PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Lead, Manage, Follow Through

In his February 28, 2023 report, Kevin Van Trump shared his insights on the character traits of leaders developed over 30 years in the commodity trading industry. He encouraged readers to ask each day if they were acting like a leader or a manager and shared a few differences:

- Leaders create a vision, and managers create goals.
- Leaders are change agents, and managers work to maintain their status.
- Leaders take a risk, and managers evaluate risks.
- Leaders create a circle of influence, and managers create a circle of power.
- Leaders attempt to create value, and managers are always counting value.
- Leaders ensure the overall values and ethics of the organization, and managers work to achieve targets and goals.
- Leaders help people believe in themselves, and managers stress day-to-day tasks and performance progress.
- Leaders invent or innovate, while a manager organizes.
- Leaders create a relationship, and managers create systems.
- Leaders build and inspire trust, and managers rely on control.

He quoted Abraham Zaleznik as writing, “Managers embrace the process, seek stability and control, and instinctively try to resolve problems quickly – sometimes before they fully understand a problem’s significance. Leaders, in contrast, tolerate chaos and lack of structure and are willing to delay closure to understand the issues more fully.”

We need leaders and managers to run an all-volunteer organization such as American Agri-Women. Our need for managers is ever present; we need effective managers to provide timely and regular information to members, plan and implement events, track our membership records, and keep operations running smoothly.

We need leaders to create an inclusive environment that leads to gathering multiple points of view. Hence, we innovate in delivering value to members while developing initiatives to carry out our Mission.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Linda Schiffer of Wyoming, seeks candidates to lead as First Vice President, VP of Communication, and Treasurer positions starting November at the AAW annual meeting. These individuals will serve on an Executive Committee that includes me as Past President, IL; Rose Tryon VanCott as President, CA; Jean Goslin as VP of Education, KS; and Arlene Kovash as Secretary, OR. Members can find the nomination forms and the position descriptions on the website under membership.

Generous sponsorships have allowed AAW to lay the groundwork for a next-level leadership program called “Road to Influence.” We are finalizing the application process now. Please stay tuned because all AAW members are invited to apply to participate in this personal and professional development program that will launch in conjunction with an event – Ag Women Leading with Impact - open to everyone at the Peppermill Resort Hotel (includes Spa and Casino) in Reno, Nevada on August 24th-25th.

continued on page 2
Presidents Message continued

AAW offers another opportunity for each of us to lead as spokespeople for our industry at our upcoming Legislative Fly-In to Washington, D.C., June 4th-6th, with our base of operations just across the river in Alexandria, Virginia. Fly-In Chairman Ruth Jensen has worked with committee members, including past presidents and the current Executive Committee, to plan visits with EPA and USDA officials at their headquarters, a reception in the House Agriculture Committee room on June 6, a visit to the Embassy of Italy and the Symposium on "Border Security Equals National Security" on Monday, June 5. Orientation will kick off in person on Sunday, June 4, and via webinar in mid-May. You can register through our website under the events section.

We live in interesting and exciting, often challenging times. These times need each of us to be ready to lead – wherever we live and whenever we are in our life’s journey. Thank you for allowing me to serve alongside you as we become better leaders and managers.

Sincerely,
Heather Hampton+Knodle
President

Stay Connected With American Agri-Women

www.americanagriwomen.org

American Agri-Women
Women4Ag
@americanagriwomen
@Women4Ag
@AmericanAgriWomen

@americanagriwomen1974
@AmericanAgriWomen
@aaw1974
2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 1 - Gail McPherson Fly-In Scholarship - Applications due to the Foundation Scholarship Chair

May 1 - Legacy Kids Fly-In Scholarship - Applications due to the Foundation Scholarship Chair

June 4-8 - AAW Legislative Fly-In, Washington, DC

July 1 - AAW Veritas Award - Submit nominations to the Veritas Chair at veritas@americanagriwomen.org

August 1 - AAW Officer Nominations - Submit to the nominating chair at nominating@americanagriwomen.org

August 1 - AAW LEAVEN Award - Submit nomination to the LEAVEN Chair at leaven@americanagriwomen.org

August 15 - Helen Whitmore Memorial Convention Scholarship - Applications due to the Foundation Scholarship Chair

October 1 - AAW Affiliate and Committee Annual Reports Due - Submit reports to secretary@americanagriwomen.org

November 1-5 - AAW Annual Convention, Sacramento, CA

2023 AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

Arlene Kovash, Secretary
secretary@americanagriwomen.org
Affiliate: Oregon Women for Agriculture

Rose Tryon Vancott, First VP, Resolution & Vital Issues
firstvp@americanagriwomen.org
Affiliate: California Women for Agriculture

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

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

Karolyn Zurn, Past President
pastpresident@americanagriwomen.org
Affiliate: Minnesota Agri-Women

Jean Goslin, Vice President, Education
education@americanagriwomen.org
Affiliate: Kansas Agri-Women

We can do it together!
2023 AAW POST-MID-YEAR REPORT

The 2023 AAW Mid-Year meeting was held in beautiful Nashville, TN, April 12-15 at the Embassy Suites Hilton - Nashville Airport. Women nationwide gathered to discuss current agricultural issues and policies and voted to create the 2023 AAW Position Statements.

The meeting began Thursday afternoon, with both the Executive and Foundation committees holding their meetings, followed by a joint planning session between the two committees.

Friday morning, we started with the Board of Directors meeting followed by a welcome message by Heather Hampton+Knodle, AAW President, and mid-year orientation by First VP Rose Tryon VanCott. Following orientation, the group traveled downtown Nashville to the RFD-TV studio. After the RFD-TV tour, we heard about Media Strategies from Genevieve O’Sullivan, VP of Marketing CropLife America. For the remainder of the afternoon, members worked on updating the AAW Position Statements.

Members finished the position statement on the final day and voted to accept them along with fly-in orientation.

The AAW Foundation held the mid-year silent auction, where members donated items to be used for the fundraiser.

AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

An individual may pay $500 in one lump sum for a lifetime membership to AAW. This may also be gifted or donated to a special member. Lifetime members enjoy all the rights and privileges of a full voting membership for their lives and join the elite group of AAW leadership for special recognition.

If you are interested, please mail your check to Kathy Goodyke, AAW Treasurer
25204 210th St. SW
Crookston, MN 56716

Make check payable to American Agri-Women - Memo: Name and Lifetime Membership.
2023 MID-YEAR

NASHVILLE
## American Agri-Women Sponsors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>American Agri-Women Members</th>
<th>Central Arizona Project</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Deere</td>
<td>Minnesota Agri-Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>Syngenta</td>
<td>Versatile Equipment</td>
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<td>Bayer</td>
<td>American Soybean Association</td>
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<td>American Petroleum Institute</td>
<td>Holland and Knight LLP</td>
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<td>Farm Journal Foundation</td>
<td>CropLife America</td>
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<td>Western Skies</td>
<td>Reavis Farms</td>
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<td>DeWall Farms</td>
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<td>AgPR/AgNewsCenter</td>
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*We thank these sponsors for their generous donations.*

## American Agri-Women Affiliates

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<tr>
<th>American National Cattlewomen</th>
<th>Montana Agri-Women</th>
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<tr>
<td>California Women for Agriculture</td>
<td>National Latino Farmers &amp; Ranchers Trade Association</td>
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<td>Colorado Agri-Women</td>
<td>New Mexico Wool Growers Auxiliary</td>
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<td>Florida Agri-Women</td>
<td>Oregon Women for Agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foremost Farm USA</td>
<td>Oregon Women in Timber</td>
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<td>Fur Commission USA</td>
<td>Sigma Alpha Sorority</td>
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<td>Idaho Women in Timber</td>
<td>Texas Agri-Women</td>
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<td>Women of Kansas Agriculture Aviation Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maine Agri-Women</td>
<td>Women’s Mining Coalition</td>
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<td>Minnesota Agri-Women</td>
<td>Wyoming Agri-Women</td>
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*We can do it together!*
With the advent of loosening COVID restrictions and a new Congress willing to re-open the Capitol to the general public, your AAW Fly-In Committee is poised to produce an exceptional Fly-In experience again. As a participant, you will build relationships, acquire firsthand knowledge, access decision-makers, and enjoy our nation’s capital.

Fly-In dates are Sunday, June 5, through Wednesday, June 8, 2023. Click here for **REGISTRATION**, and lodging is reserved at the Embassy Suites by Hilton at National Airport in Crystal City. For reservations, call: 703-979-9799 or click here: **Embassy Suites**.

When planning your visit to Wash-ington, D.C., consider arriving early to enjoy a little sightseeing, perhaps visit a museum or memorial before our Sunday afternoon orientation.

Orientation will feature an overview of meeting with legislators, our White Paper priority issues, and answer logistics questions you may have by our First Vice President, who oversees Governmental issues, Rose Tryon.

Monday will start with the AAW Symposium: “Border Security & Food Security Equals National Security,” Presented by the AAW Past Presidents’ Council at the USDA Press Room. These events are always informative. It’s a panel-style presentation with multiple speakers discussing the issue’s different aspects. There will be lots of opportunities for questions and discussion.

We will meet with Administration officials, including agency leaders from USEPA and USDA. We are also planning a visit to the Embassy of Italy.

AAW members are encouraged to schedule visits with their **Senators** and members of **Congress** for Tuesday afternoon. Remember to invite them and their staff to our congressional reception from 4:30-6:30 in the House Agriculture Committee room. Attendees will dine on their own each night.

You can review our full itinerary and register now at [www.americanagriwomen.org](http://www.americanagriwomen.org) and be sure to book your hotel room soon.

*Ruth Jensen, Fly-In Chair*
AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN

2023 FLY-IN
WASHINGTON, DC

JUNE 4 – 7, 2023

Embassy Suites Crystal City
1393 S. Eads St. Arlington, VA 22202

Group Rate: $209 + Tax – King $229 + Tax – Double

For reservation, call 703-979-9799
Or go directly to the link below:

Click here for Embassy Suites Reservation

Deadline for this rate is May 5, 2022

For Information: Ruth Jensen 805-264-4476
AAW 2023
Legislative Fly-In Schedule

Embassy Suites-Crystal City 1393 S. Eads, Arlington, VA

SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2023
Registration: Embassy Suites & Doubletree
REGISTRATION WILL BE AT BOTH HOTELS
3 – 5:00 p.m. AAW Orientation, Double Tree Hotel
- Orientation: The Orientation Meeting is late Sunday afternoon to allow participants time to arrive and to check in to the hotel. Orientation is the opportunity for everyone to gather together, get an overview of the Itinerary for the week, and review the key AAW issues that participants will take to their appointments. This is also the time when the name tags, Agenda Packets, and Advocacy Packets are distributed

Dinner on Your Own

MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2023
7:30 a.m. Charter Bus from Hotel Lobby
7:50 a.m. USDA Jamie Whitten Building,
1400 Independence Ave.
Jefferson Drive Entrance
USDA 107-A Press Room

8 – 8:30 a.m. Security Clearance
9 – 11:30 a.m. 28th Annual Symposium –

11:30 – 11:45 Charter Bus to – NFIB
11:45 – 1 pm Luncheon in the Penthouse
555 12th Street NW
Washington, DC 20004

1:10 pm -1:30 Charter Bus to EPA
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
1:30 -2 p.m. EPA – Security Clearance
2:00 - 3:00 p.m. EPA Agency Roundtable Visit
Rachel Carson Green Room

3:00 pm Charter Bus to Embassy
3:30- 4:45 p.m. Embassy Visit – Italy
3000 Whits Haven St., NW

Dinner on Your Own

TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2023
7:45 a.m. Taxi/Ubers Departs for USDA
Jamie Whitten Building,
1400 Independence Ave.,
Jefferson Dr

8:30 a.m. Security Clearance

9:00 – 11:30 a.m. USDA Roundtable (NRCS, TRADE, USFS, NASS)
Williamsburg Room 104A

Noon – 1:30 p.m. Lunch – On Your Own

1:30 – 4:30 pm Congressional Appointments

5:00 p.m. -6:00 p.m. Congressional Reception
Champion of Agriculture Award
House Agriculture Committee
1300 Longworth
Group Photo

6:30 p.m. Dinner on Your Own

Attendees are encouraged to set their own congressional appointments for Tuesday

Fly-In Meeting Descriptions:
- Symposium: This year AAW celebrates its 28th Symposium. The AAW Past Presidents host the Symposium to feature an expert panel on a timely topic. After the speakers present, audience members may ask questions from a microphone. This event is usually recorded, transcribed and made available to members.

- Agency Roundtable: The USDA Agency Roundtable has always been a favorite for Fly-In and planned for Tuesday morning. High level agency officials are invited to speak in 15-20 minute increments, allowing 5 minutes for Q&A. Two – three hours are generally allowed for this event, depending on the number of speakers.

- EPA Roundtable: AAW has also met with EPA officials over the past 28 years. This casual exchange of information includes open dialogue on vital issues.

YOU WILL FIND THE 2023 AAW POSITION STATEMENTS HERE.
password: aawagday1974
American Agri-Women Fly-In
Registration Form
June 4 – 7, 2023

Embassy Suites by Hilton Crystal City National Airport
1393 S. Eads Street, Arlington, VA 22202
703-979-9799

Name _______________________________ City __________ State ___ Zip ___________
Phone ______________________________ Email _______________________________
Affiliate ____________________________
Special interests and issues (legislative or regulatory) _____________________________

_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

Senate and House Bills in which you are particularly interested ______________________

Do you want us to find you a roommate?  YES  NO  Special Needs? _______________

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Collegiate/Student Registration</td>
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<td>LATE ADDITIONAL FEE (May 12 – 24)</td>
<td>$25</td>
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**You must register by May 24, 2023. No on-site registration.**

Grand Total $ _______

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

To Register: Go online to www.americanagriwomen.org or complete and submit the form here Fly-In Registration or mail registration and payment to: AAW Fly-In, Kathy Goodyke, 25204 210th ST SW, Crookston, MN 56716
For more information, call Ruth Jensen  805-264-4476 or visit: www.americanagriwomen.org.

Hotel Information: Deadline date to make reservations is May 5, 2023. Meetings being held at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Crystal City National Airport, 1393 South Eads Street, Arlington, VA 22202. A block of rooms has been acquired for the dates of June 3-8. Call 703-979-9799 and reference the AAW Fly-In Group to make a reservation or click here: Embassy Suites Crystal City.

Rates are $229 per night for a double bed suite or $209 for a king bed suite plus VA sales tax (currently 6%, hotel occupancy tax 8.25%). Credit card information is needed with reservation. Reservations requests received after the deadline, will be subject to availability and prevailing rate. Check in time is 4PM and check out time is 11AM. Room includes complimentary wireless internet, breakfast and cocktail time. Parking for participants is $42.00 + tax per day or Self-Parking at $30.00 + tax per day. There is a complimentary airport shuttle to and from Reagan National Airport. Cancellations: Policy is 72 hours prior to date of arrival to avoid one night’s room plus tax and cancellation charge to your credit card. Be sure to retain the cancellation number

Shipping: If you need to ship anything to the hotel, send to Embassy Suites by Hilton Crystal City National Airport - ATTN: AAW June 3-8 2023, 1393 South Eads Street, Arlington, VA 22202.

Photographs of attendees may be taken at this event. These may appear in AAW publications and in online communications. By registering for this conference, you authorize AAW the right to use photographs taken of you for AAW communication.
American Agri-Women Fly-In
Washington, DC, June 4 – 7, 2023

Embassy Suites Crystal City
1393 South Eads Street
Arlington, VA 22202
(703) 979-9799

Complimentary Full Hot Buffet Breakfast served daily. Evening Cocktails & Appetizers

Located near Reagan National Airport
Near the Metro Station Name: Pentagon City

Every year AAW arranges for a “Fly-In to Washington, DC” event for members of American Agri-Women. Your registration covers expenses such as the bus that transports us around during our AAW activities; water; materials; lunches; and incidentals. Around 40 – 60 women from all over the country gather in Washington, DC to host a Symposium on a timely issue, meet with high level agriculture related agencies, such as USDA, EPA, FDA, Homeland Security and sometimes even the White House. We also make appointments with members of congress or “make the rounds” and discuss priority AAW issues and for some, home state issues.

In addition, we visit an International Embassy (this year we will visit the Embassy of Israel) ~ during our visit we will experience a “taste of Italy” and an overview of the country’s agriculture connection to the United States, trade, culture to name a few. Bring your passport, because sometimes the host country will stamp it!

During our orientation and briefing we review our Policy Statements, White Papers and go over protocols, and logistics.

Prior to your travel, you will receive a Fly-In Itinerary, as well as, copies of the Invitation to the Congressional Reception to share during your Congressional visits.

**UNITED VOICE ON KEY ISSUES:** The AAW Fly-In is intended to bring members from around the country to Washington, DC to engage with agriculturally related government agencies, as well as, deliver a united voice on the AAW priority issues of the time.

AAW offers an orientation prior to the Fly-In activities to provide a forum for participants to meet each other, familiarize them with others’ state’s issues and to offer participants an overview of the AAW priority issues. While affiliate members can include their unique priority issues when visiting congressional members, if they have time, affiliates are encouraged to visit their congressional members on your specific issues when they are in your home town office.
Every member attending the Fly-In is doing so at their own time, as a volunteer and at their own expense, which can be rather costly for some. As such, participants are not required to visit specific members of congress. The purpose of the trip is to have dialog with as many members of Congress as possible about AAW priority issues. It is much appreciated if participants would take the time to help make the rounds so that AAW visibility can be as high as possible during our afternoon at the US Capitol. Each congressional office would have already received a copy of the AAW priority issues so a brief drop-in to deliver a reminder of the Congressional Reception to as many offices as possible is appreciated. No appointment for that is necessary.

Participants can, if they like, make appointments to visit any member of congress and refer to the AAW packet of information that was sent to them previously, as well as, share priority issues of their affiliate, if they desire. Members are strongly encouraged to make appointments prior to their visit.

**DRESS & ETIQUETTE:** During Fly-In, the weather in Washington, DC is usually hot, humid with occasional showers. The evenings can be a bit cooler. The orientation is usually a casual occasion, whereas, the visits to the Agencies and the Hill are comfortable business attire. You will be doing lots of walking on marble and concrete floors so very comfortable shoes are suggested. Due to high security in most buildings, it is strongly recommended that you minimize the size of your carry-on (purse) – avoid bulky bags and back packs. Government-issued picture ID will be required for everyone. PLEASE turn off all electronics, including cell phones when in meetings, including lunch events. Do not place cell phones on the tables.

**LOCAL TRANSPORTATION:** When the charter bus is not available, Metro, Uber and taxi are the easiest way to get around. Have small bills available for ease of transactions, always ask for receipt. The bus and subway from DCA, Dulles and BWI (MARC Train) are easy and cost friendly.

**SITE SEEING:** Guided US Capitol and White House tours can be arranged through your local Congressional office. Just give them a call and let them know of your desire to tour the Capitol/Gallery/s.

The Kennedy Center is a beautiful place to visit or take in a play. Perhaps you can get a group together to go one evening.

Cruise to Mt Vernon & take the tour: 8:00am – 3:00pm (A worthwhile experience that now includes the George Washington Presidential Museum)
http://www.cruisetomountvernon.com/
A visit to DC is not complete without a stop at the Lincoln Memorial, located at the end of the National Mall. Midway you will see the Washington Monument and at the other side, the U.S. Capitol.

The Jefferson Memorial is another super cool site, especially at night.

FDR Memorial: This is uniquely designed to capture the major events of his tenure. It is located outdoors in a garden-like setting.

Tour Smithsonian Institute (American Space Museum, History Museum, Natural History, Botanical Garden & Art Gallery) are among some favorites.

The World War II Memorial is a must see, along with the Vietnam War Memorial and Korean War Memorial.

Library of Congress is awesome. Take the time to walk up the stairs to see the tiled mural of the Goddess of Learning and Wisdom, Minerva. Check out her feet from the rights side set of the steps and then from the left side set of steps. Amazing!

Most museums offer dining (great lunch stop) – Lunch and shopping at Union Station

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tony &amp; Joes Seafood Place in Georgetown</th>
<th>Marrakesh Restaurant (for a cultural experience! Make a reservation)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3000 K Street NW</td>
<td>617 New York Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(202) 944-4545</td>
<td>(202) 393-9393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Ebbitt Grill (Kid friendly – Beautiful Courtyard)</td>
<td>The Hamilton Restaurant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>674 15th Street</td>
<td>600 14th Street, NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
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<tr>
<td>(202) 347-4801</td>
<td>(202) 787-1000</td>
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<tr>
<td>BLT Prime by David Burke</td>
<td>Hay-Adams Hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waldorf Astoria Hotel</td>
<td>800 16th Street, Northwest</td>
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<td>Washington D.C., DC 20006</td>
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<td>Washington, D.C. 20004</td>
<td>(202) 638-6600</td>
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<tr>
<td>(202) 868.5100</td>
<td>Occidental Grill and Seafood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indigo Landing Restaurant</td>
<td>Willard Intercontinental Hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Marina Drive</td>
<td>1401 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alexandria, VA 22314</td>
<td>Washington D.C., DC 20004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(703) 548-0001</td>
<td>(202) 628-9100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prime Rib</td>
<td>*The Round Robin Bar at the Willard has a rich history and fun to visit, enjoy a cocktail and ask about some of the historic characters that sat there and got lobbied.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
President Heather Hampton+Knodle attended the Agri-Pulse Ag & Food Summit on March 20 at The National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

As Congress formally starts debate over a new farm bill in 2023, you can expect a lot of discussion over what types of federal farm programs are essential and how funding should be distributed to support farmers, ranchers, and the consumers who rely on them. Outside the House and Senate Ag Committees, private companies, public institutions, non-profit organizations, and even non-farm investors want to participate in these discussions.

At the 2023 Agri-Pulse Ag & Food Policy Summit, attendees looked at some of the forward-looking ideas under development that will drive policy discussions for this year and the decades ahead. They visited with some of the diverse players who are trying to influence legislation and investment decisions. Attendees delved into the availability and sustainability of crucial resources like land, water, and crop protection chemicals.

Speakers Included:

- Sara Wyant, founder and editor, Agri-Pulse Communications, Inc.
- Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
- G.T. Thompson, R-Pa. House Ag Committee Chairman
- David Scott, D-Ga. House Ag Committee Ranking Member
- Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich. Senate Ag Committee Chairwoman
- John Boozman, R-Ark. Senate Ag Ranking Member
- Mark Nelson, vice chairman and executive vice president, Strategy, Policy & Development, Chevron
- Mitch Hora, founder, and CEO, of Continuum Ag
- Val Lavigne, herdsman/secretary, Unc Brock Inc. and Dairy Promoter at Dairy Gal Val
- Matt Fimon, chair, Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee, American Farm Bureau Federation
- Christi Bland, secretary/treasurer, National Black Growers Council Trenton Kisssee, High Bar K Cattle Services, Muscogee Nation
- John Newton, Chief Economist, U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
- Gary Matteson, S.V.P., Beginning Farmer Programs and Outreach, Farm Credit Council
- Joe Outlaw, Ph.D., regents fellow, professor, and extension economist, Texas A&M University
- Audre Kapacinskas, principal, S2G Ventures
- Erika Thiem, chief supply chain officer and interim president and COO of Feeding America
- Joby Young, executive vice president, American Farm Bureau Federation - David Chavern, president & CEO, Consumer Brands Assoc.
- Karl Anderson, president, Supporters of Agricultural Research Foundation (SARE)
- Andy LaVigne, president & CEO of the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA)
- Bill Even, CEO of the National Pork Board
- Cathy Burns, CEO, International Fresh Produce Association
- Steve Brazeef, founder, SunTerra Produce
- Tara Smith, deputy executive vice president, Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau, Inc. (CIRB)
- Dan Christenson, Senior Director of Government Affairs, PepsiCo
- Andrew Lentz, director of federal affairs for agriculture policy, Environmental Defense Fund
- Chuck Conner, president of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC)
American Agri-Women calls for officer nominations

American Agri-Women supports its members in strengthening their involvement in leadership and professional development opportunities throughout their involvement with AAW. The application can be found on the AAW website at americanagriwomen.org under membership/member login. The password is aawagday1974. **Nominations are due on or before August 1. Please submit completed applications to nominating@americanagriwomen.org.**

Each year, AAW elects officers, board, and committee members. The Nomination Committee selects a slate of officers they will present for a vote of the AAW membership at the AAW Convention in November of each year. Please review the AAW Executive Board, Foundation Board, Finance Review Committee, and Nominating Committee job descriptions in the AAW Policy and Procedure Manual (found in the Member Login area) to learn more about the positions.

The Nominating Committee is seeking members to fill the following positions:

**Executive Committee, two-year terms except for the AAW treasurer, who can be elected to serve two-two-year terms.**

**First Vice President, Resolutions & Vital Issues**

As stated in the Bylaws: *"The First Vice President shall serve as an aide to the President, fill the office of President in the event of a vacancy, and coordinate the work of committees not otherwise assigned. This officer shall assume the office of the President upon completion of the term."*

This office requires previous experience in effective project management, good communication skills, and commitment to fundraising.

1. Administer the office of the First Vice President as defined in the AAW bylaws and the parliamentary authority.
2. Must have served on the Board of Directors for at least two years before nomination and have attended two national conventions within three years before the nomination. The nominating Committee may consider experience in place of Board of Directors membership.
3. Serve as President upon completion of the term as First Vice President and as a member of the Executive Committee for two years following the period of the presidency.
4. Shall recruit appointees preceding installation as President and announce them after installation.
5. Serve as liaison with the Government Issues Committee. Work with Government Issues Chair to identify timely issues, formulate a response with input from members, and ensure content is consistent with position statements approved by members of the Board of Directors at the most recent Mid-Year meeting. Maintain the master list of Action Agents and share a read-only version with Government Issues Chair and fellow Executive Committee members.
6. Cooperate with Government Issues and Fly-In Chairs to convene committee planning efforts and to make recommendations on location, agenda, and fee structure to the 6 Executive Committee for Mid-Year and Fly-In meetings. Cooperate with local member resources for on-site activities, tours, and local presenters.
7. Serve as Resolutions Chairperson and give appropriate reminders before the deadline for consideration at the annual meeting. She shall monitor previous resolutions to keep them current.
8. Assists with coordinating Mid-Year in consultation with the President and the Executive Committee. Works to facilitate the development of the positions’ statements with the Government Issues chair, the Governmental Issues committees, and the membership. Oversees the publishing of the Board of Directors approved AAW Positions Statements.
10. Coordinate the following committees related to membership: new affiliates, promotion, and dues or mailing list.
11. Maintain membership-related brochures and work with developing new affiliates.
12. Write a letter of welcome to all new members of AAW.
13. Prepare and present appropriate courtesy resolutions as deemed desirable or requested by the President.
14. Report pertinent and timely information to the Vice President of Communication for communications, including the VOICE.
15. Send a letter, directory, and affiliate packet, including their responsibilities, to new AAW affiliate presidents.
16. Actively communicate with affiliate leaders to verify membership data and programming ideas for their benefit, and provide resources as suggested or requested.
17. Work with the Vice President of Education to ensure the accuracy of the Affiliate Handbook.
18. Compile a record of communication sent to affiliates for reference for the future First Vice President.
19. In the second term, determine the following year’s location and dates for Mid-Year and Fly-In with the Executive Committee.
20. Coordinate with the Vice President of Education for webinars.
21. Coordinate with Governmental Affairs and Convention Committee for the Town hall open forum during the annual convention.

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**Vice President of Communications**

As stated in the Bylaws: “The Vice President of Communications shall coordinate the work of communications, including supervision of the VOICE, the website and media relations.” Must have skills and experience in coordinating multi-media communication, including but not limited to social media and other digital formats, drafting news releases, maintaining the organization’s website, preparing newsletters for distribution, and formulating talking points.

1. Administer the office of the Vice President of Communications following the AAW bylaws and other rules that shall be adopted.
2. Coordinate communications work, including news releases, all social media, and the VOICE with the communications committee.
3. Send the following news releases and others as directed by the President, Executive Committee, and/or Board of Directors.
   - One convention publicity news release for attendees to use with their name for local distribution.
   - Announce Veritas Award Recipient(s) before the convention.
   - Announce Leaven Award winners(s) immediately following the convention.
   - Announce new officer information immediately following the convention.
   - Convention, Mid-Year, Fly-In, and other significant events highlighting speakers or themes as appropriate.
   - Notices about open registration for AAW events (3 months out).
   - Prepare and distribute social media posts and news statements regarding actions that support position statements or other actions that support the AAW mission.
   - Post current events, save the date reminders and registration forms to the website (1x/a week).
   - Recognition of national achievements or appointments of members representing AAW or agriculture and announce the deadline for scholarships awarded by the AAW Foundation.

4. Maintain a current publications file and persons to receive press releases.
5. Offer training to editors of affiliate newsletters and website pages as directed by the President.
6. Seek information from the Executive Committee, Education Committee, Government Issues Committee, and other committees to include in communications.
7. Obtain biographical statements and photos of candidates for the VOICE and prepare to place them on the website immediately with contact information after the election.
8. Any design changes to the website will be discussed by Executive Committee and determined whether it should be handled in-house or through a contractual arrangement.
9. Coordinate with the Past President to ensure all sponsors receive appropriate recognition in AAW public statements.

**Treasurer**

As stated in the Bylaws: “The Treasurer shall keep in permanent form a complete and accurate record of finances; receive all dues and contributions; pay bills within the limits of the adopted budget after approval of the President or by order of the Executive Committee; submit financial reports to the President, to the Executive Committee as requested, to the Board of Directors at the Mid-Year meeting, and to the membership at the annual meeting; have the books compiled or reviewed by an independent certified public accountant following the close of the fiscal year to have the resultant financial report for the annual meeting or as soon as possible; deposit all monies in the name of American Agri-Women, Inc., in a bank approved by the President. The Treasurer is responsible for the coordination of mailing lists and membership. She shall prepare an annual treasurer’s report for the President and the Board of Directors. She will work with the financial review committee. The Treasurer will work with the President and Executive Committee members to prepare the annual budget. Must have experience keeping books in computerized software (QuickBooks) and expertise with submitting taxes and other forms such as 990 to comply with IRS.

1. Administer the office of Treasurer according to the duties of the office as defined in the AAW bylaws and the parliamentary authority.
2. Provide budget vs. actual and prior year expenditure/income and balance sheet reports before each Executive Committee meeting.
3. Submit a minimum of quarterly financial reports to the Board of Directors, including Mid-Year and Annual Meetings, and a report to the membership at the Annual Meeting. Upon the end of term(s), will report a review of accuracy or audit by a CPA.
4. Prepare a proposed annual budget with the President and Executive Committee to be presented, in writing, for adoption by the membership at the Annual Meeting.
5. If amendments to the adopted budget are necessary, present the proposed amendment to the Board of Directors.
6. Pay bills within the limits of the adopted budget. The President must approve all invoices submitted for payment.
7. Coordinate with the membership chair to send statements to state, national, or commodity affiliates to remind them of dues payment and notices when delinquent.

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Officer Nominations continued from page 16

8. Close the books on September 30 and submit them to the Financial Review Committee to conduct an internal audit yearly. Recommendations from the Committee will be available for further review by an independent CPA at the end of the Treasurer’s 2-year term.

9. Deposit all monies in the name of American Agri-Women, Inc. in a depository approved by the President.

10. Work closely with the Financial Review Committee and the President to acknowledge all receipts, bills, and deposits.

11. Develop a voucher for requesting reimbursement for expenditures that fit the budget categories. Receipts must be attached to the voucher.

12. File appropriate non-profit tax forms with government agencies to comply with tax and business regulations.

13. Procures and oversees bids for bonding of herself to be approved by the Executive Committee.

14. Procures and oversees insurance coverage for the Executive Committee and event insurance for Mid-Year, Fly-In, and Convention with approval of the Executive Committee.

15. Coordinate with the Past President to invoice donors.

16. All financial records shall be kept/retained for seven years or the time required by the IRS.

Foundation Board

The purpose of the AAW Foundation is to receive and administer funds for promoting and developing educational programs and opportunities relevant to agriculture. The Board shall consist of nine (9) directors with balanced geographical representation, each elected for three years. No Director shall serve more than two consecutive three-year terms.

A class of three (3) directors shall be elected for three-year terms or until successors are elected and qualified.

Nominating Committee

Four (4) members to serve on the AAW Nominating Committee and one (1) alternate.

One (1) member is a carryover from the previous committee, and one (1) member is from the AAW Foundation Board. An alternate is also elected but not a committee member unless the committee chair accepts a resignation from one of the four elected members or determines that one of the four elected members should be removed.

Finance Review Committee

Three (3) members will serve on the Finance Review Committee. The review will occur following the close of books on September 30 of the calendar year and will be completed by November 1 of the same calendar year. Must have an accounting or finance background. Anyone elected to serve on the Finance Review Committee may serve consecutive terms until successors are elected.

1. A committee of three members with bookkeeping/accounting experience.

2. The committee will perform an annual review of the financial information of AAW to ensure that the organization’s financial records are in order. The committee must ensure that the books accurately reflect the transactions that have taken place. The responsibility/accountability for ensuring that the financials follow the established budget lies with the Executive Committee.

3. The review will occur following the close of books on September 30 of the calendar year and will be completed by November 1 of the same calendar year.

4. The AAW Treasurer will work with the committee to provide the information necessary for the review.

Linda Schiffer

2023 Nominating Committee Chair

The Voice is published quarterly by American Agri-Women as a service to its members.

Member Spotlight: We have many deserving women in our organization, so please consider submitting an article about a longtime member by the deadline. Please submit photos with your article.

Affiliate News: Please share the news if your affiliate has done something to promote, advocate, or educate people on the agriculture industry or if you’ve held a fundraiser, elected officers, or state convention.

In Memoriam: We are losing members from all over the country. If you have a member who has passed, please share so that a memorial can be done so other members know about their passing.

Deadlines are January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 each year.

Contact: Laura Hart, VP of Communications, at communications@americanagriwomen.org.
ABA Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section

Understanding the Unique Liabilities of Serving as a Director or Officer of a Nonprofit By Barbara M. Costello

While serving as a director or officer of a nonprofit can be extremely rewarding, nonprofit directors and officers must also be mindful that their service could expose them to a wide range of risks. Understanding these potential risks is critical for the successful management of any nonprofit organization.

One aspect that makes nonprofits particularly susceptible to risk is their limited assets. Smaller budgets, fewer personnel, and lack of resources to consult outside professionals, such as accountants, financial advisors, or attorneys, can create the perfect storm for errors or omissions to occur. Another risk factor for any nonprofit is when board members and officers prioritize mission over margin. That is, their focus on the cause of the organization eclipses their attention to finances and managing the operations of the organization.

While many states have statutorily limited the liability of nonprofit directors and officers under certain circumstances, such protection may be conditioned on the director’s or officer’s compliance with a specified standard of conduct or may be subject to other delineated limitations. Moreover, under the supremacy clause of the United States Constitution, state statutes cannot eliminate directors’ and officers’ liability for violations of federal law. By adhering to certain conduct and adopting and enforcing adequate policies, however, the potential legal risks that nonprofit directors and officers may encounter can be reduced. This article provides an overview of the potential legal risks that nonprofit directors and officers may encounter as well as tips to reduce those risks.

In determining whether a breach of the duty of care took place, courts will look at the totality of circumstances and will expect that directors and officers make decisions with the same degree of care that they would use in their own businesses or personal lives. Directors and officers are expected to exercise careful oversight, undertake conservative action, and engage in analysis of factual issues. If it can be established that directors or officers were grossly negligent in carrying out their duties, they may be held liable for the losses arising from their breach and/or may be subject to removal.

The most typical claims for breach of the duty of care as respect nonprofits tend to involve the management of finances. Financial mismanagement claims generally fall into several categories: (1) general mismanagement, (2) negligence, and (3) waste of corporate assets.
Claims of general mismanagement and negligence both usually involve alleged patterns of action or inaction that result in significant losses over a period of time. These claims can involve conduct such as leaving assets in investment vehicles that bear little or no interest, lack of oversight of third-party professionals, mishandling or misuse of endowment funds, lack of oversight of executive conduct and/or compensation, etc. The usual distinction in proving a claim for mismanagement as opposed to negligence is the director’s or officer’s state of mind. Claims for negligence generally involve circumstances where there is no evidence of any intent by the director or officer to take advantage of the organization.

Claims for waste of corporate assets are generally more difficult to prove due to the business judgment rule. Directors are not automatically liable just because an investment underperforms. Directors are generally protected from honest mistakes made in good faith if they: (1) exercised good faith judgment without carelessness or gross negligence; (2) acted within the powers granted to the organization by state law and the organization’s bylaws; (3) executed such judgment after due consideration of the relevant facts; and (4) acted in the organization’s best interests and without any conflict of interest.

**Duty of loyalty.** The duty of loyalty prohibits directors and officers from using their position in the organization to further their own personal interest. Directors are expected to disclose all relevant information in their possession or control with respect to any decision or question brought before the board. Claims for breach of the duty of loyalty generally arise from (1) conflicts of interest, (2) usurping a corporate opportunity, and (3) breaches of confidentiality of the organization’s information.

A conflict of interest arises when a director or officer has a direct or indirect personal interest in a transaction. A conflict can arise if the director or officer might have an interest or investment that might benefit from the transaction at issue. A conflict may also exist if a transaction might benefit a family member of a director or officer or if the proposed transaction involves the director’s employer.

Nonprofits are particularly susceptible to conflicts of interest insofar as their board members are often recruited based on business relationships or professional affiliations. The existence of a potential conflict, however, does not automatically prohibit a transaction. Instead, many states’ laws provide that if certain precautions are taken, the approval of such transaction does not constitute a breach of fiduciary duty. The director or officer must disclose the conflict to the board and refrain from participating in any deliberations and, in most cases, the vote on the transaction. Moreover, the board must be able to establish that the disinterested directors approved the transaction in good faith and reasonably believed it was fair to the organization.

The duty of loyalty also prohibits directors and officers from usurping corporate opportunities and competing with the organization. The corporate opportunity doctrine...
applies to any opportunity that the director or officer should reasonably know would be of interest to the organization, whether or not the individual learned of it by virtue of his or her position with the organization. When presented with such an opportunity, most states require the director or officer to first present the opportunity to the organization’s board. The individual should only take advantage of the opportunity after the board has declined the opportunity.

Directors and officers are also required to protect the confidentiality of the organization’s information. A director or officer should not only preserve the confidentiality of information that is expressly designated confidential by the organization, but also information that appears to be confidential based on its nature or matter. This includes information regarding pending claims or litigation or employees’ personal information.

**Duty of obedience.** The duty of obedience requires directors and officers to ensure that the organization is run in accordance with its charter and bylaws, and that the organization complies with applicable laws. Therefore, a director must understand the bylaws and state law, attend meetings, be informed of the facts, and disclose any personal bias or interest or information unknown to the other directors.

One of the most crucial responsibilities of a director is to ensure that the nonprofit is adhering to the mission for which it was established. When the organization is not carrying out its mission, it may be susceptible to claims by the state attorney general who, in many states, is empowered to enforce compliance with the organization’s mission.

**Government Investigations and Lawsuits**
Other government officials, including representatives of the IRS and the U.S. Department of Labor, as well as state attorneys general, may bring actions against nonprofit directors and officers alleging violations of state or federal laws. In order to retain nonprofit status, nonprofit organizations are required to routinely file financial information and register with the state. Failure to do so while still operating and accepting donations can result in violations of state law as well as federal tax law. The IRS or state attorneys general are also empowered to bring claims for violations of statutory nondistribution constraints in circumstances involving self-dealing by directors or officers.

Nonprofit directors and officers can also be sued by state attorneys general for violations of state or local regulations governing nonprofit organizations, misrepresentations in solicitations for donations, or failure to comply with applicable licensing requirements.

**Nonprofit Directors’ and Officers’ Claim Examples**
The following are several recent claim examples that highlight some of the unique exposures nonprofits and their directors and officers face. In particular, they also demonstrate the exposure to personal liability a director or officer may ultimately face, even for disputed claims of alleged misconduct.
The American Agri-Women presents the Veritas Award annually at the annual convention to the person or persons who have given public witness to "the pursuit of truth" following the principles enunciated in the AAW State of Philosophy: The Call to Power. Responsible media coverage of issues, events, or personalities of the importance of agriculture is of specific interest. Preference is given to persons of institutions who are not required to report on agricultural issues as a means of livelihood. Coverage may include reporting news stories, features, documentaries, surveys, and/or pictorial representations, i.e. (photographs and cartoons).

The application can be found on the AAW website at americanagriwomen.org under membership/member login. The password is aawagday1974. Please submit the completed form to veritas@americanagriwomen.org on or before July 1. The committee chair will acknowledge the receipt of the application by notifying the submitter.

For committee consideration: the ‘selected’ nominee should be able to attend the convention to receive the award. (If unable, this candidate could be deferred to the following year.)

Past recipients.
1981 Paul Harvey, Commentator, Chicago, IL
1984 The Reverends Craig and Barbara Gilbert, Producers of Harvest of Hope TV documentary, Wapato, WA
1985 John Stearns, Broadcaster, Ag USA, Pacific Palisades, CA
1987 Dr. Michael E. DeBakey, Chancellor of Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX
1988 Dr. Bruce Ames, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, the University of California, Berkeley, CA
1990 Julia Child, Food Specialist, Cambridge, MA
1991 Dr. Dixy Lee Ray, Former Governor of Washington and Marine Biologist, Author of Trashing the Planet, Fox Island, WA
1992 Dr. C. Everett Koop, Former U.S. Surgeon General, Hanover, NH
1993 Alston Chase, Columnist and Author of Playing God in Yellowstone: The Destruction of America’s First National Park, Pleasant Valley, MT
1994 Michael Fumento, Economist, Attorney, Investigative Reporter, and Author of Science Under Siege, St. Petersburg, FL
1996 Dr. John Allred, Biochemist, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
1997 John Kinney, Environmental Engineer Consultant, Co-author of Conservative Environmentalism, Ann Arbor, MI
1999 Sister Thomas More Bertels, Retired History Professor at Silver Lake College, Manitowoc, WI
2000 John Stossel, ABC News Reporter, New York, NY
2001 Helen Chenoweth-Hage, Former U.S. Representative from Idaho, working with her husband, Wayne Hage, for property rights, Monitor Valley, NV
2002 C. J. Hadley, Publisher and Editor of Range magazine, Carson City, NV
2003 Mike Hergert, Co-owner and Farm Director, Red River Valley Network, Grand Forks, ND
2004 Floy Lilley, Partner in the Law Offices of Shroads & Lilley, P.L., Austin, TX
2005 Jim Beers, Wildlife Biologist, Eagan, MN
2006 Richard Pombo, Former Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee, Tracy, CA
2007 Bruce Vincent, third generation Logger and Founder of Provider Pals, Libby, MT
2008 Dan & Margaret Byfield, President of American Land Foundation and Executive Director, Stewards of the Range, respectively, Austin, TX
2009 George Taylor, Meteorologist, Corvallis, OR
2010 Henry Lamb, Founding Chair of Sovereignty International, founding CEO of the Environmental Conservation Organization, Hollow Rock, TN
2011 Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh, Professor, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS
2012 Lee Pitts, Journalist, Los Osos, CA
2013 Richard Ulrich, Senior Advisor on Industry Engagement at the Canadian Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food Ottawa, Canada
2014 Orion Samuelson, Agriculture Broadcaster, Chicago, IL
2015 Dr. Michael Coffman, President of Environmental Perspectives, Inc. and Executive Director of Sovereignty International, Bangor, ME
2016 Warren E. Clark, Owner/President, CCI MarketingImperial Beach, CA
2017 Sara Wyant, OwnerAgri-PulseCamdenton, MO
2018 Mindy & Mark Patterson The Cavalry Group, Grover, MO
2019 Dr. Kevin Folta, Professor of Horticulture, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
2021 William Perry Pendley, Attorney, Evergreen, CO
2022 Forrest Lucas, Protect of Harvest, Brownsburg, IN

Kellie Kittleman, Veritas Chair
AAW presents the LEAVEN AWARD at the annual convention to those who, to an outstanding degree, have acted as “leaven,” a truly feminine concept since “lady” means giver of bread. “Leaven” (yeast) is a small element that can interact and influence everything around it. It permeates and raises the elements it’s mixed with. Leaven multiplies its effectiveness for good. AAW presents the LEAVEN Award annually to the recipients nominated by AAW affiliates. An awards committee comprised of four (4) former Leaven Award recipients makes the final selection. The first awards committee (1977) used “Leaven” to evaluate the candidates.

Please submit the name of a person you feel is outstanding and deserving of recognition for efforts in agriculture and service to AAW. List the qualities and contributions that you feel are appropriate to AAW. There should only be one nominee per affiliate. Candidates must be members of AAW. The nomination form can be found on the AAW website under membership/member login. The password is aawagday1974. Nominations are due on or before August 1 to leaven@americanagriwomen.org. The committee chair will acknowledge the receipt of the application by notifying the submitter.

ELIGIBILITY:
The committee will consider a candidate’s achievements on a state, regional or national scale.
You may include additional information, comment, and letters of support that you feel may strengthen your candidates’ qualifications.
The awards committee will use an evaluation system, allotting from 1 to 10 points for each quality described by the person(s) making the nomination.

- (L) Loyalty to the mission of AAW
- (E) Enthusiasm
- (A) Anticipatory (thinks and plans ahead; does not react to crisis only)
- (V) Valiant (has courage; overcomes any natural timidity)
- (E) Effectiveness (exhibits the ability to produce intended effects)
- (N) Nurturing (encourages and helps develop talents and skills of others)

- The LEAVEN Award is the highest award given to American Agri-Women members.
- The LEAVEN Award shall be reserved for those members in good standing whose service to AAW is performed on a volunteer basis.
- Since sixty (60) points is the top score, the standard for selecting a recipient should be fifty (50) or above.
- A maximum of three (3) awards may be given annually.
- The Awards Committee shall comprise at least four (4) former Leaven Award recipients.
- The President shall appoint the Chairperson.
- An affiliate group must recommend a candidate.
- Each affiliate can nominate one candidate annually.
- Forms should be filled out completely with supporting evidence where applicable.
- An affiliate should be notified to allow the possibility of having the recipient present to receive the award. Still, the nominee should not be told of her/his selection as the recipient.
- An engraved plaque will be presented to each recipient.

Jacqueline Compston, Leaven Award Chair

Have any membership questions? Need to update any of your information?
Contact Kathy Goodyke, Treasurer
treasurer@americanagriwomen.org.

**Membership is due on or before September 30 of each year. Only members in good standing on September 30 of the current year shall be eligible to vote at the annual meeting.**
"A DAY IS LOST IF ONE HAS NOT LAUGHED"

A surgeon, a farmer, an engineer, and a lawyer are arguing over whose career is the best.

"I think surgery is the best career because it's the oldest!" said the surgeon.

"What makes you say that?" asked the farmer.

"Well," said the surgeon, "God removed a rib from Adam and turned it into Eve."

"You are forgetting one thing," said the farmer. "Before God even created Adam, he planted a garden for Adam to live in. That makes agriculture the oldest career."

"Both of you are wrong," said the engineer. "Engineering is the oldest career because God created an entire universe out of nothing but pure chaos."

"Ha ha! I win!" taunted the lawyer.

"What makes you say that?" asked the surgeon.

"Well," said the lawyer, "someone had to create that pure chaos."
MAKING A DIFFERENCE WITH SOCIAL MEDIA

The Importance of Social Media
Today, social media is one of the most popular forms of communication. There are many ways to help us get the word out. One of the easiest is utilizing social media. Spending a few minutes each day sharing and commenting on our social media posts and inviting your friends to “like,” follow, and visit our social media outlets makes a difference.

More and more people are turning to the internet and social media to get their information. This challenge is that groups spend much time spreading misinformation and pushing their agenda on social media platforms. When people look for truthful information, finding the facts online is sometimes difficult due to the amount of misinformation pushed out by these groups. With effort and a group of social media volunteers, we can help change that!

Our Approach
American Agri-Women will do our best to ensure the postings on our social media outlets align with our mission and values. We expect that users will not post content that falls into the following categories, and the page administrators reserve the right to remove postings that are:

- Abusive, divisive, defamatory, or obscene.
- Fraudulent, deceptive, or misleading.
- Hateful in language targeting race, ethnicity, religion, gender, nationality, or political beliefs.
- Trolling or deliberate disruption of discussion.
- Commercial solicitation or solicitation of donations.
- In violation of another’s intellectual property.
- In violation of any law or regulation.
- Otherwise, offensive.

As you become more involved with our social media efforts, you will find that people comment on and share our information. Some are supporters, and others are angry that we are exposing their agenda. Credibility is vital, so we must always state facts and share links with information from verified sources.

Use your comments as an opportunity to educate - People are reading, watching, and learning from our posts that may never speak up on social media. Please keep that in mind as you respond with your comments or replies. We can use comments to present the facts and inform and educate, especially those we may never hear from directly.

Always be polite - Some of the negative commenters will twist facts. Some will outright lie. Others may comment with negative soundbites they have heard about us. They can even get aggressive or rude. We can’t stoop to their level no matter how much we want to fire back.

Always state facts - Much time and energy go into researching each topic we present. As an organization, we will always do our best to share accurate and reliable information with our audience.

Values in Action
After 48 years, American Agri-Women is still strong because it meets members where they are in their life’s journey, career paths, and food and agriculture interest areas. American Agri-Women is “A Force for Truth” and a voice for women in agriculture. Our strength lies in the ability to tap into the many talents and connections existing in our breadth and depth of diversity:

- Experience
- Commodity and business
- Geographic

We value each member’s ability to be “A Force for Truth” in her hometown, in conversations with non-producing consumers, on social media, or in Washington, D.C. The location depends on each member’s schedule and preference. American Agri-Women provides the resources to make her comfortable in the setting of her choice.

We need to stand together to spread vital and factual information about the agriculture industry, and we appreciate your help!

Laura Hart, VP of Communications
AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN FOUNDATION

The Foundation’s purpose is to receive and administer funds for promoting and developing educational and leadership programs and opportunities relevant to agriculture. Our overall objective of this organization shall be educational.

American Agri-Women Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with an IRS ruling year of 1978, and donations are tax-deductible.

Other objectives include:

- To raise funds to support education about agriculture, agricultural education, and leadership development.
- To promote the leadership of American Agri-Women through scholarships, grants, projects, and training.
- To serve as a partner with American Agri-Women in the development of educational and leadership programs and materials.

The Foundation has nine (9) members from across the United States. The terms are three (3) years, with a two (2) term limit.

2023 Foundation Board
- Jacquie Compston, President
- Linda Schiffer, Vice President
- Jenny Stelmach, Secretary
- Chris Wilson, Treasurer
- Anna Morrison
- Lesley Schmidt
- Maggie Howley
- Linda Swercinsky
- Arlene Kovash
- Jean Goslin, AAW VP of Education, Foundation Liaison

Donate to AAW via Amazon Smile
Go to smile.amazon.com and select "AAW Foundation" as your charity, and any time you make a purchase, Amazon donates 05% of your eligible Amazon Smile purchase.
Gail McPherson Fly-In Scholarship

This scholarship was named to honor Gail McPherson of Pennsylvania. Gail was a founding member of AAW and a past president of the Foundation. She was proficient in parliamentary procedure, chair of the bylaws committee, and author of many pertinent resolutions. Gail was instrumental in the creation of the first AAW Fly-In. Recipients agree to write an article for the Fall VOICE about their Fly-In experience. Each recipient will receive $500. *All applications are due on or before May 1, 2023.*

Legacy Kids Fly-In Scholarship

• Trenna Grabowski Legacy Kids Fly-In Scholarship – 2 kids between 8-18 years of age

The AAW foundation will award $200 towards the AAW Washington D.C. Fly-In expenses. The eligibility requirement is to be a Legacy Kid member of AAW. Legacy Kids memberships are available for AAW members to purchase as gifts to children/young people from birth through age eighteen. Trenna’s idea through the AAW Foundation was 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 AAW. *All applications are due on or before May 1, 2023.*

Helen Whitmore Memorial Convention Scholarship

This scholarship honors Helen Whitmore, a well-respected rancher and teacher from California. It was initiated in 1993 by a friend and AAW Past President, Mitzi Ayala Perdue. It was established to increase active involvement in AAW and to encourage members to influence their home affiliate members. *All applications are due on or before August 15, 2023.*

ALL SCHOLARSHIPS CAN BE FOUND AT:
[https://americanagriwomen.org/scholarships/](https://americanagriwomen.org/scholarships/)

"We are a force for truth; a reasoned, non-partisan voice for the agricultural community to the public."
AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN FOUNDATION
DONATION FORM

Before we can ask outside donors to give to our organization, we need to invest in our own organization. Please help us in our fund drive. No donation is too small (or too large!)

I would like to donate $__________ at this time.

Please designate where you would like your money to go. If there is no designation, the money will go into the general fund.

Daughters of American Agriculture (for further education)

_____ Jean Ibenah (age 18-23)

_____ Sister Thomas More Bertels (ages 24+)

_____ Helen Whitmore Convention Scholarship

_____ Gail McPherson Fly-In Scholarship

_____ Legacy Kids Fly-In Scholarship

_____ Mini-Grants

_____ Other designated for ________________________________________________

_____ Other Undesignated Is your gift given as: (please designate as above as well) ________________________________________________

_____ Memorial gift in remembrance of ____________________________________________

_____ In Honor of gift _______________________________________________________

Address for either if notice is to be sent________________________________________

Your Name______________________________________________________________
Address ________________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip __________________________________________________________
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Checks should be made payable to AAW Foundation. All donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your contribution!

Please send donations to:

AAW Foundation Treasurer, Chris Wilson
2103 Zeandale Rd. Manhattan, KS 66502
AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN
"MEMBER SPOTLIGHT"

CHRIS WILSON, KANSAS AGRI-WOMEN
"A Woman With 5,000 FRIENDS"

She grew up on a 640-acre farm that fronts the Spoon River south of Maquon, Illinois -- a town of 250 people where they like to say, "It's the only Maquon in the World!"

The only time they have traffic congestion on the two-lane Highway 9 is the first two weekends in October when the "Spoon River Scenic Drive" draws thousands of cars to Knox and Fulton Counties in western Illinois. As young girls, Chris and her sister would ride their ponies in the local parade. They also raised and sold pumpkins for the Scenic Drive. It was a time of church suppers, tables with trinkets to sell in every garage or front yard, and every town park bustled with crafts and vendors.

Her Dad was a farmer -- no sons -- so the girls had chores and 4-H projects like sheep. Her mother was from Peoria, a thriving metropolis that was the home of Caterpillar Tractor. Chris probably inherited her leadership skills from her Mom's side. For example, her mother's sister was the Illinois American Legion Auxiliary president.

She had 32 kids in her class in Yates City but still managed to graduate as valedictorian and excel in her college classes in agriculture at Western Illinois University. Three years ago, the college decided to start honoring its most outstanding graduates -- The first year, they picked nine men and one woman! (Guess who?)

After graduating, Chris traveled from coast to coast for a year representing her sorority, Alpha Omicron Pi. Then, there was a turning point! She asked Kenny McMillan, her Illinois state senator, what he thought she should do. Kenny was a former state and NATIONAL FFA president whose father was sheep superintendent at the Illinois State Fair. Kenny pointed out that the new director of agriculture in Illinois, John Block, might be looking for an assistant.

Through her new job, Chris met one brilliant lady -- Jean Ibendahl, a former teacher who had already produced what she called "Agri-Data kits." This eventually led to "Ag in the Classroom," which is still strong today. But it started with a small group of enthusiasts under John Block, appointed Secretary of Agriculture by President Reagan in 1981. Chris began working closely with several women's groups, even leading some on international tours! She and Jean had many ideas, and one of them, later working under AAW President Jeanne Mertz, was the beginning of the AAW Fly-In to Washington, D.C., in 1986.

At about this time, Chris married Ron Wilson, a member of Senator Nancy Kassebaum's (R-KS) staff. Ron and Chris decided to move back to Kansas and start new careers. She worked for the Kansas Grain & Feed Assn./Kansas Fertilizer & Chemical Assn., eventually ending up in the state capitol in Topeka. This was closer to Ron's family, and he accepted a job with the Huck Boyd Foundation. They lived in Wamego for a time and now operate Ron's family farm, the Lazy T Ranch, which is closer to Manhattan (where Ron's job is headquartered at Kansas State University).
When they had their first child, Joanna, Chris decided to establish her base with a new business -- an association management company where she worked with groups like Kansas Ag Aviation, Kansas Seed Industry, Kansas Dairy Association, Association of Kansas Wheat Growers, and the Kansas Building Industry Association (known simply as "The Home Builders") in the legislature. The next step (Hold onto your hats!) was to enroll at Washburn Law School in Topeka, where she received her "cum laude" law degree about the same time she had TRIPLETS! The triplets are now 25 years old! So, for the last 25 years, Chris has been running a law practice and agriculture tourism ranch where they hold weddings, classes for "Little Ranch Hands," bed and breakfast accommodations, and a corn maze.

Yet AAW has chosen to bestow the LEAVEN award on Chris Wilson in 1991. She received 10 Presidents' Awards and served as AAW president in 2010-11. She is also the Foundation treasurer and will serve on the 50th-anniversary task force next year. How lucky we are to be FRIENDS with Chris Wilson!

Oh! I knew I had forgotten something. When Sam Brownback was governor, Chris was Deputy Secretary and General Counsel at the Kansas Department of Agriculture from 2011-12.
AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN
"MEMBER SPOTLIGHT"

ALICE DETTWYLER, OREGON WOMEN FOR AGRICULTURE

In August 1969, Alice Dettwyler was a young mom when her sister-in-law Marie said she should get a babysitter and go to a meeting of farm women. That meeting was the beginning of Oregon Women for Agriculture. Then in 1974, she attended the organizing meeting of American Agri-Women. Both organizations have benefitted from Alice’s warm leadership and dedication to agriculture.

She has served on many committees for AAW and OWA and chaired many, including the 2009 AAW Convention hosted by OWA. For many years Alice and Karen Peterson, Texas Agri-Women, facilitated the Affiliate Presidents Caucus held at Conventions where Presidents could share concerns and fellowship. She has served as OWA President, AAW Secretary, 1st Vice President, was AAW President 2000-01, and now is one of AAW’s Past Presidents.

In addition to serving within AAW, in 2001, Alice was appointed to the Foreign Agricultural Service Fruits and Vegetables Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC), representing AAW for several years at meetings in Washington, DC.

In 1998 she represented AAW at the Second International Conference on Women in Agriculture in Washington, DC. And in 2002 traveled with Kathy Reavis, Texas Agri-Women, to the Third International Conference on Women in Agriculture in Madrid to represent AAW. There they presented a panel discussion on The Green Revolution and Norman Borlaug.

Alice lives on the farm she and her husband Sam started outside Salem, Oregon. The field where they used to grow strawberries is now a young hazelnut orchard. Sam passed away a few years ago, and now Alice is busy enjoying family, including keeping her great-granddaughter two days a week.

The AAW Leaven Award Alice received in 1994 fittingly reads, "Her organizational skills and dedication encourage others to work together successfully for American Agriculture.”
TEXAS AGRI-WOMEN PANHANDLE CHAPTER

In September, the Panhandle Chapter of Texas Agri-Women held their yearly fundraiser, Taste of Texas, allowing the organization to hand over $14,000 to the 2022 grant recipients!

For the past two years, the Panhandle Chapter has been able to give almost $30,000 to local Texas Panhandle FFA and 4-H Chapters. This year’s recipients are:

Hartley FFA
Hereford FFA
Channing FFA
Hartley 4-H
Armstrong 4-H
Castro 4-H
Claude FFA
Potter 4-H

Hartley FFA: This grant will assist them in purchasing a new welder generator. The new welding generator will allow them to carry more students to welding competitions and, most importantly, continue taking on more community service projects in their community.

Hereford FFA: This grant will allow them to build above-ground gardens for a Supervised Agricultural Experience project for Abril Rodriguez, Jared Olivares, and other Hereford FFA students.

Castro County 4-H: The grant will be used for the 4-H youth rocketry program.
Minnesota Agri-Women

Deb Whalen, President of Minnesota Agri-Women, shared information about Ag Week with the First Grade classes at Red Lake County Central Elementary. She taught them how to plant seeds, germination, and what they need to grow! Each student planted flowers and pumpkins! They are ready for spring!
Illinois Agri-Women

The Illinois Agri-Women participated in the 2023 Illinois Ag Legislative Day. IAW members had opportunities to talk to legislatures and connect with Illinois Department of Agriculture employees about their organization and members.
MINNESOTA AGRI-WOMAN MEMBER BOOK AUTHOR
(ADAPTED FROM AN ARTICLE WRITTEN BY ROSEMARY GUSTAFSON, MN CATTLEWOMEN, PRESIDENT-ELECT FOR ANCW NEWSLETTER)

We’re all familiar with the book series Little House on The Prairie, where pioneer, Laura Ingalls, tells her story. In contrast, she documented experiences that shaped her into the pioneer woman we all know her to have been. A girl on the prairies to a woman in town teaching, connecting with, and never letting go of her rural roots.

Here, within our MN Agri-Women family, we have our own modern-day pioneer woman in our midst! Juanita Reed-Boniface, a Minnesota Agri-Woman from Cedar, MN, has her own story. Born in 1938 in the Sandhills of Nebraska, Juanita’s family moved to farm country in northeast Nebraska when she was young. As a high school graduate, she graduated from the University of Nebraska. She took her agricultural roots to Minnesota to pursue a position as an Extension Educator for 4-H Youth Development with the University of Minnesota Extension.

A position deemed a trial basis, Juanita took the bull by the horns and set out to make this position a lifelong career. It provided her the venue to work with youth, professional staff, volunteers, and farm families all over the state. She has a gift for building networks with agriculture organizations and leaders, a skill that has served her well her entire life.

From 2008-10, Juanita served as the editor of The Voice, the America Agri-Women newsletter, and has been active in Agri-Women in the Twin City area. She has received numerous awards and recognition for her professional leadership. To mention just a few. She was honored as the National Agriculture in the Classroom Ag Advocate, the Minnesota Cattlewoman of the Year, American National CattleWomen Educator of the Year, and Minnesota Agri-Women Outstanding Agriculture Mentor as inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame and the Minnesota Livestock Hall of Fame. Juanita is a partner in Boeckenhauer Cattle, a family-owned livestock business near Laramie, Wyoming.

Juanita experienced many life transitions that inspired her to put her experiences into the written word. In 2022, Juanita became a published author of her very own book: From the Sandhills to the Big City; Reflections of a Modern Ag Woman. Her children challenged her to tell how her early roots established her as a ‘child of the prairie,’ particularly in the livestock industry. Those rural values and experiences grounded her while shaping her into a modern woman in the agricultural Industry.

Like Laura Ingalls Wilder, Juanita Reed-Boniface used the rural values and work ethic instilled as a child to make a difference in the lives of others.

If you want a copy of Juanita’s book, search for it on Amazon or email her directly at agrifolks@gmail.com. Orders placed directly will be autographed! Thank you, Juanita, for sharing your story and legacy with us and future generations of women in agriculture.
SAVE THE DATE

AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN

2023

NATIONAL CONVENTION

November 1st - 5th

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