American Agri-Women elected its national officers at its 2019 national convention held recently in Tigard, Oregon. New officers joined the standing members of the executive committee. AAW is a national coalition of farm, ranch and agri-business women.

Karolyn Zurn of Minnesota Agri-Women was elected as AAW President. Jane Marshall of Ohio Agri-Women was elected to a two-year term as First Vice President of Vital Issues. Carie Marshall-Moore of North Dakota Agri-Women was elected to a two-term as Vice President of Communications. Jeanette Lombardo of California Women for Agriculture is now the current past president.

Officers returning for their second year of a two-year term are: Lesley Schmidt of Kansas Agri-Women, Vice President of Education; Katie Yost of Montana Agri-Women, Treasurer; and Natalina Sents from Iowa Agri-Women, Secretary.

Zurn farms with her husband, Bill, and 2 sons in Northwestern Minnesota where they raise corn, soybeans, sugar beets and wheat. As a Past President of Minnesota Agri-Women, she additionally served four years as AAW Chair of Government Issues. She has served on many agriculture boards including Minnesota Ag in the Classroom, Northern Crops Institute Council and Minnesota Soybean Growers. On the Becker County Corn & Soybean Growers, she served as treasurer and government affairs representative. She coordinated North Dakota Common ground program for four years and most recently she was appointed to Minnesota State FSA Board.

Marshall enjoys life on a family dairy farm in Preble County, Ohio. She at-
A new year is upon us, one with excited AAW officers who are looking forward to 2020. Like everyone else I am trying to wrap up old business and jump into new projects.

The members of Oregon Women for Agriculture outdid themselves. It was a well-planned event and everyone enjoyed the tours and food. I did get admonished for not pronouncing the state name correctly, I now pronounce it “Oregun.” How come they just didn’t spell it that way?

National Convention is a time to see old friends and meet new ones. One of the founding members of Oregon Women for Agriculture was honored for her endeavors. We applaud her and the founding members for having such insight and strength to fight the good fight for agriculture.

My adventure with AAW started several years back after I had retired from Procter & Gamble as a sales and marketing representative. Of course, I was always first and foremost a mom and partner on our family farm. My sons shared with me that I really didn’t have to be driving combine or tractor as our family had grown up and we had plenty of hired help. They proceeded to let me know I should “do what I do best,” which is advocating for agriculture and fighting to keep my family farming. With the ever-daunting unjust rules and regulations imposed on agriculture daily, I decided to do just that very thing.

Ladies, we have a busy year ahead of us. Upon returning from National Convention we were already sending out press releases on the USMCA trade issue plus a new trade deal with Japan. China trade seems around the corner yet, but have faith — it will come.

I am very excited to start working with my new executive team; each of them knows her job well to help AAW move forward to achieve new goals. I have appointed most of my committee chairs and we will be starting a round of conference calls shortly after New Year’s week to plan our midyear policy meeting and get an early start on planning the Fly-In. Karen Yost has secured the place for Symposium, I have secured the Embassy of Chili, and our hotel is locked in. We are off to a good start. Ruth Jenson, Fly-In chair, is pleased with what we have accomplished to date.

My main goal is to Build New Leaders, beginning with the 12 scholarship recipients and moving forward to gain more scholarship funds so that they can attend our Fly-In in June. I attended several meetings the first part of December and hope to gain some ground. I believe AAW’s future is through building strong new leaders and exposing young women to all sides of the issues.

Jane Marshall, our newly elected 1st VP is the Membership chair and I also appointed her to be Leadership chair. Together with the rest of our team we hope to make a real difference.

Thank you and have a wonderful and safe NEW YEAR!

Karolyn Zurn

PLEASE CONSIDER RECEIVING THE VOICE VIA EMAIL

Jane Marshall, First Vice-President

The Voice is AAW’s official newsletter and the major way AAW communicates with our members and affiliates. Currently, many of you receive The Voice via USPS, but over the course of time, positive factors such as increased content due to membership involvement and number of copies to be sent as the organization grows, has unfortunately increased our costs for publishing and mailing.

A quicker, more cost-effective way to reach out has been press releases, emails, texting, AAW website, and numerous social media platforms. These methods also allow greater impact due to a larger spectrum of viewers. Content can be shared and saved repeatedly which benefits anyone who views it.

Our AAW website https://americanagriwomen.org/mediacenter/voice-newsletters/ contains The Voice news-letters back to 2005. The website, digital, and mail copies are sent out together which means you can view the digital or online copies before the paper one is even in your mailbox. The beauty of this is that if your old newsletter is misplaced or has been disposed of, you can find it on the AAW website. Printing it off the website or email will still provide you a paper copy with no cost to AAW. Available internet access is not possible to everyone for various reasons, therefore we understand paper copies will still be a necessity to some.

As we continue to be good stewards of our resources, we would like for those who are able, to please send a request to aaw@americanagriwomen.org stating you wish to receive The Voice exclusively by email and no additional postal mailing. We appreciate you helping us to be good stewards of our money.
OFFICERS, continued from page 1

tends New Hope UM Church and is a leader in Bible Study Fellowship. Marshall has been sewing since she was a child and has become an avid quilter. As a leader in her community, she served as Preble County Commissioner, Preble County Fair Board member, Preble County Mental Health Board, along with a variety of other county boards. She currently serves as President on the Preble County Habitat for Humanity Board, is a CASA for Juvenile Court, and a United Way volunteer. Active in AAW since 2004, she has served as VERITAS Chair and is a past LEAV-EN Award winner. Marshall is a past President of the AAW Foundation and was Nominating Chair while on the committee. In her home state, she was President and Secretary of Ohio Agri-Women and the co-chair of the 2014 Ohio Convention.

Moore, current President of North Dakota Agri-Women, is a promoter of agriculture education and local leadership, especially for youth and women. She is a working partner on their 650-acre farm from making seed orders, fertilizer application, selecting cover crops, and combining. To be on the farm and with her family, she recently left her position as District Manager of her county Soil Conservation District where she worked actively with ag producers on various methods to improve soil health and crop productivity, as well as extensive outreach and partnership in the community. Her role on the North Dakota Farm Bureau Promotion and Education committee and as county Vice-President has enhanced her communication and leadership abilities. Being a “class farmer” for 8 classrooms visited monthly, has given many students the appreciation for agriculture. She is an active member in a variety of organizations. Moore shares the reality of farm life through social media avenues, videos, media interviews and a personal blog. This gives her the opportunity to show in real time many of the things done on the farm as well as talk about how specific crops are grown, harvested and their uses. She was selected for the ND See for Yourself Pacific Northwest Soybean Tour; was a top 5 finalist in the Syngenta #rootedinag contest; and a winner of the Monsanto Grow Communities grant.

Lombardo belongs to and serves on numerous agricultural association boards. She was appointed by California Governor Schwarzenegger to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. Additionally, Lombardo has completed a federal appointment to the USDA’s Agriculture’s Foreign Ag Services Division. This appointment was made to the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for trade in fruits and vegetables. Lombardo is the Co-Founder and Chief Strategic Officer for Global Water Innovations. This company is a project developer of cost-effective brackish groundwater desalination solutions for agriculture. Additionally, they assist farmers with finding new water sources by treating oil produced water and irrigation water runoff as well as satisfying regulatory compliance for containments. Lombardo is a single mother of two daughters.
guished career in aiding to sequence the strawberry genome and researches compounds that affect strawberry flavoring. Known as a respected expert, he trains scientists, farmers, and those in natural resources how to communicate about agricultural innovations with a curious and concerned public. During his presentation to the convention attendees, Dr. Folta encouraged the group to seek common ground in conversations with those who may be cautious or skeptical of genetic engineering or other agricultural tools.

He frequently writes for popular media and is a regular guest on podcasts including Skeptics Guide to the Universe, Talk Nerdy with Cara Santa Maria, the Joe Rogan Experience, as well as running his own weekly podcast, Talking Biotech. These communications conduits serve to spread an important message about sustainably feeding a planet—all technologies must be considered and innovation only moves to application with communication.

Folta’s prestigious recognitions include the 2016 CAST Borlaug Award in Agricultural Communications, a 2007 HHMI Distinguished Mentor of Undergraduate Research, the 2008 NSF CAREER Award, a 2009 with the Northern Illinois University “LA&S Top 50 Graduates”, the 2010 UFRF Research Professor Award, and in 2013 was one of two faculty recognized with the UF Post-doctoral Mentoring Award. His latest achievements were the 2017 American Society of Plant Biologists Excellence in Public Service Award, and with the addition of the 2019 Veritas award it truly rounds out his distinguished career in science and communication.

The AAW Veritas award is the highest award given by AAW annually to a non-member. It is presented to someone 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.”

(Pictured from left to right, Pat Yeagle, AAW Veritas committee chair, Dr. Kevin Folta, Arwen McGilvra, Oregon Women for Agriculture.)

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**2019 AAW NATIONAL CONVENTION BROUGHT OREGON AGRICULTURE TO THE FOREFRONT**

*Arwen McGilvra, Oregon Women in Agriculture*

Attendees to this year’s Annual Convention had plenty of opportunities to sample Oregon’s incredible and unique bounty! The key takeaways from convention really come down to two ideas: Innovation and Communication.

A dozen members participated in the first AAW Mental Health First Aid training on Wednesday. This special opportunity prepared them to recognize signs and seek appropriate care for friends, family, and others in their community who are in a mental health crisis.

Innovations were abundant on the Thursday tours. It was an interactive, learning-filled day as we visited the North Willamette Research and Extension Center to hear about the studies being done in dozens of different crops from berries to Christmas trees to hemp. At Northwest Hazelnuts, attendees toured the state-of-the-art processing facility for one of Oregon’s beloved crops, Hazelnuts. Then it was

*Convention registration included great take home bags*
off to Pressco to learn about the straw exporting business.

The convention was stuffed full of good speakers who encouraged us to be better communicators. Friday’s lunch speaker, Sharon Lacey, peppered her talk with humor and encouraged us to look for adventure and laughter along the way.

Round tables on Friday allowed attendees to get a small taste of many different ideas and programs to take back to their state chapters and the afternoon panels also highlighted Oregon Innovations.

Attendees had the opportunity to watch the premiere of a FarmHer episode featuring two members Shelly Boshart Davis and Macey Wassels, co-owners of Pressco. It was amazing that their FarmHer premiere happened the day after we had toured their operation.

The agenda provided an opportunity for groups to dine-out one evening and get a taste of the restaurant scene that the Portland area is so famous for. Oregon members were there to assist with ideas and locations to try.

Dr. Kevin Folta spoke about communicating with a curious and cautious public. A public that doesn’t always know what to think about the latest innovations in science and agriculture. He reminded us that few people are ever convinced to change their minds by facts alone. Dr. Folta told us we must find common ground in conversations. It is trust and authenticity that will help to change minds. We need more real stories from real people. Don’t underestimate the power of your farm and your daily experience.

Bestselling Oregon author Jane Kirkpatrick writes stories based on the lives of historical women. She shared inspiring characteristics from those pioneers with us. We need to tell our stories without diminishing ourselves. Most importantly, she reminded us to give others the opportunity to give back to us. Nurturers need to be nurtured too.

The final evening of the convention concluded with the Presidents Reception and Awards Banquet. A wonderful Old West photo backdrop allowed for many memorable pictures and the tables were beautifully decorated with samples of Oregon crops and golden vases marking the 50th Anniversary of Oregon Women for Agriculture.

Post-Convention tours included a drive through the Tillamook Forest and while learning about Oregon’s forest industry on our way to the first stop tillamook Creamery Visitors Center. Everyone was very impressed with the center and loved the dairy offerings on site.

The quiet bus ride back to the hotel allowed for further conversations around seafood, forestry, and Oregon in general. The last stop was at Hawks View Winery where attendees tasted a variety of wines including Oregon Pinot Noir.

The 44th annual AAW Convention was truly bountiful!
Past President of American Agri-Women and longtime Minnesota Agri-Women member, Doris Mold, received the 2019 AAW Erickson/McCrum Mentoring Award at the AAW Annual National Convention in Oregon.

What makes her deserving of this award is her involvement in the lives of so many young women. This comes primarily through her involvement in AAW and other agriculture ventures since becoming an AAW student member in 1988. From 1996-2005 she chaired the AAW College Project and was the AAW VP of Education from 2005-2006. During the AAW Miami National Convention she started a program for first-time attendees that matched them with a volunteer veteran AAW mentor for the event and continued to do this through 2018. AAW's participation in National Ag Day in recent years in Washington D.C. brought the need to involve FFA, 4-H, MANRRS, and other youth leaders attending this event. With Doris's energy and ideas, AAW has hosted a luncheon with ag-related topics for these students to learn from each other and AAW members attending!

Doris started a Collegiate Agri-Women at the University of Minnesota in 2005 and continues to work with MN FFA students on local and state levels, in a variety of activities. During the MN State Fair, she works with student commodity groups, 4-H, and FFA members to encourage those in agriculture to tell their stories through a variety of activities. Her 4-H and FFA involvement extend into the Wisconsin 4-H programs and FFA organization as well. She initiated a mentoring award for MN Agricultural Leaders, given at their District 11 Annual Leadership Conference. While she was AAW President in 2017 AAW, this Erickson-McCrum Mentoring Award was her creation.

She is very deserving of this award. Congratulations, Doris!

WOMEN HONORED WITH PRESIDENT AWARDS AT 2019 AAW CONVENTION

The President’s Awards are presented each year to honor the important role of individuals who volunteer their time and talents to AAW, or have supported the President’s work in an impactful way. The service of these recipients has been impressive, and they have made a difference in our organization as well as inspiring all those around them to take action and tackle some of the toughest challenges facing our industry.

Yvonne Erickson
I wisely appointed Yvonne (Past AAW President 2006-2007) to Chair one of our internal committees for Bylaws. Yvonne has the inherent qualities of mind and character for this role. I have found her personality to be open to change and also conscientiousness in the process and rules required to do her job. She has always been calm and patient and spends as much time as needed to explain why things have to be done in a certain order. The Bylaw Committee is one that is time-consuming and can be a thankless job. I am grateful for Yvonne’s continued involvement in AAW and all her hard work.

Jacquie Compston
What a year Jacque has had! Jackie is the President of our new Nevada Affiliate and worked hard to organize our Mid-Year Meeting in Las Vegas. Additionally, Jackie is Co-Chair for the Natural Resources committee. She willingly represented AAW on very short notice at some critical meetings at the Department of the Interior in DC this past fall. She truly has gone above and beyond and for that, I have to thank her.

Jennifer Stelmach
The VP of Communications role is continually changing and requires almost immediate turn times on press releases and social media platforms. I have watched Jenny step out of her comfort zone, create an amazing team, and

AWARDS, continued on page 7 ►
bring new technology to our organization so that we remain relevant in our mission. Whereas that impressed me, I am most proud of how she conducted herself while doing the job. Jenny is a commodity broker and 2019 was a rough year with the weather and trade concerns in her daily work. Through it all, she did her job well but she additionally took on numerous assignments. By working at the FFA National Convention as a keynote speaker, continued involvement with Kentucky Women in Agriculture, sitting on the AAW Foundation Board and Commodity Committee for Vital Issues, she exceeded all requirements of her elected role and is deserving of recognition.

Lesley Schmidt
Lesley joined the board this year and I instantly learned how valuable she was! Lesley is a problem solver and a project implementer. Being a phenomenal planner, she kept us all on task by driving action through her organizational skills. Her attention to detail helps to coordinate the entire team, but also assures that any work product is truly professional. Lesley is a diligent volunteer serving on your executive team, the AAW Foundation, and the Membership Standing Committee. Lesley has incredible vision and I am looking forward to what the next year will bring for her. It is my sincere hope that one day she will consider serving as President of this organization.

Karen Yost
Karen (Past AAW President 2012-2013) is such an advocate for our industry and she shows no signs of slowing down. Normally when a leader completes their presidency, their involvement in an organization will begin to taper off. That has never been the case with Karen. When AAW had a gap in their leadership succession plan, I stepped in and asked Karen to Co-Chair the Vital Issues Committee. She has worked tirelessly on our Mid-Year and our Fly-In Symposiums and whenever I needed some guidance on an issue, I felt comfortable reaching out to her. I honor her with this award, not only because of her dedication to this organization but because I also see how intense her conviction is to mentor our members.

Janell Reid
A long-time active member of AAW, Janell is currently serving as Chair to the Nominating Committee, Chair of the AAW Foundation, and Lead for the Beef Commodity Committee for Vital Issues. What inspires me the most is her perseverance. I have seen her lead the Beef Commodity Committee through some very controversial issues to reach consensus. This ability is a gift that comes so naturally to her, and it is a sign of a great leader. What I have come to appreciate about Janell is her willingness to take on tasks when she is asked. Janell is such a blessing to our organization and is so deserving of this recognition.

Heather Hampton-Knodle
Heather is another enduring an active member of AAW and she has represented us well through the entire process of the 2018 Farm Bill; the adoption process, amendments, and implementation. Her steadfastness on such a complex topic is truly remarkable. She has proven herself to be a subject matter expert on several technical issues; trade policy, energy regulations, and rural development concerns. I thank Heather for handling several media requests in these areas, as well as agreeing to serve AAW on a Committee for Broadband with the Federal Communication Commission. Heather never ceases to amaze me, and I look forward to her future endeavors.

Arwen McGilvra
A rock to so many people in our organization, Arwen is trusted because she has proven herself to be consistently good in the quality and performance of her work with our social media platforms. People send her material to be posted all hours of the day and night, and she manages to get it done. There is a lot to be said for that-especially from a volunteer. I thank her for the programming of the Oregon National Convention, so much thought and time went into the preparation. Everyone learned so much during our time together. Personally, I would like to thank her for securing the Mental Health First Aid Course that was sponsored by Oregon State University Extension Service. This is a critical component of our Cultivating Resiliency programming, and to have it available for so many members could be certified was crucial. THANK YOU.

Veronica Robinson
The name may be unrecognizable to you, but Veronica is a dairy farmer that lives in a little town called Wattsburg, Pennsylvania. She is my sister. She and her family are why I do what I do, every single day. I moved away from my hometown after a tornado hit in May 1985. My sister stayed behind and married her high school sweetheart. They have two sons and work on their 5th generation dairy farm. We have always been very close and I call her every Sunday. This year Dean Foods closed down the milk processing plant in Erie after 90 years of operations and I could feel her stress and weariness through the telephone. This drove me to work harder for her and so many like her in my hometown. A hometown so small, that I cannot go home, because there are no jobs. For all the dairy farmers throughout our country, I am so thankful that as an organization we began the programming for Cultivating Resiliency and its future expansion.
One of the highlights of 2019 was receiving the news I had been chosen for the Helen Whitmore Memorial Convention Scholarship. This allowed me to attend the American Agri-Women (AAW) National Convention at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Portland Washington Square in Tigard, Oregon on November 6-10th. Tigard is very close to the Portland and Willamette Valley agriculture corridor with miles of beautiful farms, rivers, and scenery. It was a delight to join my California Women for Agriculture (CWA) delegates at the convention and share this wonderful experience together.

The convention was packed with interesting places to visit, subjects to discuss, fun times, and dynamic guest speakers. The additional tours allowed myself and others to visit four interesting agricultural operations; these ranged from growing hazelnuts, grass straw for export, a farm stand to savor the bounty of the land, and the OSU’s North Willamette Research and Extension Center (NWREC). I must say, I learned a lot about Oregon agriculture, loved the hospitality, and also got to cheer on my Alma-mater, Oregon State University. (General Agriculture BS, 2008)

The forums and meetings were full of ag-related topics. These were held by means of rotating round table discussions, breakout sessions, plenary sessions, and even a Town Hall meeting. I enjoyed the keynote speakers who gave us hope for agriculture through their inspiring talks and even some “tickle the funny bone” comedy routines. The silent auction and trade show was filled with goodies and I came home with a bag full of information, gifts, and souvenirs to share with family and friends. I especially enjoyed the Saturday night banquet, folk band entertainers, and installation of the 2020 officers. The AAW hospitality suite was a nice place to unwind with good friends, food, and drinks.

I want to thank the AAW Board of Directors and the volunteers and members from Oregon Women for Agriculture. Their tremendous efforts this year in support of agriculture and hosting a stellar convention has inspired me to become more involved in AAW and CWA. I am grateful to AAW and CWA for this wonderful opportunity and supporting my attendance with this scholarship.

American Agri-Women Helen Whitmore Memorial Convention Scholarship was named to honor Helen Whitmore, a well-respected rancher, and teacher from California. It was initiated in 1993 by a friend and AAW Past President, Mitzi Ayala Perdue. It was established to increase active involvement in AAW and to encourage members to influence their home affiliate members. This scholarship is available to any AAW member to attend the annual AAW Convention held in November of each year. The applicant may be of any age, but cannot have attended a past Convention. The purpose of this scholarship is to encourage an awareness of AAW in young women, to increase active involvement in AAW, and to challenge them to have an influence on their peers. Only one applicant per affiliate will be accepted. To learn more: https://americanagriwomen.org/scholarships/
AAW FOUNDATION UPDATE
Lesley Schmidt, Vice-President, Education

As the foundation, we are able to promote and develop educational and leadership programs. These provide beneficial opportunities for American Agri-Women to share with others.

The members elected to serve on the AAW Foundation Board of Directors are as follows: Maggie Howley (MT), Ardath DeWall (IL), and Linda Schiffler (WY).

The AAW Foundation Officers include; Janell Reid-President, Maggie Howley-Vice President, Kimberly Schmuhl-Secretary, and Lesley Schmidt-Treasurer.

Other Board of Director Members include Deb Whalen, Melody Speer, and Merlynn Verstuyft.

The Helen Whitmore Memorial Convention Scholarship is available to any AAW member to attend the AAW Annual Convention held in November of each year. The applicant may be of any age, but cannot have attended a past Convention. The purpose of this scholarship is to encourage an awareness of AAW in young women, to increase active involvement in AAW, and to challenge them to have an influence on their peers. The winners for 2019 Convention were Ally Moreau (NY), Bonnie Cowett (ME), and Cheryl Lambert (CA).

The American Agri-Women Foundation / CHS Foundation Growing Leaders 2019 Convention Scholarship is to encourage young women to actively pursue positions on various boards in their local communities, cooperatives, member associations, and/or government and to support and strengthen the leadership of women nationally. This year’s scholarship winners were Aimee Sitter (MN), Amber Johnson (ND), Camryn Haines (TX), Emily Desormeaux (TX), Jessica Wesson (AR), Julia Gibson (MO), Katie Crum (MN), Kaylee Brooks (CA), Maggie Mills (MN), Sadie Bingham (SD), and Tavin Marie Schneider (WA).

The AAW Foundation Mini-Grant awards for 2019 went to AAW affiliates for membership drives and other chapter growth events. Congratulations to Illinois Agri-Women, Kansas Agri-Women, and North Dakota Agri-Women. We can't wait to hear what you accomplish in your state.

Upcoming Foundation Deadlines:
- Daughters of American Agriculture Scholarship - March 1, 2020
- Gail McPherson Fly-In Scholarship – May 1, 2020
- The Trenna Grabowski Legacy Kids Fly-In Scholarship - May 1, 2020
- Helen Whitmore Memorial Convention Scholarship – August 15, 2020
- 2020 AAW Foundation Mini-Grant – October 15, 2020

The applications can be found on the AAW website along with more information about the foundation. https://americanagriwomen.org/aaw-foundation/
The free webinar sessions help women in agriculture cope with stress by including a Q&A and will be recorded and archived for later viewing. They begin at noon central and are 90-minutes in length. You may access previous webinar recordings at https://american-agriwomen.org/webinars/ or http://umash.umn.edu/cultivating-resiliency/.

Supporting Farm Youth through Understanding and Intervention
Jan 24, 2020
https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1972437401811853835

The farm economy of the last few years has been difficult and destructive for farm families. The downturn doesn’t just affect the financial and emotional well-being of farm and ranch owners; it impacts family members as well. Children and adolescents may be living in tense situations with little ability to make sense of what is going on around them.

Rural communities lack resources for youth experiencing family stress and/or crisis. It is critical that people who work with farm kids develop the knowledge and skills to understand, support, and intervene on their behalf in times of stress.

Participant Educational Objectives
1. Learn about the complex and unique personal stressors common in farming today.
2. Learn about the ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) study, typical developmental milestones in adolescence and the impact stress has on emotional and physical development.
3. Explore relationship-building techniques and interventions.
4. Learn about resources within their communities.

Presenter Monica Kramer McConkey, LPC has 25 years of experience in the behavioral health field as a child and adolescent counselor, program supervisor, and administrator. Monica grew up on a farm in Northwest Minnesota and has an intimate understanding
of the dynamics that contribute to farm stress and its impact on farm families. Monica is very much in touch with the agricultural way of life.

Virtual Coffee Chat – Women only session
Jan 21, 2020, 7:00 PM CST
https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/763920191528353035

Grab your cup of coffee and join us for an opportunity to listen and share in our Cultivating Resiliency online “Coffee Chat” group. Participants in our Cultivating Resiliency online sessions wanted a way for women to gather to offer them the opportunity to share what was on their minds related to agricultural stress in a safe place. Shauna Reitmeier, MSW, LGSW will lead this session of Coffee Chat. Shauna has over 20 years of experience in the behavioral healthcare and cognitive disabilities fields. She currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Northwestern Mental Health Center, which serves a comprehensive array of behavioral healthcare services to adults, children and families across six (6) rural and frontier counties of Northwest Minnesota. Shauna grew up on a farm and is well-connected with rural communities.

In this session, the organizer will be unmuting participants so that they may fully participate. Participants may type in their questions or verbalize them, or just listen. Participants will then be able to self-mute as necessary. The session will be limited to 20 registrants and this coffee chat will be limited to women only. The registrar will be approving each registrant for the session. Coffee sessions are not recorded and participants may choose to remain anonymous.

‘GEN Z SPEAKS AG’ ANNOUNCES CONTEST WINNERS

Young advocates showcased their creativity and passion for agriculture in AAW’s “Gen Z Speaks Ag” contest sponsored by Crop Science, a division of Bayer. This program allows those between the ages of 11-23 to have their voices heard in categories consisting of photography, videography, and special event. Opportunities such as these have been a great way to get the next generation involved and helping change some of the negative trends in agriculture.

AAW’s AgDay365 celebrates the fact that everyone is part of agriculture, every day, and the “AgDay365: Ag Day is Every Day Campaign” topic was ‘Love Food, Don’t Waste It’. The submissions had to depict agriculture in an authentic and positive light incorporating the campaign theme.

You can view the finalists and vote for the People’s Choice Award in the photo and video categories on AAW’s Facebook page.

Photography award recipients are:
1st Place - Kayla Beechinor, Sunflowers Before Sunset, Walla Walla, Wash.
2nd & 3rd Place - Brooke Roberts, Milton, Wis.
People’s Choice – Molly Stamm, Champaign, Ill.

Video award recipients are:
1st Place - Madison Wilson, Urbana, Ill.
2nd Place - Ashley Garlick, Swanton, Ohio
3rd Place and People’s Choice - Maleigha Huston, Good Hope, Ill.

Special event award recipients:
1st Place - Cumberland, Barron and Prairie Farm Agriculture Students, Wisc.
Agriculture students joined together to share the story of agriculture with approximately 175 4th and 6th graders at the 2019 Food for America Program.
2nd Place - McKinley Vikings 4-H Club, Cumberland, Wis.
Held their 5th annual corn feed that featured a full meal with corn grown by one of the 4-H families. Included was a petting zoo, ag exhibits, 4-H projects, games, and a car, truck, and old tractor show.
3rd Place - Women in Agriculture at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind.
Held community survey on the public’s knowledge about ag commodities.
The ladies of Sigma Alpha National Sorority have been busy following our National Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona in July. A special thank you to American Agri-Women’s President, Karolyn Zurn, for attending and sharing with us about your organization. At the convention, the Sigma Alpha National Sorority Board highlighted the growth of our organization in both the number of new collegiate chapters and the influx of new members. New chapter initiates have nearly doubled over the last decade. As of July 2019, Sigma Alpha has 72 collegiate chapters with 4,766 total collegiate members and 18 alumnae chapters.

Following convention, collegiate members returned to their campus chapters to prepare for the fall semester and Sigma Alpha fall recruitment. Collegiate chapter leadership and members worked together to bring awareness to our organization so new, incoming students could learn about the opportunities their campus chapter has to offer. During recruitment, prospective members were treated to a week of events and activities. These events allowed prospective members the chance to get to know current sisters, understand the organization’s mission, and understand the foundational pillars of scholarship, leadership, service, and fellowship that Sigma Alpha continues to promote.

Prospective Sigma Alpha sisters have great role models to look up to in their home chapters. Our sisters have had productive summers through volunteer opportunities, internships, and study abroad programs. Our @sigmaalpha-sorority Instagram account highlighted many of our sisters working and studying in all fields of agriculture this summer. This platform, along with other social media platforms, has allowed us to spread the word of many opportunities in agriculture and showcase the hard work of current sisters. Sisters have also found ways to impact their local communities. The Beta Pi Chapter of Sam Houston State University recently participated in Operation Christmas Child as a fall service project. The Beta Nu chapter at Abraham Baldwin College recently hosted their annual Swine Showdown to raise money for their chapter and offer an opportunity to many of the area’s youth livestock producers to showcase their skills. Sigma Alpha members never miss a chance to make a positive impact in their local communities.

As a national organization, Sigma Alpha offers collegiate and alumnae members the opportunity to grow and develop as leaders. The National Sorority partners with Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity to offer regional leadership seminars to give sorority and fraternity members the opportunity to invest in their personal, professional, and chapter development. This February, our organizations will offer four seminar locations across the United States. These seminars have such a positive impact on our members and our Educational Foundation works to ensure there are scholarships available to support chapters sending sisters to these events.

Our National Board is very excited about the direction our sorority is headed. Sigma Alpha is fortunate to have our members who are the heart of the organization and the support of industry affiliates like AAW who continue to support and offer opportunities for women in agriculture. To learn more about Sigma Alpha Sorority visit https://www.sigmaalpha.org/
Plan now to attend the American Agri-Women Mid-Year Meeting set for April 3-5, 2020 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton in Phoenix, Arizona. This AAW Board of Directors Meeting is open to all members and is designated for reviewing and updating the AAW Positions. Please visit the AAW website (https://american-agriwomen.org/positions/) and familiarize yourself with the current documents, contact appropriate chairwomen with your input, and attend the meeting ready to discuss where you stand and why. AAW Positions cover a wide range of topics that impact agriculture in a number of different ways. Our success in putting these together effectively is dependent upon active participation by members who provide background from each respective area of expertise. This is a time of learning from each other, respecting other points of view, and enabling AAW to provide the opportunity for agriculture to speak in one voice. The 2020 Positions are key for AAW and our affiliates to respond to current issues and legislation that affect agriculture and rural America, in a timely matter.

A welcome reception with speakers will be held on Thursday evening, April 2nd, with a presentation on immigration, ag labor, and additional related topics.

Phoenix, located in Maricopa County, is less than 3 hours from the US/Mexican border and only 230 miles from Grand Canyon. The Phoenix metropolitan area, the Valley of the Sun has four million residents with one of the fastest growing populations in the U.S.

Registration and further meeting details are available on the website and will also be sent via the AAW Communiqué.
# AAW Mid-Year Meeting Agenda

**April 3-5, 2020**

*Complimentary Breakfast & Evening Reception provided for hotel attendees. Meetings held in the TBD unless specified below.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FRIDAY, April 3, 2020</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 AM – 8:00 AM</td>
<td>Executive Committee Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM – 9:00 AM</td>
<td>Foundation Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM – 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Joint Executive Committee and Foundation Board Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM – 1:00 PM</td>
<td>Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td><strong>AAW Foundation Silent Auction Opens</strong> <em>(Please bring an item to Mid-Year to auction.)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM – 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Leadership Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 PM – 1:00 PM</td>
<td>Lunch &amp; Speaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 PM – 3:00 PM</td>
<td>AAW Board of Directors Meeting <em>(Board of Directors is open to all members; voting members are affiliate presidents or their proxy and AAW Executive Committee members. A quorum shall consist of executive committee members plus 5 affiliate presidents or their proxies.)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 PM – 3:15 PM</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:15 PM – 3:30 PM</td>
<td>Opening Ceremonies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 PM – 4:00 PM</td>
<td>Mid-Year Orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 PM – 7:00 PM</td>
<td>Committee Breakout Meetings <em>(Rooms to be assigned)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Dinner / Entertainment On Your Own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SATURDAY, April 4, 2020</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 AM</td>
<td>AAW Foundation Silent Auction Opens <em>(Please bring an item to Mid-Year to auction.)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 AM – 8:00 AM</td>
<td>Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM – 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Position Review and Adoption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM – 10:15 AM</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:15 PM – 2:00 PM</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>Silent Auction Closes <em>(Please pay and pick up items by 2:30 PM)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 PM – 6:00 PM</td>
<td>Position Review and Adoption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 PM – 7:00 PM</td>
<td>Closing Vote and Process Overview by AAW President Karolyn Zurn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Dinner / Entertainment On Your Own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUNDAY, April 5, 2020</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM – 8:30 AM</td>
<td>Worship Service</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
American Agri-Women Mid-Year Registration Form

Name__________________________________________________________

Address____________________________________________ City__________ State ___ Zip__________

Phone _______________________________ Email ____________________________

Affiliate ____________________________________________________________

Do you want us to find you a roommate?  YES  NO

Special Needs? ______________________________________________________

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Registration for Friday or Saturday</td>
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<td>$____</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name Tag</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>___</td>
<td>$____</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**You must register by March 10, 2020. No on-site registration.**

Grand Total $ ______

Please note: Photographs of attendees may be taken at this event. These may appear in AAW publications and in online communications. By registering for this conference, you authorize AAW the right to use any photographs taken of you for AAW communication.
Kimmi Lewis, AAW Member and a founding member of Colorado Agri-Women, passed away December 6, 2019 following a valiant battle with cancer.

Kimmi’s life was marked by her dedication to agriculture. As a member of numerous organizations and as a Colorado State Representative (R-HD 64), Kimmi was a leader in defending property rights.

According to her family’s statement, Kimmi was at home on her ranch surrounded by family and loved ones at the time of her passing. Her full memorial obituary can be view at: https://www.peacock-fh.com/obituaries/Kimmi-J-Lewis?obId=9441910#/obituaryInfo

Those desiring to honor Kimmi monetarily may make a contribution to the Kimmi Lewis Scholarship Fund at the American Agri-Women Foundation.

Cards can be sent to:
Family of Kimmi Lewis
43200 Highway 109,
La Junta CO 81050

Kimmi J. Lewis To Be Remembered by American Agri-Women
March 19, 1957 – December 6, 2019

The FarmHer Event “Grow” is geared towards young women ages 16-23. This event was the last one in the series of many over the years.

Young women who are engaged or interested in agriculture, science or food had the opportunity to hear from inspiring speakers, engage with women leaders in the industry and participate in the filming of the FarmHer TV show. Topics included confidence building, chasing your dreams and pursuing a passion for agriculture through careers as professionals and producers.

Jenny Stelmach, former Vice President of Communications, attended the event in Des Moines, Iowa on behalf of American Agri Women on November 15th. It was set up to where those over the age of 23, were either table mentors or connection point mentors. A display promoting AAW was set up along with long sheets of paper and crayons. Thought-provoking questions were written on the paper for the young ladies. Who inspires you? What have you learned at the Grow event? How can you make a difference? What do you need to succeed? It was a great way to engage and break the ice a bit. The girls were told about AAW and 100 membership brochures were handed out. They also had to complete a bingo card trying to guess which square was each connection point table. It was a great idea to get them to socialize at each table and learn a little something about each entity or organization. I had several young women show great interest in AAW.

“I feel like it was an event worth attending as we continue to build a relationship with the team at FarmHer,” stated Stelmach. “I had a lot of questions including if we have an Iowa chapter. I know there is one listed in the directory but to my knowledge, it doesn’t meet.”

AAW looks forward to a continued partnership with FarmHer and promoting mentorship within the organizations.

FarmHer was founded in 2013 to change the image of agriculture, depicting women taking an active role in the industry through photographs and by sharing their stories. It quickly became clear that women in agriculture not only appreciated FarmHer, but they needed it. And they asked for more. Today, FarmHer has grown into much more than just a gallery of images; it is changing the way people perceive a farmer. The brand includes a national, award-winning weekly cable television show, a SiriusXM radio show and podcast, social and traditional media platforms, and merchandise. Women are rising to the forefront of agriculture and FarmHer is excited to be a driving force behind this effort. See more and join the journey at farmher.com.
Please mark your calendar for Sunday, May 31 – Wednesday, June 3 as plans are underway for the 2020 American Agri-Women Fly-In at Washington, D.C.

A Sunday morning tour is planned and we will officially ‘kick-off’ during Orientation Sunday afternoon. The Past President’s Council will host the 27th Annual AAW Symposium Monday morning at the Department of Interior. In the afternoon, meetings will be held with the leadership at Environmental Protection Agency followed by our traditional Embassy visit. Arrangements are being made with the Embassy of the Republic of Chile.

Our annual roundtable meeting with USDA officials will be conducted Tuesday and we have asked to meet with Secretary of Agriculture-Sonny Perdue, leaders from the Farm Service Agency, US Forest Service, and the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Some of the issues we plan to discuss will be: the continuation of the implementation of the 2018 Farm Bill, International Trade, Renewable Fuels, Rural Broadband, Rural Infrastructure, Food Safety, and Ag Labor.

Congressional visits will be followed by our annual Congressional reception, with the awarding of the AAW Champion of Agriculture awards to round out the 2020 AAW Fly-In. We are working hard to add a few additional surprises to our agenda so watch for those as we move forward and confirm details.

Please visit our website for Registration and details: https://americanagriwomen.org/legislative-fly-in/


Hotel arrangements should be made as soon as possible.

Embassy Suites Hotel Crystal City-National Airport
1300 Jefferson Davis Hwy
Arlington, VA 22202
(703) 979-9799.
Room rate is $259 per night May 30-June 4, 2020.

For more information contact Ruth Jensen at 805-264-4476. Agenda and registration form on pages 18-19.
AAW 2020 Legislative Fly-In Schedule
Preliminary Schedule - Subject to Change.

Media and non-AAW members welcomed at some events. Please contact: Carie Moore communications@americanagriwomen.org or Lisa Campion aaw@americanagriwomen.org

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2020
All meals on your own.
10:00 – 1 p.m. OPTIONAL
Tour of the White House
(Not Confirmed)
2:30 – 3 p.m. Registration, Hotel
3 – 5:30 p.m. Fly-In Orientation, Hotel

MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2020
Breakfast on your own.
8:30 a.m. UBER Departs, Hotel Lobby to Dept. of Interior (DOI), 1849 C Street NW - Auditorium
9 – 11 a.m. 26th Annual Symposium, Sponsored by the AAW Presidents’ Council
11 -12:30 p.m. Lunch on Your Own
Suggested DOI Public Cafeteria
Travel on Your Own to EPA
12:30 – 1:30 Security Clearance, EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
1:30 – 2:30 p.m. EPA Roundtable
2:45 – 3 p.m. UBER Departs, EPA to Embassy
3 – 4 p.m. Embassy of Chile & Group Photo, 1732 Massachusetts, Ave., NW

TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2020
All meals are on your own.
8:15 a.m. UBER Departs, Hotel Lobby to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Jamie Whitten Building, 12th Street & Jefferson Dr. SW Jefferson Drive Entrance
8:30 a.m. Security Clearance
9:00 a.m. USDA Agency Roundtable – Secretary, FSA, Trade, Labor, APHIS, Forestry, Ag Energy, Williamsburg Room 104A
12 – 1 p.m. Lunch at USDA
12 – 4:30 pm Please pre-schedule your Congressional Appointments so you can use this time to visit your legislators. If you would like a mentor, please email aaw@americanagriwomen.org.
4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Congressional Reception, Longworth House Office Bldg, Room 1300, 15 Independence Ave SE Rom 1300

Return to Hotel on your own

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2020
All meals are on your own.
Possible USDA Lock Up or Other Activity– Please plan to leave later afternoon or evening for flights.

Please pre-schedule your Congressional Appointments so you can use this time to visit your legislators. If you would like a mentor, please email aaw@americanagriwomen.org.

Fly-In Meeting Descriptions:
• Orientation: The Orientation Meeting is Sunday afternoon to allow participants time to arrive and check in to the hotel. Orientation is the opportunity for everyone to gather together, get an overview of the Itinerary, review the key AAW issues that participants will take to their appointments, and hear from invited speakers. This is also where the name tags, Agenda Packets, and Advocacy Packets are distributed.
• Symposium: This year AAW celebrates its 26th Annual Symposium. The AAW Past Presidents host the event to feature an expert panel on a timely topic. After the speakers present, audience members may ask questions from a microphone. This event is usually recorded, transcribed, and made available to members.
• Agency Roundtable: The USDA and EPA Agency Roundtables have always been favorites for Fly-In and planned on Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning. High level agency officials are invited to speak in 15 – 20-minute increments, allowing 5 minutes for Q&A.
American Agri-Women Fly-In Registration Form

Name

Address ________________________________ City __________ State ___ Zip ________

Phone ________________________________ Email ________________________________

Affiliate

Do you want us to find you a roommate?   YES   NO
Do you want to be a mentor? YES NO
Do you want to have a mentor? YES NO
Do you have an AAW name tag? YES NO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>AAW Name Tag</td>
<td>$5</td>
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<td>$5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**You must register by April 30, 2020. No on-site registration.**

Grand Total $ ______

AAW will follow up with you to obtain your social security number if required by the federal agencies for security clearance ahead of time Fly-In so please be sure to respond, if necessary. Please do not enter your credit card information or social security number on your registration form or by email.

Please note: Photographs of attendees may be taken at this event. These may appear in AAW publications and in online communications. By registering for this conference, you authorize AAW the right to use any photographs taken of you for AAW communication.
ADVERTISING RATES & DEADLINES FOR SPONSORS

<table>
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<th>AD SIZES</th>
<th>DIMENSIONS</th>
<th>RATE</th>
<th>AD DEADLINES:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Full page</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3.875&quot;W x 10&quot;H</td>
<td>$750.00</td>
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</tr>
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<td>$500.00</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Business card</td>
<td>3.875&quot;W x 2.375&quot;H</td>
<td>$350.00</td>
<td>September 10 for Fall Issue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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