**Whalen and Lewis Awarded LEAVEN**

The LEAVEN Award was first awarded in 1977. That selection committee came up with the acronym LEAVEN (Loyalty, Enthusiasm, Anticipatory, Valiant, Effectiveness and Nurturing) to evaluate the candidates. “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 to those persons who, to an outstanding degree, have acted as leaven, a truly feminine concept since “lady” means giver of bread.

**Deb Whalen** from Minnesota Agri-Women (MNAW) was awarded one of two 2016 LEAVEN Awards. Deb has proven over and over again her

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**2016 Convention—Success!**

*By Jane Marshall, VP Communications*

American Agri-Women’s (AAW) 2016 Convention in Raleigh, NC went down in the record book as a success. One of the new features was recording many of the talks and events with Facebook live. These videos can be found on the AAW Facebook page (@AgriWomen).

Before convention began the Executive Committee met on Wednesday evening to discuss AAW business.

The convention started on Thursday with a day of tours in the Raleigh area. The first stop was Cotton Inc., which does research on and marketing for cotton and is funded by U.S. growers of upland cotton and importers of cotton and cotton textile products. The program is designed and operated to improve the demand for and profitability of cotton. The next stop was Caterpillar Inc., where AAW members were able to operate the equipment. There was even a skid loader-driving contest. The tour was rounded off with a stop at the Tobacco Farm Life Museum and Fairview Garden Center.

While the spouses and guests went on tours on Friday to the Bayer Bee Care center, Fleming Brothers Farm, a local family farm and Broadslab Distillery, AAW members had a full day of meetings and presentations. The first of these was the Board of Directors meeting, which is made up of the affiliate presidents and the executive committee. Following this was the opening ceremonies that began with a
Happy Spring! It may not seem like it right now, but as of December 22 I look forward to the days getting longer and I dream of greening fields, pastures, trees and gardens. Even though there are cold temperatures and a blanket of snow covering the earth on our farm at this time of year (and for several months that follow!), that does not deter me from thinking of the promise of spring.

That promise is not only there in the form of the upcoming spring season, but also in the promise of the new year as we kick off another year not only for ourselves, our families, our lives, our businesses but also for American Agri-Women.

We saw the promise of this organization showcased at Convention with some terrific programming, roundtable sessions, tours, networking, fundraising for relief efforts, new ways of sharing the Convention online and honoring those who have made contributions to the organization. We look forward to the promise and opportunities that our 2017 national meetings will bring.

We see this promise highlighted as members mentor and support each other. Seasoned members provide experience, history and background on a wide array of issues and activities, while newer members bring fresh ideas, new skills and new energy to the organization.

We see this promise as more members are stepping up to do their part in the organization in ways that work for them and AAW. We welcome you to share your gifts in whatever way that you can to help us expand the promise of this organization.

We see this promise as new projects get underway. We are excited that the women veterans project is moving forward, and that we have new member and affiliate resources and benefits that we are rolling out and new educational and leadership opportunities — watch for announcements as we move forward.

We see this promise as we launched “our next big thing,” AgDay365 at Convention with the membership. We hope that you are part of the promise of the organization by bringing the AgDay365 project to your affiliate, your local community, and your consumers in whatever way you are able to contribute. We will be introducing the project to the broader agricultural community and encourage them to participate as well, right after spring has officially sprung on National Ag Day on March 21, 2017.

Agriculture and AAW has challenges and a tremendous amount of work to do, but if we continue to have faith and look forward to the promise of spring and the promise that is out there in so many ways, we can make a difference and do great things.

Looking forward to working with you on AgDay365 and other great things.

Wishing you all a Happy Spring!

Doris Mold
LEAVEN, continued from page 1

Dedication to AAW and MNAW. She is a past president of the MNAW and is a member of the AAW Foundation board of directors. In Minnesota she is program coordinator and publicist for the Harvest of Knowledge Conference, a joint effort of North Dakota and Minnesota Agri-Women. Deb is very active in the Mid-Year and Fly-In meetings. She has served on the AAW EPA Oversight Committee, the Resolutions Committee and the Natural Resources Committee. She takes a leading role in helping with white papers, including writing the WOTUS and Clean Air white papers. Deb said of this award, “I am so honored that my fellow agri-women have chosen me to receive the prestigious LEAVEN Award and will do my utmost to continue to live up to the high standards this award stands for.” Congratulations Deb!

Kimmi Lewis from Colorado Agri-Women (CAW) was awarded the second 2016 LEAVEN Award. Kimmi was instrumental in organizing the CAW affiliate, helped find speakers for the AAW Mid-Year held in Colorado in 2011 and helped with much of the planning for the AAW Convention held in 2012. Kimmi is a leader who states her opinions in a calm, respectful way that will persuade people to listen. She is constantly in the pursuit of truth. After her husband died in 2000, when the youngest of six children (twins) were 12, she continued management of the cow herd and the ranch. All of the children have been involved in the ranch. Kimmi has taken a leadership role in the Colorado Independent Cattle Growers Assn. as a founder and past president. On November 8th, Kimmi was elected to the Colorado 64th District House seat. Kimmi said upon being awarded the LEAVEN Award, “I am so honored to receive such a prestigious award. The LEAVEN Award means so much to me as it exemplifies what we have had to do here in our state to keep our private property rights and our land. Gosh, I am just so ‘in awe’ of the list of ladies who have received this award before me and am so humbled to be part of that list that began in 1977. Thank you AAW for this ‘gift.’ I’m sorry I was unable to attend the convention due to my new job as a state representative.” Congratulations Kimmi!

Members Recognized with President’s Awards

By Doris Mold

The 2016 President’s Awards were presented to Arwen McGilvra, Oregon Women for Agriculture and AAW Social Media Chair, and Lynn Woolf, Kansas Agri-Women and AAW Community Relations Chair.

In 2016 we had terrific contributions by many members throughout the organization, but these members stood out in particular for their continuous contributions throughout the year. These ladies have been doing a tremendous amount of behind-the-scenes work to raise the visibility of AAW.

Arwen takes charge of our Women4Ag Facebook page, works our Women4Ag Twitter handle and provides wise counsel to AAW volunteers on social media best practices. Arwen has helped consumers develop a better understanding of agriculture by developing creative, informative posts about a wide range of agricultural, food, fiber and fuel topics. She has also been a big part of our AgDay365 campaign, helping to get the content calendar and social media organized.

Arwen McGilvra said of this award, “I am honored beyond words to have received one of two AAW President’s awards. I wish I could have been in North Carolina with all my ag sisters.”

Lynn moved into the new Community Relations Chair position in 2016, which has helped AAW develop more relationships with organizations outside of AAW. She has helped create innovative partnerships that are providing benefits for AAW and our partners. She has played a crucial role in the development and implementation of several of our new programs including the AgDay365 campaign, new fundraising materials, and activities with new partners. She goes the extra mile to ensure that AAW is represented in a professional and positive manner.

“I am very honored to receive this award. The work we do at AAW is so important and the women are so special to me,” Lynn said.

Both of these members have devoted countless hours to moving AAW forward and truly deserve to be recognized with the President’s Award for outstanding service to the organization.
flag ceremony where every state represented carried in their state flag. This was followed by the presentation of the colors and the National Anthem led by First VP Heather Hampton+Knodle. AAW was welcomed to NC by Richard Reich from the NC Dept of Ag and Consumer Services.

Friday morning was completed by a series of Round Table mini sessions each presented by members or guests on topics ranging from leadership to water issues to regulations to parliamentary procedures to social media to getting involved in local communities.

Friday’s lunch was one of networking with each table having an officer from either the AAW executive board or the AAW Foundation sitting at it.

The afternoon had Skill and Knowledge breakout sessions that included estate and tax planning, the importance of ag statistics, outreach education, and Brazilian agriculture and the movement to empower women to be more connected.

The day finished with two AAW traditions. The first was a town hall meeting where those in attendance could talk about the issues that are in the forefront of their areas. This was followed by the Syngenta reception for the graduates of Leadership At Its Best.

Saturday began with the opening of the AAW business meeting by President Doris Mold. All AAW members were eligible to vote at the business meeting. The highlights of this meeting were officer reports and the roll out of AgDay365. The election was also held with the following results. Jean Goslin-KS was elected vice president of education. Kristi Bishop-OK was elected as secretary. AAW Foundation members Pam Townsend-ME and Jenny Stelmach-KY were re-elected and Pat Yeagle-IL was newly elected to the foundation. The following were elected to the 2017 nominating committee: Janell Reid-CO, Sarah Dornink-MN, Lynn Woolf-KS, Cassie Wells-VA, and Peggy Clark-OH as the alternate. The AAW president appointed Kathy Rhoads-OH as chair.

During lunch Minnesota Agri-Women presented their invitation to Minnesota for the 2017 convention. Following this Dr. Mary-Dell Chilton, 2013 World Food Prize Laureate and Distinguished Science Fellow and founder of the Syngenta biotechnology research labs gave the 2016 keynote address explaining her research that led to the first transgenic (genetically engineered) plants.

Saturday afternoon brought an affiliate panel of members explaining the special events that they hold. Deb Crocker of Oregon Women for Agriculture (OWA) and chair of OWA annual Dinner/Auction explained how they handle this gigantic fundraising event. Krystal Doolittle of Iowa Agri-Women talked to convention attendees about finding their voice in social media and her work of taking photos. Pat Yeagle of Illinois Agri-Women spoke of their annual program called Women Changing the Face Of Agriculture that draws hundreds of high school and collegiate ladies to learn about ag careers.

The speakers for the day concluded with Natalina Sents speaking on her “Why I Farm” Road Trip. She shared several stories she has heard in the first half of her trip. She will complete the trip by May 31, 2017.

The last evening of convention began with the Presidents Reception followed by a delicious banquet. The entertainment was Wolfgang A Cappella from North Carolina State University who sang several songs and came back for an encore as a result of being so well received.

The evening concluded with the installation of AAW officers and an awards presentation. Deb Whalen of Minnesota Agri-Women and Kimmi Lewis of Colorado Agri-Women received the LEAVEN awards. Warren E. Clark of CCI Marketing received the VERITAS award. Lynn Woolf of Kansas Agri-Women and Arwen McGilvra of Oregon Women for Ag. received the President’s awards.
American Agri-Women (AAW) is launching a year-long education and advocacy campaign to show that everyone is part of agriculture every day, and to raise awareness about who produces our nation’s abundant food, fiber and energy supply.

The “AgDay 365: Ag Day is Every Day” campaign will help raise awareness for and give a theme — a brand — to many projects that affiliates and AAW are already doing, along with being the basis for developing new events and efforts associated with the theme. AAW and our affiliates are already involved in National Ag Day every year and this project provides a vehicle to expand our reach. Our plan is that this will develop into an ongoing effort that affiliates, our members and other agricultural organizations and individuals may join in.

What’s Happening Now

The campaign had a “soft launch” at the convention through a social media announcement — using the hashtag #agday365 — and attendees joined in and shared the theme on their own social media accounts. We appreciate Farm Credit signing on as an inaugural sponsor and the AgDay 365 committee is securing other sponsors as well. In 2017, there will be AgDay 365 events and activities, in addition to the social media campaign.

Be an AgDay365 Ambassador

There are many ways you can be part of the campaign. Here are some ideas:

1. Affiliates
   - Send in your regularly scheduled events so that we can build a national calendar for AAW. We’ll cross-promote your events throughout the year through social media and other ways. (Email community@americanagriwomen.org.)
   - Send in fact sheets or resources you have about your affiliate or commodities and we’ll use those to educate consumers. (Email community@americanagriwomen.org.)
   - Consider developing a new consumer education event, maybe partnering with other ag groups.
   - Share posts from the AAW social media accounts on your affiliate accounts. And, when you post about agriculture, please use the #agday365 hashtag.

2. Members
   - Keep doing what you’re already doing by educating and advocating in person and on social media and now join those efforts with the campaign using the Ag Day is Every Day theme and #agday365 hashtag.
   - Share photos with the committee and we’ll promote them nationally.
   - Tell your friends and colleagues about the campaign and have them join in on social media.
   - Share posts from the AAW social media accounts on your personal accounts. And, when you post about agriculture, please use the #agday365 hashtag.

Finally, we’re seeking ideas to help develop #AgDay365 events at Mid-Year, Fly-In and the 2017 convention in Minnesota. All ideas are welcome! Contact Doris Mold, AAW President, president@americanagriwomen.org or Lynn Woolf, Community Relations Committee chair, community@americanagriwomen.org.

Financing farmers and ranchers since 1916...

... and we’ll be here tomorrow.

farmcredit.com
New AAW Secretary and AAW Vice President of Education Elected at Convention

At AAW's Convention in Raleigh NC, Kristi Bishop of Oklahoma Agri-Women was elected to the position of AAW Secretary. Kristi was raised in southeastern Montana on her family's cow-calf operation. College took her to Oklahoma State University (OSU) where she completed her bachelor's of science in animal science and earned a masters in animal science with an emphasis in industry leadership.

Throughout her graduate program Kristi served as the Grant Coordinator for the Oklahoma Youth Expo (The World’s Largest Junior Livestock Show) and also as a member of an Oklahoma based public policy firm, roles she kept through 2011.

Currently living in Stillwater, Kristi serves as the Prospective Students Coordinator for OSU’s College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR). Her primary responsibility is to grow CASNR's enrollment in an effort to produce more college graduates who are equipped to meet the challenges posed by the agriculture and natural resources industries. Additionally she advises the CASNR Ambassadors, a group of high performing students who aid in recruitment efforts.

Kristi is an Oklahoma Department of Human Services approved foster parent and has been recognized as one of Stillwater’s Emerging Leaders Under 40. She attends Countryside Baptist Church.

Bishop says, “Having grown up around American Agri-Women with my mom serving on both the state and national level, I knew from an early age that AAW was an impactful group that I wanted to be a part of. I am excited to serve on the executive committee and aid in AAW’s successful efforts to be a force for truth.”

Jean Goslin of Kansas Agri-Women was elected to the position of AAW Vice President of Education. Jean grew up on a dairy, beef and crop farm until she was in high school. Then her folks wanted a little time off, so they sold the dairy cows and started running a farrow/feeder pig operation. Jean said of this change, “We all thought we were on vacation, even with 75 sows.”

A few years ago after her mom had passed and Manhattan, KS, was creeping out toward their operation, she and her brother decided to sell. At that point she and her husband moved about 30 miles south into the Flint Hills where they are starting to rebuild their herd of commercial Herefords and make and sell hay. In March, she left the United States Postal Service and started to do a lot of the swathing and raking of hay and is also cutting trees for her neighbors.

Jean and her husband have two married daughters, and a son, one granddaughter and six grandsons with one on the way. According to Jean, ”At least we have our hay crew.”

Goslin says, “To have the honor to serve the membership of AAW is something that I will not take for granted. With all of us working together we can reach the consumer with the truth about our passion, agriculture.”

Beth Grabau, Iowa Agri-Women, was hired as the Executive Director for Veterans in Agriculture. Their mission is to help our veterans become involved in production agriculture or a career in agribusiness.

Lauren Schwab, Ohio Agri-Women, is one of five 2017 winners in the U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance (USFRA) Faces of Farming & Ranching program. Lauren says, “Today, with social media I’m able to connect with so many people; to post videos and pictures of the pigs on the farm, I know it makes a difference. I’ve learned that each conversation, photo and blog post is an opportunity to make a difference and gain confidence from people. To help them when they go to the grocery store, so they know the animal was treated well and the land was taken care of and they can feel good about what they’re eating.”

Lauren and her husband have two married daughters, and a son, one granddaughter and six grandsons with one on the way. According to Jean, ”At least we have our hay crew.”

Goslin says, “To have the honor to serve the membership of AAW is something that I will not take for granted. With all of us working together we can reach the consumer with the truth about our passion, agriculture.”
Convention Attendees Tour Caterpillar’s North Carolina Facility

Caterpillar, one of the world’s leading equipment manufacturers, hosted convention attendees at its Building Construction Products Training and Visitor Center in Clayton, NC. Cat experts shared about the company’s global operation, the equipment models assembled at the facility — and sought feedback from our members about how they are using Cat equipment on their operation and what could be improved. They also shared about their new Women in Leadership Initiative and how they are empowering women in the company to build a better employee team overall.

The highlight of the visit: a chance to operate Cat Skid Steers and excavators. Members had fun participating in a Skid Steer rodeo competition. Jean Goslin, Kansas Agri-Women, Marcie Williams, Ohio Agri-Women and Melody Speer, Texas Agri-Women, took top honors in the skid steer rodeo.

Caterpillar became a Legacy Sponsor this year and has been sharing monthly emails, “Safety News for You.” We appreciate their support of American Agri-Women.

For 90 years, Caterpillar Inc. has been making sustainable progress possible and driving positive change on every continent. Customers turn to Caterpillar to help them develop infrastructure, energy and natural resource assets. Caterpillar is the world’s leading manufacturer of construction and mining equipment, diesel and natural gas engines, industrial gas turbines and diesel-electric locomotives. The company principally operates through its three product segments — Construction Industries, Resource Industries and Energy & Transportation — and also provides financing and related services through its Financial Products segment. For more information, visit caterpillar.com.

‘Mahindra Pride Daughters of Agriculture’ Scholarships Announced

Five impressive young women are the recipients of the “Mahindra Pride Daughters of Agriculture” scholarships, awarded through the AAW Foundation.

Each of these students will receive a $1,000 scholarship for the 2017 spring semester: Breanne Brammer, Gallatin, MO; Jaclynn Knutson, Centerville, SD; Kiera Leddy, Stockholm, SD; Alexandra Marek, Ames, IA; Tarah Young; Buffalo, MN.

The scholarships were open to any farm, ranch or agribusiness woman or her daughter to pursue accredited courses in agriculture, agribusiness, leadership, communications, rural sociology, medicine or any other courses directly related to agriculture.

Mahindra is a Legacy Sponsor and we appreciate their support of American Agri-Women.
Ever Wonder Who Thought Up the Name ‘American Agri-Women’?

By Arlene Kovash, OWA

George VanLeeuwen, husband of AAW charter member Liz VanLeeuwen, died on October 21, 2016, at age 95.

Why do we honor him? Because of the support he has given through the years to his wife Liz, OWA and American Agri-Women. George attended most of the AAW meetings that his wife Liz attended, and actually thought up the name "American Agri-Women" at the first AAW organizational meeting, in Michigan in 1974. The women liked the name and voted it in.

Farming was George’s life but he and Liz both tirelessly supported and defended agriculture and educated others about farming and the issues involved, always doing it with facts but in a way that drew others in. George lived outside, working from “sunup to sundown” most days, but he always started the day by spending time in devotion, reading his Bible.

Liz herself, George’s wife of 69 years, is a founding mother of OWA, which was organized in 1969 to address the issue of field burning. She was their first newsletter editor and was elected president in 1973.

She gave up her office of president in 1974, after she was elected to the Oregon Legislature, where she served for 19 years. She noted that people of all political persuasions were naturally drawn to George. “During my time in the legislature, the other legislators would always ask me how George was doing,” she said. George also warmly welcomed many visitors to their farm and did not hesitate to educate them about the importance of agriculture and agriculture policy.

Friend and neighbor Larry Warfel called VanLeeuwen a “man who was always looking forward. Most 95-year-old people live in the past. That was not George. He was always interested in what was going on around him and what was next.”

His life as a farmer, inventor, educator, and friend and helper of others is interesting reading and can be found at democratherald.com by typing his name into the search box.

In 1977 Liz and two other OWA members, President Ruby Ringsdorf and Past President Clarice Ogle had decided they needed to take their issues to Washington, DC, so they organized a trip for OWA members, ultimately taking 52 members, husbands and others with them. This OWA fly-in was the forerunner of AAW’s annual Fly-In.

Note: That first fly-in cost $505, including air fare and five nights at the 4-H center.

Deepest Sympathy to Donnell Scott

The AAW family extends its deepest sympathy to Donnell Scott, who just completed her term as VP of Education, at the passing of her husband Mark L. Scott on November 28, 2016.

Mark was a member of the Riley County Livestock Association, Past Board Member of the Riley County Farm Bureau, served on the Zeandale Township Board where he helped maintain and clear roads and assisted with overseeing the Pleasant Valley Cemetery. He was also a volunteer fireman for the Riley County Firefighters in the Zeandale Community, member of the Blue Valley Pork Producers, served on the Extension Ag Program Development Committee and had recently been accepted into the Leadership Sorghum Class. His hobbies included hunting, fishing, horseback riding and enjoying the company of his dog, Bandit.

Mark was a farmer’s farmer...he was always learning what he could about different ideas in agriculture. He enjoyed AAW Convention tours to learn more about agriculture around the country.

He was a quiet, thoughtful guy who loved his wife. On the 4th of July he would make time to take Donnell up in their pastures so they could watch the fireworks, nothing flashy just steady and kind. He had a unique sense of humor and wasn’t afraid to laugh at himself. Mark enjoyed participating in the AAW conventions. He had just accompanied Donnell to the 2016 AAW Convention in Raleigh.
American Agri-Women Foundation Announces Availability of Fly-In Scholarships

By Pam Townsend

AAW members who have not attended Fly-In and Legacy Kids are eligible to apply for these scholarships.

Trenna Grabowski Legacy Kids Fly-In Scholarship

The Trenna Grabowski Legacy Kids Fly-In Scholarship is an award for two kids 8-18 years of age, which will pay $200 towards expenses for the AAW Washington, D.C. Fly-In. 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. It was Trenna’s idea through the AAW Foundation to launch a program to provide a vehicle for AAW members to share their enthusiasm, support agriculture and AAW with young people, while encouraging the ultimate entry of second and third generation individuals into AAW. Submit completed application by May 1st of the current year to awffoundationscholarships@americanagriwomen.org or by mail to Pam Townsend, PO Box 71, Blaine, ME 04734.

Gail McPherson Fly-In Scholarship

The Gail McPherson Fly-In Scholarship is given in memory of a founding mother of AAW. It is available to any AAW member to attend the annual AAW Fly-In held in Washington, D.C. in June. The committee can award up to three $500 scholarships. The applicant may be of any age, but cannot have attended a previous Fly-In. Completed applications are due May 1st of the current year and can be sent to awffoundationscholarships@americanagriwomen.org or mailed to Pam Townsend, PO Box 71, Blaine, ME 04734.

All scholarships can be found at americanagriwomen.org/scholarships, which is under the Foundation tab on the AAW website.

AAW Foundation Awards Mini-Grants

By Janell Reid, AAW Foundation President

The AAW Foundation is proud to announce its 2016 mini-grant awards. These awards go to AAW affiliates for membership drives and other chapter growth events. This year’s awards go to Illinois Agri-Women and the San Luis Obispo California Chapter, who received $500 each for a membership drive. Oregon Women for Agriculture received $200 for a crop identification program they have done for several years. Montana Agri-Women received $100 to research and produce designs for t-shirts and other apparel to promote their organization and agriculture in general. Congratulations to each organization on being selected.

The Foundation is sad to lose its president Jane Marshall, due to term limits. Jane has done an excellent job on the board both in fundraising efforts and general Ag promotion. Pat Yeagle from Illinois was elected to join the board. Jenny Stelmach and Pam Townsend were each reelected for a second term. The new officers will include; Janell Reid as president, Kim Schmuhl as vice-president, Jenny Stelmach as secretary and Katie Yost as treasurer. The Foundation will continue to work to raise funds in order to supply scholarships to meetings and to students who are attending college as well as raise funds to continue the mini-grant program.

Janell Reid, left, incoming Foundation president, presents outgoing president Jane Marshall with a gift.
**Fundraiser for North Carolina Relief**

During Convention American Agri-Women had a successful fundraiser for North Carolina relief. There were two quilts auctioned. The first was a quilt made out of Civil War era reproduction fabrics. It was made by Arlene Kovash and bought by Sue McCrum for $550. The second quilt made of original AAW fabric and Caterpillar fabric by Jane and Thomas Marshall and Rachael Vonderhaar was bought by Kinney Farms for $400. There were also four Yeti travel mugs donated by Bayer that brought $325 total making the total donation through AAW of $1275.

Top, Sue McCrum displaying her quilt, made by Arlene Kavash. Bottom, Darrel and Wanda Kinney with Richard Little with a CAT tractor that is used on the Kinney farm.
By Doris Mold, AAW President

American Agri-Women (AAW) is a sponsor of National Ag Day and will again be participating in National Ag Day activities in Washington, DC. Ag Day is celebrated on March 21, 2017, and falls during National Ag Week, March 19-25, 2017. This year we will be involved in a more visible way through some special events that are being planned and our broad roll-out of AgDay365 to other agricultural organizations. Keep your eyes out for member communiqués and other announcements with additional details.

We invite all of our affiliates and members to do something in honor of National Ag Day/Week, as well. In addition to our national activities we anticipate that many of our AAW affiliates will be involved in Ag Day activities on a state or local basis, as many have done for years. If your affiliate has not planned an event/activity yet, you may want to consider it as a terrific way to join together as a team to promote agriculture. Many affiliates plan a “Farmer's Share” — an Ag Day meal where they charge the farmer’s share for the meal, while others do special presentations in schools or at community organizations. Some have special Ag Day bags at grocery stores or have Ag Day placemats at local restaurants. Others write letters to the editor of local newspapers or run PSAs on local radio stations. While still others blog or have Facebook posts. If you are looking for additional inspiration please visit the National Ag Day website, agday.org, where you will find a variety of items including an Ag Day Planning Guide.

For those of you not familiar with Ag Day, it is a day to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by agriculture. Every year, producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and AAW and its affiliates across America join together to recognize the contributions of agriculture. National Ag Day is hosted by The Agriculture Council of America. The awareness efforts in communities across America are as influential — if not more — than the national broad-scale effort, so get your Agri-Women together and get planning for Ag Day 2017!

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### American Agri-Women Seeking Nominations for 2017 Elections

Interested? What are the steps to running for an AAW position?

**Step 1:** Do some research. It is a good idea to ask the current or past office holders about the duties for the position, as well as review the job descriptions for the position.

**Step 2:** If it looks like a fit, members complete a nomination application stating their qualifications and signing the consent to serve statement. Their nominations must be endorsed by at least two other AAW members. Forms are available from the members-only section of the AAW website.

**Step 3:** Send in your completed application by August 1, 2017, to the nominating committee chair, Kathy Rhoads at krhoads1@frontier.com.

**Step 4:** Nominating committee considers applications and slates candidates.

**Step 5:** Candidates announced.

**Step 6:** Elections will be held at Convention. Nominations may be taken from the floor if those candidates have submitted paperwork and met qualifications prior to the open of the business meeting.

Officers up for election in 2017 include: AAW First Vice-President (six year commitment: first two years as First VP, then two years as President, then two years as Past President); AAW VP of Communications and AAW Treasurer (two year terms). There are three AAW Foundation Board of Directors positions up for election (three year terms) and four 2017 Nominating Committee members will be elected (one year term).

The 2017 Nominating Committee consists of: Kathy Rhoads, chair, and her committee is Sarah Dornink, Janell Reid, Cassie Walls, Lynn Woolf, and Peggy Clark (alternate).
Adding Tools to Your ‘Voice for Truth’ Toolbox

By First Vice President Heather Hampton+Knodle

How can we provide more tools for our members and affiliates? That is one of three questions I ask myself regularly. (The other two are: how can we influence policy with relevant and timely solutions? And, how can we encourage consumers to share in our love of producing food and to join us in advocating for U.S. grown food, fiber and fuel?). In response to the first question of providing tools for our affiliates and members, we have a wonderful resource available online at ambassador.maca.org/presentations.

Croplife America has researched data and created PowerPoint presentations we can use in the classroom, with civic groups and with elected officials. We can also adapt some of the data points for our social media postings. Although this link may have more of a midwest feel, the themes and much of the data can be adapted across the regions of the United States. There are seven different themes:

Agriculture’s Abundance: U.S. Technology Produces Nutritious Food for All

Find out how agriculture affects our daily lives, how science and technological advancements over the last 100 years have played a role and how this has allowed for other advancements. View an embedded video of an actual corn harvest. Plus, learn how soybeans go from a crop to products in our homes. (Download may take a couple of minutes). National Education Standards

Feeding Planet Earth

Learn how the U.S uses economic resources of labor, natural resources and capital to provide nutritious food for all in a sustainable manner. Learn how modern technology allows farmers to farm in a sustainable manner which requires the need to conserve our natural resources, produce food and fiber to meet the food and fiber needs of all in the U.S., while also maintaining a profit to remain in business. (Allow a few minutes to download)National Education Standards

Farming & the Water Cycle

Over 40% of U.S. land is devoted to farms and ranches. Even though one acre of developed land in a city has a greater effect on water quality than one acre of farmland, because we have so much more total farmland, farming has the bigger overall effect on waters. This presentation takes a look at the water cycle and its relationship with farming including precipitation, surface run-off, surface and ground water use and transpiration. Includes farming techniques used by today’s farmers to keep our waters clean.

Careers in Agriculture

Agriculture is America’s largest industry. More than 21 million people work in the industry; however, less than 2% of these 21 million people work in what you picture as a traditional agricultural job—a farmer or rancher. Whether you want to be self employed, a scientist, a writer, a businessman or a farmer, agriculture provides these opportunities and more. Careers choices are grouped as to the personality – doer, thinker, persuader, organizer, helper and creator – it best fits. Agriculture definitely provides careers across the spectrum.

Farm Fueled: Biofuels

Agriculture provides a renewable fuel source. Explore the plant sources and how farmers can meet the growing demand for these sources. Learn about the incentives spurring the growth of biofuels and the benefits to the U.S. along with the role technology plays in the energy balance of biofuel production.

Farmers: Stewards of the Land

A farmer’s livelihood depends on preserving our natural resources. “Stewards of the Land” explores the methods farmers use to conserve soil, protect water, control chemicals and protect wildlife. Great for National Ag Day and Earth Day themes!

Wide World of Weeds: Solutions through Time

Learn about the challenge of weed control faced by farmers and the history of technological advances from human labor, mechanical advances and scientific methods used by humans to solve the problem. Explore how science is a human endeavor. Scientists don’t always agree and will come up with different conclusions. Could students contemplate alternates methods for weed control if modern technologies were not employed?

* * *

If you are going to use these in a classroom, note that several of them show what National Education Standards are met through the presentation. Even if you don’t plan on giving a presentation any time soon, it’s well worth reading through each presentation. You never know when you’ll find yourself in a conversation where a few extra facts or a refreshed point of view might lead to an “Aha!” moment.

Donate to AAW via Amazon Smile

Go to smile.amazon.com, select AAW Foundation as your charity, and anytime you make a purchase, Amazon Smile provides a small percentage of your purchase to us. It does not cost you anything, but helps our Foundation grow!
A key to American Agri-Women’s (AAW) longstanding success is the effective advocacy work that members do by meeting with legislators and policy makers during our Fly-In to Washington, D.C. held each June. While in D.C. AAW members present our organization’s position statements in an effort to influence policy so that we can continue to ensure a safe, reliable and affordable food, fiber and fuel supply.

The groundwork for a successful Fly-In is laid during March’s Mid-Year Meeting. At Mid-Year members develop position statements on both new and long-standing legislative issues. As a group we discuss, craft and agree on precise language to ensure we are representing our entire membership.

As members there are steps we can take prior to arriving in Dallas to ensure an efficient and informative meeting.

1. Familiarize yourself with AAW’s 2016 Position Statements. These can be found at americanagriwomen.org/positions. Read through the statements and make sure to mark any that you have questions or concerns about. Also mark those that you are in strong agreement with to ensure you can voice your opinion that these statements be maintained.

2. Do your research on the issues. If you want a better understanding of a particular issue, take time to find fact based information presented on each side of the topic. You do not have to be an expert on every topic, but will feel more confident walking into Mid-Year with a basic understanding of key topics.

3. Prioritize what topics are most important to you. You won’t be able to be present for the initial discussion on every topic at Mid-Year, so it’s important to prioritize which are most important to you.

Once at Mid-Year topics will initially be discussed in smaller work groups led by the Vital Issues Chairwoman. The main topics are agriculture business & economics, education, commodities and natural resources. Within each of these main topics are subtopics (you can view the current listing in the 2016 Position Statements). Our 2016 positions will serve as the launching point for discussions as each statement will be read and discussed. Within the smaller work groups changes agreed upon by the majority will be made.

Mid-Year will wrap up with each Vital Issue Chairwoman presenting the proposed changes (which originated from the small work groups) to the membership. All members are allowed to discuss each position and votes will be cast by the Board of Directors (affiliate presidents and executive committee members).

While formulating positions can be exhausting work, members leave with new knowledge and a tangible completed project that serves as AAW’s guide for policy discussions over the next year.

Thank you, Syngenta! from AAW Leadership at Its Best Graduates
Looking Forward to 2017 Midyear

By Karolyn Zurn

I am really looking forward to the AAW 2017 Mid-Year in Dallas. We are putting together a great lineup of speakers for you. This year we should see hopeful change in the National policy area. With a new administration it feels like “spring in the air.”

Some of AAW’s requested policy changes and considerations that we all advocate for through our policy work are already in the making. By the time Mid-Year arrives we should have a good grip on what we need to strive for. By the time we leave Mid-Year we will know which issues to use as White Papers.

During Mid-Year we are once again choosing to have our work days back to back with a completed policy book by noon on Saturday. This will help with women needing to return home Saturday afternoon. Thursday is dedicated to Board meetings, allowing others to arrive Thursday evening.

We are striving to make the most of our time while at Mid-Year and keep cost down and time spent away from home to a minimal.

Stacey Whitener, one of our committee members, lives and works in Dallas so she is busy scoping out great places to tour and have dinner.

Mid-Year Meeting Registration
March 23–25, 2017, Grapevine, TX
Hilton Garden Inn DFW North/Grapevine

Name ____________________________________________
Affiliate Name____________________________________
Address __________________________________________
City _____________________State ___________ Zip________
Phone ____________ Email ____________________________
Date of arrival____________________________________
Roommate needed? _______ Special diet needs?________________

☐ Full Registration (breakfast, breaks, lunch on Friday and Saturday): $150
☐ Full Late Registration (received after March 1, 2017): $175
☐ Full Non-Member Registration: $175
☐ Partial Registration (Friday or Saturday only): $75
☐ Collegiate Full Registration: $75
☐ Partial Collegiate Registration (Friday or Saturday only): $50
☐ Optional Tour & Activity on Saturday: adults $25

Total enclosed $ ___________

To Register
Mail completed registration and payment to AAW, 142 Oak Circle, Colchester, VT 05446. For more info, call 586-530-1771 or e-mail aaw@americanagriwomen.org.

AAW Board of Directors
Those AAW members on that are part of the Board of Directors should check the schedule to see if you will be meeting on Thursday and plan accordingly.

Hotel Information
We will be meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn DFW North/Grapevine, 205 W. State Hwy. 114, Grapevine, TX 76051. For 3/22 and 3/23, the room rates are $189.00 per night. For 3/24 and 3/25, the room rates are $134.00 per night. Complimentary hotel shuttle from the DFW Airport, which we highly recommend flying into. Otherwise, you will have to pay for your travel expenses too/from Love Field. Parking is complimentary. Phone: 817-421-1172 and ask for AAWGROUP. The hotel check-in time is 4pm and check out time is noon. Final reservation deadline is March 8, 2017. If you are shipping items to the hotel, please include your name, ATTN: American Agri-Women 03/22/2017, Hilton Garden Inn DFW North/Grapevine, 205 W. State Hwy. 114, Grapevine, TX 76051.

Silent Auction Information
Each year, at Mid-Year, AAW has a silent auction to benefit the AAW Foundation’s education projects. Individuals and affiliates are encouraged to bring an item for the auction. Keep in mind that winners will have to carry or ship their items home, so don’t make the item too big or bulky. Thank you!
# 2017 AAW Mid-Year Schedule

March 23–25, 2017 • Hilton Garden Inn DFW North/Grapevine

## THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1–3 p.m.</td>
<td>Executive Committee Meeting, Vineyard Boardroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4–5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Foundation Meeting, Sonoma III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30–6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Dinner &amp; Combined Executive Committee Board and Foundation Meeting, Sonoma I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7–9 p.m.</td>
<td>AAW Board of Directors Meeting (the board includes affiliate presidents or their proxy and AAW Executive Committee)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2017

*Bring silent auction items to registration!*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7–8 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration &amp; Breakfast, Pre-Function Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:15–9 a.m.</td>
<td>Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, Prayer &amp; Introduce Speakers on Farm Bill Forecast in Uncertain Times, President Doris Mold, Sonoma I &amp; II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9–9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Issue Radar and Orientation on Process, First VP Heather Hampton+Knodle and Governmental Issues Chair Karoly Zurn, Sonoma I &amp; II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30–Noon</td>
<td>Committee Breakout Meetings, Sonoma I &amp; II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30–10:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Break &amp; Silent Auction Bidding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30–1 p.m.</td>
<td>Committee Breakout Meetings, Sonoma I &amp; II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noon–1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch &amp; Call to Power: Understanding the Role of Government and the Power of the Individual, Sonoma I &amp; II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30–5 p.m.</td>
<td>Committee Breakout Meetings, Sonoma I &amp; II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30–3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Break &amp; Silent Auction Bidding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
<td>Adjourn work for the day. If committee needs to meet further, it can continue in rooms or at dinner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>Out to Eat, Dutch Treat, Dining with AAW Officers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7–8 a.m.</td>
<td>Breakfast, Pre-Function Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8–9:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Welcome &amp; Introduce Speakers on Immigration: Ag Labor and Border Security, President Doris Mold, Sonoma I &amp; II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15–10:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Report back to Full Group for AAW Adoption, Sonoma I &amp; II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15–10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Break &amp; Silent Auction Bidding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 a.m.–1 pm</td>
<td>Report back to Full Group for AAW Adoption (Lunch provided during meeting), Sonoma I &amp; II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>Silent Auction Closes - Please pay and pick up items for silent auction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1–5 p.m.</td>
<td>Optional Tour &amp; Activity – AgDay365 Interactive at Dallas Farmers Market and an opportunity for you to actively participate in an AgDay365 project.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8–8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Optional Worship Service, Sonoma I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Call to Power Principles:

As we move to build power, we affirm the following principles:

- The constant pursuit of truth must lie at the heart or our purpose and actions.
- The manner in which we seek truth must be thorough and without prejudice.
- As we search for truth, we recognize others’ equally valid searches and seek to remain open to their wisdom.
- We are never better than the means we use.
- We reject the use of violence in either action or words; however, one should not confuse vigorous expression of truth with violence.
- Rejecting the idea that it is necessary to foster hate, we are called to this responsibility in the spirit of goodwill.
- We affirm our responsibility for the generations yet unborn.
Mid-Year Meeting
March 23–26, 2017
Grapevine, TX
(fly into Dallas/Fort Worth)

Advertising Rates & Deadlines for Sponsors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ad Sizes</th>
<th>Dimensions</th>
<th>Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full page</td>
<td>7.5”W x 10”H</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half page vertical</td>
<td>3.875”W x 10”H</td>
<td>$750.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half page horizontal</td>
<td>7.5”W x 4.875”H</td>
<td>$750.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarter page</td>
<td>3.875”W x 4.875”H</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business card</td>
<td>3.875”W x 2.375”H</td>
<td>$350.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Ad Deadlines: Noon on these dates.
- December 1 for Winter Issue
- March 15 for Spring Issue
- June 15 for Summer Issue
- September 10 for Fall Issue

Have a membership question? Need to update any of your information?
Contact Lisa Campion, AAW’s executive assistant, with all membership requests. You can e-mail aaw@americanagriwomen.org or call 586-530-1771. You can also write Lisa at American Agri-Women, 142 Oak Circle, Colchester, VT 05446.