2020 AAW National Convention
‘The Mountains Are Calling’

Do you hear them? The Mountains are Calling. The mountains in Bozeman, MT to be specific. Join Montana Agri-Women (MTAW) as we host the AAW National Convention, Nov. 4-8th.

We Montanans like to say our state is easy to get to, hard to leave. Travel is easy because most major airlines fly into Bozeman at competitive fares. The ‘Best Western GranTree Inn’ offers a complimentary shuttle from the airport and also to our quaint yet vibrant Main Street. It is a favorite spot for both locals and visitors.

The convention will not only showcase the beauty of our state but also what it means to be in agriculture. We want to start this convention out in style at our “Meat & Greet”. Attendees will be right in the middle of Beef Country and what better way to welcome all our AAW friends than with some tasty beef treats. This ladies’ night will also offer many unique vendors specific to fashion with a networking style show.

The convention is packed with speakers including a panel discussion on property rights. This will feature four different perspectives and the issues affecting property owners specifically in Montana, but also nationwide.

No convention is complete without tours; diverse and educational tours for both the convention and post-convention are planned. They will give a glimpse of our state, day of life from the city to country. The opportunity to tour underground tours in Butte. We will end the evening with an overnight stay at Fairmont Hot Springs.

Follow MTAW social media for convention spotlights. We hope you will answer the call and meet us in Bozeman this fall!

Registration will be available on the MTAW website www.mtagriwomen.com.

More information also available at: americanagriwomen.org/national-convention/

Convention Forms
Please submit your Annual Reports & Proxy Forms by Oct. 15th for National Convention

Future of Ag ~ July
The importance of ag education in our Nation is why AAW supports & partners with organizations such as these:

#StandUpSpeakOut4Ag
Dear Members,

Here we are again in July, & some still working from home. This is the time for reflection, for processing this crazy place we are in, & trying to plan for the future but always having that escape clause in case we, as a nation, comes to a dead stop again. Decisions, decisions, for the last four months, decisions. I realize that some of those decisions may not have accommodated all, but for the majority, I think we all are okay.

We were able to move forward with STAND UP SPEAK OUT for Ag, following AAW’s “A Force for Truth about Agriculture”. This statement has been with our organization since the beginning. For the last several years I have been in many conversations where long time members stated that they wanted to get back to our roots, focus on our position statements & react to poor legislation in a positive but firm manner. I am not sure if we lost sight of that thought process or just nudged it aside, but we decided to revive that with #STANDUPSPEAKOUT4Ag. I hope all of you will join in to make our mission known & that AAW will be thought of as a force to reckon with. Makes me think about the song “The Boys are Back in Town” except we are strong women. How about the Girls are Back in Town?

There are timelines for various commodities & issues we face as farmers & ranchers such as May being Beef month, June-Dairy & forward we go. This allows us to zero in on one part of the project at a time, with added issues as well. During May, the committee issued a press release on Covid-19 & the ability for farms & ranchers to still produce & feed this nation. Hopefully, that helped some of our consumers gain confidence in our food & national security. I might add that this program is directed to the consumer. We hope to reach other groups by including FFA & 4-H to help with educating the public. Yes, we missed so many chances to follow this procedure. The lack of county & state fairs, the cancelation of AAW Midyear & AAW Legislative Fly-In, & the cancelation of many commodity organization meetings means even more work needs to be done by us.

We also put out editorials on the qualities & dietary gains from eating beef. This included facts about how effective beef is & contributes to a better environment. To go along with how current issues play into the sales of our agriculture products. AAW combined their forces with the Women in Mining Coalition to compose a wonderful editorial on the qualities of mining for the nation’s communications such as the parts of our phones & computers. Combining forces with many industries is our mission & thoughts.

Lining up scholarships is still a major part of developing new leaders in AAW. I hope to announce some special ones coming this fall. Our Foundation is the bloodline of these scholarships. They are a 501c3 which is monitored to the penny, so I encourage looking to other associations & agriculture businesses for partnership in scholarships.

I was sad to see the cancelation of events surrounding Memorial Day & Flag Day. Without our brave heroes, we would be in danger every day & not live a life with a bountiful food source. Yes, it is the men & women in agriculture that provide that, but it is our military that serves us every day that has allowed us to do so.

Respectfully,

Karolyn Zurn

Future Farmer May/June 2020

Be sure to check out AAW’s article on page 94-97! To view the digital copy please visit. https://issuu.com/fmspotlight/docs/ff_mayjun20_1
AAW is delighted to have been invited to participate in a Rural Infrastructure Conference Call covering the following:

- Announcements on the Trump Administration’s Efforts for Rural Americans
- Trump Administration Invests $1.6 Billion in Rural Electric Infrastructure in 21 States
- USDA Programs to Support Rural Housing
- USDA Invests $281 Million in Rural & Waste Water Infrastructure Improvements in 36 States & Puerto Rico
- USDA to Provide $1 Billion in Loan Guarantees for Rural Businesses & Ag Producers
- USDA Unveils Tool to Help Rural Communities Address the COVID-19 Pandemic

Call For Officer Nominations

The 2020 Nominating Committee of American Agri-Women seeks members to step into leadership roles of our exceptional organization. We have a great pool of candidates as our organization is comprised of tremendously talented, intelligent, and dedicated women. In a “Call to Service” we are calling on members to apply for various positions: VP of Education and Secretary for the Executive Board, 3 positions for the AAW Foundation Board, and 4 positions on the 2021 Nominating Committee. Applications and position descriptions can be found https://americanagriwomen.org/membership/member-login/ The newest policy and procedures manual is also available there. Send questions and completed application by email to Deb Whalen, Nominating Committee Chair, deb-whalen@live.com or call 218-686-1009. Please consider applying for a position in AAW. Elections will be held at 2020 AAW National Convention in Montana and you must be present at the convention. Deadline for applications is August 1st

LEAVEN Award

This award is the highest member award that AAW gives. Nominees should have provided outstanding contributions to Agri-Women on the national level. Please consider your fellow Agri-Women who have gone above and beyond in their commitment to the organization and nominate them. Further information and guidelines may be found under Member Awards on the AAW website. Nominations and questions may be addressed to: Kimberly Schmuhl, LEAVEN Award Chair at kim@colomafrozen.com

Deadline for Nominations is October 25th
**AAW Engagement**

**Coronavirus Response**

Ruth Jensen, President, Florida-AW

Throughout the Coronavirus pandemic, some members of American Agri-Women continue to sit in on the White House Coronavirus Critical Infrastructure Partnership (CCIP) White House conference calls. Here are some of the additional activities we have done to date:

- Provide members with copies of COVID updates from the White House, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, and others as they come
- Asked and encouraged the White House to work with USDA to address the issues facing our nation’s farmers & ranchers impacted by the disruption in the food supply chain
- Assisted producers around the country with securing and procuring PPE and other essential supplies so their employees can continue to work, keeping their business able to operate
- Produced agriculture/covid related articles published in external news outlets
- Shared Alert from the United States Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency as follows:

  **HIGH ALERT:** Information from various agencies are warning of nefarious, bad actors shifting their work to corrupting internet, wifi and other online capabilities, including sites like zoom, slack and other online meetings, tele-work, tele-doc, etc. This threat goes as far as phishing and taking on other people’s profiles, stealing data from banks, health care to try take advantage of the PPP fund transfer to commit fraud & theft. We will start seeing DHS, FEMA, HHS and other agencies encourage business, agencies, groups and online users to update their security systems, change their passwords and button up their cyber-security systems.


**Texas Agri-Women**

Kristin Anderson, Texas-AW

The Texas Agri-Women Panhandle chapter is made up of women whom are trailblazers from communities all throughout the Texas Panhandle. Our members are filled with passion, leadership, and a desire to positively impact Ag by starting first in our communities, then our state, and ultimately our nation. 2020 is our chapter’s inaugural year, and this year has certainly provided its challenges. We have shown ability to readjust while continuing our monthly meetings via zoom and skype platforms. The pandemic did provide us an opportunity to give back to our communities. We came together as a group to help provide meals, snacks, and goody bags containing hand sanitizer, masks, as well as various other materials. They went to churches, school aged children, and farm families that had been affected by these trying times. Our social media platform was a great way for us to continue our outreach program during Ag Week. We provided activities, stories, and Ag facts each day. In June we held our first public social where we were able to discuss big ideas for continuing community engagement, AGvocating, and fundraising in order to help provide scholarships.

Let’s just say, “We’re just getting started.”
Illinois Agri-Women

“Women Changing the Face of Agriculture”

Penny Lauritzen, Illinois-AW

Over 650 high school & college students gathered at the 11th annual career discovery event “Women Changing the Face of Agriculture” (WCFA 2020) on Friday, March 5th at Richland Community College in Decatur, Illinois. The 45 supporting companies, agricultural agencies, & organizations set up booths & activities for the hands-on breakout sessions. Students had an opportunity to learn more about the companies & the career tracks that the women have experienced.

Michelle Miller aka ‘Farm Babe’, who is social media influencer from an Iowa farm, shared information with the students on Friday about her journey from fashion designer to the farm. She also talked with over 80 agriculture professional women on Thursday evening before WCFA 2020 during a networking & professional development session on the potential power that each of us has to raise awareness & educate others about agriculture.

The Full Circle initiative was highlighted as the students were introduced to several of the women representing career tracks. The Full Circle women are those that attended WCFA as a student over the past 10 years, have completed their college education, & are now employed at one of the supporting companies or agencies. The search for more Full Circle representatives continues & will be recognized at future IAW events.

The Scholarship Committee selected Kylie Miller to receive the Helen Henert Memorial Agricultural Education scholarship of $1,500. Ashley Althaus was named the high school student WCFA Agent of Change winner, Kelli Black & Callie Wildman were named the graduate student WCFA Agent of Change winners, & 20 additional college students were named the Company Sponsored Match Scholarship winners. These 23 young women each received a $1,000 scholarship.

Upcoming IAW Events:

*September 11 – Southern Regional Meeting, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL.
*December 2020 – Winter Tour, Hoer Nursery, Peoria, IL.
*March 4, 2021 – IAW Professional Development Meeting. Amanda Radke-keynote, Carl Sandburg Community College, Galesburg, IL.
*March 5, 2021 – WCFA 2021, Carl Sandburg Community College, Galesburg, IL.
*June 26 – 27, 2021 – NEW Roots Festival, Devon Amphitheatre, Decatur, IL.
Ardath DeWall, AAW Foundation Scholarship Chair

American Agri-Women Foundation has selected the Jean Ibendahl (High School Graduate) and Sister Thomas More Bertels (Continuing Ed) $1,000 Scholarship Winners. Congratulations to Madeline Zutz, Valders, WI., for the Jean Ibendahl Scholarship, and Rachel Poor, Pittsfield, IL., for the Continuing Education Scholarship. Madeline Zutz is currently enrolled at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Large Animal Independent Study, but will attend the University of Minnesota or University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine in the Fall of 2020. “Financially, farming has been a tough business for my family. My commitment toward agriculture is evident in the organizations, jobs, and events that I choose to be involved with, which excites me to continue in my agricultural journey.”

Rachel Poor attended college at Truman State University, Kirksville, MO, John Wood Community College, and Quincy University, Quincy, IL, and will attend the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine, Columbia, MO. Her activities include helping those with special needs such as Mounted Angels, a program that provides therapeutic horse riding for special needs children, and volunteering at an animal shelter. Rachel strives to be a large/small animal veterinarian, and return back home and help the local farmers she has grown to admire along with the community in which I was raised. Congratulations to our winners!

Karen Yost, Gov. Affairs, Co-Chair

Agri-Women has submitted comments to the USDA Dietary Guidelines Committee asking them to include scientific nutrition research in their recommendations for the upcoming 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines. The proposed recommendations have been again, to reduce red meat and saturated fat consumption and to increase carbohydrates in spite of “scientific data that has increasingly shown that a high-carb diet rich in sugar and refined grains increases the risk of obesity, diabetes, and heart disease — much more so than a diet high in fat and cholesterol.” (Amanda Radke, Beef Daily, June 17, 2020)

These guidelines are wide-reaching, thus influencing government feeding assistance programs and other federal policies. This additionally includes healthcare practitioners, nutrition educators, and stakeholders in public health, nutrition, and agriculture; it also impacts the food and pharmaceutical industries. (Nina Teicholz, the Nutrition Coalition, author “The Big Fat Surprise: Why Butter, Meat & Cheese Belong in a Healthy Diet.”)

USDA’s MyPlate recommendations reach the menus of daycares, school lunch menus, assisted living facilities, hospitals, nursing homes and the military. Many of us use these services so our families are not excluded from these recommendations. “The committee is recommending dietary guidelines that could have incredibly ill effects on America’s overall health.” (Amanda Radke, Beef Daily, June 16, 2020)

For more information visit: www.dietaryguidelines.gov/

‘Daughters of American Agriculture’ Scholarships

AAW Comments on 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines

Donate To AAW Via Amazon Smile

Go to smile.amazon.com, select “AAW Foundation” as your charity, and anytime you make a purchase, Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchase. It does not cost you anything, but helps our Foundation grow!
Legacy Kids

Legacy Kids was the brainchild of Trenna Grabowski. Her idea was for the AAW Foundation to launch a program to provide a vehicle for AAW members to share their enthusiasm and support agriculture and AAW with young people while encouraging the ultimate entry of second and third-generation individuals into American Agri-Women. Legacy Kids Memberships are available for AAW members to purchase as gifts to children/young people from birth through age eighteen.

Benefits received:
• Receive a certificate and welcome letter from the AAW President
• A Christmas card each year, showcasing images from the Foundation’s “Beauty of Agriculture” collection
• Student membership fee paid by the Foundation for their first year of membership after turning 18.

The application may be found under the AAW Foundation portion of the AAW website, under the Legacy Kids tab americanagriwomen.org/legacy-kids/

Champion of Agriculture Awards

This award was initiated in 2010 to recognize members of Congress who have displayed exemplary courage in presenting & supporting legislation that promotes American agriculture, rural American lifestyles, & the US Constitution. This is a bi-partisan award with efforts made to include both houses & both parties. Two awards are given each year: one to a House member & one to a Senate member – both Republicans & Democrats have received the award.

Senator Charles Grassley ~ Iowa

Senator Grassley has earned a reputation in Washington as a voice for American agriculture. He brings real-world experience to the policymaking fields in Washington, D.C. His leadership positions on the Senate Finance, Agriculture, & Judiciary Committees provide a unique opportunity to shape tax, international trade, spending that will shape the future of farming in the 21st century. He is a champion for the renewable fuels industry & strives to improve imbalances in the Farm Bill. He worked diligently in the USMCA Implementation Act during the 116th Congress.

Annette Sweeney, Iowa Agri-Women member & Iowa State Senator, proudly shares, “He has never forgotten his constituents & is eager to help young people get started in politics so that it will benefit Iowa’s future livelihood in agriculture.”

Congressman Jodey Arrington ~ Texas

Congressman Jodey C. Arrington is a proven leader who is committed to fighting for the people of West Texas. Through the years, his ability to tackle tough issues & achieve results for his country, state, & local communities have taken him from Texas to the White House & back home again. Congressman Arrington served as an Advisor to President Bush in the White House to assemble leadership teams in critical areas such as agriculture, water, & energy. As a new member on the Ways & Means Committee, prioritizing Rural America’s most critical issues - agriculture, energy, & healthcare - remains his driving force & he works tirelessly to ensure West Texas’ agriculture & energy producers continue to feed, fuel, & clothe the American people.

“Congressman Arrington is known to many of his colleagues as ‘the proud Representative of the food, fuel, & fiber capital of the world’ & consistently reminds them of the importance of the agriculture industry to our national security,” state Texas Agri-Women, South Plains Chapter in their nomination of Arrington.
Finding Your Voice

Katie Yost

There was a time when I was afraid to share my agriculture story. After learning that Farmers are among the most trusted demographic, right up there with moms, my attitude began to change. Now there is no hesitation in the pride I have in growing up that way. I find people are not only receptive, but are interested and grateful for the information I provide. I think of the many lives I could have touched had I known that people disconnected from agriculture want to learn about the food they eat. Now I make the conscious choice to share my story at any available opportunity. Not only do I often learn from these interactions, but I walk away from those conversations with new connections.

AAW Partners With Nepris

Carie M. Moore, VP of Communications

I am excited to announce that AAW has partnered with Nepris to connect our members with classrooms. Nepris connects educators with a vast network of industry professionals to engage students in their learning, expose them to diverse career role models, and prepare them for their future. For us, this means sharing about where and how food is grown, what we do personally, and opening the door for further conversations.

Bridging the Gap

AAW Members can offer an “Industry Chat” on a topic of their choosing from their desktop to classrooms around the region. Professionals can view and respond to teacher requests for a speaker on a specific topic. Under this scenario, the industry professional will virtually speak about the topic requested by the teacher. These are the ones I have done and they were so fun! I did a couple where I was able to share my diverse careers with animals. They all thought it was pretty cool that I have worked with giraffes and tigers! I did sessions on July 6th/8th for “Food Week” during their virtual summer camp. All sessions are recorded and can be viewed or shared. If you would like to see the ones I have done, just search my name.

Getting on Board

There are benefits to both AAW and teachers beyond the convenience of virtually connecting with classrooms. Through the Nepris platform, AAW members can help build their industry brand, eliminate travel or logistical costs incurred from visiting schools, and the platform allows them to find speakers for their classroom that would have been unlikely to travel. In a time of increased focus on testing and accountability, virtual guest speakers provide schools with the ability to provide real-world connections without disrupting learning in other classes. I foresee this next school year being one with eliminated visits by outside personnel. My classroom visits will probably be virtual. This platform is a great way to give my schools and myself another alternative to bringing variety into the classroom. I am going to encourage them to sign-on as educators. If you choose to participate and become familiar with the program, share it with your school systems as well. There is an option for students to sign up independently; this is a great tool for home-schooling.

Signing up for Nepris is easy:

1) Go to https://nepris.com/join/american-agri-women
2) Sign up for a free account
3) Fill out your profile—this is where you get the most out of the program
4) Browse the platform and set up an industry chat

*Nepris is willing to do another intro session at any time if we get an interested group. If you have any questions at all please reach out to me at carie.marshallmoore@americanagriwomen.org
Sigma Alpha
Future of Ag

Alyssa Clements, Outreach Director,
Sigma Alpha National Board

The Future of Ag is bright; there are many professional women who are thriving in the agriculture industry. Sigma Alpha Professional Agricultural Sorority continues to support and mentor women interested in and passionate about the ag industry. We strive to provide opportunities for development and mentorship as young women professionals prepare to begin their careers. This spring when many collegiate students’ semester and extracurricular activities were cut short due to COVID-19, Sigma Alpha provided weekly webinars to ensure the learning and mentorship did not stop. Webinars were hosted by national board members and other industry leaders to give our members the opportunity to learn about a variety of industry topics and professional tips when looking for internships or building a working resume. Sigma Alpha works hard to build relationships with industry affiliates like AAW to highlight opportunities for our members to pursue and experience. We continue to cultivate women in ag and we are excited to be a part of mentoring the next agricultural leaders. www.sigmalpha.org or outreach@sigmalpha.org

Ag Leadership Survey

The most recent Ag Census showed a 27% increase in the number of women managing or operating farms and ranches. Coupled with this, more women than ever are involved in other ag careers or studying ag in post-secondary institutions. Annie’s Project is taking a closer look with a Agriculture Women’s Community & Leadership Survey. The results will be used to help design educational programs to expand women’s involvement in their communities and ag organizations. It will help understand the community and leadership roles of women farmers, ranchers, growers and agriculturalists. The survey is open through August 20 using the link: https://umn.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bpVDmVIC9jGz4mp

Annie’s Project empowers farm and ranch women and growers to be better business partners through networks and by managing and organizing critical information. www.anniesproject.org

Farm Credit is a nationwide network of 72 customer-owned financial institutions. www.FarmCredit.com

"Your Farm Tells A Story. How Will The Next Chapter Begin?" ~Dow Agri-Science
Proposed By-Law Changes-(Bylaws -2015-9 Draft 4)

AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN, INC.

Bylaws (Bylaws -2015-9 Draft4)
AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN, INC.
As revised and adopted on November, 2020

ARTICLE I — NAME
The name of this organization shall be American Agri-Women, Inc., a national coalition of farm, ranch and agricultural organizations and individuals, and hereafter referred to as AAW. AAW is a not-for-profit corporation, organized under Section 501c (5) of the Internal Revenue Code and the laws of Michigan.

ARTICLE II — PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES
Section 1 Purpose
The purpose of AAW is to unite women's agricultural organizations and individuals to communicate with one another and with other consumers to promote agriculture, food, fiber, fuel, flora and forestry (hereafter referred to as agriculture) for the benefit of the American people and the world.

Section 2 Objectives
A) To educate our members to the important issues involving the agricultural industry.
B) To use this knowledge to provide the industry with a strong public relations outlet.
C) To influence policy and legislation that is of concern to the agricultural industry.
D) To serve as a network, communications link-up for farm, ranch and agricultural women and organizations interested in the well-being of the agricultural industry.
E) To promote educational programs and leadership development opportunities for farm, ranch and agricultural women.

Section 3
Affiliated groups or individual members shall not represent AAW in an official capacity without the approval and direction of the Board of Directors, the president. Speaking on behalf of and/or taking action on behalf of AAW is only done with the explicit approval of the President.

ARTICLE III — MEMBERSHIP AND DUES
Section 1 Membership
Membership shall be open to the following who accept the purpose and objectives of AAW. The membership dues schedule shall be determined from time to time, upon recommendation by the Board of Directors and approval by the membership at an annual meeting.

There are seven (7) classes of memberships:

  1. Individual Membership: all persons involved with agriculture that have paid the annual dues with rights and privileges assessed to that membership class. This includes the right to vote in general membership meetings. Individuals who wish to join AAW without any state or commodity affiliate would pay current national membership dues. There shall be four classes of individual membership:

     1) Individual Membership: all persons involved with agriculture that have paid the annual dues with rights and privileges assessed to that membership class. This includes the right to vote in general membership meetings. Individuals who wish to join AAW without any state or commodity affiliate would pay current national membership dues.

     2) State Agri-Women Affiliate Membership: when the affiliate collects the AAW dues with its affiliate dues and forwards AAW dues with membership data to the AAW Membership Committee, the dues shall be the same as individual membership. If AAW dues are optional, then the affiliate dues must be paid. Once an affiliate has dual membership, it will continue as dual membership. All future state affiliates will pay the dual membership. All state* affiliated organizations shall collect AAW national current annual membership dues along with any affiliate dues for each member. The AAW dues are forwarded to AAW. (*California is the only grandfatherted state affiliate that does not require all state members to pay national dues with their 1976 affiliation with AAW. California has one affiliate vote. Their members who pay AAW dues are individual members and have voting rights in general AAW membership meetings.)

   a) There shall be two subclasses of the individual membership:
1. Silver Donor: when an individual chooses to pay an additional amount per year in addition to the individual member fee, according to the dues schedule, that member shall appear on the silver honor roll to be published in the VOICE.

2. Gold Donor: when an individual chooses to pay an additional amount per year in addition to the individual member fee, according to the dues schedule, that member shall appear on the gold honor roll to be published in the VOICE, and will be recognized at the Annual Meeting.

3. Collegiate Student Membership: college students wishing to join under individual memberships, may join at half the annual dues rate and receives the full benefits of an individual member.

4. Lifetime Membership: member enjoys all the rights and privileges of full voting membership for their lifetime and joins an elite group of AAW leadership for special recognition.
   A. when an individual chooses to pay a lifetime amount specified in the dues schedule in one lump sum;
   B. A or group of organization wishes to gift a special member with a one-time lifetime membership that member enjoys all the rights and privileges of full yearly voting membership for her lifetime and joins and elite group of AAW leadership for special recognition.

5. Affiliate Organization Memberships: agricultural organizations that are approved by the Membership committee and make annual contributions as determined by the dues schedule. An agricultural group or other organization can affiliate with AAW for an annual affiliation fee to receive the full rights and privileges assessed of one voting member and a seat on the AAW Board of Directors. Individuals belonging to this affiliate organization are eligible to join AAW separately at current single national membership dues with all rights and privileges assessed to that member class.

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

6. Associate Non-Voting Membership: commodity and farm related organizations Businesses who contribute an annual amount as determined by the dues schedule, pay an annual membership fee in support of the organization, receive communications going to the general membership, but will have no voting rights.

7. Reciprocal Affiliates: Affiliates with an agreement to belong to each other’s associations without paying dues. Materials and information are available for exchange, however voting rights are not granted.

Section 2 Payment of Dues
A) Membership dues shall be payable to the treasurer to be considered a member in good standing
B) Organizations and individual members shall be dropped from membership when dues are not paid or they no longer support the purpose and objectives of AAW.

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

Section 3 Newsletter
A) The AAW newsletter, the VOICE, is the official publication of the organization. A subscription of the newsletters shall be included in all memberships.
B) A non-member subscription price will be determined annually by the Board of Directors.

Section 4 Membership Lists
A) Membership lists or portions of lists are released only to designated affiliate contact(s). Requests to use the membership list within the confines of the organization will be considered with each specified purpose by the Executive Committee.
B) AAW does not sell or release our membership list to any person, group, organization or sponsor.

ARTICLE IV — OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTION
Section 1 Officers
The officers shall be: President, three Vice Presidents First Vice-President of Resolutions & Vital Issues, Vice President of Communications, Vice President of Education, Secretary, and Treasurer and Immediate Past President. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by the bylaws, the AAW Policy and Procedure Manual, and the parliamentary authority.
Section 2 Qualifications
All officers and nominating committee members shall be members in good standing, active involved in promoting a better the agricultural industry, and if possible, in so far as practical, they shall reside in different geographic regions. No officers, except the treasurer, may be elected to the same office for two consecutive terms. The treasurer may be elected to no more than two consecutive terms without a break in service of at least one term. The nominees for First Vice President must have served on the Board of Directors for at least one year prior to nomination and have attended a national convention within three years prior to her nomination.

Section 3 Elections
Officers shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting for two-year terms or until successors are elected and qualified. The first vice president, vice president of communications and treasurer shall be elected in odd numbered years. The secretary and vice president of education shall be elected in even numbered years. In the event there is only one nominee for an office, upon a motion from the floor, election may be by unanimous ballot, voice vote. Officers shall assume their duties at the close of the annual meeting.

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

A) The nominating committee will be selected as follows: A committee of four will be elected at the annual meeting. Of these four, one member is to be a carryover from the previous committee and one member is to be from the AAW Foundation Board. A fifth member, appointed by the President, who must have attended three (3) previous conventions, will serve as the Nominating Committee Chairman for the term of the president. An alternate is also elected, but is not an active member of the Nominating Committee unless the chair accepts a resignation from one of the four elected members or determines that one of the four elected members should be removed. All nominating committee members shall serve only a one-year term with the exception of the elected carryover committee member serving an additional one-year term. If possible, members should reside in different geographic regions.

B) When a member of the committee wishes to be considered for an office, the member shall resign from the committee and be replaced by the alternate.

C) The committee shall nominate at least one qualified person for each AAW office to be filled, one qualified person for each of the three Director positions to the AAW Foundation Board, and four nominating committee members and secure their written consent to serve, if elected.

D) The slate of nominees from the nominating committee shall be presented at the annual meeting, following which nominations from the floor will be in order, provided written consent of the nominee has been obtained and qualifications met.

Section 5 Vacancies
A) Vacancies in office or in the nominating committee may be filled until the next annual meeting by the Executive Committee.

B) The office of President shall only be filled by an officer elected for that purpose.

C) Any officer serving more than one-half of a term shall be considered as serving a full term.

D) Upon resignation of the First Vice President during tenure, the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors shall fill the position of First Vice President.

E) If a First Vice President resigns at the end of her term prior to becoming President, an election for the office of President will be held at the annual meeting.

Section 6 Removals
Any officer may be removed from office for not fulfilling her oath of office, or duties stipulated in AAW Bylaws and/or AAW Policy and Procedures Manual or not following the non-compete clause and/or conflict of interest clause, with sufficient cause, prior to the expiration of her term, by the Board of Directors, upon a vote of three-quarters (3/4) of all members of the Board, provided that the members of the Board, including the individual officer involved, must receive notice at least ten days prior to the Board meeting. In the event that any such action is contemplated, the individual officer involved shall be afforded
the opportunity to be heard at any such meeting. **Documentation must be provided to prove the neglect of not following the non-compete and/or conflict of interest clauses.**

**ARTICLE V — DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

**Section 1  President**

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

**Section 2  First Vice President**

The First Vice President shall serve as an aide to the President, fill the office of president in the event of a vacancy, serve as Resolutions Chair, and as liaison with the Government Affairs and Vital Issues Committee, and coordinate the work of the membership committee and committees not otherwise assigned. This officer shall assume the office of President upon completion of the term of First Vice President. Committees shall be appointed and ready to begin working at the close of the annual meeting.

**Section 3  Vice President of Communications**

The Vice President of Communications shall coordinate the work of communications, including supervision of the VOICE, the website and media relations.

**Section 4  Vice President of Education**

The Vice President of Education shall be chairman of the Education Committee and serve as liaison with the AAW Resource Center Foundation Board.

**Section 5  Secretary**

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

**Section 6  Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall:

1. Keep in permanent form a complete and accurate record of finances;
2. Receive all dues and contributions;
3. Pay bills within the limits of the adopted budget after approval of the President, or by order of the Executive Committee;
4. Submit financial reports to the Executive Committee as requested, to the Board of Directors at the midyear meeting, and to the membership at the annual meeting;
5. Have the books compiled and reviewed by a Certified Public Accountant following the close of the fiscal year in order to have the reviewed financial report for the annual meeting;
6. Deposit or authorize the deposit of all monies in the name of American Agri-Women, Inc. in a bank approved by the Executive Committee;
7. Prepare an annual budget in collaboration with the Executive Committee.
8. Be bonded for AAW.
9. Be responsible for the coordination of mailing lists, finance and membership. She shall prepare an annual treasurer’s report for the President and the Board of Directors; and she shall oversee the finance committee.
10. **Follow all IRS rules and regulations regarding 501(c)(5) status.**
11. **Adhere to the conditions set forth in grant agreements signed with donor organization/corporations/foundations in accordance with IRS rules and regulations.**

**Section 7  Immediate Past President**

1. The president upon completion of her term shall serve as past president on the Executive Committee.
2. Shall serve as Development & Fundraising chairperson.
3. Shall oversee the development of and follow-through on donor agreements.
4. Shall maintain donor information and communication to be passed to the next Past President. The Treasurer and Executive Committee shall be responsible for preparing the annual budget.

ARTICLE VI — ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Section 1 Timing
The Annual Membership Meeting shall be scheduled organized by the Board of Directors by the affiliate awarded the bid and AAW president, to be held during the last quarter of the calendar year.

Section 2 Quorum
A quorum shall consist of one-third of those voting delegates members registered at the convention, and must include at least four officers, five affiliate presidents or their proxies delegates, and five commodity and/or vital issues chairmen.

Section 3 Site
The Annual Membership meeting site shall be determined two years in advance by upon the convention site committee comprised of the AAW Executive officer and the president or official representative of affiliate organizations. The first vice president shall preside over this meeting. Following selection of the site the president shall appoint the convention coordinator for the convention approval of the convention bid by the Board of Directors. If there are no bids, the Executive Committee will determine convention arrangements.

Section 4 Adoption of the annual AAW budget
A) The membership shall adopt an annual AAW budget treasurer and the Executive Committee shall prepare in writing a budget for adoption by the at the annual membership meeting.
B) Adoption will occur by a major voting membership.

Section 5 Voting
A voting member delegate shall have one vote, and must be physically present for the vote, and there will be no proxy voting.

Section 6 Resolutions
All resolutions to be considered at the annual Membership Meeting, except those coming from the Board of Directors, shall be sent to the First Vice President of Resolutions and Vital Issues Committee Chair at least sixty (60) days before the Annual Meeting. The Resolutions Committee shall prepare all resolutions for consideration and provide copies for publication in the VOICE before the annual Membership Meeting. Resolutions originating with individual members or affiliated organizations shall be signed by at least 10 members and be accompanied by supporting data and rationale. Emergency resolutions may be presented by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates voting members. The presenter must provide a written copy for each delegate voting member.

ARTICLE VII — OTHER NATIONAL MEETINGS

Section 1 Mid-Year Meeting
The primary purpose of the Mid-Year Meeting is to develop AAW’s stance on public policy in the form of position statements which are discussed, approved by the membership and adopted by the Board of Directors at the Mid-Year Meeting.

Section 2 Fly-In Meeting
A) Provides time to present policy position statements to Congressional members and staff, meet with US. Department of Agriculture and other agencies influencing agriculture
B) Meets annually in Washington, D.C., open to all AAW membership
C) The AAW Vital Issues Symposium is planned and implemented by the AAW Presidents’ Council

Article VII VIII --- THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1 Membership
The Board of Directors (BOD) shall consist of the AAW Executive Committee elected officers, the immediate past president and presidents of affiliated organizations, or their appointed representatives (proxies).

Section 2 Meetings
The Board of Directors shall meet in person for the Midyear Meeting and a meet in person before preceding the Annual Membership meeting. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be conducted virtually via conference call or online service with a 10-day notice to all BOD members. In the event of an emergency a virtual meeting could replace meeting in person.
Section 3  Duties
A) Uphold the bylaws and work toward fulfillment of the purpose and objectives of AAW.
B) Develop policy and promote implementation of strategy of AAW programs.
C) Transact necessary business between annual meetings and report to the membership via meeting, mail, conference call, or electronic mail.
D) Recommend the amount of annual dues to be adopted by the membership.
E) Recommend the annual AAW budget to the membership.
F) Amend the adopted budget, if necessary.

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

ARTICLE IX — EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1  Membership
The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, First Vice-President of Resolutions & Vital Issues, Vice President of Communications, Vice President of Education, Secretary, Treasurer and Immediate Past President, elected officers and immediate past president. (The parliamentarian is not a member of the Executive Committee, but may attend Executive Committee meetings upon request or when necessary for calls and other meetings.)

Section 2  Meetings
The Executive Committee shall meet in person prior to the AAW Mid-Year meeting and the AAW Annual Membership meeting. In the event of an emergency a virtual meeting could replace the in-person meeting. Throughout the year regular meetings of the Executive Committee may occur virtually via conference call or online service with a 10-day notice to all EC members. When presented with a written request for a special meeting by two committee members, the President must call a special meeting, giving notice of the meeting and topic, to all committee members at least ten days in advance of the meeting. Meetings shall be held two times a year and upon the call of the president, or upon the request of any two officers, business may be conducted by conference call when deemed advisable. Voting on time sensitive actions that require immediate action may be conducted via e-mail with personal notification given to all EC members by the president.

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

Section 4  Quorum
Four Executive Committee members shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE X — COMMITTEES

Section 1  Standing Committees
Standing committees shall be: Education, Membership, and Finance. The duties of the Standing Committee may be further delineated in the AAW Policy and Procedures Manual.

Section 2  Other Committees
Other committees shall be appointed as deemed advisable.

Section 3  Appointments
The president shall appoint committee chairmen and members in consultation with the Executive Committee. The chairman of each committee, with the approval of the President, shall be authorized to appoint additional members. All AAW members in good standing are eligible for committee appointments. At least three members may be appointed to each committee. Such appointments shall be for one year and may be reappointed for additional terms, the term of the president.
Section 4 Duties
All committees shall fulfill tasks to further the purposes and objectives of AAW; to meet at times as deemed necessary with the approval of the president, present periodic reports in the newsletter, and seek increased membership to further goals and objectives of AAW, and perform other duties as outlined in the Policy and Procedure Manual.

Section 5 Removal
Any committee chair or member may be removed, for not fulfilling duties according to AAW bylaws and Policy and Procedure Manual, prior to the expiration of her term by the Executive Committee. The committee chair or member must receive notice at least ten (10) days prior to the Executive meeting. In the event that any such action is contemplated, the individual involved shall be afforded the opportunity to be heard at any such meeting.

ARTICLE XI
NON-COMPETE CLAUSE:
When new AAW officers are elected to the AAW Executive Committee, they will be required to sign a non-compete clause as defined in the Policy & Procedure Manual. The non-compete clause shall last from date of office acceptance through two years after leaving office.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST:
When an officer uses the name or resources of AAW to obtain personal benefits or pursues personal interests as opposed to using powers and resources to advance the purpose and objectives of AAW is a conflict of interest. An example is being an AAW officer and a program director, etc. in another tax-exempt organization.

ARTICLE X XII — FINANCE
Section 1 Purpose of finances
Contributions, dues and finances of this organization are used for purposes of communication, research, education, public information services and administration of programs as specified under the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the American Agri-Women, Inc.

Section 2 Fiscal year
The fiscal year of the AAW is from October 1 to September 30.

ARTICLE XI XIII — EMERGENCY ACTION
Section 1 Cancellation of a convention
In the event of a natural disaster, act of God or other unforeseen emergency that would make the holding of a convention and Annual Membership Meeting, or the Midyear meeting, inadvisable, the President and/or Executive Committee shall have the authority to determine whether the convention should or should not be held in person, or if it could be held virtually; a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Committee shall decide, and the vote may be taken by mail, by conference call, or electronically.

Section 2 Conducting business
In the event a convention is not held, the President Executive Committee will have the authority to plan procedure for conduction of the routine convention business. The Board of Directors shall approve such procedure.

ARTICLE XIV XIV — INDEMNIFICATION
AAW indemnifies officers and directors and agents for liability for actions properly taken on behalf of the organization with the authority of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XV XV — DISSOLUTION
In the event of liquidation or dissolution of the organization, whether voluntary or involuntary:

A) No member shall be entitled to any distribution or division of its remaining property or its proceeds.

B) The balance of all money and other property received from any source, after the payment of all debts and obligations, shall be distributed to an organization that furthers the voice for agriculture that is recognized as exempt from Federal Income Tax under either Section 501c(3), 501c(5) or 510c(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the regulations thereunder, as the same now exist or as they may be hereafter amended.
The recipient(s) of the assets remaining after dissolution will be determined by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XIV, XVI — PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1:
Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised most recent edition shall be the parliamentary authority for all meetings of AAW and shall prevail when not in conflict with these AAW bylaws, the AAW Articles of Incorporation and any special rules, including the Policy and Procedures Manual and the convention rules, which may be adopted by the Parliamentary Authority, Board of Directors, or the membership.

SECTION 2:
An AAW member who serves as parliamentarian for any AAW meeting, rescinds her rights to make motions or to vote.

ARTICLE XV, XVII — AMENDMENTS

Section 1 Amendment
These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at any annual meeting, provided the following requirements have been met. All members shall be sent a copy of the proposed changes at least thirty days in advance of the meeting. Publication in the newsletter, either electronically or in print, shall be considered sufficient notice.
A) Proposed amendments may be submitted to the President at least sixty days prior to the meeting provided such proposal is signed by at least ten members in good standing.
B) Amendments may be proposed by a majority of the Board of Directors in any meeting in which a quorum is present.

Section 2 Amendment without notice
These bylaws may be amended by unanimous vote roll call at any annual meeting without previous notice.

PLEASE CONTACT THE BYLAWS COMMITTEE WITH ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE:
Kathy Reavis Co-Chair
kjreavis1948@hotmail.com

THANK YOU!
Have a membership question? 
Need to update your information? 
Contact Lisa Campion Sullivan, 
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