

AAW President's Message Celebrating Women and Ag with Teamwork!

Teamwork makes the dreamwork! So true. And so perfect for the spring when we celebrate agriculture and amazing women!

The past two months have provided me a front row seat at meetings of Oregon Women for Agriculture and Montana Agri-Women annual meetings as well as AAW Mid-Year in Utah.

What a blessing because each opportunity provided a chance to see women of all ages and varied backgrounds at their best. From the planning and hospitality to the thoughtful deliberations and consideration of differing points of view and the agreement and enthusiasm to take action together to achieve shared goals.

THESE are the dreams made possible through teamwork.



Wyoming Women in Agriculture have provided another example of teamwork with their involvement with First Lady Jenny Gordon, other farmers and ranchers to end child hunger in Wyoming. Please check out the project and videos at the links below.

This spring of teamwork has been topped off with cheering on our daughter's 7th grade volleyball team to win State Runner Up (2nd Place) in Illinois. No one saw it coming when the season started in December. Seriously. But they ended with a record of 26 and 2 and 1 tie.

Watching our daughter's team brought back memories of playing volleyball with people from my high school, other towns in club ball and then other countries my junior year at Nottingham University. While there are many lessons to draw from, including the importance of family, the top two for today are continuous improvement and communications.



After playing with teammates from England, Germany and Hong Kong (and a coach from France) in college, it became especially clear that although we each speak English, we all have very different experiences behind what we want to say and slightly different interpretations or meanings behind the words we choose. Sometimes in the heat of action, just calling it out, "Mine!" in volleyball is all you can do to keep the game flowing and avoid injuries. In between plays, as our daughter's team figured out, it's important to encourage each other and clarify who is doing what.

That's what I saw our AAW members doing at their annual meetings and at our Mid-Year. They brought their "A" game with thoughts on key issues we need to address, then asked questions, clarified understanding, helped each other find the words to say what we mean in a way others can understand. And most importantly, thought about how we can put our words into action.

And the second role of teamwork is recognizing that we play to level of our competition. This means we must continually improve to not only meet, but exceed competition. Your Executive Team of elected officers is dedicated to continually improving how we deliver value on our mission.

You have several opportunities to engage coming your way: educational webinars in April and May to be announced very soon; Fly-In registration is open now; Champion of Agriculture nominations due this Friday; and our revised position statements will be in your inbox with the spring edition of the Voice due out by early May. And there is much more in the works.



Thanks for letting me serve as 'Coach' of your AAW team for the time being. Looking forward to seeing you at Fly-In June 5-8 or at Convention in Bozeman, Montana with activities booked from Nov. 2-6 (most of the general member meetings will be the 4th-5th).

As Dad says, "Keep on keepin' on!" and give someone a high five today for a job well done. Thank you All for ALL you do!

Sincerely,
Heather Hampton+Knodle, President
American Agri-Women

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Wyoming Agri-Women are blessed by First Lady Gordon and all the individuals that are working hard across the Great State of Wyoming to make her Hunger Initiative successful. First Lady Gordon has graciously allowed Wyoming Agri-Women to use her video as an educational tool and to also pass on to American Agri-Women to use also.

Let this video be a great tool to show the importance of agriculture and the pride of agriculture across the United States of America.

*Thank you,
Wyoming Agri-Women*

<https://www.nohungerwvo.org/about-the-initiative>