Oklahoma Agri-Women Invite You to Mid-Year

“Oklahoma, where the wind comes sweepin’ down the plain / And the wavin’ wheat can sure smell sweet, when the wind comes right behind the rain...”

By Kristi Bishop, Oklahoma Agri-Women

Oklahoma Agri-Women (OAW) is excited to welcome you to Oklahoma City for the 2015 Mid-Year Meeting!

Oklahoma City is steeped in western heritage and is home of both the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum and the Oklahoma National Stockyards, which is the world’s largest stocker/feeder cattle market. While beef cattle are the leading source of agricultural income in the state, many visitors are surprised at the diversity of Oklahoma’s agricultural products, which includes pecans, peaches and even farm-raised catfish!

Oklahoma is also a national leader in oil and natural gas production. In fact, just 70 miles from our meeting site in Cushing is the world’s largest oil storage facility, simply referred to as the “tank farm” by locals.

Oklahoma City features fantastic dining and entertainment as well! The primary entertainment district “Bricktown” is home to over 40 restaurants, museums and even a ballpark and NBA team. A trip down the Bricktown canal on a water taxi is a must for all first-time visitors.

Harvesting Our Past, Planting Our Future

By Doris Mold, First Vice President

As agriculturalists, we all know how important it is to remember and learn from our past and to look forward with great hope to the future. This was the thinking behind the selection of our 40th anniversary theme “Harvesting Our Past, Planting Our Future.”

AAW has much to be proud of in our 40-year history as a volunteer-driven grassroots organization with the ability to impact lives and agriculture on the local, state, regional, national and international level. Perhaps more importantly, we look to our future with great excitement and anticipation of all that we can be. We want all AAW members to be part of the 40th anniversary celebration and will be introducing ways to get involved throughout 2015.

We were thrilled to kick off our 40th anniversary year at the annual Convention in November where we hon-
Happy New Year to ALL of you! A new year brings changes to everyone, including AAW! As you may know by now, our Voice newsletter schedule is now quarterly. AAW’s communications program has been strengthened by the use of social media. We are able to get information to our members in a more timely fashion than 40 years ago when AAW was founded.

Speaking of that . . . Congratulations to American Agri-Women as we begin our 40th year celebration! We kicked off this 40th year during the 2014 Ohio Agri-Women convention held in Ohio in November 2014. It was a time for AAW members to come together, learn from our speakers, discuss issues that are pertinent to agriculture, tour the Ohio countryside, and be entertained by local talent. Thank you, ladies, for all you did making it such a successful AAW annual convention!

Another change is who to contact about questions regarding AAW and where to send information regarding business for AAW, including membership info and dues. It all needs to go to our AAW administrative assistant, Lisa Campion. Her email address is: aaw@americanagiwomen.org. Her telephone number is: 586-530-1771. Mailing address is: AAW, P.O. Box 37, Barre, VT, 05641.

The precious stone ruby is the symbol that represents 40 years. It has been revered throughout history as a talisman of passion, protection and prosperity! I believe that sums up why we, American Agri-Women, continue to educate the consumer as to where their food and fiber comes from. We have a passion for telling that story. We fight to protect the rights of those who produce these items. AAW understands that ranchers and farmers need to prosper to continue this way of life of food and fiber production to ensure food security for our United States! When I say “prosper,” I am supporting the idea that we need to make a living doing what we do. The long hours and hard work are a way of life for us. Very few of us see a 40-hour work week! Know that you are valued!

I encourage all our membership and affiliates to plan your own celebration along with AAW. Whether it is a local food drive, working with Ag in the Classroom, speaking about agriculture and AAW at your local community events and clubs, or talking with media and legislators about agriculture and how they can support it, you can help get our message out to the consumer. We shouldn’t pass up this opportunity to let the public know that their food supply could be coming from neighbors right next door! Keep talking! I hope to see many of you sometime throughout this year at these events. It is going to be a GREAT YEAR!

This is the year for “Harvesting our Past and Planting for the Future!” Happy planting!

Sue McCrum
Mid-Year Meeting Registration
March 27–29, 2015, Oklahoma City, OK

Best Western Plus/Saddleback Inn and Conference Center

Name ____________________________________________
Affiliate __________________________________________
Address __________________________________________
City _____________________ State ___________ Zip________
Phone ________________________ Fax __________________
Email ____________________________________________

Date of arrival __________________________
Roommate needed? _______ Special diet needs? __________

☐ Full Registration (breakfast, breaks, lunch on Friday and Saturday): $150
☐ Full Non-Member Registration: $175
☐ Partial Registration (Friday or Saturday only): $75
☐ Collegiate Full Registration: $75
☐ Partial Collegiate Registration (Friday or Saturday only): $50
☐ Attending the Oklahoma City National Memorial on Sunday, March 29:
  adults $15, students/seniors (age 62) $12.

Total enclosed $ __________

To Register
Mail completed registration and payment to AAW, PO Box 37, Barre, VT 05641, or fax to 802-479-5415.

For more info, call 802-479-5414 or e-mail aaw@americanagriwomen.org.

AAW Committee Meetings
Those AAW members on committees, please check the agenda (page 4) to see if you will be meeting on Thursday, March 26, and plan accordingly.

Hotel Information
We will be meeting at the Best Western Plus/ Saddleback Inn and Conference Center, 4300 SW 3rd Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73108. Room rates $94.99 for up to quadruple room occupancy. Breakfast included. Free transportation from OKC airport. Phone: 405-947-7007 or toll free 800-228-3903 and ask for AAWGROUP. Please make your hotel reservations as soon as possible so we know if we will need to request a larger room block. Final reservation deadline is March 13, 2015.

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

Developing AAW Position Statements at Mid-Year Meeting

By Karolyn Zurn, Chair, Government Affairs and Vital Issues Committee

Government Affairs and Vital Issues will be working hard at the AAW Mid-Year meeting. Several changes are needed this year to help our team be better heard. Policy is such a huge part of who we are as an organization, so we have taken some ideas and recommendations to heart.

At the 2014 Mid-Year meeting, the team decided to streamline our directory as far as Government Affairs and Vital Issues chairs. We worked on this and still need to fine tune it for a vote of membership. This year we have been asked to streamline our positions. Committee chairs have been asked to condense their sections and eliminate positions that are outdated or don’t surround the areas we will focus on. We are having conference calls before Mid-Year so we can get a head start.

Our positions book will be centered on three or four subjects. Targeted areas so far include immigration issues concerning farm labor, the Clean Water Act, and pollinator species. I look forward to seeing you all in Oklahoma City, so roll up your sleeves and be ready to work.

We hope you join us Sunday morning for a tour of the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum to remember the victims and survivors of the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The memorial is an incredible symbol of America’s strength and resilience.

We look forward to being the host state for the critical discussions that are synonymous with AAW’s Mid-Year meeting and can’t wait to see you on Oklahoma’s red dirt in March!
Mid-Year Meeting Schedule 2015

THURSDAY, March 26, 2015

Breakfast on your own, lobby
9 a.m.–Noon AAW Executive Committee Meeting
Noon–1 p.m. Break for lunch
1–3 p.m. AAW Foundation Meeting
3–3:15 p.m. Break
3:15–4:30 p.m. Combined EC Board and Foundation Meeting
4:45–5:45 p.m. Planting our Future: Succession planning for AAW — ALL members!
6–7 p.m. Welcome Reception/Appetizers/Cash Bar

Dinner and networking on your own

FRIDAY, March 27, 2015

Breakfast on your own, lobby. Bring silent auction items!
7:30–9 a.m. Board of Directors Meeting (AAW exec. committee and affiliate presidents)
9 a.m. Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, prayer, announcements
9:15 a.m.–noon Karolyn Zurn, Chair/Govt. Affairs/Vital Issues; working on AAW Position Statements
10:30–10:45 a.m. Break
10:45 a.m.–noon Working on AAW Position Statements
noon–1 p.m. Lunch and speaker
1–3:00 p.m. Working on AAW Position Statements
3–3:15 p.m. Break; bid on silent auction items
3:20–5:30 p.m. Working on AAW Position Statements
Dinner and networking on your own

SATURDAY, March 28, 2015

Breakfast on your own, lobby
8:30–10 a.m. Working on AAW Position Statements
10–10:15 a.m. Break; bid on silent auction items
10:15 a.m.–noon Working on AAW Position Statements
Noon–1 p.m. Lunch – bid on silent auction items
12:45 p.m. Silent auction bids close
1–2:30 p.m. Working on AAW Position Statements
2:30–2:45 p.m. Break; time to pick up, pay for auction items
2:45–5 p.m. Wrap up AAW positions
Mid-Year business completed

Dinner and networking on your own

SUNDAY, March 29, 2015 (optional activities)

Breakfast on your own, lobby. Syngenta’s Leadership At Its Best Training attendees will be changing hotels.
8:30–9 a.m. Worship Service – All members are welcome to attend

Plans are underway for a visit to the Oklahoma Memorial Museum following the worship service. Tickets are $15 for adults; seniors and students are $12. The tour will take about two hours. This should allow members to catch afternoon flights home.

Become a Farmer-to-Farmer Program Volunteer!

American Agri-Women has partnered with USAID’s Farmer to Farmer Program in our first ever international grant program! Farmer to Farmer is a five-year program matching the technical assistance of U.S. farmers, agribusinesses, cooperatives, and universities to help farmers in developing countries improve agricultural productivity, access new markets, and increase their incomes. AAW encourages our members to become a Farmer-to-Farmer volunteer to help promote economic growth, food security, and agricultural development in East Africa.

There are a few minimal requirements and most expenses are paid for. Contact AAW’s Administrative Assistant, Lisa Campion, at aaw@americanagriwomen.org, as she was a Farmer to Farmer volunteer in June 2014 (at left) and can provide more details. Or, visit farmertofarmer.crs.org.
Sharing Memories From AAW’s Early Days

By Diana Ropp, Illinois Agri-Women

The 2014 American Agri-Women convention was blessed to be attended by six women who were instrumental in serving as part of the foundation of an awesome organization dedicated to be a “Voice for Truth” in American agriculture. Those ladies were Ardath DeWall, Penny Lauritzen, and Eleanor Zimmerlein of Illinois, Alice Dettwyler and Marie Jensen of Oregon, and Barbara Radewald of Michigan. As we took the pictures following the close of the convention, it was my pleasure to visit with these Diamonds and make a note of one of their fondest memories of being part of AAW. Their comments follow:

Ardath DeWall’s memory dates back to the 2000 convention which was held in Orlando, Fla. The goal of hosting this meeting in Florida was to gain additional membership. Past presidents including Jean Pettibone and Trenna Grabowski joined Ardath in planning this meeting. The ladies arrived in Orlando several days prior to the beginning of the convention and it was very close to the Bush/Gore Presidential election. The ladies were all working very late into the evening preparing for the opening ceremonies of the AAW meetings and Jean and Trenna became very heated in conversation relative to the election with angry comments being shared with each other. Ardath assumed the role of peacemaker and suggested to them it was time to go to bed to stop the heated debate. Many years later all three women were able to laugh about the evening and its volatility.

Alice Dettwyler’s sister-in-law, Marie Jensen, introduced Alice to AAW as a young woman. When Oregon Women for Agriculture organized, her oldest daughter was 3 months old. She headed to the meeting with her sister-in-law, Marie, and the rest is history. When Alice ran for AAW President in 2000, her husband and Marie were her biggest supporters.

Marie Jensen’s fond memory included one from those early meetings with Sister Thomas More from Wisconsin, a woman from Michigan and another woman from Wisconsin. “We were up until 1 a.m. to get the Call to Power drawn up which is still used today. Sister More was a fantastic person, very meticulous in her work. I respected and admired her completely. She was a very stabilizing and driving force for American Agri-Women in those early years. American Agri Women with their concerted efforts and Voice for Truth have many times been able to hold back the negative forces,” says Marie.

Penny Lauritzen told me that when Illinois Agri-Women hosted the AAW convention in the past, they always looked forward to all the different ladies attending from all the different states and commodity groups. It was amazing to her to find out they had many of the same challenges that we did here in our state and we could collaborate on different strategies to improve agri-business for the nation.

Barbara Radewald stated it was a difficult time in agriculture at that time and AAW drew them all together. When the Michigan affiliate wrote their original structure, Connie Canfield and Pat Cohill (now deceased) were very instrumental in the formation and they followed the state of Oregon’s structure very closely. Congressman David Stockman was President Reagan’s budget director and attended one of the original Michigan affiliate meetings.

Eleanor Zimmerlein told me that after becoming Illinois Agri-Women president, “They wanted me to go to Washington, D.C., and Trenna Grabowski took me under her wing. I didn’t know boo from nothing and had never been to D.C. We took an all-day trolley tour seeing the historical sites and met some women from the state of Washington, and we all became good friends.”

In fact, Eleanor Kiner and Eleanor Zimmerlein became such good friends that they roomed together at AAW meetings for many years and Eleanor Z. even spent a week with Eleanor K. in Washington. “She showed me the state, from Spokane [where the Kinder ranch was located], to the Yakima valley fruit orchards and packing plants, to Seattle where her son lived,” Eleanor Z. recalled.

Call me an old softie, color me missing my mother, deceased since 1997 — it truly was a pleasure to visit with these six Diamond AAW members as they shared precious history making memories about an organization we all hold near and dear to our hearts.
The LEAVEN award is the highest honor bestowed on an AAW member. Nominated by their peers, these women exemplify the meaning of the words that make up “LEAVEN:” loyalty, enthusiasm, anticipatory, valiant, effectiveness and nurturing. Congratulations to our 2014 award winners, the “best of the best:” Rosemary Eckardt, Ruth Hambleton, Jane Marshall, Kim Schmuhl, and Melody Speer.

**Rosemary Eckardt**

Rosemary Eckardt is a long-time member of Wisconsin Women for Agriculture, where she has held many officer positions including state president. She serves as secretary of the AAW Resource Center and has held other national committee positions. She has chaired many of WWA’s events, including the annual legislative brunch. She has been recognized for her outstanding community service and has received numerous awards, including Woman of the Year for Antigo, Wisconsin’s Ag Days, Farm Bureau Woman of the Year and the Marathon County Farm Bureau Distinguished Service to Ag award. Eckardt is retired from a family dairy, where they also raised ginseng.

**Ruth Hambleton**

Ruth Hambleton is a member of Illinois Agri-Women, where she has held numerous leadership positions including president. Hambleton is founder of Annie’s Project, whose mission is to help farm and ranch women to be better business partners. The program is now available in 38 states and has educated more than 10,000 women. Hambleton also supports the state affiliate’s Women Changing the Face of Agriculture program.

Hambleton teaches farm management courses at Southern Illinois University and recently retired after serving for 30 years as a farm business management and marketing educator for the University of Illinois. President Barack Obama recently named her a recipient of the Champions of Change award.

**Jane Marshall**

Jane Marshall is president of Ohio Agri-Women and holds key national leadership positions, including AAW Resource Center chair and nominating committee chair. She also co-chaired the 2014 national convention committee and has served on numerous other state and national committees. Marshall volunteers tirelessly for many local and state organizations, including the Preble County Habitat for Humanity board, the Preble County Continuum of Care housing committee, Eaton Business and Professional Women and many others. She is also a court appointed special advocate for the Preble County juvenile court. Marshall has also developed “Lost Arts” classes for Farm Bureau on gardening, backyard agriculture, cooking, sewing and baking.

**Kimberly Schmuhl**

Kimberly Schmuhl is a member of Michigan Agri-Women, where she currently serves as president. She also serves on the fruits/vegetables subcommittee for AAW’s vital issues committee and has served on other state and national committees. Schmuhl is part of a family farm, which produces row crops, flowers and vegetables. Schmuhl has helped expand the business through selling direct to consumers at farmers’ markets.

**Melody Speer**

Melody Speer is president of the Uvalde chapter of Texas Agri-Women and previously held the position of secretary for Texas Agri-Women. She was instrumental in coordinating a billboard campaign to promote agriculture across Texas. The billboards will launch in early 2015. Speer leads efforts for the Uvalde chapter’s Ag Fair each year, volunteers with the Uvalde Junior Stock Show and is active in state and federal legislative advocacy efforts. Speer is part of a family farming and ranching operation.

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**Nominate for the 2015 LEAVEN Award:** Go to americanagriwomen.org for nomination information. Deadline is August 1. Contact chair Merlynn Verstuyft with questions: verstuyftm@gmail.com.
American Agri-Women (AAW) presented Orion Samuelson with its VERITAS award at its 39th annual convention, held recently in College Corner, Ohio. Samuelson is an award-winning agriculture broadcaster. He recently celebrated 62 years in broadcasting.

AAW’s VERITAS award is the highest award given to a non-member. It is given annually to a person who has given public witness to “the pursuit of truth” in accordance with the principles enunciated in the AAW statement of philosophy, “The Call to Power.”

Samuelson is the host of two nationally syndicated radio shows, The National Farm Report and Samuelson Sez, and co-host with Max Armstrong of the weekly TV show on RFD-TV This Week in AgriBusiness. After more than 54 years of broadcasting 16 daily agribusiness reports on WGN Radio in Chicago, Samuelson has an unequalled record of service to the nation’s farmers. The most honored agriculture journalist in the country, Samuelson is a member of the Scandinavian-American Hall of Fame, the National 4-H Hall of Fame, the National Association of Farm Broadcasters Hall of Fame and the National Radio Hall of Fame, where he was presented for induction by broadcast legend and friend Paul Harvey. Samuelson grew up on a farm in the Kickapoo Valley of Wisconsin.

“It is truly an honor to receive this recognition for just doing my job and I am grateful to American Agri-Women,” Samuelson says. “I am even more grateful for the work AAW has done for 40 years by emphasizing the role of women in agriculture and using member talents to help the 98% of our population not involved in farming understand what it takes to put food on their table, a roof over their head, clothing on their back, and now, energy in the tank. I remember the founding of AAW and have shared your activities with my audience for four decades.”

All women who are farmers, ranchers, farm/ranch employees, employed in agricultural businesses, pursuing ag-related higher education or supportive of agriculture in other ways are invited to participate in the Women in Ag online survey at womeninag.fb.org. The survey, run by the American Farm Bureau Women’s Leadership Program, aims to gauge the goals, aspirations, achievements and needs of women in American agriculture. Respondents must reside in the U.S. The survey closes on February 20. Farm Bureau will share the results with American Agri-Women.

**Nominate for the 2015 VERITAS Award:** Go to americanagriwomen.org for nomination information. Deadline is June 30. Contact chair Pat Yeagle: peyeagle@aeroinc.net.


39 Years of Attending American Agri-Women Conventions and Counting

By Lauren Schwab, Ohio Agri-Women

From the West Coast to the Midwest, American Agri-Women gathered for the 39th annual American Agri-Women Convention at Hueston Woods Lodge in Ohio, November 6–8. From finances to Facebook, office organizing to the agricultural outlook, women left prepared to bridge the path from their farms to the forks of consumers.

“Never before has it been so challenging, yet rewarding, to be an American woman in agriculture . . . With great privilege comes great responsibility, and it is part of our duty to tell our agriculture story,” says Lindsay Sankey, blog author of Jean’s Boots are Made For Talking. Bloggers Sankey and Kristin Reese, author of Local Farm Mom, explained how to open your virtual farm gate through blogging and social media.

Agri-Women embarked on agricultural tours though Southwest Ohio, showing the many facets of agriculture. Tour stops included local farms and markets, an international supermarket, ethanol plant, water plant, brewery and landfill.

“When I come to the American Agri-Women conventions, I have learned to take advantage of the tours because I would not otherwise go to these parts of the country,” says Arlene Kovash for Oregon Women from Agriculture.

“Never before has it been so challenging, yet rewarding, to be an American woman in agriculture . . . With great privilege comes great responsibility, and it is part of our duty to tell our agriculture story,” says Lindsay Sankey, blog author of Jean’s Boots are Made For Talking. Bloggers Sankey and Kristin Reese, author of Local Farm Mom, explained how to open your virtual farm gate through blogging and social media.

Agri-Women left the workshops inspired to tell their story. “You’re on your own farm each day; it’s great to get a way to hear new perspectives in agriculture from other women. It’s all about telling your story,” Lynn Eisele, guest of Ohio Agri-Women, said. “As American Agri-Women, we are busy on the farm, but it’s important to create time to tell our story online,” says Marieta Hauser of Kansas Agri-Women and American Farm Bureau Women’s Leadership Committee.

Agri-Women were also equipped with the tools to tackle tasks in their farm business including organizing their offices with Lori Firsdon of Forte Organizers, making financial decisions with Heather Dulle of Protective Life, preparing taxes with Larry Gearhardt of the Ohio State University and setting expectations for the agricultural year with Corinne Alexander of Purdue University.

“When I come to the American Agri-Women conventions, I have learned to take advantage of the tours because I would not otherwise go to these parts of the country,” says Arlene Kovash for Oregon Women from Agriculture.

Agri-women also reunited with friends across the country at convention. The women gathered for dinner and shared their many convention memories with a young member attending the first time. When asked why they keep returning, they all shared one thing in common: each other.

Edie Danielson of Minnesota Agri-Women says, “This is probably my 30th convention. I like going to different states each year and learning what they have accomplished there. I love seeing everyone back again. My husband always came with me to the conventions. Before he passed away he told me, ‘Those Agri-Women conventions are some of the best I’ve been to. There is so much business accomplished in just a few days, much better than men’s meetings I’ve been to. Edie, I want you to go to all the conventions so I can be with you because they are good and you love them.’ I do love them and always learn something new.”

Martha Gerber Rittinger of Ohio Agri-Women says, “The first convention I went to was in Arizona and Ohio asked me if I would bring back their charter, so I did. Coming to convention gives us the ability to come together and share experiences, especially in different issues, and assist each other in difficulties.”

Barbara Radewald of Michigan Agri-Women says, “I haven’t been to a convention in awhile and I wanted to come back to see who is still involved. It’s a nice group of women and the men have gotten to know one another. They now encourage the women to come because they want to come, too. It’s fun to come to parts of the country and see the agriculture I would not see otherwise.”

Ardath Dewall of Illinois Agri-Women says, “I’ve been to nearly every convention. I went to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, when AAW was organized and became very active by holding offices and serving as a past president. I love visiting with women from all over the United States and talking about agriculture.”

Shirley Wilde of Texas Agri-Women says, “What I love most about coming to convention are the people. I have made so many friends through the years and I love seeing them again. I have been to a lot of conventions, probably 15, and haven’t missed one since I started. I fell in love with the ladies and the knowledge opportunities. I called my husband and told him it was wonderful and I will be going again!”

The 2014 American Agri-Women Convention in Ohio wrote the story they will tell next year in Maine. Come to Maine in 2015 to tell your story!
Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!
Ohio Agri-Women Appreciates Convention-Goers and Donors

By Jane Marshall, Ohio Agri-Women President

We had a 90-year-old preacher named Rev. Foster several years ago, who could never just say one thank you. He was always so thankful that he said three of them in his deep, booming voice. As I sit here typing, two months after the 2014 Ohio Convention, I have that same abundance of thankfulness!

Ohio Agri-Women would like to say thank you to all of our American Agri-Women members and guests for attending. Without attendees there would be no need for a convention. We had a stellar group of attendees. Because of your attention we were able to stay on time and get our packed schedule completed. We really hope you had as much fun as we did. We loved showing you all Ohio agriculture! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Ohio Agri-Women and American Agri-Women say thank you to Hueston Woods State Park Lodge and all their staff for providing a wonderful venue for the convention. Their hospitality, service and food are second to none. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I want to thank all of the Ohio Agri-Women who worked so hard to make this convention a huge success! You all are who made this possible. Of course it was a lot of work, but what’s worth doing that’s not a lot of work? A bucket of water carried alone is always heavy, but when two are carrying it, the weight always seems less than half. That is the way the convention was. There were lots of twos carrying lots of buckets. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

There is one big group that I have saved for last. Truly, without resources we could never have had a convention. This last group is our donors. We can’t say thank you enough for providing your time, talent, and treasure to make our convention a rousing success. If you see any of them please say thank you personally. We could never have done this with out their generosity. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Donors

Hueston Woods Bridge ($5,000+)
Farm Credit, Ohio Corn Marketing, Hueston Woods CVB, United Soybean Board

Roberts Bridge ($2,500–$4,999)
ADM Crop Risk Services, Edward Jones, Partnership For A New American Economy, Syngenta, Vonderhaar Family

Harshman Bridge ($1,000–$2,499)
Bath State Bank, Dow Enlist Program, Evolution Ag LLC, FCS of Mid-America, FFA National Foundation, Mike Farm Enterprises-Partnership, Mycogen/Dow Agrosciences, Ohio Farm Bureau, Simon Financial Services LLC, Simon Insurance Company, The Andersons, Inc., The Ohio State University Extension

Brubaker Bridge ($501–$999)

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Becky Henning, Cindy Biggs, Crop Production Services, Dairy Farmers of America, Feed The World LLC, Grain Bridge LLC, Just Teasin’ Hair Salon, Madison County CVB, Miley Construction Services, National Trail FFA, Preble County CVB, Preble County Pork, Preble Shawnee FFA, Richmond Baking Company, Talawanda FFA, Twin Valley FFA, The Caring Group, Warm Glow Candles, Williams Farms LP

Geeting Bridge ($100–$249)
Apple Farm Service, Artina, Be Dangled Jewelry, Butler County Farm Bureau, Butler County Visitors Bureau, Diversified Services/The Heuber Report, Farm Service Agency, James & Nancy Patterson, Lynda Bliss, Nancy Tilton, NASS-USDA National Ag Statistics Service, NRCS, Ohio Pork Producers, Oxford Visitors Bureau, Preble County Farm Bureau, Rhoads Farm Market, Steinke Tractor Sales, The Rodeo Shop, Thomas & Jane Marshall, You’re Fired (Pottery)
Lisa Condon was recognized at the convention for her service on AAW’s board. She’s the outgoing secretary. Prior to that position, she was vice president of education.

Above: Fifteen women attended the AAW convention for the first time in 2014.

The 2014 Executive Committee was installed at the convention. They are: from left: Lynn Woolf, vice president of communications; Peggy Clark, treasurer; Doris Mold, first vice president of resolutions and vital issues; Sue McCrum, president; Karen Yost, past president; Arlene Kovash, secretary; and Donnell Scott, vice president of education.

Right: The reception for the graduates of the Syngenta’s Leadership at its Best Program (LAIB) is always a convention highlight. Rex Martin, head of external relations for North America, helps lead the program. President Sue McCrum is a LAIB graduate.

Barbara Radewald, top, from Michigan Agri-Women, and Marie Jensen, above, from Oregon Women for Agriculture, shared memories from the early years of AAW. Doris Mold, First Vice President of Resolutions & Vital issues, kicked off our 40th anniversary celebration.
Harvesting for the Future: Maine 2015!
Get Ready for the 2015 AAW Convention

By Diana Ropp, Illinois Agri-Women

Well, I guess it is true – Lobsters “just want to have fun!” And nothing enhanced this notion more than Maine Agri-Women and their personalized rendition of “Heart and Soul” invitation to the 2015 AAW Convention to be held in Portland, Maine.

From beans, potatoes, blueberries and lobster anyway you want ‘em, expect to be treated like a celebrity when you visit Maine in November. Just imagine — plump juicy bright blueberries hidden in muffins and pancakes, fluffy white flavorful mashed potatoes and crisp fresh French fries seasoned to perfection. Or consider the luscious sweet lobster tail drenched in melted butter or the flavorful tradition of the Maine lobster roll with fresh overflowing tasty claw and knuckle meat chunks — visions dancing merrily through my head.

Make plans now to share in the wonder of all that is Maine, November 5–7, 2015. Friendships will be renewed, agriculture’s voice for truth will be strengthened, and we truly will see the sun rise on America! Watch the Maine Agri-Women website for all the details: maineagriwomen.wordpress.com/2015-aaw-convention.

Will we visit your state in 2016?

American Agri-Women is now seeking applications to host the 2016 national convention. Please contact President Sue McCrum to learn more about the application process: president@americanagriwomen.org.

Pam Townsend from Maine Agri-Women shares this comment about why her state affiliate chose to host the 2015 convention: “Maine Agri-Women decided to host the national convention in Maine so we could show the rest of the U.S. what we have to offer. There is a saying that says, ‘Maine: the way life should be.’ Our goal is to make the members want to bring their families back to our state and enjoy a vacation in ‘heaven.’”

History Sought from the Last 20 Years of AAW

By Marcie Williams, Ohio Agri-Women

Creating a history of American Agri-Women throughout the years has been a priority of this organization. Plans are underway for a grand celebration of 40 years of AAW at our 2015 convention in Maine, consolidating all of our highest points of interest in the 40 years of our existence. We currently have a booklet titled A Proud Heritage – A Precious Legacy in print, highlighting our first 20 years. Our legacy continues as we plan to print the next 20 years: A Proud Heritage – A Precious Legacy, Volume II.

We are excited to be working on this plan and wish to include all of our members in the publication of this booklet, but we need your help. In the near future, past presidents of AAW and affiliate presidents will be notified that they should submit information concerning their affiliate. This information should include a one-page article of when and where their affiliate was formed, logos, highlights of the affiliate’s meetings, officers and any photos that show what/who your affiliate is. We are concentrating on affiliates that have joined from 1995–2014, but any photos and events your affiliate has planned in the past 20 years would be appreciated.

Please assist us in making this next 20 years of AAW a memorable one. Information can be sent to Alice Detwyler at dasfarm@onlinenw.com, Ardath DeWall at shannondoah@frontiernet.net, Karen Yost at pastpresident@americanagriwomen.org or Marcie Williams at wmsfarms@gmail.com.
Planting Our Future: 40th Anniversary Challenge

*By Doris Mold, First Vice President*

In celebration of our 40th anniversary, we are encouraging all affiliates to get involved with the celebration through a friendly competition by taking us up on our 40th anniversary challenge. Affiliates are encouraged to help “plant our future” for AAW by developing a new program/activity or modify an existing program/activity to somehow incorporate the 40th anniversary of AAW.

The 40th anniversary must be recognized during the event/activity and the logo and/or theme must be used somewhere in the promotional materials for the program/activity to be eligible for awards. Programs/activities should take place sometime between January 1 and October 1, 2015 (they may be continuing projects and do not need to be completed by October 1, but they should be underway).

Projects will be judged on impact, quality, creativity, ability to incorporate the 40th anniversary of AAW and raise awareness of AAW, among other things. Affiliates may enter in more than one category. Participating affiliates will be recognized at convention, in the Voice, online in our various social media outlets, and in our 40th anniversary booklet.

We will accept competition entries among our affiliates for the “best” programs/activities in the following areas:

- Advocacy
  - General Public/Consumers
  - Elected/Appointed Public Officials
- Education
  - Ag in the Classroom
  - Member Education
- Career Development
- Leadership Development
- Networking
- Philanthropy
- Best New Program
- Others not specified

40 YEARS, continued from page 1

- Planting Our Future Challenge — friendly competition for affiliates to promote the 40th anniversary of AAW (see separate article on page 1)
- Planting Our Future Crystal Ball – We are asking our members what is their vision of the next 40 years for AAW, more information to come.
- Time capsule in honor of our 40th anniversary.
- 40th Anniversary publication

Watch this space for more to come!

2014 Photo Contest Winners Captured the Country

*By Lauren Schwab, Ohio Agri-Women*

It’s the time of year to share the picturesque moments of farm life with our loved ones and remember them all year long. We are excited to announce the winners of the 2014 AAW Photo Contest. The winning photos are made into greeting cards and a 2015 calendar, with the proceeds from the sales going to the AAW Foundation. The Foundation funds many AAW projects and provides scholarships for young women. You can get information on how to order by visiting americanagriwomen.org/country-store or contact Jane Marshall at citizenjane@me.com. The calendar and set of six greeting cards are $10 each. The calendar displays farm photos from other top entrants.

The 2014 winners are:

- “Fall Colors,” Shawn Maureane Wells, Oregon Women for Agriculture
- “Red Barn,” Margene Newton, Minnesota Agri-Women
- “Ripening Wheat,” Lynn Marcinkowski Woolf, Kansas Agri-Women
- “Boots,” Katie Yost, Montana Agri-Women
- “Cows,” Tara Becken, Montana Agri-Women
- “Combine,” Jessica ‘Jesse’ Scott, Montana Agri-Women

Congratulations to the winners! Capture your country moments in 2015 and enter next year. For more information on the photo contest, visit americanagriwomen.org/photo-contest.
Improvements Made to Membership Process

By Doris Mold, First Vice President

We have been working on making the membership process better. Based on investigations that we have done in the past several months, we have found many ways to improve the membership process. Lisa Campion will be working with all affiliates on the new process that we have developed and will be in contact with each affiliate to develop a connection with the person in charge of membership to help ensure that the new process works for everyone. Bottom line: we are committed to making sure that all new and returning AAW members get connected with AAW information and resources as rapidly and efficiently as possible and that everyone receives their full membership benefits. Thank you for your cooperation in making this happen.

In celebration of 40 years
For every 40th membership that AAW receives, that 40th person will receive a certificate for membership to give as a gift to someone who either is not an AAW member or has not been an AAW member in the last 5 years. Information on how to redeem the certificate will be included with the certificate.

Affiliate connection calls
President Sue McCrum and First VP Doris Mold will be scheduling conference calls with each affiliate to help forge a greater connection between affiliates and AAW. Calls will include, among other things: Updates on affiliate happenings; information on AAW programs and activities; affiliate concerns, questions and suggestions.

‘For the Good of the Order’
national calls
We had some great input from the membership at convention and through trial calls on ways to add value to the AAW membership and things that we might consider to improve AAW. In keeping with our desire to provide continuous improvement for AAW, we are promoting a national conference call where any AAW member may call in and participate in the discussion. Our first call is scheduled for Tuesday, February 24, 2015, at 8 p.m. CST and will be focused on how AAW can continue to add value to your membership. The call-in number will be: 712-432-0385, access code: 272868#.

Members of All Ages Encouraged to Apply for American Agri-Women Scholarships

By Ardath DeWall, AAW Foundation Scholarship Chair

Gail McPherson Scholarship for AAW Fly-In is available to any AAW member to attend the annual AAW Fly-In, June 7–10 in Washington, D.C. The applicant may be any age, but may not have attended a past Fly-In. This year the scholarship is for $500, and we will award up to three scholarships at the discretion of the committee. Applications are due April 15.

Daughters of American Agriculture Scholarships for further education provides two $1,000 scholarships to farm, ranch and agribusiness woman or her daughter in two categories: the Jean Ibendahl Scholarship to high school graduates age 18–23 and the Sister Thomas More Bertels Scholarship to women age 24 years old or older.

These two scholarships are available to women pursuing a degree or credits in ag leadership, communications, rural sociology, medicine or any other courses directly related to agriculture. Applications for each scholarship are due June 1. Applicants must include three letters of recommendation.

Helen Whitmore Memorial Scholarship is for any AAW member to attend the annual AAW Convention held November 5-7, 2015. The applicants may be any age, but cannot have attended a previous convention. This year the scholarship is for $500, and we will award up to three scholarships at the discretion of the committee. Applications are due by August 15.

Make sure to include all parts of the application when you submit it. Not including all portions will disqualify your application. Please go to the AAW website, americanagriwomen.org to download applications.

If you have questions, please contact: Ardath DeWall, 11841 N. Mt Vernon Rd., Shannon, IL 61078, 815-864-2561, shannondoah@frontiernet.net.
AAW Resource Center Changing to AAW Foundation

By Jane Marshall, Chair

American Agri-Women Resource Center is in the process of changing our name to American Agri-Women Foundation. We started this process last spring and completed it in Michigan. We are waiting on the IRS to recognize our new name; they have had the paperwork for a few months. Our mission has not changed, but we wanted our name to reflect that mission.

2014 was a very busy year for the Foundation. We have worked through the process of changing our name. We were the recipient of half of the proceeds from the 2013 convention. We would like to thank the AAW Past Presidents for their generosity. We gave scholastic, Fly-In, Legacy Kids and convention scholarships as we always have done.

Our photo contest was a rousing success. This year we added a calendar to the notecards for our fundraiser. We have also received some other donations that will help with our scholarships.

At the 2014 convention, we had elections for board members. Rosemary Eckardt from Wisconsin was term limited, so she had to step off the board. Janell Reid from Colorado was the new member elected to the board. Since Rosemary had been our board secretary and had done such a great job, we recognized her during the convention. The board elected officers at the convention: President is Jane Marshall, Vice President is Jacquie Compston, Secretary is Jenny Stelmac and Treasurer is Katie Yost.

We look forward to a successful 2015.

Upcoming Webinars: Learning for Everyone

New U.S. Government Affairs Webinars

A new series dedicated to helping members broaden their understanding of the issues and policies impacting agriculture on the federal level. Noon CST/1 p.m. EST. Please register online at americanagriwomen.org.

March 19: The Developing Dynamics of Agricultural and Rural Policy in the 114th Congress with David Ladd, president, RDL & Associates. Ladd, who has extensive federal public policy experience, will cover the makeup of the 114th Congress, overview of Senate and House agriculture committees, issues remaining from the 113th Congress, dynamics of change, stakeholders impacting agriculture and rural policy.

April 16: Mid-Year AAW Ag Policy Position Round-Up with Karolyn Zurn, chair, U.S. Government Affairs and Vital Issues Committee. Find out what issues were discussed at the AAW Mid-Year meeting and which issues will make their way with us to the Washington, D.C., Fly-In.

May 21: Making the Case for Agriculture in the Current Ag Policy Landscape with policy advisors from OFW Law. Founded in 1979, OFW Law is a bipartisan Washington, D.C. firm that specializes in agriculture and FDA issues, including agriculture law. It is a full service firm that represents clients before Congress and the Executive Branch of government, counsels clients on regulatory compliance, and litigates when necessary. OFW Law strives to anticipate and understand the relevant legislative and regulatory initiatives that face our agriculture clients. The experience of our attorneys and policy advisors, who have backgrounds in government and industry, coupled with proactive, responsive and effective service, has helped OFW Law build a reputation for depth and subject matter expertise. OFW’s government relations practice includes former USDA Secretary John Block and former ranking member on the House Agriculture Committee Charlie Stenholm, as well as individuals who served as senior Senate and House committee staff of both parties, agency heads, and other experienced legislative professionals.

New ‘Planting Our Future’ Affiliate Best Practices Webinars

This new webinar series offers information and tips from successful AAW affiliate programs and elsewhere that you may use to grow your own affiliate. Noon CST/1 p.m. EST.

August 19: Oregon Women for Agriculture Keeps Rollin’ Along with Oregon Women for Agriculture members. Oregon Women for Agriculture has an outstanding array of agriculture advocacy projects that they have developed over the years, including an innovative “moving” project. They will share some of their recent projects and how they get it all done.

September 16: Women Changing the Face of Agriculture with Penny Lauritzen and Pat Yeagle, Illinois Agri-Women. Illinois Agri-Women organizes the Women Changing the Face of Agriculture conference as an investment in the future of agriculture. This outreach project gives all women the opportunity to explore different career paths offered in the agriculture sector. Our goal is to help attendees
receive accurate information first hand from actual women agriculture professionals. You will find out about how this pioneering program started and has evolved over its successful tenure.

October 21: Planting Our Future with Doris Mold, co-founder of the Women’s Agricultural Leadership Conference. Seventeen years of Women’s Agricultural Leadership – conference, mentoring and networking programs and still growing! Find out about the genesis of this successful program and how it has expanded opportunities for women in Minnesota and beyond. The atmosphere at the conference is absolutely electric. Find out why, along with lessons that have been learned along the way.

AAW Leadership Academy

Presenting our third year of outstanding leadership webinars. Noon CST/1 p.m. EST on the second Friday of the month.

April 10: A Local Leader for Any Size Issue with Heather Hampton-Knolle, chair, Illinois Board Economic Development Committee for Montgomery County, Central Illinois Economic Development Authority and Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation. Leadership takes many pathways to make an impact on policies and activities. Get a fresh perspective on how you can create positive change as a local government official or civic leader.

May 8: Selfies, Social Consciousness and Inclusion: What Matters to Millennials and How to Motivate Them with Kristi Bishop, prospective students coordinator, Oklahoma State University College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. In addition to being the largest age group in American history, Millennials also compose one of the country’s most studied generations. The evidence provides a wealth of information about what motivates this age group along with how to best engage and involve them in your efforts. A Millennial herself, Kristi’s professional role requires her to work with a demographic that many view as entitled, lazy and self absorbed. Join the discussion to gain insight into how Millennials can be our most effective leaders and how to channel their energy into productivity!

June 12: Conflict Management with Dr. Donita Whitney-Bammerlin, academic program coordinator, Edgeley Outstanding Instructor Fellowship, Department of Management, Kansas State University. Conflict is an inevitable part of life. Take part in this webinar to learn about effective conflict management strategies.

October 9: AAW Succession Planning with Doris Mold, president, Sunrise Agricultural Associates, LLC. If 70 percent of farmland will change hands in the next 20 years, what does that in turn mean for the leadership of many of our ag organizations? We are encouraged to make succession plans for businesses, but who is working to ensure that our ag organizations have a plan for a secure and vibrant future? Are we sourcing emerging leaders or do we frantically search for someone when elections roll around? Are we intentionally planning for the future of our organizations? We will discuss all of this and more while putting participants on the path of succession planning for their organizations.

November 13: Team Building with Juanita Reed Boniface, owner, JRB and Associates and Boeckenhauer Cattle. Juanita has logged thousands of hours as an educator and has an impressive tool box to share. In this team building webinar she will lead us through understanding and identification of basic principles of teamwork, and the characteristics of the “ideal” team.

Welcome from Our Administrative Assistant!

I currently live in Montpelier, Vermont, and work full time as a general practice attorney. I’ve been involved with AAW since 2007 through its affiliate, Sigma Alpha Sorority. Throughout the years, I have been striving to promote and cultivate women in agriculture. I am passionate about and dedicated to strengthening and growing American Agri-Women through your direction. I look forward to serving you. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any reason, even if it’s to introduce yourself and say hello. You can contact AAW or myself at:

American Agri-Women
PO Box 37, Barre, VT 05641
Email: aaw@americanagriwomen.org
Phone: 586-530-1771
Fax: 802-479-5414

(please put “ATTN: Lisa Campion)

Have a great day!

More News in the Voice Extra

Go to americanagriwomen.org for more stories, including:

• Updates from the National Tractor Safety Coalition and the Women’s Mining Coalition
• News about Doris Mold’s appointment to a commodity trading advisory committee
• New book from past president Mitzi Perdue
The Voice Moves to Quarterly Schedule

American Agri-Women’s communications program has grown and now includes many tools — the Voice newsletter, the Communiqué email newsletter, social media and our new website (which launches in 2015).

To make the best use of our resources with these numerous communication methods and produce the quality information our members need, it was voted at convention to move to a minimum of four newsletters a year. The newsletter was previously published six times a year.

The new schedule is based around our yearly event schedule (Mid-year, Fly-In and convention). It will continue to include such information as agendas, schedules, registrations, industry and legislative updates, member profiles, affiliate news and more. The schedule for 2015 is:

- Winter issue — arrives in mailboxes first week of February
- Spring issue — arrives in mailboxes last week of April
- Summer issue — arrives in mailboxes last week of July
- Fall issue — arrives in mailboxes last week of August

Reminders and deadline-sensitive information will be shared in the Communiqué newsletter, which is emailed to members at least once a month. All the Communiqués are also archived on the website.

If you don’t have access to email to receive the Communiqués — or if you are not currently receiving them — let our administrative assistant, Lisa Campion, know. She will make sure you receive this information. Contact her at 586-530-1771 or aaw@americanagriwomen.org.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions for the communications program, contact Lynn Woolf, VP of communications, at 316-648-3717 or communications@americanagriwomen.org.

Advertising Rates & Deadlines

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Contract rates available. Ask about special sizes and display advertising.

To advertise, contact Lisa Campion at (586) 530-1771 or aaw@americanagriwomen.org.