A few days ago, an AAW member who was in Texas and I struggled to maintain a phone call. After three or four tries, her text came through, “I’m in the middle of nowhere and service dropped.”

Last week, I visited with the Missouri Director of Agriculture and she must keep two different cell company contracts and phones to attempt to make and receive calls as she travels the state.

There’s a four-county area in Illinois where people jokingly say, “We live in Forgotonia.” The land where infrastructure for wireless communications, roads, water, and emergency services is few and far between.

Does this look or sound familiar?

Much of my adult life mission is centered around the idea that we in rural America are not “nowhere” and we are not “nobody.” We have much to offer – talent, innovation, work ethic, common sense – in addition to the beauty, serenity and contrast we experience every day. In fact, we could reframe the situation to say we are at the center of vitality. Food production and active, experienced management of natural resources are vital to everyone’s survival.

Right now we all have the chance to improve our ability to contribute from our ‘center of vitality’ in a few ways.

One – Ask your Member of Congress to sign on to House Resolution 1329 and your U.S. Senators to co-sponsor Senate Resolution 712 recognizing the need for greater access to rural and agricultural media programming. Both are bi-partisan efforts to raise awareness of the need for access to media in rural areas as well as rural programming options in urban areas. You can read the text of each resolution by searching their title at www.congress.gov. By supporting a resolution, we lay groundwork for additional legislative and regulatory efforts to ensure that spectrum is allocated to rural areas and for increased capacity for exchange of data and information through other programs like the Rural Development Opportunity Fund and ReConnect America.
Two – if you have a smartphone, download the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) Speedtest app. The purpose of the app is to allow you to log data on the quality of cellular service and data wherever you are. It does not follow you all the time – unless you set it to run tests in the background. You open it and run a speed test from the acre where you stand or work. Test the performance of your mobile and Wi-Fi networks, set limits on the test to reflect your normal usage, look at your data over time and over geography. The agency is using that data to groundtruth what kind of service is truly available throughout the U.S.

Three – Sustain your personal vitality by participating in person at an Agri-Women meeting. Our national convention is coming up in Bozeman, Nov. 2-6th. 2023 takes us to some fun destinations with AAW Mid-Year in Nashville, Tennessee, April 12-15th; Fly-In to Washington, D.C., June 4-7th; and next year’s convention in Sacramento, California November 2-5th. Plus you could plug in at a number of Agri-Women affiliate events like the Illinois Agri-Women’s Women Changing the Face of Agriculture in March or the California Women for Ag’s barbecue event or Minnesota’s leadership conference and more.

Four – Explore ways you could engage locally to expand your internet/broadband offerings. In September, the Rural Leaders podcast invited me as a guest on Episode 8 as part of a series they are doing to inform people how they can get better internet. You can find the podcast series at: https://www.nationalgrassrootsmedia.com/shows/the-rural-leaders-podcast/

Or you could help others increase their vitality. Our AAW First V.P. Rose Tryon-VanCott was featured on a podcast series for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers coordinated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in California. The series has a number of useful topics to inform those who are just putting their roots down and provide information and fresh perspectives to those who have been yielding fruit in farming and ranching.

Whatever modes you choose to make a difference – or as we in Agri-Women say, “Speak Out!” - please keep in mind that

You Are Vital.

Thank you for all you do,

Heather Hampton+Knodle
American Agri-Women (AAW) awarded the 2022 Veritas Award to Forrest Lucas. AAW presents the award annually to the person or persons who have given public witness to “the pursuit of truth” by the principles enunciated in the AAW Call to Power.

Mr. Lucas’ lifelong association with agriculture and his passion for our American traditions led him to found Protect the Harvest in 2011. Protect the Harvest, under Forrest Lucas’ guidance, was created to defend and preserve American freedoms and to support farmers, ranchers, outdoor enthusiasts, and animal owners. Most Americans are unaware that there are special interest groups in America that have evolved into a wealthy and well-organized movement determined to change our way of life. These groups aim to control agriculture, land, and water use and eliminate human-animal interaction, hunting, and fishing. Their approach is to reach their goal incrementally via influencing public opinion with misinformation and writing, funding, and marketing legislation and regulations to suit their agenda. The result is an America that is less free and less prosperous, the elimination of animal ownership and human-animal interaction, the elimination of our ability to provide affordable food for our families, and the ability to enjoy traditional past times.

Lucas was born and raised in Ramsey, Indiana, and still calls the state of Indiana home. As the oldest of four, he comes from humble beginnings. Forrest worked on a Harrison County cattle farm in his teens to support his family. After graduating high school, he took several jobs, from working in a muffler factory to hauling loads in a dump truck. Forrest purchased his first semi-truck and began long-haul trucking only three years after high school. He bought more semi-trucks and a convenience store throughout the next decade. Forrest met his wife Charlotte in 1979, and the couple later had a son, Morgan, whom they raised along with their children from previous relationships.

With the need to keep his trucks going down the road, Forrest developed a fascination for mixing oils and additives to improve gas mileage and overall vehicle performance. This knowledge would lead to creating several products and incorporating Lucas Oil Products in 1989. Over the last 33 years, Lucas Oil has grown to offer over 100 products sold in the United States and abroad. In addition to founding Lucas Oil, Forrest has been able to pursue many other successful business ventures. Lucas’ most notable of these ventures is in the sporting world. Lucas Oil Stadium has been the home of the Indianapolis Colts of the National Football League for nearly a decade. The name is prominent in the racing world, with tracks located in California, Missouri, and Indianapolis.

Besides staying busy with his many business ventures and attending dozens of sporting events throughout the year, Forrest enjoys spending time with his family and taking care of his cattle ranch in Missouri.

Continued on next page
PROTECT THE HARVEST


- INFORM and EDUCATE Americans about the activities of animal extremist groups, anti-agriculture groups, and other non-governmental organizations that threaten agriculture, animal welfare, our traditions, and our way of life.

- PROTECT our freedoms and way of life by supporting agriculture, land use, hunting and fishing, animal ownership, and animal welfare.

- RESPOND to laws, regulations, or misinformation that would negatively impact animal welfare and animal ownership, restrict our rights, and limit our freedoms.

---

2022 Executive Committee

Heather Hampton+Knodle
President
Affiliate: Illinois Agri-Women
aawpresident@americanagriwomen.org

Jacquie Compston
Vice President, Education
Affiliate: Nevada Agri-Women
education@americanagriwomen.org

Rose Tryon-Vancott
First VP, Resolutions, & Vital Issues
Affiliate: California Women for Ag
firstvp@americanagriwomen.org

Kim Bremmer
Secretary
Affiliate: Wisconsin Women for Ag
secretary@americanagriwomen.org

Laura Hart
Vice President, Communications
Affiliate: Texas Agri-Women
communications@americanagriwomen.org

Kathy Goodyke
Treasurer
Affiliate: Minnesota Agri-Women
treasurer@americanagriwomen.org

Karelyn Zurn - Past President | Affiliate: Minnesota Agri-Women
pastpresident@americanagriwomen.org
# REGISTRATION FORM

**American Agri-Women Convention**  
hosted by Montana Agri-Women  

**November 2-6, 2022**  
Best Western GranTree Inn; 1325 N 7th Ave.  
Bozeman, Montana 59715; Phone: 406-587-5261

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Phone:</th>
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<tr>
<th>Address:</th>
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<tr>
<th>E-mail:</th>
<th>Affiliate:</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Guest Name(s):</th>
<th>Arrival Date:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- Are you a voting member of AAW?  
  - [ ] YES  
  - [ ] NO

- Are you a first time attendee?  
  - [ ] YES  
  - [ ] NO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Any dietary or other needs?</th>
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**REGISTRATION CHARGES**  
**Early Registration** by 9/15/2022  
**Regular Registration** by 10/15/2022

| Member Registration  
(all days included) | $250.00 | $300.00 |
|--------------------|---------|---------|
| Non-member Registration  
(all days included) | $295.00 | $345.00 |
| Spouse Registration  
(all days included) | $225.00 | $275.00 |
| Student Registration  
(all days included) | $175.00 | $200.00 |
| Thursday Tour Only | $75.00 | $95.00 |

- Will he/she attend spouse tour?  
  - [ ] YES  
  - [ ] NO

**Sunday Post Tour** (additional cost*):  
$65.00

*Post tour fees are not included in general registration cost. Plan for food and accommodations on your own.

| Friday Only  
(includes breakfast & lunch) | $75.00 | $100.00 |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Saturday Only  
(includes breakfast, lunch, & dinner) | $125.00 | $150.00 |
| Saturday Evening Banquet Only | $60.00 | $60.00 |
| Friday “Sip & Paint”  
(barn quilt design) | $25.00 | $25.00 |

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Make Checks Payable to: Montana Agri-Women  
Mail to: Karen Yost, Treasurer - P.O. Box 31833  
Billings, MT 59107

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBTOTAL:</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Late Fee (postmarked after 10/15/2022) $50/person:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


What to wear: Business attire (which can include cowboy boots and dark jeans!) for meetings; casual wear for tours - bring warm clothing as we are in the mountains.

Hotel Rooms: Contact the hotel to book your room at the discounted rate of $93.00 plus tax/night until 10/4/2022 referencing Montana Agri-Women group.
## TENTATIVE AGENDA

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>Early Check-in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>AAW Foundation Board Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>AAW Executive Committee Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 - 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Joint AAW Executive Committee &amp; Foundation Board Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 - 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>“Meat &amp; Greet” Ladies Night In fashion &amp; shopping with beef treats and cocktails</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 - 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Presidents’ Caucus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 - 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>First Time Attendees Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Convention Welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45 - 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45 - 11:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Joint AAW Executive Committee &amp; Board of Directors Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45 a.m. - Noon</td>
<td>Load buses for convention tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noon - 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Convention Tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 - 10:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Hospitality Room Open</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Silent Auction Drop-off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Opening Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Spouse/Guest Tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>AAW Business Meeting &amp; Speakers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 - 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Optional Activity (barn square sip &amp; paint)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 - 10:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Hospitality Room Open</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>AAW Business Meeting &amp; Speakers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 - 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Affiliate Oral Reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Silent Auction closes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 - 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>President’s Reception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 - 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Banquet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 - 10:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Hospitality Room Open</td>
</tr>
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### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Church Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Leave for Post Tour</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Overnight to Fairmont Hot Springs - Return to Bozeman Monday morning*
Stuart Myers is the world’s only funny, inspirational, motivational keynote speaker who loves to ‘positively traumatize™’ audiences. On 863+ conference stages located across North America, Australia and Europe, delegates enjoy fits of laughter while learning how to become Unstoppable and turn mental health into mental wealth.

Stuart has over 50 years of experience living with anxiety, depression and OCD-driven bipolar panic attacks. Stuart is living proof that anyone who overcomes overwhelming circumstance tend to develop extraordinary approaches to everyday challenges, often achieving extraordinary results.

Stuart loves to break through mental health stigma to reveal immediately usable, professional and personal life saving lessons—offering real, usable insights to overcome the many challenges of today’s globally- hectic world. So get ready to take a deep dive into the life of a man held captive, but not broken by his mental health condition, who found the strength and determination to break free by performing his life-saving Unstoppable message to live your best life.

Stuart knows all too well the hardships of personal health challenges that altered the course of his life at an early age. By eight years old, Stuart began to develop one of the most misunderstood neurological disorders of our time—Tourette Syndrome.

Living with tourettes is a daily challenge of anxiousness, depression, and uncontrollable twitching. Faced with a lifetime of disability, Stuart made a powerful choice to direct his life toward a joyful and Unstoppable life—dedicating his life’s purpose to helping countless others overcome their own challenges and fears.

You probably know him from NBC's hit show, American Ninja Warrior. Lance Pekus loves athletics and hard work, but most of all, He loves his family. He enjoys creating videos, content, and even writing books.

He made his Ninja Warrior debut way back in Season 4 and has also competed on Spartan Ultimate Team Challenge season 1 and 2 as well as competing on Team Ninja Warrior Season 1 through 3.

Pekus and his family live in the small town of Salmon, Idaho, and they love it! He works seasonally for the Forest Service and the rest of the year on his father-in-law's ranch. On top of that, he frequently is an inspirational guest speaker, writer, and has even been a stunt actor!

He credits the work on the ranch that made him into the man he is today. It’s hard work, but it's rewarding. And, best of all, it doesn’t take that much of an imagination to find places or objects to train on.
Gary Sides, PhD, is the beef and feedlot nutritionist with Zoetis. He has been with this company since 2003. Gary has extensive beef industry nutrition experience, compiling 20 years with organizations such as Intervet / HoechstRussell Vet, Cargill Animal Nutrition and Moorman Manufacturing Company. Before putting his nutritional expertise to work for Zoetis and beef producers, Sides spent two years as a livestock extension specialist with Texas A&M University, located in Fort Stockton, Texas.

Additionally, Sides was a research scientist with Utah State University. Based in Lima, Peru, he worked in the Andes Mountains above 14,000-feet elevation, studying the reproductive and nutritional characteristics of South American ruminants. Sides earned his doctorate in ruminant physiology and nutrition from the University of Wyoming in 1980 and both his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science from New Mexico State University–Las Cruces. Sides is a native of New Mexico and grew up working on family farms and ranches near Roswell and Magdalena.

Katherine Merck graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 2012 with a double major in finance and medieval studies before attending Gonzaga University School of Law, where she graduated magna cum laude in 2017. At Gonzaga, Katherine was a member of the Federal Tax Law Clinic and focused her studies on tax law, estate planning, and environmental law. An avid fly-fisher, Katherine co-founded the Gonzaga Rod & Gun Club to educate fellow law students on the practices and legalities of fishing and hunting in the Northwest.

During law school, she represented the sport of professional rodeo as Miss Spokane Interstate Rodeo 2014 and Miss Rodeo Washington 2015 before becoming the first Washingtonian to wear the Miss Rodeo America crown in 2016, which allowed her to travel the country representing the Western way of life and agriculture industry. Her involvement in the sport of rodeo inspired Katherine’s desire to practice natural resource law and work in agricultural estate planning.

In her final summer of law school, Katherine studied International Human Rights in Florence, Italy before serving as the legal intern for the Wyoming Stock Growers Association in Cheyenne.

When time allows, Katherine enjoys fly-fishing, golfing, skiing, timing Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association rodeos, and competing in the American Quarter Horse Association and the National Reining Horse Association.
Born and raised in eastern Nebraska on an acreage outside of town, in a house surrounded by corn fields on all sides, Anna Kobza was not unfamiliar with agriculture. Though not brought up on a farm or ranch, her parents gave her and her siblings the opportunity to be responsible for 4-H projects. She showed horses from ages 8 until 16 when an opportunity to show breeding heifers was presented to her. Ever since then, she’s never considered much for a life outside of working with cattle.

At 19, she took out a loan from the Farm Service Agency in her county and bought the foundation of her existing beef cattle herd. Anna went to college at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and studied Animal Science, with minors in NE Beef Industry Scholars, and Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship. Today, she’s pursuing a Master’s degree in ruminant nutrition at West Texas A&M University, while building a personal brand that strives to build connection with consumers and serve beef producers.

She’s passionate about agriculture, sharing the lifestyle with consumers, and bringing the truths of the beef industry to the forefront of the information the public consumes.

A fourth-generation Montanan who grew up on her family’s ranch near Conrad, Kristen Juras is a wife, mother, grandmother, attorney, and public servant. On November 3, 2020, Kristen became the second female elected lieutenant governor of Montana in the state’s history. Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras serves as a partner to Governor Greg Gianforte as they lead the Montana Comeback.

Kristen has broken the traditional mold of the office of lieutenant governor. One news story revealed “her performance of the lieutenant governor’s role is also unique, particularly in a position that is often seen as more ceremonial than substantive.”

Kristen leads the governor’s Red Tape Relief Task Force to cut unnecessary, burdensome regulations that are a wet blanket on job creation and hamper small business owners, farmers, and ranchers. Kristen plays a key role in policymaking, and is actively involved in appointments to boards, commissions, and judicial vacancies.

Before entering public service, Kristen Juras served for 32 years as an attorney in private practice in Great Falls where she helped farmers, ranchers, and small business owners navigate legal issues.

As an attorney, Kristen Juras provided pro bono legal services to clients with disabilities who confront homelessness and addiction. Kristen received the Robert P. Goff Pro Bono Award in recognition of her commitment to pro bono legal services.

In 2000, Kristen joined the faculty at the University of Montana School of Law, teaching classes in property, contracts, estate planning, taxation, business, international, and agricultural law.

Married since 1984, Kristen and her husband John are the proud parents to three sons and grandparents to two grandchildren.

Continued on next page
Hannah Downey is the policy director at PERC, leading policy strategy and government affairs efforts to implement key policy reforms based on PERC’s groundbreaking research. She has applied her passion for the outdoors to advance lasting conservation wins since joining PERC in 2015. Hannah has testified before Congress and works closely with policymakers at the federal and state levels on conservation issues, and her work has been featured in media outlets including The Wall Street Journal and The Hill.

Though she grew up in the Midwest, Hannah was lucky enough to spend her summers in Montana and worked as a backpacking guide in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness throughout college. Hannah now calls Bozeman home and fills her spare moments coaching youth mountain biking, serving on the board of the local ski foundation, and enjoying the wonderful outdoors every way she can.

AAW By-Law Amendments

The Board of Directors will consider the following proposed amendments to the AAW By-Laws at our annual business meeting in Montana.

Have the books internally reviewed by the finance committee at the close of the fiscal year in order to have the reviewed financial report for the annual meeting and reviewed by a certified public accountant at the change of treasurer. The recommended change would apply to AAW By-Laws (Page 6, Article V, Section 6, Line 5), affiliate handbook (Section 3, Duties of Treasurer, Paragraph 4), and AAW Policy and Procedure Manual (Page 10)

Adding the following responsibility to the Treasurer’s role (Page 6, Article V, Section 6, Line 4): The treasurer will provide monthly financial reports, including but not limited to the check register, profit and loss statement, balance sheet, and budget to actual comparisons, to the Executive Committee prior to the monthly EC meetings, and quarterly financial reports to the Board of Directors and to the membership at the annual meeting.

The American Agri-Women Bylaws and Policy and Procedure Manual are found on the AAW website at americanagriwomen.org under Membership, Member Login (password aawagday1974).
AAW FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER

2022 EARLY BIRD NATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION REIMBURSEMENT

Chances - Five (5) tickets for $20.00

The winner will be reimbursed $250.00 for their early registration to the American Agri-Women 2022 National Convention in Bozeman, MT., November 2-6, 2022. The drawing will take place during The Convention Banquet on Saturday, November 5. You must be registered to win.

Tickets will begin selling on Monday, August 1, and continue through Convention, ending on Friday, November 4 at 4:00 pm.

To purchase your tickets, please mail your check to Linda Schiffer, PO Box 894 Buffalo, WY 82834. Linda will place your name on the tickets and send you the ticket stub. Print your name clearly and buy as many as you please!!

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 Amazon Smile purchase.
Convention Rules

(Pg. 54 in the AAW Policy and Procedure Manual)

1. Appropriate badges will be issued to guests and media upon registration.

2. Badges will be required for admission to all meetings and social functions. Any meal or event ticket issued will be collected at the designated meal or event.

3. Non-members of American Agri-Women will be issued badges at the convention according to status (unaffiliated groups, etc.) upon payment of any required registration fees.

4. Voting members will be issued special markings on their badges.

5. A quorum shall consist of one-third of those voting members registered at the convention and must include at least three officers five affiliate delegates and five commodity or issues chairs.

6. When making a motion or speaking in debate, go to the microphone, address the chair, and, upon recognition, give your name, state and the name of your affiliate.

7. All main motions and amendments shall be presented to the secretary in writing and signed by the maker of the motion.

8. A speaker may speak for no more than two minutes on a question and no more than twice on the same question. No one may speak a second time on the same issue until all who wish to speak have been heard within the designated time frame. This rule will be strictly enforced.

9. Nominations from the floor are allowed, provided written consent of the nominee had been obtained, an application has been filed with the secretary and reviewed by the nominating committee to determine if the application is complete and qualified for pending nomination position. This process must be completed before the annual business meeting begins. No more than two minutes will be allowed for each nomination.

10. Emergency resolutions may be considered by 2/3-vote of the voting delegates registered at the convention.

11. Robert’s Rules of Order, newly revised, shall be the parliamentary authority and shall govern proceedings not covered in these rules or AAW bylaws.

12. Cellular phones should be turned off or set to vibrate mode during all sessions.
Arlene Kovash was born and raised on a small farm in a rural community near Phoenix, Arizona. She and her three sisters were active in 4-H, where she participated in several different project areas and where she developed most of her leadership skills. She majored in home economics at Arizona State University but got seriously involved in agriculture when she met and married ag teacher Paul Kovash.

Hoping to escape the heat, the family (now including two daughters) moved to Corvallis, Oregon, where Paul was hired to teach Vocational Agriculture, which he did for 30 years, and also started farming. Arlene got involved in Oregon Women for Agriculture through their farming and teaching contacts and has remained active for 45 years, holding several offices, including president of OWA, and president, secretary, and treasurer of Polk County Women for Ag, plus serving terms as vice president of communications and secretary of AAW. She also served as editor of both the OWA and AAW newsletters for several years, as well as editor of their county farm bureau newsletter. She is currently editor of the AAW directory and secretary of the AAW Foundation board.

Paul and Arlene both received Oregon State University’s Diamond Pioneer Award this year for their many years of service to agriculture.
VP of Education Nominee
Jean Goslin,
Kansas Agri-Women

The family, faith, and farm quickly sum up Jean's life. The three are so intertwined it is hard for her to separate them. At this point in her life, she is an equipment operator, bookkeeper, and cow counter in our small cow/calf, hay operation in the Flint Hills of Kansas. Jean has been involved in 4-H for 20+ years in the livestock association in her old county. At present, she is vice chair of my county Farm Bureau board.

If elected, she will do her best to work with the executive committee to move this fantastic organization forward.

Foundation Board Nominee
Linda Schiffer,
Wyoming Agri-Women

Agriculture (ranching) and all other aspects of agriculture have been my life. She graduated High School in Roberts, MT, and Sheridan Community College in Sheridan, WY, with an Associate Degree. In 1988 I started working with Superior Livestock Action as a Rep., consigning cattle and handling the deliveries. I married my husband Tony in 1998, and we have been in the cow/calf, yearling business along with S.L.A.

As a Rep. for Superior Livestock, this has allowed me to see many different cattle operations and travel the countryside. Plus, I've met many wonderful people throughout the great western states.

She has been with American Agri-Women since 2011 and helped start the Wyoming Agri-Women in 2010/2011.

Linda is very excited about her next big adventure, the Wyoming L.E.A.D. program.
Foundation Board Nominee and Nominating Committee Nominee
Ardath DeWall, Illinois Agri-Women

Ardath and her husband own and operate a dairy operation, Shannondoah Holsteins, in Shannon, IL, milking 230 Holstein cows with a tenant, raising corn, soybeans, and alfalfa.

Ardath is a member of the National Dairy Board, serving two terms; president of the Agricultural Women’s Leadership Network and president of AMPI Women 2 terms. Currently, Ardath serves on the Foremost Farms USA Board of Directors/Executive Committee, Midwest Dairy Association Board of Directors, Highland Community College Foundation Board of Directions, and is an active member of Prairie Dell Presbyterian Church and various civic organizations. Awards include her and her husband named 1974 Outstanding Young Cooperator of AMI, 1984 National Dairy Women of the Year, 2004 Dairy Industry Service Award, and 1985 American Agri-Women’s Leaven recipient.

Foundation Board Nominee and Nominating Committee Nominee
Maggie Howley, Montana Agri-Women

Maggie grew up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin, with milk and agriculture running through her veins. She has spent her life promoting agriculture and raising her five children. A life-long educator, and high school teacher, Maggie was a founding member of Montana Agri-Women. Besides devoting her time to Agri-Women, Maggie is involved in Pony Club on a national level. Maggie's numerous passions include gardening, sourdough baking, traveling, grandkids, horses, and serving Jesus.

Continued on next page
As an independent agricultural consultant for nearly 40 years, Ruth traveled the world for clients, including the World Bank, United Nations, and the U/S. State Department. Her work included agriculture and water resource policy consulting projects for California farmers and farm organizations. Some of Ruth's work is published by the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage.

This year Ruth Jensen celebrates 39 years as a member of American Agri-Women. She has served as an active member of California Women for Agriculture, Wisconsin Women for Agriculture, and Florida Agri-Women. Over the years, Ruth has served as President of three different Chapters of CWA and is a founding member of a chapter in Wisconsin. She currently serves as State President for FAW, AAW White House Liaison, AAW Web Tech, and Chair of AAW Fly-In to DC.

Ruth is married to Dr. Ken Jensen. They are members of the Knoxville American Legion, Knoxville Moose Club, and the Sons of Norway. Ruth worships with St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Sue and her husband, Jay, are in their 51st year planting potatoes in Maine. They planted 65 acres of potatoes that 1st year with the same acreage in grain as a rotation crop. Fast forward nearly 51 years, and her two sons, two brothers-in-law, three nephews, and extended family have helped their family operation be more than a “job” but a way of life for all of us. Their acreage has grown. The family now has its own transportation company and has expanded its operations into the potato processing of French Fries and value-added potato products. Sue has two grandsons, nephews, and two granddaughters who hope to be the 6th generation to continue growing and processing potatoes! Her granddaughter, Dayna, is working for their farming and processing operation as head of their Human Resource dept. All eight of Sue’s grandchildren are AAW Legacy Kids. And all but two of them have attended an AAW Fly-In.

Sue was a founding member of Maine Agri-Women. She has held several leadership positions in that organization, including President. Sue was a co-chair of the 2002 American Agri-Women convention hosted by Maine Agri-Women. Sue has served on the AAW Nominating committee three times. She has served on the AAW Foundation BOARD 2 terms. She also received the AAW Leaven Award in 2015. Sue served as AAW 1st VP 2011-2013, AAW President 2013-2015, and past AAW Past President 2015-2017.
American Agri-Women is honored to announce four Helen Whitmore Memorial Scholarship recipients to attend the annual AAW Convention held in November. The scholarship is for $500.

Ashly Ann LemHouse, Junction City, Oregon, obtained a Bachelor of Science at Oregon State University in Agricultural Sciences and volunteers Oregon Ag in the Classroom. After graduation, her first job was at an organic dairy in Bavaria, Germany. Ashly is very excited about attending our national event with other like-minded, hardworking women who are also passionate about agriculture.

Kelby Riley, Abernathy, TX, after High School graduation, attended West Texas A&M, graduated with an Ag Media & Communications B.S. degree with a minor in Ag Business in 2014, and went on to get her M.B.A. in 2018. Kelby is very active in the Texas Agri-Women Panhandle Chapter, holding the office of Vice-President. Community Service has always been a big part of Kelby’s life.

Keila Schilling, Dalhart, Texas, graduated from West Texas A&M, majoring in Ag-Business and Applied Agriculture Economics, Masters in Agri-Business from Texas A&M, and is presently working for Capital Farm Credit. She joined AAW in 2019, working with Texas Agri-Women to get a new chapter organized. Shilling was elected as chapter president for 2020-2021, and has since transitioned to Parliamentarian for 2022. Her goals are to utilize her personal experiences, grow and expand her knowledge in agriculture and continue to be a force in her community.

Jami Willard, Interlaken, New York, was an early graduate from high school since her grandfather needed help. She completed a senior internship year on his farm where she managed calves for the local dairy farm while going to community college. Willard completed an associate’s degree, finished a bachelor’s degree online through Ashford University, a Master’s Degree in Agricultural Education from Sunny Oswego and completed her student teaching as an actual teacher in the field in the Fall of 2020. She is the FFA advisor who has fantastic support from the school and community. Because of them. Willard and the FFA chapter has made a significant impact in a short time. They recently brought back the FFA Chapter and Willards future goals would be to construct a school barn to teach students more hands-on by giving them real-life experiences.

Helen Whitmore would be very proud of the four scholarship recipients we honor at the American Agri-Women Convention this November. This scholarship was named to honor Helen Whitmore, a well-respected rancher, and teacher from California, in 1993.

The scholarship was established to increase active involvement in AAW and to encourage members to influence their home affiliate members. The passion and desire to build relationships that further develop and support the foundation of agriculture is for our great nation.
Legacy Kids & Sponsors

Lanston Berry
Laney Elizabeth Baker
Bree Desiree Bellanger
Jace George Bellanger
Esther Marie Craft
Kalea Dale
Brooklyn Paige DeWall
Jackson Gilceland
Grace Gilleland
Cortlyn Gillett
Emily Ann Glaze
Madelyn Grace Glaze
Elizabeth Jo Hart
Jhett Foster Hart
Kenton Joe Hart
Kinley Madalyn Hart
Charlie Janu
Alexa Janu
George Carter Kittelmann
Ailen Knodle
Bond Knodle
Fallon Knodle
Louis Zurn Marshall
McClain Marie Marshall
Collin McCrum
Catherine McCrum
Abram McCrum
Lane McCrum
Ava Lauren Neff
Cadence Peterson
Shane Reid
Chloe Michele Ruiz
Nash Elliott Sanders
Talley Kate Sanders
Madison Speer
McKenzie Speer
John Matasovic Swiercinsky
Emilee Grace Synatschk
Bailie Lynn Synatschk
Kylene Kate Synatschk
Brantley Alton Synatschk
Brianna Townsend
Anicia Whited
Ava Whited
Will Whited
Sarah Harris Hamilton Whyte
Makena Rachel Yeagle
Dominic Nash Zavala
Carlee Zurn
Riley Zurn
Samuel Zurn
William (Billy) Zima
Karolyn Zurn
Karen Yost
Merlyn Verstuyft
Merlyn Verstuyft
Jane Marshall
Ardath DeWall
Melody Speer
Melody Speer
Laura Ann Glaze
Laura Ann Glaze
Laura Hart
Laura Hart
Laura Hart
Laura Hart
Karolyn Zurn
Karolyn Zurn
Kellie Kittlemann
Heather Hampton+Knodle
Heather Hampton+Knodle
Heather Hampton+Knodle
Karolyn Zurn
Karolyn Zurn
Sue McCrum
Sue McCrum
Patti McCrum
Patti McCrum
Kathy Rhodes
Janell Reid
Merlyn Verstuyft
Laura Hart
Melody Speer
Melody Speer
Linda Swiercinsky
Laura Hart
Laura Hart
Laura Hart
Laura Hart
Pam Townsend
Sue McCrum
Sue McCrum
Sue McCrum
Pat Yeagle
Merlyn Verstuyft
Karolyn Zurn
Karolyn Zurn
Karolyn Zurn
AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN
LEGACY KIDS
MEMBERSHIP FORM

Legacy Kids Memberships are available from American Agri-Women members to purchase as gifts to children/young people from birth through age eighteen.

Each year until age eighteen, the Legacy Kids’ member will receive correspondence from AAW and the opportunity to apply for the American Agri Women Trenna Grabowski Legacy Fly-in Scholarship once they reach age 8-18.

Return this form and $100.00 Enrollment Fee to Chris Wilson, AAW Foundation Treasurer, 2103 Zeandale Rd, Manhattan, KS 66502. Please make checks out to AAW Foundation.

AAW Member Making Application:

Name: ________________________________________________________________________
(First)   (Middle)   (Last)

Address: ______________________________________________________________________
(Street or Box)   (City)   (State)   (Zip Code)

Phone: ( ) ______________

Email: _______________________________________

Name of Legacy Kid

Name: ________________________________________________________________________
(First)   (Middle)   (Last)

Address: ______________________________________________________________________
(Street or Box)   (City)   (State)   (Zip Code)

Phone: ( ) ______________

Email: _______________________________________

Date of Birth: ________________________________

Relationship to Member: ________________________________
THANK YOU TO OUR AFFILIATES!

- American National Cattlewomen
- California Women for Agriculture
- Ceres International Fraternity
- Colorado Agri-Women
- Florida Agri-Women
- Foremost Farms USA
- Fur Commission USA
- Idaho Women in Timber
- Illinois Agri-Women
- Kansas Agri-Women
- Kentucky Women in Agriculture
- Maine Agri-Women
- Minnesota Agri-Women
- Montana Agri-Women
- National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association
- Nevada Agri-Women
- New Mexico Wool Grower’s Auxiliary
- Oregon Women for Agriculture
- Oregon Women in Timber
- Sigma Alpha Sorority
- Texas Agri-Women
- United Ag
- Wisconsin Women for Agriculture
- Women of Kansas Agriculture Aviation Association
- Women’s Mining Coalition
- Wyoming Agri-Women

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

- AAW Members
- AgriPulse
- AgPR/AgNewsCenter
- American Petroleum Institute
- American Property Casualty Insurance Association
- Bayer Crop Science
- Casualty Insurance
- CCI Marketing
- Cobank
- CropLife America
- Farm Credit
- Food Industry Environmental Network
- KEY Apparel
- Mahindra/North America Corporation
- Maine Agri-Women
- McCain Foods
- Minnesota Agri-Women
- Montana Agri-Women
- National Association of Broadcasters
- Nutra-Lix, Inc.
- Ohio Agri-Women
- Osborn Barr Paramore
- Penobscot/McCrum
- Property Casualty Insurers of American
- Rural and Agriculture Council of America
- Superior Livestock Auction
- Syngenta
- Texas Agri-Women
- University of Minnesota Ext.-Women in Ag Network
- Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety & Health Center
- Versatile
- Western Growers Association
- Western Skies Strategies
- Women in Ag Network
- Zurn Farm
2022 Gail McPherson Legislative Fly-In Scholarship Recipient Reports

Washington D.C Newcomer
Kathy Goodyke

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the 36th Annual AAW Fly-in from June 5-7, 2022. As my first time in attending a Fly-in or even being in Washington, D.C., it was more then I expected. My fellow Minnesotan, Karolyn Zurn made the congressional invites. We were able to visit with Minnesota’s 7th District, Michelle Fischbach (my district), Congressman Pete Stauber (Karolyn’s district), and Tom Ernmer’s legislative assistant. I was amazed at how appreciative each Congress Person was in accepting AAW's White Papers and our visit. Our congress people want to hear from their districts. It is very important that we Jet them know what is happening and what is needed in our districts so that they can be leaders for us. Highlights of the Fly-In included orientation on Sunday evening to review the White Papers and get to know each other. The Symposium with Jeff Nalley from Agri-Pulse as the moderator. The Press Club panel of speakers and Mitzi Perdue. Those times that were not on the agenda, gave us time to share, laugh, cry, and get to know each other more. Thank you for the experience, knowledge, and friendships I will cherish.

My First AAW Fly-In Experience
Cheryl Lambert, CWA Northern District Director and Natural Resources Task Force Director

This was my first AAW Fly-in, and I was quite sure it was going to be an experience to remember. That proved to be true as I embarked on an incredible adventure as I arrived in Arlington, Virginia. It was a whirlwind three days of meetings with agencies and legislators, Uber rides, dinners, awards ceremonies, drive-by sight-seeing, and networking with AAW members from across the country. The most enjoyable and memorable moments were spent with other AAW members and the camaraderie which we developed.

It was interesting to visit the USDA Jamie Whitten Building in Washington DC, since I retired from the USDA, NRCS in 2017 after 19 years of civil service. I spent the other half of my career in the private sector in the agriculture and horticulture allied trades and other positions. I felt a sense of pride in being in the place it all started on May 15, 1862, when Abraham Lincoln declared the USDA the “People’s Department.” For more information go to Lincoln’s Agricultural Legacy | National Agricultural Library (usda.gov)

Visits with the USDA, EPA and Homeland Security officials were productive in laying the groundwork to share our views and issues that affect agricultural producers and women. They were candid with us and shared what each department and agency can do for our cause within their missions.

Continued on next page
The highlights were many, and I especially liked the Special Panel session’s moderator, Broadcaster Jeff Nalley, and the thought provoking, honest discussion with questions and answers on the topic of Rebirth, Refuel and Renewal of our country’s natural resourcesand energy. We also had a chance to pose questions about food security, trade, shipping, water, and program funding.

My favorites were the National Press Association dinner and panel discussion. Mitsi Purdue was our wonderful and gracious moderator, and the speakers were well-versed in topics of interest to our group. An inspirational US flag folding ceremony took place orchestrated by one of the speakers who is a veteran Marine which moved me to tears.

Of course, we all spent an afternoon meeting with members of Congress and their staffs to deliver the White Papers on a wide array of topics and let our voices be heard both in support and opposition of agricultural issues. That was also an impressive experience, and a chance to walk the halls of Congress and see the democratic process in action.

I want to thank everyone on the AAW Fly-in Committee for doing an excellent job of setting up the venues and planning, everyone who contributed to the White Papers and the AAW Executive Board for their leadership and kindness during our stay. I appreciated the Uber team leaders who showed us around and got us from place to place on time, and the AAW Scholarship Committee for choosing three recipients for this year’s Gail McPherson Fly-in Scholarship. I owe you all a big round of applause for your Grace and Grit. I made so many new friends and it was truly an inspiring trip.

My First AAW Fly-In Experience

Debbie Bacigalupi, MBA, CS, CMP

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The 2022 AAW Fly-In was worth every second. While I’ve been to DC for numerous occasions, it was truly a privilege to be part of AAW as we were well-received. Of course, this is due to the time many of you invest in making AAW a highly effective and respected organization. We heard repeatedly from elected representatives to federal agencies how much our AAW presence and voices are needed. I think we all agree.

The topics (white papers) we addressed with our elected officials were important and outstanding. I was asked to address ESG (Environmental Social Governance) a topic often heard in the news as most companies across the world, even in the United States, are incorporating this global agenda into their business model. While ESG is vastly encompassing, in short, it strongarms companies to adopt 21st century policies pertaining to environment and climate change, social equity including diversity in workforce, and altering the governance of a private company. Believe it or not, the United Nations and its Principles for Responsible Investing (UNPRI) and the stock market are key to this movement a topic I’m very passionate about exposing.

What an honor to meet wonderful AAW ladies from all over and be a part of a great AAW team who recognized Congressman Doug LaMalfa (CA) for his tireless efforts on big issues like wildfires and preventing the largest dam destruction project in world-wide history (on the Klamath River). These issues hugely affect agriculture and I’m so thrilled AAW chose him as 2022 Champion of Agriculture.

Finally, thank you for the scholarship the Fly-In is something I will cherish and talk about for a very, very long time, like forever!! God bless you all!
American Agri-Women attend Syngenta’s Leadership At Its Best

July 25-29, 2022, in Raleigh, NC, and Washington, D.C.

Laura Hart, AAW VP of Communications; Anjie Erbsen, Illinois Agri-Women; Rose Tryon, AAW First VP; and Lindie Huffman, Kentucky Agri-Women represented AAW at Syngenta’s Leadership at its Best (LAIB) advocacy program in 2022. This program gives growers and retailers the skills to advocate for agriculture more effectively and has operated alongside agricultural associations and commodity group for over 30 years. During the sessions, held at various times and locations across the country, program participants learn how to refine professional skills, such as public speaking, media outreach, association management, business etiquette, and lobbying. They then take these skills back to their state and national organizations to become stronger leaders and better agriculture advocates.
Sigma Alpha: A Year in Review

Submitted by: Katelyn Zeamer
Sigma Alpha National Outreach Director

Classes are back in session at college campuses across the country, bringing our Sigma Alpha sisters back together once again. With the start of a new semester underway, that means our sisters are busy recruiting new members to join our growing organization. We are excited to continue to support current and prospective members through our professional agricultural sorority that promotes scholarship, leadership, fellowship, and service.

Late this summer, Sigma Alpha collegiate and alumna members gathered in St. Paul, Minnesota for our biannual Conclave (July 30-31). Our sisters had the opportunity to tour Bayer’s production facility in Shakopee, MN and learn from several of their team members about seed research, production, sales, and so much more. In addition, we had our yearly official business meeting which included committee meetings where our members were able to share ideas about the future of our organization through our pillars and strategic plan. Members then got to participate in our National Service Project, where we helped several Master Gardeners in the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan areas. One group also arranged Ag in the Classroom kits focusing around seed germination for Minnesota classrooms. Before Emerald Banquet, our members had a chance to network with other sisters from around the nation at the Conversations and Cocktails.

At our Emerald Banquet which concluded Conclave, we had the opportunity to celebrate many of our sisters and their chapter’s achievements through our awards program. It is with great honor that we get to recognize our members for the excellent work they put into their chapters and this organization. The recipients of these awards can be found in our September edition of the Emerald Times on sigmaalpha.org.

Looking forward, Sigma Alpha is continuing our commitment to grow as an organization. This includes increasing the number of collegiate and alumna members, increasing professional opportunities, and expanding our connections with affiliate organizations. We will accomplish this through our significant purpose: Empower Diverse Women. Foster Lifelong Collaboration. Impact Agriculture.
AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN
2023 MID-YEAR
SAVE THE DATES
April 12 – 16, 2023

Embassy Suites by Hilton – Nashville Airport
10 Century Boulevard
Nashville, TN 37214

Meeting Dates are April 12 – 16, 2023
Group Rate: $169.00 + Tax
For reservations, please call 855 605 0319
Or go directly to the link below:
American Agri-Women 2023 Mid-Year - April 12 - 16

The deadline for this rate is March 13, 2023
For Information: 775-721-3381