membership that is willing to assume positions of influence in areas that affect the private enterprise system.

Strategy A: To discover, to care about, nurture and utilize the capabilities and interests of membership.

Strategy B: To encourage members to assume leadership roles in areas of influence.

Strategy C: To foster an attitude of constructive dissent and to develop a sense of responsibility to leadership in the face of controversy.

Strategy D: To develop and encourage open communication within membership.

Strategy E: To develop a responsible leadership and membership accountable to each other.

GOALS are interpreted as being statements which we will always be working on; they cover our total area of operation.

STRATEGIES are interpreted as the variety of ways in which we can carry out goals. We suggested some likely ones. You may wish to change these or refine them...whatever.

ACTIONS are listed under each strategy and are the actual tasks we undertake.
BYLAWS
AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN, INC.
(Amended Bylaws, adopted November 11, 1993)

ARTICLE I  NAME
The name of this organization shall be American Agri-Women, Inc., an international coalition of
farm and ranch organizations and individuals, and hereafter referred to as AAW.

ARTICLE II  PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

Section 1  Purpose
We, as women's agricultural organizations and individuals, unite together, to communicate with
one another and with other consumers to promote agriculture for the benefit of the American people
and the world.

Section 2  Objectives
A. To educate our members to the important issues involving the agriculture industry.
B. To use this knowledge to provide the industry with a strong public relations outlet.
C. To influence policy and legislation that is of concern to the agricultural industry.
D. To serve as a communications link-up for farm and ranch women and organizations inter-
ested in the well being of the agricultural industry.
E. To promote an educational program to advance the interests and welfare of agriculture.

Section 3  Affiliated groups or individual members shall not represent AAW in an official
capacity without the approval and direction of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE III  MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1  Membership
Membership shall be open to the following who accept the purpose and objectives of AAW and
recommendation of the Board of Directors.
A. Individual Membership: all persons involved with agriculture who have paid the annual dues.
There shall be three classes of individual memberships:
1) Single Membership: in a state or commodity affiliate that pays an affiliate fee based on
the number of its members, all members who wish to join AAW as individual members would pay
the annual dues of $20.00. Individuals who wish to join AAW but not any state or commodity affiliate
would also pay $20.00 dues.
2) Individual Affiliate Membership: when the affiliate collects the AAW dues with its affiliate
dues and forwards AAW dues with membership data to the AAW Membership Chairman, the dues
shall be $10.00 per year per member. If AAW dues are optional, then the affiliate dues must be
paid. Once an affiliate has dual membership, it will continue as dual membership. All future state
affiliates will pay the dual membership.
3) Lifetime Membership: when an individual chooses to pay $500.00 in one lump sum; or
when an individual or group wishes to gift a special member with a one time $500.00 lifetime mem-
bership: that member enjoys all the rights and privileges of full yearly voting membership for her
lifetime and joins an elite group of AAW leadership for special recognition.

B. There shall be two classes of Donor Members:

1) Silver Donor: When an individual chooses to pay $50.00 per year in addition to the single member fee, that Member will appear on the silver honor roll to be published in The Voice.

2) Gold Donor: When an individual chooses to pay $100.00 per year in addition to the single member fee, that member shall appear on the golden honor roll to be published in The Voice, and will be recognized at the Annual Meeting.

C. Affiliate Membership: agricultural organizations who are approved by the membership committee and make annual contributions as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>State Affiliate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-500 members</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>501-1,000 members</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
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<td>1,001-1,500 members</td>
<td>75.00</td>
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<td>2,501 + members</td>
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</table>

D. Lifetime memberships will be given to all past presidents of AAW.

E. Associate Non-Voting Membership: commodity and farm-related organizations who contribute annually $200 or more.

F. Donor Non-Voting Membership: Non farm businesses and organizations who contribute annually $500 or more.

G. Organizations and individual members will be dropped from membership when dues are not paid or they no longer support the purpose and objectives of AAW.

Section 2

A. Membership dues shall be payable to the treasurer to be considered a member in good standing. The amount of the annual dues will be decided at the annual meeting.

B. Only members in good standing on September 30 of the current year will be eligible to vote at the annual meeting.

Section 3

Newsletter

A. A subscription to the newsletters shall be included in all memberships.

B. A non-member subscription price will be determined annually by the Board of Directors.

Section 4

The fiscal year shall be October 1 to September 30.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTION

Section 1

The officers shall be: President, three vice presidents, secretary and treasurer. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by the bylaws and the parliamentary authority.

Section 2

All officers shall be members in good standing, active in promoting a better agricultural industry, and insofar as practical, they shall reside in different geographic regions. No officers, except the treasurer, may be elected to the same office for two consecutive terms. The nominee for First Vice-President must have served on the Board of Directors for at least one year prior to nomination and have attended a national convention within three years prior to her nomination.
Section 3 Officers shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting for two-year terms or until successors are elected and qualified. The first vice president, vice president of communications and treasurer shall be elected in odd numbered years. The secretary and vice president of education shall be elected in even numbered years. In the event there is only one nominee for an office, upon a motion from the floor, election may be by voice vote.

Section 4 There shall be a nominating committee of five, four of whom shall be elected at the annual meeting, and the chairman shall be appointed by the president. The committee shall nominate at least one qualified person for each office to be filled and four nominating committee members, and secure their written consent to serve, if elected. The slate of nominees from the nominating committee shall be presented at the annual meeting, following which nominations from the floor will be in order, provided written consent of the nominee has been obtained and qualifications met.

Section 5 Officers shall assume their duties at the close of the annual meeting.

Section 6 Vacancies in office or in the nominating committee may be filled until the next annual meeting by the Executive Committee. The office of President shall only be filled by an officer elected for that purpose. Any officer serving more than one-half of a term shall be considered as serving a full term.

ARTICLE V DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1 President - The President shall preside at all meetings except committee meetings; serve as an ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating and election committees; furnish a meeting agenda for each member; present an annual report for membership; confirm bills to be paid by the treasurer; appoint a parliamentarian; appoint committee chairman and the convention coordinator; and such other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors or Executive Committee. The President (or appointee) will be the official spokesman for AAW.

Section 2 First Vice President The First Vice President shall serve as an aide to the President, fill the office of president in the event of a vacancy, and coordinate the work of committees not otherwise assigned. This officer shall assume the office of President upon completion of the term. Committees shall be appointed and ready to begin working at the close of the annual meeting.

Section 3 Vice President of Communications - The Vice President of Communications shall coordinate the work of communications.

Section 4 Vice President of Education - The Vice President of Education shall be chairman of the Education committee and serve as liaison with the Resource Center Board.

Section 5 Secretary The Secretary shall keep in permanent form accurate minutes, including a record of attendance, of the Executive Committee, Board of Directors and the annual
meeting; conduct related correspondence; and such other duties as assigned.

Section 6   Treasurer - The Treasurer shall keep in permanent form a complete and accurate record of finances; receive all dues and contributions; pay bills within the limits of the adopted budget after approval of the President, or by order of the Executive Committee; submit financial reports to the Executive Committee as requested, the Board of Directors at the midyear meeting, and to the membership at the annual meeting; have the books compiled and reviewed by a Certified Public Accountant following the close of the fiscal year in order to have the reviewed financial report for the annual meeting; and deposit all monies in the name of American Agri-Women, Inc. in a bank approved by the Executive Committee. The treasurer is responsible for the coordination of mailing lists, finance and membership. She shall prepare an annual treasurers report for the President and the Board of Directors; and she shall oversee the finance committee.

Section 7   The Treasurer and Executive Committee shall be responsible for preparing the annual budget.

ARTICLE VI   ANNUAL MEETING

Section 1   An Annual Meeting shall be scheduled by the Board of Directors to be held during the last quarter of the year.

Section 2   A quorum shall consist of one-third of those voting delegates registered at the convention, and must include at least three officers, five affiliate delegates, and five commodity or issue chairmen.

Section 3   The meeting site shall be determined two years in advance by the convention site committee comprised of the AAW Executive officers and the president or official representative of affiliate organizations. The first vice president shall preside over this meeting. Following selection of the site the president shall appoint the convention coordinator for that convention.

Section 4   The treasurer and the Executive Committee shall prepare in writing a budget for adoption by the membership at the annual meeting.

Section 5   A voting member shall have but one vote, though entitled to vote in more than one capacity, and there shall be no proxy voting.

Section 6   In the event of a national emergency, the meeting may be canceled by the Executive Committee and necessary business conducted by mail.

Section 7   All resolutions to be considered at the Annual Meeting, except those coming from the Board of Directors, shall be sent to the Resolutions Committee at least 60 days before the Annual Meeting. The committee shall prepare all resolutions for consideration and provide copies for publication in the Voice. Resolutions originating with individual members or affiliated organizations shall be signed by at least 10 members and be accompanied by supporting data and rationale. Emergency resolutions may be presented by a two-thirds vote of the delegates. Copies for each delegate must be provided by the presenter.
ARTICLE VII

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1
The Board of Directors shall consist of the elected officers, the immediate past president and presidents of affiliated organizations, or their appointed representative.

Section 2
They shall hold a mid-year meeting and a meeting preceding the Annual Meeting.

Section 3
Duties
A. Uphold the bylaws and work toward fulfillment of the purpose and objectives of AAW.
B. Develop policy and promote implementation of strategy.
C. Transact necessary business between annual meetings and report to the membership in the newsletter.
D. Recommend the amount of annual dues to be adopted by the membership.
E. Amend the adopted budget, if necessary.

Section 4
Four Executive Committee members plus five presidents or their appointed representative of affiliated organizations shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VIII

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1
The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers and immediate past president.

Section 2
Meetings shall be held two times a year and upon the call of the president, or upon the request of any two officers; business may be conducted by conference call when deemed advisable.

Section 3
Duties
A. Fill vacancies in the elected offices and the nominating committee until the next annual meeting.
B. Approve a depository for AAW funds
C. Publish a minimum of six newsletters a year
D. Assist the president in recruiting appointees
E. Establish guidelines for reimbursement of travel expenses for official AAW business.
F. Approve program plans for the Annual meeting.

Section 4
Four Executive Committee members shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE IX

COMMITTEES

Section 1
Standing committees shall be: Education, Membership, and Finance.

Section 2
Other committees and commodity groups shall be appointed as deemed advisable.

Section 3
The president shall appoint committee chairmen in consultation with the
Executive Committee. Such appointments shall be for one year and may be reappointed.

Section 4 All committees shall meet during the week of the Annual Meeting and at such other times as deemed necessary with the approval of the president; present periodic reports in the newsletter; and seek increased membership to further goals and objectives.

ARTICLE X PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY
Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall be the parliamentary authority for all meetings of AAW and shall prevail when not in conflict with these bylaws and any special rules which may be adopted.

ARTICLE XI AMENDMENTS

Section 1 These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at any annual meeting, provided the following requirements have been met. All members shall be sent a copy of the proposed changes at least thirty days in advance of the meeting. Publication in the newsletter shall be considered sufficient notice.

Section 2 Proposed amendments may be submitted to the president at least sixty days prior to the meeting provided such proposal is signed by at least ten members in good standing.

Section 3 Amendments may be proposed by a majority of the Board of Directors in any meeting in which a quorum is present.

Section 4 These bylaws may be amended by unanimous vote at any annual meeting without previous notice.
Traditions
INSTALLATION SERVICE
AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN

It is indeed a pleasure to be with you for the 19th annual convention of American Agri-Women. It is exactly 20 years tomorrow (November 14, 1974) that this organization was formed at the Marc Plaza Hotel, Milwaukee WI at a meeting sponsored by Women for the Survival of Agriculture in Michigan. Next year we will celebrate 20 years of working together as a coalition of farm and ranch women’s organizations at the 20th annual convention in Oregon.

**Installing Officer:** I have the honor this evening to install the officers who will serve for the next year with those officers who were elected last year.

The membership of American Agri-Women have spoken and entrusted you with the mantle of responsibility to abide by and take action under the Statement of Principles: The Call To Power of this organization. You are the “leaven” or the “yeast” in the bread to help us seek the truth, to grow, be caring and effective.

As Treasurer, it will be your responsibility to collect dues and donations, expend funds as designated by the Board of Directors and maintain a complete and accurate record of finances and membership.

This yellow rose is a symbol of loyalty and golden wheat—the prime ingredient of bread, the staff of life.

As Secretary, you will have the pleasant duty of expressing the goodwill and forthrightness of this organization in correspondence and in keeping an accurate record of minutes of American Agri-Women.

This rose is a combination of yellow and pink which symbolizes the sunshine and help your efforts will bring just as we depend on the sunshine to make our crops grow in abundance.

As Third Vice President you are Chairman of the Education Committee and serve as liaison with the Resource Center Board. Education is key to preserving the Prime Truth of the Call to Power—that the family farm system must be preserved as the bulwark of the private enterprise system.

This white rose is a symbol of faithfulness and purity and represents the constant pursuit of truth which we affirm in our principles.

As Second Vice President of Communications, you coordinate publications and media relations in our efforts to forge the true image of the farm entrepreneur and seek greater understanding and appreciation of the food and fiber industry system.

This white and pink rose is a symbol of light and the spread of truth and knowledge to the world around us.

As First Vice President of Vital Issues, you monitor critical national issues, make recommendations, and chair the resolutions process. You serve as an aide to the
President and in the future will service this body in that capacity.

This bright pink rose symbolizes the bravery needed to educate other organizations and government bodies regarding issues affecting agriculture for the benefit of all.

As President you will communicate with the membership, guide our efforts under the principles and goals of the Call To Power, coordinate AAW's activities, and be a spokesman for the organization.

This red rose is a symbol of leadership, courage and sensitivity in dealing with others as you carry the mantle of American Agri Women.

As Past President of AAW, you have demonstrated patience, initiative and leadership in your administration. Your wisdom will be of tremendous value in assisting the Executive Board.

This peach rose is a symbol of honor and loyalty as you work together towards the goals of AAW.

Please repeat after me:

I faithfully and sincerely promise to abide by The Statement of Principles: The Call To Power Of American Agri-Women.
I will perform the responsibilities Of the office to which I have been elected To the very best of my ability And that I will do all in my power To carry out the purposes and vision of AAW.

At this time we will affirm the seven goals of American Agri-Women.

A member of the Executive Board will light a candle as each of the seven goals of the Call To Power are read.

The Prime Truth is that the family farm system must be preserved as the bulwark of the private enterprise system. Or, to paraphrase that private enterprise is the best method to develop human potential. These are the seven goals and the strategies to reach them can be found in your copy of the Call To Power.

1. To present the real identity of American farmers to urban consumers, politicians, media and church leadership.

2. To develop an appreciation within and outside the farming community of the interdependence of the components of the agricultural system.
3. To support a marketing system which makes quality food and fiber available to all on a reasonable cost basis and at a fair profit to the farmer.

4. To seek that common ground which provides the foundation for a united agriculture.

5. To effectively stand against coercive methods which unjustly attack the agricultural system.

6. To develop allies to broaden agriculture’s influence in the market place and in the political areas on all levels: local, state, regional and national.

7. To develop a responsible and accountable membership that is willing to assume positions of influence in areas that affect the private enterprise system.

Members of American Agri-Women:

You have heard the pledge of your officers and affirmation of our goals. With your help and cooperation they will be able to forge ahead. Do you promise to give them your loyal support? I DO.

Would you all join me in stating our purpose which began 20 years ago tomorrow.

All: We, as women’s agricultural organization and individuals, unite together, to communicate with one another and with other consumers to promote agriculture for the benefit of the American people and the world.

Installing Officer: I declare the Officers duly installed and ready to begin their responsibilities. Congratulations to all of you.

May this coming year be a successful one!!

As we strive to reach our goals, remember our motto “We Can Do It--Together!!”

(Th is installation service was written in 1993 by 1st National Coordinator, Sharon Steffens, at the request of President Trenna Grabowski. It may be modified for use by any affiliate of American Agri-Women. Installing officers may need to substitute other flowers besides roses or in combination because of the unavailability of certain colors at different times of the year and local markets.)
AAW Symbols

The AAW logo

The AAW motto is "We can do it together."

The colors are shades of green. Two membership pins have been used throughout the first twenty years of the organization. They are circular, with the AAW logo in the center and the words American Agri-Women arched above it. One pin is gold; the other has the colors of green and orange which were used in the early years of AAW's history.

AAW's Song

We're The AAW

Thanks to Honk,
AAW Has Official Song
AAW Spans the Generations —
A Few of AAW's Multigenerational Member Families
AAW Meetings
and
Activities
## AAW Annual Meeting Sites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Type</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Milwaukee, WI</td>
<td>Coalition Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>Milwaukee, WI</td>
<td>Chartering Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Kansas City, MO</td>
<td>1st Annual Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>Green Bay, WI</td>
<td>2nd Annual Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>Oklahoma City, OK</td>
<td>3rd Annual Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
<td>4th Annual Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Hershey, PA</td>
<td>5th Annual Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Grand Rapids, MI</td>
<td>6th Annual Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Overland Park, KS</td>
<td>7th Annual Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Eugene, OR</td>
<td>8th Annual Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Peoria, IL</td>
<td>9th Annual Meeting</td>
</tr>
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<td>1985</td>
<td>Phoenix, AZ</td>
<td>10th Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>1986</td>
<td>St. Paul, MN</td>
<td>11th Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>1987</td>
<td>McAllen, TX</td>
<td>12th Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>1988</td>
<td>Philadelphia, PA</td>
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<td>1989</td>
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<td>1990</td>
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<td>1991</td>
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<td>1992</td>
<td>Worthington, OH</td>
<td>17th Annual Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Itasca, IL</td>
<td>18th Annual Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Tigard, OR</td>
<td>19th Annual Meeting</td>
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</table>

## AAW Publications

AAW has had many publications over the past 20 years, including the semimonthly newsletter the VOICE of the American Agri-Woman and the annual Directory of American Agri-Women. Other publications have included a resource guide to educational materials; the AAW Cookbook; the AAW Farm Activity Colorbook; and many educational brochures.
AAW MEMBERS ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE

In 1980, three ladies from Australia attended the AAW Convention in Hershey, Pennsylvania. The Australians participated in an interesting and educational penal discussion. Lyn Johnson, Wilma Byrne and Dorrie Mason are shown in the photo with AAW leaders Sharon Steffens, Evelyn Landis and Joan Adams.

Over the years, many AAW members have participated in USDA-sponsored foreign travel and private ag-related trips. Joan Ibandahl, Carolyn Leavens, Gen Long, Trenna Grabowski, Diane Stadtmuller, Mitzi Perdue and others have represented AAW on foreign soil.

Wendy Welland was a guest at the 1984 AAW Convention in Peoria, Illinois. She was representing the British Women’s Farming Union, an organization similar to AAW.


Following the 1989 AAW Convention in Grand Forks, North Dakota, a delegation of AAW members and spouses crossed the border and spent an enlightening and wonderful day with their Canadian counterparts.

The latest AAW international experience was the AAW People to People Trip to Australia in 1994. Twenty members and spouses toured Australia agriculture and attended the First International Meeting of Women in Agriculture, in Melbourne, Australia. Trenna Grabowski and Martha Rittinger were two of the speakers from the United States who were featured on the program. The photo below includes most of the AAW delegation.

Sharon Steffens, Lyn Johnson, Wilma Byrne, Evelyn Landis, Dorrie Mason, and Joan Adams

AAW's delegation to Australia in 1994
AAW Activities

AAW members have been involved in a wide range of activities through the years, which have served to accomplish our purpose. Educational and legislative activities remain key endeavors of American Agri-Women and its affiliate organizations. AAW members are continually involved in activities such as classroom education, letter-writing, testifying, and media contacts.

In addition to the Annual Meeting, AAW holds a Mid-Year Meeting each spring. The Mid-Year Meeting focuses on sharing information between affiliate organizations and committees.

The Washington Fly In has become an annual event in June, during which AAW members meet with congressional and policy officials, delivering educational packets to every Member of Congress.

The AAW Leadership Academy is sponsored every other year by Ciba Plant Protection for a group of 15 AAW leaders.

In addition to AAW meetings and events, AAW, both as an organization and through individual members, has actively participated in farm/agriculture women's forums through the years.

**Forums Through the Years**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>City</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 12-14, 1974</td>
<td>WSAM/FWN</td>
<td>National Farm Women's Forum</td>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 11-13, 1975</td>
<td>Farm Wife News</td>
<td>National Farm Women's Forum</td>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 1-4, 1976</td>
<td>Farm Wife News</td>
<td>Canceled</td>
<td>St. Louis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 15-17, 1976</td>
<td>AAW</td>
<td>American Agri-Women</td>
<td>Kansas City</td>
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<td>Dec. 7-9, 1977</td>
<td>Farm Wife News</td>
<td>National Farm Women's Forum</td>
<td>Kansas City</td>
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<td>Nov. 27-30, 1978</td>
<td>Farm Wife News</td>
<td>Today's Farm Women: The Vital Link</td>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
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<td>Sept. 1980</td>
<td>Farm Wife News</td>
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<td>Chicago</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 1980</td>
<td>USDA, Sec. Bergland</td>
<td>Farm Women's Forum</td>
<td>Washington</td>
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<td>Spring 1982</td>
<td>USDA, Sec. Block</td>
<td>Mkts Strategies for Increased Profits (Farm Women's Forum)</td>
<td>Washington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 27-Mar. 1, 1983</td>
<td>Farm Wife News</td>
<td>Marketing Conference</td>
<td>Chicago</td>
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<td>&quot;Reach Out - Speak Up for Agriculture&quot;</td>
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<td>The Challenge of a Changing Environment</td>
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*Institute for Responsible Research & Reporting  **Agricultural Women's Leadership Network*
Photos
Our Presidents with U.S. Presidents

From the beginning...

...our voice has been heard.
More Washington Friends of AAW

AAW members are shown with (clockwise from top left) former Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block, former First Lady Rosalyn Carter, Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole, and House Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts.