



# American Agri-Women

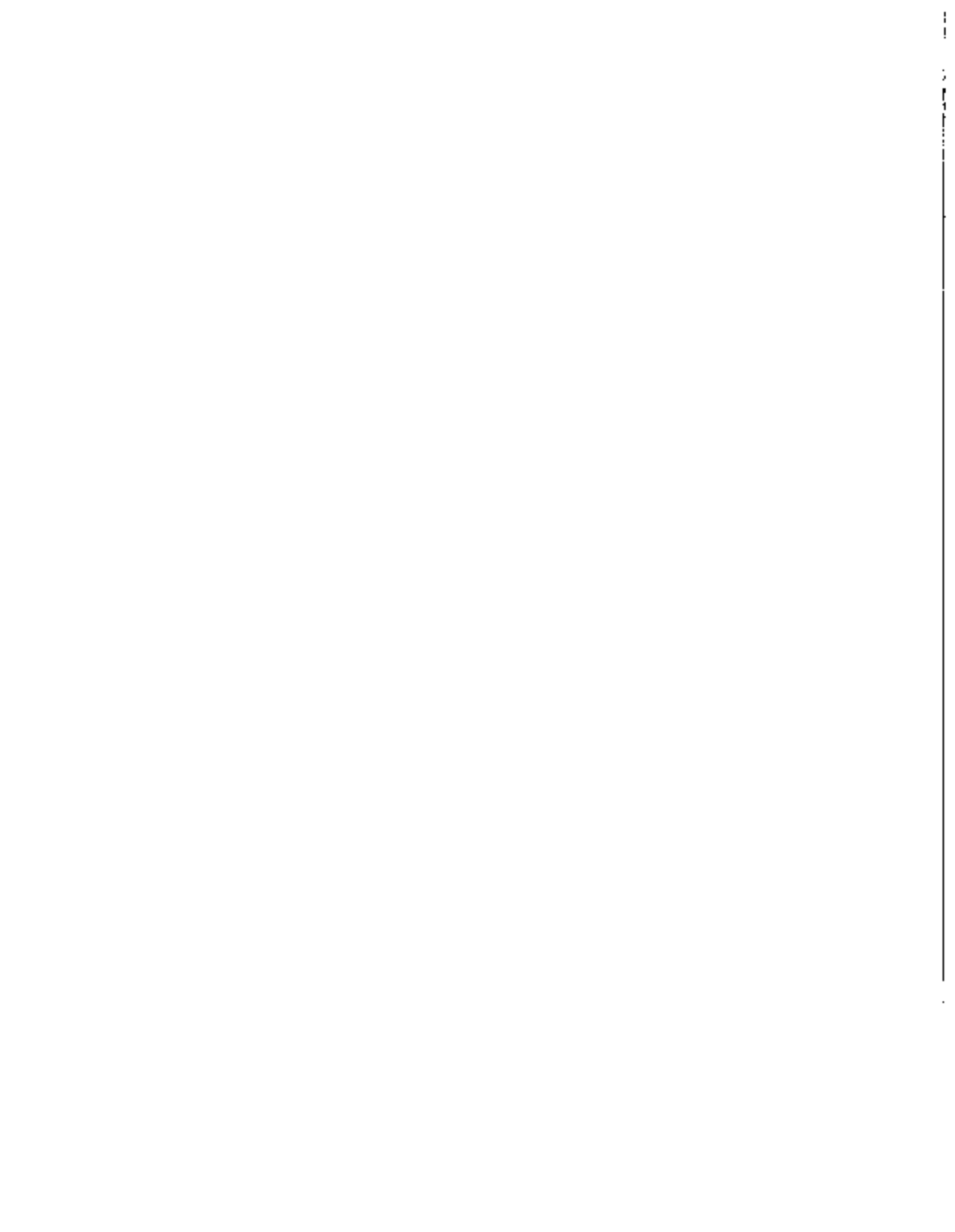
1974 - 1994

## A Proud Heritage -

## A Precious Legacy

"We CAN do it TOGETHER"

A history of American Agri-Women





## INTRODUCTION

In reading the history of AAW, one can get a sense of the agricultural industry over the past years and develop a perception of the direction agriculture will unfold in the future. We can detect the strides our organization took over the years and how the agricultural economy is an integral part of history.

AAW is a networking powerhouse of information about all things pertaining to agriculture or that could impact American Agriculture. It is a sharing of ideas and talent to solve or ameliorate the many problems we face. We recognize that we are a vital part of our individual farms, local communities, states, nation and world. We are in an era when all must be involved in and contribute to enhance the future of our agricultural industry.

*Andrath DeWall*

*American Agri-Women President*





## Note From the Editors

Working on this book, documenting the history of American Agri Women, has been a pleasure. We marvel at the wisdom and insight of our founding mothers, who created an organization both flexible and strong, an organization both feminine and powerful, an organization respectful of the rights of others and herself deserving of respect.

Many AAW members worked on this project. We give special thanks to our President, Ardath DeWall, for her support, encouragement and work, and to our longtime historian Florence Rachwal of Wisconsin, Doris Huffman of Ohio, Arlene Kovash of Oregon, and Victoria Coughlin of Wisconsin. And special thanks to Pat Cahill of Michigan, author of "Women in Agriculture" and charter member of WSAM and AAW. Sharon Steffens, our first National Coordinator, contributed a great deal of insight into our history. Thank you also to Audrey Sickinger, JoAnn Vogel and Jean Ibenoahl. All of these women, with assistance from past national presidents, provided the history of the individual years.

Special credit goes to Jeanne Mertz, Past AAW President, of Kansas, who spent many days researching, typing, proofreading, and communicating with other members asking for additional information and pictures. Her efforts have greatly enhanced the final product. Finally, thank you to all of the affiliates who spent hours and hours putting together their pages to preserve their history for the future.

There are many, many other AAW members who contributed--we thank you all. For any errors, we take responsibility. For the depth and breadth of information, we credit the members of AAW. The finished product belongs to American Agri-Women--the Great Lady of Agriculture.

The heritage of American Agri-Women is proud, a potent force for good and reason. The legacy we pass on to our daughters and sons is precious beyond measure.

Trenna R. Grabowski  
Christina M. Wilson

November 14, 1994



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*This book is*

*Dedicated*

*to*

*American Agri-Women*

*women working together for agriculture*

*and to the*

*families which have supported them in their endeavors*



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AAW President Ardash DeWall and Immediate Past President Trienna Grabowski utilized a grant for their use from Past President Mitzi Perdue to begin this History of AAW's First 20 Years.

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## The Beginning of American Agri-Women

Beset with many serious problems, American Agriculture, as a fragmented industry, lacked a single voice through which to speak to bring about effective change. Many felt agriculture needed to develop a voice to speak for the entire industry. Women were to play an important role in developing a united voice for agriculture.

In 1969, a group of women in Oregon organized as a result of government regulations banning farmers burning fields. Oregon Women for Agriculture (OWA) stood alone, for their husbands were too busy farming to respond and fight the forces that were determining the course of American Agriculture.

Two years later, in 1971, Connie Canfield, unaware of OWA's existence, founded Women for the Survival of Agriculture in Michigan (WSAM). The WSAM's realized that the problems of agriculture were national in scope and required a national organization to respond effectively.

The first official attempt at organizing a national convention of farm women was made when the just-organized Women for the Survival of Agriculture in Michigan chartered a bus to Washington, D.C. to call on the Secretary of Agriculture. Each representative from WSAM made one suggestion to Secretary Earl Butz. Among issues raised by WSAM was one made by Eileen Nutting that WSAM would like to see some very positive action come from this meeting to show your concern for women and the family farm. We would like WSAM to call a national conference of farm women in October or November to make suggestions, bring in speakers and formulate policies for a public relations program. We offer to serve as hostesses for this conference."

When it became obvious such a conference was not a top priority for USDA, WSAM decided to sponsor its own national convention. WSAM's Laura Heuser and Pat Cohill began traveling to speak to and organize other women in Canada and the United States beginning with Wisconsin, Washington and New York.

Several WSAM members went to Oregon and the two groups exchanged ideas on how to counter a common threat. Funds were needed and many organizations and supportive individuals underwrote the women's expenses to travel to testify at hearings; to produce educational materials on agriculture; to organize other groups; and to give speeches to inspire others to action for the industry which provides their income and their way of life.

Especially helpful was the Chevron Chemical Company. Early in 1972, Pat Cohill wrote the president of the company, outlining her vision of a national network of women for agriculture. Women would be able to multiply their effectiveness in influencing those forces which affect the food and fiber producers' self-determination and their ability to feed and clothe this nation and an increasing portion of the world. She requested an appointment to meet with them in their San Francisco headquarters and further requested they pay her traveling expenses. Chevron agreed. At the conclusion of the meeting which included the company's President, Mel Wieringa; Dr. Robert Wallace; Garry Lindahl Ottosen and Linda Barnes of OWA; and Millie Schultz and Pat Cohill of WSAM; Lou Czutin, Director of Chevron's Public Relations Department remarked, "I believe we are witnessing an historic moment." Chevron offered to pay all printing and postage costs involved in organizing a national organization.

WSAM inspired the idea of a national farm women's meeting as previously suggested to Secretary Butz. Farm Wife News (FWN) magazine called WSAM's Laura Heuser to ask if WSAM had considered a national convention and learned that WSAM was in the process of organizing one. FWN offered to join forces and coordinate the first National Farm Women's Forum. WSAM, after reviewing the suggested Forum program, decided that deeper issues affecting agriculture must be



addressed. Laura Heuser was the keynote speaker.

WSAM invited all farm and ranch women's organizations to a special coalition meeting immediately following the Forum. The invitation suggested that women's groups interested in establishing a coalition come to the meeting with authorization of their membership to join. Because the purpose of the Forum to WSAM members was always to establish a national coalition, WSAM raised the funds and invited all attending the Forum to a reception to promote the idea and encourage them to attend the coalition meeting.

WSAM's members came prepared with exhibits, buttons, favors, educational materials and a mission that they must convince people of the need for a national coalition. The theme used by WSAM throughout the week was, "WE CAN DO IT TOGETHER!" When the opportunity for action came, the women were unstoppable in their eagerness, meeting at all hours to develop a purpose and goals to form a coalition.

Pat Cahill had arranged with President Gerald Ford's staff to have greetings sent to Sharon Steffens, WSAM State Chairman, to be read to those attending the National Farm Women's Forum. The telegram text follows.

November 12, 1974

The White House

It is a pleasure to extend greetings to your first National Farm Women's Forum and to know that women are joining together for the benefit of agriculture.

We all know that urban people have not lost their basic dependence upon farm people, despite the diminishing numbers living and working on the farms of America, and while we often pay tribute to farms, we too seldom salute farm women for their role in helping meet the food and fiber needs of everyone.

Therefore, let me congratulate you on your objectives to bring about greater understanding of the enormous productivity of farming and the benefit of the U.S. Agriculture.

Gerald R. Ford

Speakers at the coalition meeting were Mr. Joseph Wright, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture; Corky Larson, a California family grape grower who had personally negotiated contracts with Chavez and the Teamsters; and Sister Thomas More Bertels, Professor of History and organizational specialist, Silver Lake College, Wisconsin, who spoke on "Coalition or Annihilation."

Four organizations came prepared to join: Women for the Survival of Agriculture in Michigan; Wisconsin Women for Agriculture; Oregon Women for Agriculture; and the Washington Women for the Survival of Agriculture. Two other groups, the United Farm Wives of Kansas (Kansas Agri-Women) who had organized in 1973 and Illinois Women for Agriculture (Illinois Agri-Women) who had organized in 1974, ratified their memberships intentions to join the coalition during that first chartering year. It was decided that both individuals and organizations could belong to the coalition. The name, AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN was chosen, with the organization officially launched on November 14, 1974, at the Marc Plaza Hotel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Sharon Steffens, WSAM State Chairman, was named Temporary Coordinator of AAW.

A Statement of Purpose and three areas of concern were adopted. The three areas of concern urged that consumers be informed as to the country of origin and the standard of quality of imported products; that government agencies utilize input from the agricultural industry to prevent unnecessary and ill-advised regulations; and that national legislation be passed immediately which would enable farmworkers to use their rights to choose by secret ballot elections, which union, if any, is to represent them.

--written by Sharon Steffens and Pat Cahill, WSAM



## Some of the Early Organizers of AAW & AAW Affiliates



Cornee Canfield, MI



Mary Holzapfel, OR



Working toward a meeting of minds regarding power, how to build it, and how to rein it in once built, are (seated) Marilyn Carney and Corky Larson of California Women for Agriculture (CWA), Sr. Thomas More, Wisconsin Women for Agriculture (WWA), and Gloria Bacchalti (CWA). Standing are Kay Wilson (CWA), Pat Cohen, Women for the Survival of Agriculture in Michigan (WSAM), and Gammie Horton (CWA). Because they worked in the garage of a garage at Lake Arrowhead, the composers of AAW's Call to Power are known as "The Arrowhead Seven."



Laura Heuser, MI



Barbara Bausch, KS



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Twenty Years  
of Service  
to Agriculture



## Coalition Meeting November 14, 1974

**Location** National Farm Women's Forum inspired by WSAM and coordinated by *Farm Wife Magazine*, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Two hundred people attended the meeting.

**Program Highlights** Three speakers were followed by a business meeting. The program was entitled, "Encounter with Truth." The speakers included Mr. Joseph Wright, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, who spoke on "President Ford's Inflation-fighting Policies and How They Will Affect Agriculture"; Corky Larson, a Coachella Valley, California, table grape grower who had negotiated contracts with both Chavez and the Teamsters; and Sister Thomas More Bertels, Professor of History, Silver Lake College, Manitowoc, Wisconsin, on "Coalition or Annihilation."

**Business** Official delegates from Women for the Survival of Agriculture in Michigan, Women for the Survival of Agriculture in Washington, Oregon Women for Agriculture, and Wisconsin Women for Agriculture, voted unanimously in favor of a coalition. Representatives from several other groups joined following their return home. Kansas (United Farm Wives of America) had organized in 1973. At a meeting in December, they voted to become an affiliate of American Agri-Women. Illinois Women for Agriculture and AMPI Women also joined upon returning home.

Sharon Steffens of WSAM was elected temporary coordinator of the new coalition named American Agri-Women which would be the first organization to represent all segments of the agricultural industry. The name American Agri-Women, was one of three proposed, and was selected by the delegates.

AAW immediately adopted a **Statement of Purpose** and identified three areas of concern.

**Statement of Purpose:** "We, as women's agricultural organizations and individuals, united together to communicate with one another and with other consumers to promote agriculture for the benefit of the American people and the world."

**Areas of Concern** 1) Urging that consumers be informed as to the country of origin and the standard of quality of imported products. 2) That government agencies utilize input from the agricultural industry so as to prevent unnecessary and ill-advised regulations which created hardships for producers, processors and consumers, and 3) That national legislation be passed immediately which will enable farmworkers to use their right to choose by secret ballot elections which union, if any, is to represent them.

**Highlights** In June, 1975, AAW participated in a USDA program for Department of Agriculture employees in Washington, D.C., entitled, "Women in Agriculture and the Changing World."

During the first year, a bimonthly mimeographed paper was edited and mailed out by temporary coordinator Sharon Steffens, volunteer secretary Bernadette Rasch, and as many women and children as were available at the moment. Proposed bylaws were also developed and plans for a chartering meeting completed.



## Chartering Meeting November 13, 1975

**Location** Marc Plaza Hotel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It was held following the 2nd National Farm Women's Forum, coordinated by *Farm Wife News*.

**Program Highlights** The program was entitled, "Setting Goals for American Agri-Women." Speakers included Dr. Sylvan Wittwer, Director of Experiment Stations, on "World Food Situation," and Donna Sweeney, Organizational Specialist, both from Michigan State University.

The bylaws were approved; several areas of concern were adopted; and a slate of officers was elected.

### First Elected Officers

National Coordinator  
Assistant Coordinator  
Secretary  
Treasurer

Sharon Stettens, Michigan  
Nancy Smidle, Wisconsin  
Alice Weimers, Texas  
Sharon Knight, Washington

**Note** The first *VOICE of the American Agri-Woman* was published in April, 1976.





## 1976 - 1977

### **First Annual Meeting November 15-17, 1976**

**Location** Radisson-Muehlebach Hotel, Kansas City, Missouri

The meeting was organized after the National Farm Women's Forum was canceled. Two hundred fifty individuals from 33 states attended.

**Convention Highlights** The Theme of the convention was "Working Together."

A panel of consumer leaders and farm women; speakers on trade; legislation and labor solutions; threats to cooperatives; and research were program highlights.

The first AAW awards were presented.

**Notes** Position papers, after much input from the affiliated groups and AAW Committee Chairmen were compiled by Gail McPherson, Goals Chairman. They covered several areas of concern and were distributed in Washington, D.C.

The 1977 Farm Bill was a major concern of many AAW members. Members from several states went to Washington, D.C. to talk with legislators.

In September, Sharon Steffens was invited to the White House for the signing of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977. This recognition acknowledged the impact that farm and ranch women were having.

**Mid-Year Meeting** Silver Lake College Convent, Manitowac, Wisconsin. It was hosted by Sister Thomas More Bertels and the Wisconsin Women for Agriculture. The bylaws were completely revised under the direction of AAW professional parliamentarian, Mary Mann, Indiana.

### **1976-1977 Officers:**

National Coordinator  
Assistant Coordinator  
Secretary  
Treasurer

Sharon Steffens, Michigan  
Nancy Smidle, Wisconsin  
Betty Hamlin, Oregon  
Sharon Knight, Washington





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1977 - 1978

**Second Annual Meeting  
November 8-11, 1977**

**Location** Port Plaza Inn, Green Bay, Wisconsin

**Convention Highlights** "Growing Together" was the theme of the convention.

The program included an energy panel; seminars organization, education and estate tax; Dr. Fran Hill on "The American Farm Wife - Who is She?"; Dr. Randall Torgerson on "Farmers Need for the Capper-Volstead Act"; and Dr. Gordon Guyer on "Agriculture and Red China."

Corky Larson, California, had been concerned that when AAW attained power it would not abuse it as she had seen the United Farm Workers Union do. Thus she called together what is now referred to as the "Arrowhead 7 plus 1." They met in the garret of a garage at Lake Arrowhead, having already researched the work of Ghandi, Saul Allinsky and Bonhoeffer. The result was the creation of what AAW is and how it operates. Besides Corky, the group included Kay Wilson, Gloria Bachhetti, Tammy Horton, Marilyn Carney, all of California; Pat Cahill, Michigan; and Sister Thomas More Bertels, Wisconsin. The "plus 1" included Carolyn Leavens, California, who was not present at the meeting but contributed a key phrase to the "Call to Power."

At that point in time, the American Agriculture Movement was growing. AAW was under great pressure to take a stand. The following statement was approved by the convention and distributed to the media and AAW members:

"American Agri-Women pleads for unity in agriculture. We deplore the farm economics crisis, as well as, the resulting impact to the national economy. We urge AAW members to obtain complete information about the American Agricultural Movement, which is not affiliated with American Agri-Women. Each individual member is urged to participate in the movement to whatever extent their personal opinion dictates. We challenge all farm organizations - the general farm organizations, commodity groups, cooperatives - to join with us to achieve a united voice for agriculture. We need to reconcile long-held philosophical differences regarding agricultural economics by all in favor of common goals that will better insure the survival of the family farm."

**Notes** In December, 1977, AAW represented the United States (one of two representatives) at the Inter-American Commission of Women involving the U.S. and twenty-two countries. In Washington, D.C. Pat Cahill participated in this meeting sponsored by the Organization of American States

Growing numbers of AAW women were being appointed or elected to boards of directors, Agricultural Technical Advisory Committees, other USDA advisory committees, school boards, and other entities on local, state and national levels.



**1977-1978 Officers:**

National Coordinator  
Assistant Coordinator  
Secretary  
Treasurer

Joan Adams, Oklahoma  
Sharon Knight, Washington  
Evelyn Cooper, Michigan  
Trenna Grabowski, Illinois



**1978 - 1979**

**Third Annual Meeting  
November 9-11, 1978**

**Location** Sheraton Century Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

**Convention Highlights** "Issues and Answers" was the convention theme.

The program included a "welcome" from newly-elected Senator David Boren and an address by Sarah Weddington, Assistant to the President of the United States.

Business highlights included discussion and approval of staggered terms of office, additional officers, and new titles for the top leadership posts.

**Notes** On February 14, 1978, Joan Adams, National Coordinator, was invited to the White House to join other national leaders of agricultural organizations to meet with President Jimmy Carter. The purpose was to discuss the agricultural economic situation and offer constructive suggestions.

In October, Rosalyn Carter, First Lady, accepted Honorary Membership in AAW.

The VOICE was moved to Washington, D.C. with Nedra Carpel, Farm-Com-Inc., as editor.



**1978-1979 Officers:**

President  
First Vice President (Vital Issues)  
Second Vice President (Public Relations)  
Third Vice President (Education)  
Secretary  
Treasurer

Joan Adams, Oklahoma  
Corky Larson, California  
Botty Roberts, Oklahoma  
Mildred Kelly, Kansas  
Evelyn Cooper, Michigan  
Trenna Grabowski, Illinois



**1979 - 1980**

**Fourth Annual Meeting**  
**October 31 - November 3, 1979**

**Location** Vacation Village, San Diego, California



**Convention Highlights** The theme chosen was "We're Partners - Bridging the Gap."

The convention included an all day farm tour of Southern California agriculture; workshops on "Power Negotiations", energy and resource programs; and several top speakers.

One of the most important resolutions to come out of this convention was the Definition of the Family Farm. (See page 45). This definition, as well as testimony on many other issues were offered at several of the "Structure of Agriculture" hearings held by Secretary Bob Bergland. This was a major part of the "dialogue" on what the future structure of small agriculture should be.

**1979-1980 Officers:**

President  
First Vice President (Vital Issues)  
Second Vice President (Public Relations)  
Third Vice President (Education)  
Secretary  
Treasurer

Evelyn Landis, North Dakota  
Ruby Ringsdorf, Oregon  
Mike Seibert, California  
Mildred Kelly, Kansas  
Evelyn Cooper, Michigan  
Trenna Grabowski, Illinois



## 1980 - 1981

### **Fifth Annual Meeting** **November 9-13, 1980**

**Location** Hershey Motor Lodge, Hershey, Pennsylvania

**Convention Highlights** AAW members had the opportunity to become acquainted with three farm women from Australia, Lyn Johnson, Wilma Byrne, and Dorrie Mason.

Sperry New Holland sponsored a media workshop for those interested in this area of promotion. A tour included the Sperry New Holland plant, driving through the Amish Country, visiting a dairy farm and dinner at a quaint New England house.

**Notes** Contact was made during the year with both Canadian and English farm women who have organized agricultural groups.

USDA sponsored a Farm Women's Forum, in Washington, D.C. in October. AAW First VP Ruby Ringsdorf and the presidents of the National CowBelles and Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE), served as a steering committee with the USDA staff in development of the program which addressed how the family farm could have input into the 1981 Farm Bill.

The first AAW directory, containing the history, annual report, Call to Power, and affiliated organizations' leadership was published. Sharon Steffens served as the editor.

Participation in the "Structure of Ag" hearings, the White House Conference on Families, and the Ag Lands Conference were major activities of AAW and its affiliated groups.

**Mid-Year Meeting** It was combined with visits to USDA and legislators in Washington, D.C.

### **1980-1981 Officers:**

President

Evelyn Landis, North Dakota

First Vice President (Vital Issues)

Ruby Ringsdorf, Oregon

Second Vice President (Communications)

Emilie Welsh, Pennsylvania

Third Vice President (Education)

Patricia Zee, New Jersey

Secretary

Audrey Sickingor, Wisconsin

Treasurer

Trenna Grabowski, Illinois





## 1981 - 1982

### **Sixth Annual Meeting November 10-14, 1981**

**Location** Marriott Inn, Grand Rapids, Michigan

**Convention Highlights** "Free Enterprise-America's Strength; Agriculture-America's Strength" was the theme of the convention.

Program highlights included Sister Thomas More Bertels discussing "Power"; Patty Newman on "The Mystery of Chavez"; officials from USDA and the State Department; and publication of two convention newsletters and a follow-up edition for the total membership in conjunction with an editor's workshop. A major bylaws change creating a Board of Directors consisting of the Executive Committee and the President of each affiliate or her duly-appointed representative was approved.

**Notes** AAW accomplishments during 1981 included repeal of the Widow's Tax, signed by President Ronald Reagan, which finally resulted after years of effort on the part of AAW and its affiliates, along with a united effort with many other farm and commodity organizations. Doris Royal, A Nebraska farm wife, was instrumental in getting AAW involved in this very important issue. Laura Lane, Farm Journal Magazine, was very helpful. She wrote many articles in support of AAW's position.

AAW continued to testify, write letters, and express views on various issues besides estate taxes, such as the use of chemicals in agriculture; food and diet issues; labor; and imports. Animal Care was a new issue generating much concern and action.

AAW sought constantly to project a positive image of the role of today's farm woman. This had brought AAW members recognition and credibility in their states and in Washington, D.C. AAW also continued to network agriculture and its organizations by learning more about people across the nation and sharing problems and solutions.

AAW members were no longer the token women on the committee but had become an integral part of committees on which they served. To assist the new administration in 1981, AAW established a Talent Bank of farm women who were interested and qualified for appointments to various advisory committees.

President Ruby Ringsdorf met with over 100 Australian women during a trip to their country, and spoke to them about American Agri-Women and women's role in American agriculture.



### 1981-1982 Officers:

President	Ruby Ringsdorf, Oregon
First Vice President (Vital Issues)	Joan Vogel, Wisconsin
Second Vice President (Communications)	Emilie Welsh, Pennsylvania
Third Vice President (Education)	Patricia Zee, New Jersey
Secretary	Audrey Sickinger, Wisconsin
Treasurer	Trenna Grabowski, Illinois
Past President	Evelyn Landis, North Dakota



### 1982 - 1983

#### Seventh Annual Meeting November 14-17, 1982

**Location** Regency Park Resort & Convention Center, Overland Park, Kansas. There were 248 registrants.

**Convention Highlights** Resolutions were adopted concerning Animal Rights and World Hunger groups.

Senator Nancy Landon Kassebaum was the keynote speaker. Dr. Margaret Maxey, University of Texas, impressed the audience when she spoke for an hour without any notes. A tour included the National Agricultural Hall of Fame at Bonner Springs and the Farmland Research Farm. Members and guests attended the American Royal rodeo after feasting on a roast pig dinner.

President Ruby Ringsdorf had surgery and was unable to attend. JoAnn Vogel presided at the business meetings.

**Notes** Membership had reached 3335 individual members and 24,000 members by affiliated memberships.

President Ruby Ringsdorf was invited to meet with Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block in January of 1983 in Washington concerning the payment in kind (PIK) program, and was one of three women included in the Secretary's Ag Summit in July of that year. She was appointed to Ford Tractor's new Ag Women's council, representing AAW.



**1982-1983 Officers:**

President Ruby	Ringsdorf, Oregon
First Vice President (Vital Issues)	JoAnn Vogel, Wisconsin
Second Vice President (Communications)	Emilie Welsh, Pennsylvania
Third Vice President (Education)	Millie Schultz, Kansas
Secretary	Joanna Mertz, Kansas
Treasurer	Julia Hinthner, Oklahoma
Past President	Evelyn Landis, North Dakota



**1983 - 1984**

**Eighth Annual Meeting  
November 13-16, 1983**

**Location** Valley River Inn, Eugene, Oregon  
There were 291 registrants.

**Convention Highlights** AAW voted to support legislation to amend the Delaney Clause in keeping with the revolutionary and technological changes in food safety and that "no risk" policy be changed to one that shows "no significant risk."

**Notes** AAW sent four members to the USDA's Ag in the Classroom conference. AAW agreed to publicize and support the project.

Ford Tractor Company announced the establishment of a Women's Advisory Committee. It would consist of ten members, serving one year terms. AAW would have one of five permanent positions on the committee.

**Mid-Year Meeting** It was held in Washington, D.C. A legislative reception attracted 85 guests. The National Ag-Chemicals Association had developed a Media Public Relations Guide for Agri-Women to use. "The Farming Game" was distributed to every Member of Congress.

**1983-1984 Officers:**

President	Carolyn Leavens, California
First Vice President (Vital Issues)	Jean Bendahl, Illinois
Second Vice President (Communications)	Mitzi Ayala, California
Third Vice President (Education)	Millie Schultz, Michigan
Secretary	Jeanne Mertz, Kansas
Treasurer	Julia Hinthner, Oklahoma
Past President	Ruby Ringsdorf, Oregon





## 1984 - 1985

### **Ninth Annual Meeting November 13-16, 1984**

**Location** Peoria Continental Regency Hotel, Peoria, Illinois  
There were 216 registrants.

**Convention Highlights** AAW Policy Papers were approved after a great deal of discussion. Jessica Lange, star of the movie "COUNTRY" was presented a scroll signed by the members at the convention. It was to express AAW's appreciation of her sensitive portrayal of country life and the strong, heroic image of the farm wife in the face of adversity. Carolyn Leavens made arrangements and presented the scroll to Ms. Lange in Hollywood.

Wendy Welland, was a guest at the convention. She represented British Women's Farming Union, a group similar to AAW.

Union Carbide offered to present a two-day leadership conference intended to help AAW function more effectively. The workshop would be held at the 1985 mid-year meeting.

A milestone was marked as W.I.F.E. and AAW presidents exchanged convention appearances. Carolyn Leavens spoke to the W.I.F.E. delegates at their convention, and their president addressed the members of American Agri-Women.

**Mid-Year Meeting** The board met at the Clayton Inn, Clayton, Missouri (suburb of St. Louis). Union Carbide conducted a two day training session. It was an excellent Leadership Conference for the board members.

#### **1984-1985 Officers:**

President	Carolyn Leavens, California
First Vice President (Vital Issues)	Jean Ibendaht, Illinois
Second Vice President (Communications)	Mitzi Ayala, California
Third Vice President (Education)	Carol Ann Gregg, Pennsylvania
Secretary	Treasure Omdahl, Minnesota
Treasurer	Julia Hinthner, Oklahoma
Past President	Ruby Ringsdorf, Oregon





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## 1985 - 1986

### **Tenth Annual Meeting** **November 10-14, 1985**

**Location** Holiday Inn, Phoenix, Arizona

**Convention Highlights** A Bed & Breakfast project was discussed. It would be for AAW members traveling across the country.

John Deere announced it would sponsor a contest for AAW members with three winners receiving expense paid trips to the St. Paul convention in 1986.

American Agri-Women voted to support agricultural policy encouraging our farm products to move freely to the markets in the United States and the world. This would lead to a farm program which would stabilize the economics of the industry, without unrealistic high supports, loans, and target prices which lead to unneeded production and result in burdensome surpluses.

AAW supported "THANKS, INC." in its national effort to have U.S. food processors label American grown and processed food.

AAW supported action to modify or withdraw the 1973 Federal Trade Commission Consent Order banning "fat free" milk advertising.

The farm labor unrest was spreading into the Midwest. FLOC (Farm Labor Organizing Committee) was quite active. Farm labor issues were of great concern to the members. One of these concerns was the table grape boycott by the National Farm Worker Ministry.

**Notes** In an effort to strengthen the AAW education program, subcommittees were appointed to work under the direction of Carol Ann Gregg, Education VP. The committees were: Ag in the Classroom; Ag Women's Leadership Project; Bed and Breakfast; and Consumer Education. By involving more women there was more time to focus on each area.

Chris Wilson had been appointed Legislative Chair. She instituted a "legislative hotline" to be used for critical calls to congressmen, and she wrote a monthly legislative column which was mailed to everyone on the president's mailing list.

Jean Pattibone and Trenna Grabowski were Marketing Co-Chairs. They worked hard on emphasizing the need to utilize alternative crops. (Ed. Note - AAW was perhaps ahead of our time, for while many doors were closed to us, now we are seeing and hearing much more about alternative crops.)

Jean Ibendahl, chairman of the subcommittee for Ag in the Classroom, introduced a new project, the Ag Science Fair project promoting the use of alternative crops.

**Mid-Year Meeting** Hilton Plaza Inn, Kansas City, Missouri

Many issues were discussed. Meetings on various topics ran late into the night.



**1985-1986 Officers:**

President

First Vice President (Resolutions & Vital Issues)

Vice President, Public Relations

Vice President, Education

Secretary

Treasurer

Past President

Jeanne Mertz, Kansas

Mitzi Ayala, California

Sandy Greiner, Iowa

Carol Ann Gregg, Pennsylvania

Treasure Omdahl, Minnesota

Julia Hinther, Oklahoma

Carolyn Leavens, California



**1986 - 1987**

**Eleventh Annual Meeting**

November 9-13, 1986

**Location** Radisson Hotel, St. Paul, Minnesota

**Convention Highlights** AAW adopted Resolutions:

\*In support of soybean quality standards, wheat quality standards, and corn quality standards.

\*To oppose casein imports.

\*To oppose agricultural products used as tools in negotiations with other countries.



\*To oppose the California Table Grape Boycott.

Caesar Chavez had infiltrated into the midwest and had received a "special motion" from the Kansas City, Missouri City Council, to boycott table grapes. AAW members throughout the midwest had made calls and sent letters opposing the boycott. Other farm organizations also expressed their displeasure. The original city council motion was later overruled.

AAW members agreed to do everything possible to encourage the use, on a state-by-state basis, of identification and usage of alternative industrial crops. (Alternative industrial crops as defined by AAW are non-edible and non-feed.)

A Town Hall Meeting was open to everyone who had an issue they wished to discuss. It drew a large attendance.

**Notes** Chris Wilson, Legislative Chair, planned and organized an AAW Fly-In to Washington, D.C. which included the Executive Committee, Affiliate Presidents and Committee Chairman.

**Mid-Year Meeting** Airport Marriott Hotel, Kansas City, Missouri

Peter Myers, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and John Lankester, Director of Purchases, Proctor & Gamble Products Division, addressed the AAW Board of Directors.

**1986-1987 Officers:**

President	Jeanne Mertz, Kansas
President-Elect	Mitzi Ayala, California
First Vice President (Resolutions & Vital Issues)	Carol Ann Gregg, Pennsylvania
Vice President, Communications	Sandy Greiner, Iowa
Vice President, Education	Nita Wilson, Oregon
Secretary	Ardath DeWall, Illinois
Treasurer	Julia Hinthor, Oklahoma
Past President	Carolyn Leavens, California





1987 - 1988

**Twelfth Annual Meeting  
November 6-9, 1987**

**Location** Embassy Suites, McAllen, Texas



**Convention Highlights** AAW adopted Resolutions:

\*Supports legislation to allow a farm spouse to qualify for farm program payments, up to the \$50,000 payment limitation, providing they contribute management and or capital to the farming operation.

\*Supports Ethanol production from agricultural products, helping U.S. to become more fuel efficient.

All states were encouraged to check laws on country of origin and work for improved labeling.

Crucial Issues - Animal Rights and Ag Labor, Endangered Species Act, Private Property Rights.

Concerns - Importation of 270,000 feeder lambs from New Zealand to the Port of Portland, Oregon. Submitted to USDA.

AAW members were given an opportunity for a "firsthand" look at an alternative crop when they toured a Kenaf field as part of the tour event.

Dr. Michael DeBakey, a pioneer in open heart surgery, was presented the Veritas Award. He spoke to a standing room only crowd of members and guests.

**Notes** A major leadership training initiative was undertaken, resulting in the development of a leadership training course and book for use by all affiliates.

**Mid-Year Meeting** Airport Marriott Hotel, Kansas City, Missouri

Steve Kopperud, Animal Industry Foundation Executive Director, conducted an animal rights workshop.

**1987-1988 Officers:**

President

First Vice President (Resolutions & Vital Issues)

Vice President, Communications

Vice President, Education

Secretary

Treasurer

Past President

Mitzi Ayala, California

Sandy Greiner, Iowa

Kay Egle Shideler, Oregon

Nita Wilson, Oregon

Ardath DeWall, Illinois

Julia Hinthner, Oklahoma

Jeanne Mertz, Kansas



## 1988 - 1989

### **Thirteenth Annual Meeting** November 16-20, 1988

**Location** Holiday Inn Center City, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Convention Highlights** Mitzi Ayala introduced her husband, Frank Perdue, to the members of AAW.

AAW passed resolutions which included:

\*Supporting the continued negotiations at the interim review of GATT in Montreal, December, 1988.

\*Opposing any future legislation which would include the provision of "The minimum health benefits for all workers act of 1987" proposed and defeated in the 100th congress.

Leadership Manuals were available for distribution at the convention. Robbie Robinson conducted a leadership training session.

**Notes** New Holland announced they had established an Agri-Women's Council. AAW members were appointed to serve on it.

AAW attended and helped coordinate the Agricultural Women's Leadership Summit at the Winrock Center, Little Rock, Arkansas. The Agricultural Women's Leadership Network was chartered, October, 1988. Mitzi Perdue and Sandy Greiner, AAW, Ardath DeWall and Vicki Coughlin, AMPI, and Fern Krehbiel, American Sheep Industry Women, attended. Ardath DeWall was elected president.

A Washington Fly-In was held in June, with participation by AAW officers, committee chairs and affiliate representatives. The group met with numerous policymakers and distributed information packets to every Member of Congress.

Sister Thomas More Bertel's book, "In Pursuit of Agri-Power" was published.

**Mid-Year Meeting** Tiffany Springs Sheraton, Kansas City, Missouri  
Dixon Hubbard, USDA Extension Service addressed the board.

### **1988-1989 Officers:**

President	Mitzi Perdue, Maryland
President-Elect	Sandy Greiner, Iowa
First Vice President (Resolutions & Vital Issues)	Trenna Grabowski, Illinois
Vice President, Communications	Kay Egle-Shidler, Oregon
Vice President, Education	Ardath DeWall, Illinois
Secretary	Gail McPherson, Pennsylvania
Treasurer	Julia Hinthner, Oklahoma
Past President	Jeanne Mertz, Kansas





## 1989 - 1990

### Fourteenth Annual Meeting November 10-13, 1989

**Location** Westward Ho, Grand Forks, North Dakota

**Convention Highlights** AAW members would support:

- \*The Tax Reform Act of 1986 deduction provisions.
- \*Actions by the FDA to better inform the public with food label statements
- \*The "Rural Health Improvement Act of 1989" maintenance of the Federal Milk Market

**Orders.**

- \*Lower favorable tax treatment for capital gains.

The office of president-elect was omitted as noted in bylaw changes.

A Canadian tour followed the convention, furthering international outreach objectives of AAW, in a roundtable discussion with Manitoba women.

**Notes** A new AAW display, sponsored by Pioneer, was available for national conventions and affiliates use. The display was used in a booth at the National Extension Homemakers Council Convention, Manhattan, Kansas, and at the Association of Country Women of the World Convention in Kansas City, Missouri.

**Mid-Year Meeting** Best Western Noah's Ark, St. Charles, Missouri

Paul Wagner, Ag Council of America, explained the new FOODWATCH program being implemented by the Agriculture Council of America. Members attending on Friday afternoon had a media training session conducted by Mary Ann Ford.

### 1989-1990 Officers:

President

First Vice President (Resolutions & Vital Issues)

Vice President, Communications

Vice President, Education

Secretary

Treasurer

Past President

Sandy Greiner, Iowa

Trenna Grabowski, Illinois

Gen Long, Texas

Ardath DeWall, Illinois

Gail McPherson, Pennsylvania

Cynthia Adkins, Oklahoma

Mitzi Perdue, Maryland





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## 1990 - 1991

### **Fifteenth Annual Meeting** **November 8-12, 1990**

**Location** Red River Inn, Sacramento, California

#### **Convention Highlights** AAW would support:

- \*Elimination of PL83-664, the Cargo Preference Act of 1994.
- \*Concept of the Food Watch Program as planned by the Agricultural Council of America.
- \*Community Stability Act of 1990. AAW endorses uniform reporting of contaminants as authorized in the Food Agricultural Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 for improved risk communication to consumers and for better consumer understanding.
- \*100% deduction of Health Insurance costs of self-employed individuals.

**Focus Issues:** Food Safety, Animal Rights, Water

**Projects:** Oral History project, From Mules to Microwaves, was coordinated by Carol Ann Gregg, to document the life-styles of rural women ancestors. (The portfolio of oral and written histories received from throughout the country was presented to the Agriculture Hall of Fame in Bonner Springs, Kansas, at the 1992 Mid-Year Meeting.)

**Notes** AAW had a booth at the National Extension Homemakers Council Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Fifteen members participated in a Leadership Academy sponsored by CIBA-GEIGY, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Carol Ann Gregg was invited to speak at the "Fly in for Freedom."

AAW members visited with DuPont officials at Wilmington, Delaware. The purposes of the trip were to acquaint them with agricultural chemical research, learn the process necessary for chemicals to receive clearance for sale and learn more about manufacturing.

Sandy Grainer and Chris Wilson went to Washington, D.C. where they met with administration and capitol hill officials concerning the reporting of contaminants in a standard unit of measurement. AAW was seeking to have agencies use a standard unit for measurements, in order to reduce consumer confusion over the potential health risks when statistics are reported in the media. (Contaminants include pesticides, natural substances such as insect parts and rodents excrement, and other substances not desired in food or water.) Commitments were made by administration officials to begin reporting contaminants in a standard unit of measurement.

**Mid-Year Meeting** Best Western's Noah's Ark, St. Charles, Missouri



#### 1990-1991 Officers:

President	Sandy Greiner, Iowa
First Vice President (Resolutions & Vital Issues)	Trenna Grabowski, Illinois
Vice President, Communications	Gen Long, Texas
Vice President, Education	Judy Loudenslager, Ohio
Secretary	Jean Pettibone, Kansas
Treasurer	Cynthia Adkins, Oklahoma
Past President	Mitzi Perdue, Maryland



#### 1991 - 1992

#### Sixteenth Annual Meeting November 7-11, 1991

Location State House Inn, Boise, Idaho

**Convention Highlights** AAW supported the Family Tax Relief and Savings Act of 1991.

The convention included many worthwhile speakers. Members enjoyed a tour to area agriculture related operations.

**Other Activities** Legislative and regulatory concerns included private property rights, the reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act, middle income tax relief and a capital gains exemption, minor use pesticides, integrated pest management, wetlands legislation, ethanol and proposed EPA regulations, the Farm Animal and Research Facility Protection Act, Adams Fruit and the exclusivity of workers compensation, the deductibility of health insurance premiums, grazing fees, food safety and a reasonable approach to residue measurement and the possibility that the estate tax exemption might be lowered as a part of the Long-Term Care Family Security Act of 1992.

We continued to monitor activities of radical environmental organizations and joined with other groups in coalitions to work for responsible regulations in the environmental area. Past President Mitzi Perdue is writing a weekly column of positive environmental stories which is carried by the Scripps-Howard syndicate.

The annual Fly-In to Washington was a great success under the able hand of Carol Ann Gregg, legislative chair. Many of our women stayed for the annual Farm Women's Forum.

The AAW booth was well traveled among the affiliates. In addition, the national organization had displays at the National Corn Growers Meeting and at the National Extension Homemakers Meeting.



AAW President Trena Grabowski had the honor of representing American Agri-Women at a White House Meeting with President George Bush and representatives of other selected agricultural organizations. She was appointed during this year to serve on the Agricultural Advisory Committee of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

**Mid-Year Meeting** Airport Marriott Hotel, Kansas City, Missouri

**1991-1992 Officers:**

President	Trena Grabowski, President
First Vice President (Resolutions & Vital Issues)	Ardath DeWall, Illinois
Vice President, Communications	Christina Wilson, Kansas
Vice President, Education	Judy Loudenslager, Ohio



**1992 - 1993**

**Seventeenth Annual Meeting**  
November 12-15, 1992

**Location** Holiday Inn, Worthington, Ohio

**Convention Highlights** AAW supports Oregon Women for Agriculture's recommendation that the United States of America oppose the recommendations of the Earth Summit, June, 1992, in Rio De Janeiro. Any international forum proposing to solve global concerns must base it's decisions on the facts and not on emotion.

**Other Activities** Legislative concerns included the estate tax exemption, carryover basis and the possibility of taxing capital gains at death, as well as the Endangered Species Act, Minor Use Pesticides, the Delaney Clause and other issues which continued on from the preceding year. We were involved with the Arkansas Best Coalition on hedging of agriculture commodities, worked on the Food Quality Protection Act and other legislation favorable to agriculture. We took these and other legislative and regulatory issues to the Fly-In, and many AAW women stayed in Washington for the Farm Women's Forum.

Fifteen women took part in the Ciba-Geigy leadership training program.

We distributed Ag Day kits from the Agricultural Council of America as a part of the 20th



anniversary of National Agriculture Day--the theme was "American Agriculture--Growing Better Every Day."

AAW participated in USDA field hearings on restructuring (Chris Wilson, Communications V.P.), international trade (Ardath DeWall, First Vice President) and agricultural policy and income support (Trenna Grabowski, President).

The American Agri-Women Devotions Book, edited by Eunice Guell, was introduced at Convention and was a great success.

In anticipation of AAW's 20th anniversary, planning continued for a 20-year history book.

A Strategic Planning Committee was appointed to begin developing a strategic plan for AAW's growth into the next century.

**Mid Year Meeting** Embassy Suites, St. Louis, Missouri

**1992-1993 Officers:**

President	Trenna Grabowski, Illinois
First Vice President, Resolutions & Vital Issues	Ardath DeWall, Illinois
Vice President, Communications	Christina Wilson, Kansas
Vice President, Education	Donna Ulseth, Minnesota
Secretary	Alice Dettwyler, Oregon
Treasurer	Cynthia Adkins, Oklahoma
Past President	Sandy Greiner, Iowa





## 1993 - 1994

### **Eighteenth Annual Meeting November 10-14, 1993**

**Location** Wyndham Hamilton Hotel, Itasca, Illinois



**Convention Highlights** The Associated Milk Producers Women were the first commodity affiliate to host the annual convention. They chose as their theme, "Chicago, don't miss it!"

**Other Activities** AAW's Strategic Plan was developed through membership surveys and input to a strategic planning committee. The committee proposed a vision and mission statements and four major objectives, with strategies and action items for each objective.

START - the Strategic Action & Response Team was implemented. The START is comprised of a chairman and four coordinators who oversee commodity and issue committees and identify issues which need a coordinated AAW response. The coordinators work with their committee chairs to provide a report from each area for each issue of the VOICE. The START assists the President and officers in planning effective action to address issues.

**Notes** AAW's position on Health Care Insurance was presented at the Rural Health Care Symposium sponsored by Agricultural Women's Forum, Washington, D.C. Written testimony was submitted to the Health Care Committees of Congress.

A delegation of 20 AAW members attended the First International Conference for Women in Agriculture at the University of Melbourne in Australia. The conference title, "Farming for our Future" recognized the vital contribution made by women in agriculture throughout the world. The conference drew 850 women representing 33 nations.

The AAW History Project documenting the history of AAW and affiliate organizations is underway.

**Issues of concern** Health Care Insurance; Clean Water Act; Biodiversity Treaty; Property Rights; New Forest Plan; Endangered Species and Worker Protection Standards.

**Mid Year Meeting** Holiday Inn Citi Centre, Kansas City, Missouri

### **1993-1994 Officers:**

President

First Vice President, Resolutions & Vital Issues

Vice President, Communications

Vice President, Education

Secretary

Treasurer

Past President

Ardath DeWal, Illinois

Jean Pettibone, Kansas

Judy Loudenslager, Ohio

Donna Ulseth, Minnesota

Alice Dettwyler, Oregon

Dawn Jarolimek, North Dakota

Trenna Grabowski, Illinois



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Sharon Steffens  
First National Coordinator





## Our National Presidents



Sharon Steffens  
1974-77  
Michigan



Joan Adams  
1977-79  
Oklahoma



Evelyn Landis  
1979-81  
North Dakota



Ruby Ringsdorf  
1981-83  
Oregon



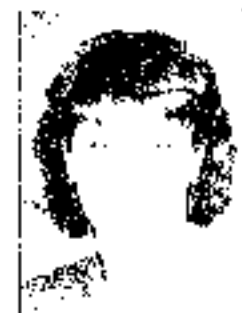
Carolyn Leavens  
1983-85  
California



Jeanne Mertz  
1985-87  
Kansas



Mitzi Perdue  
1987-89  
Maryland



Sandy Greiner  
1989-91  
Iowa



Trenna Grabowski  
1991-93  
Illinois



Ardath DeWall  
1993-95  
Illinois



# American Agri-Women Affiliates

## By Year of Affiliation:

### 1974-75

Oregon Women for Agriculture, 1969<sup>2</sup>  
Women for the Survival of Agriculture in Michigan, 1971  
Wisconsin Women for Agriculture, 1973  
Washington Women for the Survival of Agriculture, 1973  
Kansas Agri-Women (United Farm Wives of America), 1973  
Illinois Agri-Women (Illinois Women for Agriculture), 1974

### 1976

AMPI Morning Glory Farms LEAP (Associated Milk Producers, Inc., Mid-States Region Women), 1973  
California Women for Agriculture, 1976  
Texas Women for Agriculture, 1976  
Washington State Dairy Women, 1954

### 1977

The American Hereford Auxiliary, 1968  
Nebraska Agri-Women (Nebraska Ag Gals), 1977  
National Peach Partners, 1977  
Oklahoma Women for Agriculture, 1977  
Penn's Agri-Women, 1977

### 1978

Idaho women for Agriculture, 1978  
Minnesota Agri-Women, 1978

### 1981

Arizona Women for Agriculture (combined with AZ Agri-business women to form AZ Agri-Women), 1980  
Ohio Agri-Women (Women for Ohio Agriculture), 1980  
Women of National Agriculture Aviation Association, 1977

### 1982

Indiana Agri-Women (Indiana Women for Agriculture), 1980

### 1983

North Dakota Agri-Women, 1983

### 1984

California Women in Timber, 1979  
Phoenix Cotton Wives, 1962



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### 1985

American Angus Auxiliary, 1952  
Salers Belles, 1983  
Red River Valley Potato Growers Auxiliary, 1975  
Texas Agri-Women, 1985

### 1986

Alaska Women in Timber, 1978  
American Sheep Industry Women (National Sheep Growers Auxiliary), 1929

### 1987

Kansas Sheep Auxiliary, 1960  
Kansas CattleWomen, 1952  
Iowa Agri-Women, 1987

### 1988

California Women for Turkeys  
Colorado State Wool Growers Auxiliary, 1940  
Missouri CattleWomen, 1953

### 1989

Michigan Peach Spansors

### 1990

Fur Farm Animal Welfare Coalition, Ltd.  
Lake States Women in Timber, 1984  
Missouri Agri-Women, 1990  
North Dakota CattleWomen, 1951  
Oregon women in Timber, 1978

### 1991

Idaho Women in Timber  
New Mexico Wool Growers Auxiliary

### 1992

Maine Agri-Women, 1992

### 1993

Texas Vegetable Association  
Texas Citrus and Vegetable Association

### 1994

Ohio Holstein Women

<sup>1</sup> Affiliation dates determined by AAW membership directories

<sup>2</sup> Year affiliate was founded, if available



# Honors and Awards



## LEAVEN AWARD

At the Mid-Year Meeting, 1977, the previous Award Winners Task Force developed the LEAVEN AWARD. The Committee determined to use the letters L.E.A.V.E.N. as a means of evaluating the candidates. "Leaven" (yeast) is a small element that can interact and influence everything around it. It permeates and raises the elements with which it is mixed. Leaven multiplies its effectiveness for good. American Agri Women 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."

Recipients of the LEAVEN AWARD include:

			Dorothy Horn, Idaho
			Carolyn Leavens, California
			Treasure Omdahl, Minnesota
			Pat Zee, New Jersey
1977	Sharon Steffens, Michigan Nancy Smidle, Wisconsin Patricia "Corky" Larson, California Joan Adams, Oklahoma	1986	Eunice Guelt, Wisconsin Esther Harford, Illinois Evelyn Landis, North Dakota Ruth McKenry, California Jean Pettibone, Kansas
1978	Evelyn Cooper, Michigan JoAnn Vogel, Wisconsin Mary Myers, Oklahoma Elizabeth Hamlin, Oregon Arde Holman, Oregon	1987	Carol Ann Gregg, Pennsylvania Julia Hinthner, Oklahoma Linda Wright, Minnesota Connie Canfield, Michigan
1979	Trenna Grabowski, Illinois Audrey Sickinger, Wisconsin Mary Mann, Indiana Betty Roberts, Oklahoma	1988	Shirley Butvidas, California Marion DeBoer, Minnesota Imogene Woodside, Washington
1980	Sally Shannon, California Gail McPherson, Pennsylvania Helen Henert, Illinois Eileen Nutting, Michigan Marta Rusch, Wisconsin	1989	Helen Bausch, Kansas Barbara Brookshire, Indiana Mitzi Perdue, Maryland
1981	Mildred Kelly, Kansas	1990	Sr. Thomas More Bertels, Wisconsin Viola Dodge, Kansas Ethel Gross, Pennsylvania Sandy Greiner, Iowa
1982	Jean Omdahl, Illinois Jeanne Mertz, Kansas Mildred Schultz, Michigan Alice Wiemers, Texas	1991	Betsy Campbell, California Christina Wilson, Kansas Linda Swiercinsky, Kansas
1983	Deanna Dyksterhuis, Oregon Norma Hanson, Minnesota Stella Rothe, Texas	1992	Donna Ulseth, Minnesota Kathy Alder, Idaho Florence Rachwal, Wisconsin
1984	Ruby Ringsdorf, Oregon	1993	Loydee Grainger, Oregon Lois Schlockau, Kansas Marjorie Wendzel, Michigan
1985	Ardath DeWall, Illinois		



## VERITAS AWARD

The VERITAS AWARD is presented by American Agri-Women to the person or persons who have given public witness to the pursuit of truth in accordance with the principles enunciated in the AAW Statement of Philosophy, THE CALL TO POWER. Of specific interest is responsible media coverage of issues, events or personalities of critical importance to the agricultural industry.

Coverage may include REPORTING (news stories, features, documentaries); OPINION (editorials, commentaries, surveys) and PICTORIAL REPRESENTATIONS (photographs, cartoon).

PREFERENCE will be given to persons or institutions who are not directly connected with the agricultural industry; that is, they are not required to rely on agricultural interests as a means of livelihood.

Past VERITAS AWARD recipients are:

1981

Paul Harvey, Commentator

1984

The Reverends Cragg and Barbara Gilbert,  
Harvest of Hope TV documentary, Wapato, WA

1985

John Stearns, Ag USA, Pacific Palisades, CA

1987

Dr. Michael E. DeBakey, Chancellor of Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX

1988

Dr. Bruce Ames, University of California, Berkley, CA

1990

Julia Child, Food Specialist, Cambridge, CT

1991

Dr. Dixy Lee Ray, Former Governor of Washington, Author of "Trashing The Planet"

1992

Dr. C. Everett Koop, Former U.S. Surgeon General

1993

Alston Chase, Pleasant Valley, Montana Columnist and Author of "Playing God in Yellowstone: the Destruction of America's First National Park"



Gail McPherson enjoyed presenting AAW's prestigious Veritas Award to the wonderful Dr. Michael DeBakey.



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## AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN AWARDS

In 1976, American Agri-Women recognized the need to honor outstanding achievements. Awards that have been presented are:

- 1976     Agri-Woman of the Year Doris Royal, Nebraska  
Award to Laura Lane, Farm Journal Magazine, Pennsylvania  
Award to Sister Thomas More Bertels, Wisconsin  
Award to Lou Czufin, Chevron Chemical Co., California  
Coordinator Award to Pat Cahill, Michigan
- 1977     Communications Award to Laura Heuser, Michigan
- 1978     President's Award to:  
Betty Roberts, Oklahoma  
Sharon Knight, Washington
- 1979     Special Recognition:  
1978 Woman of the Year Sharon Knight, Washington  
1979 Woman of the Year Corky Larson, California  
AAW Founder's Award Connoe Canfield, Michigan  
President's Award:  
Nedra Carpel, Farm Com-Inc., Washington DC  
Claire Davis-Jones, National Rural Electric Coop Assoc., Washington DC  
Dottie Moorehouse, California
- 1981     President's Award:  
Bill Jones, USDA, Washington DC  
Dale Smith, Farm Journal Magazine, Philadelphia PA
- 1983     President's Award:  
Christina Mosher Wilson, USDA, Washington DC  
Russell Weisensel, Wisconsin
- 1984     Special Recognition:  
Esther Harford Illinois  
Ruth McKerry California  
Sherry Boyd Ohio  
Barbara Radewald Michigan
- 1985     President's Award:  
Ruth McKerry, California  
Gail McPherson, Pennsylvania  
Liz Lathan, Idaho  
Jean Ibendahl, Illinois  
Mildred Kelly, Kansas  
Jeanne Mortz, Kansas



- 1986 President's Award:  
Fern Krahbiel, Oklahoma  
Christina Wilson, Kansas  
Irene Bailey, Kansas  
Alice Weimers, Texas  
Trenna Grabowski, Illinois  
Linda Swierclnsky, Kansas  
Jean Ibendahl, Illinois  
Jean Pettibone, Kansas  
Shirley Butvidas, California  
Helen Bausch, Kansas  
Liz Lathan, Idaho
- 1988 President's Award:  
Marilea Chase, Iowa  
Rosenbluth Travel Agent, Penn.  
Yuki Harada, California  
Kristin Juliar, Minnesota  
Jean Ibendahl, Illinois
- 1989 President's Award:  
Jeanne Mertz, Kansas
- 1990 President's Award:  
Marilea Chase, Iowa  
Deanna Dyksterhuis, Oregon  
Christina Wilson, Kansas
- 1991 President's Award  
Marilea Chase, Iowa  
Christina Wilson, Kansas
- 1992 President's Award  
Jeanne Mertz, Kansas  
Mary Mann Coulson, Ind.  
Jean Ibendahl, Illinois  
Helen Henert, Illinois
- Special Recognition:  
Jean Pettibone, Kansas  
Judy Loudenslager, Ohio
- 1993 President's Award  
Christina Wilson, Kansas  
Martha Rittinger, Ohio  
Carol Ann Gregg, Penn.  
Kathy Reavis, Texas  
Cindy Adkins, Oklahoma  
Eunice Guell, Wisconsin  
Gail McPherson, Penn.



JoAnn Vogel, Doris Royal, Dale Smith, Bill Jones, Laura Lane, as Smith and Jones receive recognition in 1981.



Alice Weimers receives the President's Award from Jeanne Mertz in 1986.



## More Photos of AAW Award Recipients



Alice Weimers, Jean Ibendahl, Millie Schultz, and Jeanne Mertz received the Leaven Award in 1982.



Loydee Grainger, Marjorie Wendzel and Lois Schtickau received the Leaven Award in 1993.



Alice Dettwyler presented the Veritas Award to Governor Dixy Lee Ray.



Julia Child, Veritas Award recipient, with Mitzi Perdue.



## A Tribute to Sister Thomas More Bertels



What has Sister Thomas More Bertels contributed to the phenomenal mobilization of women in agriculture? She has never held an office. She has never dictated policy (she has an occupational hazard of teachers). However, she preached (and still does) the gospel of unification of effort within the agricultural community in order to build a power base in both the economic and political arenas to insure the production of the effects farm and ranch families intend.

Her role is that of resource person, always on tap as needed. Examples: She was present in Milwaukee when AAW was formed as well as when some state affiliates were born; at Lake Arrowhead (CA) when AAW's philosophy and Goals were delineated; on the committee that developed the "family farm" definition; when the Agricultural Women's Leadership Network was in its infancy. She authored a book, "In Pursuit of Agri-Power" that tells what Americans should know about farmers but have never asked, as well as articles, newsletters and letters to editors on issues of farm labor management, land use, environmentalism and biotechnology. Fortunately, Silver Lake College administrators never asked for an accounting of time or money spent in any and all of her endeavors.

Thank you, Sister Thomas More.



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## The AAW Resource Center

From the very inception of AAW in 1974, it was felt that education was a prime goal. To help achieve that goal, the AAW Resource Center was established in the late seventies.

It has a 501(C)(3) educational rating by IRS which makes contributions tax deductible. With that rating, the AAW Resource Center can receive grants from foundations. Financial support is solicited through grants, gifts and donations.

The Education Committee of AAW elects the 5-member Board of Directors of the Resource Center. The annual meeting of the Resource Center is held in conjunction with the AAW National Convention each year.

The objectives are threefold:

A. Formulation and dissemination of educational materials portraying true facts of agropolitan America for use by teachers, school children, and the general public.

B. Improving and supplementing materials pertaining to the agricultural industry --providing factual information.

C. Initiating and promoting an educational program to advance the interests and welfare of agriculture.

Active membership in the AAW Resource Center is open to all members in good standing in AAW who serve on its education committee. A proposal would expand the board of directors to nine members in 1995 and provide for geographic representation.

In 1993, Mitzi Perdue established the Helen Whitmore scholarship through the Resource Center. This scholarship, in honor and memory of devoted AAW Helen Whitmore of California, who inspired so many young women, provides assistance for young women to attend the AAW Convention for their first time.

The 1994 officers of the AAW Resource Center are Laura Tower, President; Loydæ Grainger, Vice President; Gail McPherson, Secretary; Marjorie Wendzel, Treasurer; and Doris Kullman, Director.



DOCUMENTS  
OF  
AAW



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## Statement of Purpose

We, as women's agricultural organizations and individuals, unite together, to communicate with one another and with other consumers to promote agriculture for the benefit of the American people and the world.

## AAW Definition of the Family Farm

A family farm is a form of business enterprise in which the entrepreneurial decisions are made by a family engaged in the production of food, feed, fiber, forest products and/or flora for profit which provides a major source of income and capital for reinvestment.



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## AAW's Vision\*

We are a force for truth:  
a reasoned, nonpartisan voice  
for the agricultural community  
to the public.

## AAW's Mission Statement\*

We will:

- build and strengthen alliances
- communicate
- inform
- cooperate

with individuals and organizations to affect  
perceptions of agriculture.

**\*from AAW's 1994 Strategic Plan**



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## CALL TO POWER

History will be kinder to us if our capacity to affect change is implemented in the right way and for the right reasons. Our dedication to truth and our identification with the institutions that foster justice and goodwill provide our rod and staff in the struggle to put away untruth and injustice.

When the responsibility for change falls to only a few, the resulting sense of powerlessness is dehumanizing. The feeling of helplessness institutes a plague of apathy and fosters the growth of philosophies that troubles us.

But who has not tasted the sweetness of success in effecting change and been inspired to try again and seek greater challenges? By its very nature, the capacity of one alone to effect change is limited; but the scope expands when the common cares of more than one give birth to unity of purpose. From the beginning of time, the hallmark of any group has been its ability to produce intended effects—the very definition of power itself; the power gained in these efforts is the force which has mobilized mankind.

The use of the power that springs from unity and commonality, and the degree to which the group is organized within the framework of sound, human-oriented principles, will determine its ability to survive the stresses from change to renewal.

The need for power is not shameful, nor is it to be feared. When power is used to overcome injustice and untruth, we must assume that the Hand of God is still at work perfecting His creation.

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

- The constant pursuit of truth must lie at the heart of our purpose and actions.
- The manner in which we seek truth must be thorough and without prejudice.
- As we search for truth, we recognize other's 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.

**POWER IS A NEUTRAL CONCEPT**, one that is neither good nor bad. Philosopher Bertrand Russell defined it as "the production of intended effects." What effects do we intend? Can we produce these effects? If we can, we have power.

Unfortunately, too many people fear power, identifying it with Hitler, Stalin, the Red Brigade—those who have abused power; more unfortunately, too few people find fault with those who neglect or refuse to use power, which can also be an abuse. "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." Said Edmond Burke, British statesman of the American revolutionary period. Put another way: "Whatever happens, somebody plans it and the rest of us permit it. We are all responsible."

We must want and use power; that is, we must produce the effects we intend. What do we intend? For the membership of American Agri-Women, that is no secret. Our intentions are voiced in our seven goals. We intend...



- 
- ...to forge the true image of the farm entrepreneur;
  - ...to foster collaboration with the system;
  - ...to formulate fair market practices;
  - ...to foster cooperation among producers;
  - ...to fight oppressive forces;
  - ...to form leaders.

How many AAW affiliates and their chapters keep these goals in mind when planning policies and actions? What activities are conducted in each affiliate that can be categorized as an implementation of each goal? How many evaluate chapter performance regularly? How successful have we been in achieving each goal? **HOW MUCH POWER DO WE ACTUALLY HAVE?**

What difference does it make? A great deal of difference! The most important task facing farm entrepreneurs today is capturing a significant degree of influence over the policy-making function as it relates to food, feed, fiber, forest products and flora. If producers were perceived as having power, they would not be ignored when policy is being formulated.

Today, however, farm entrepreneurs are conspicuous by their absence in the arenas of power. That scenario must change. To date, producers have waited patiently for the scenario to change. It won't, unless they themselves change it. "Patience without pressure is perceived as paralysis" said Herb Cohen, the famous negotiator who addressed AAW in San Diego several years ago. The powerless cannot pressure. We have been CALLED TO POWER. What is your response?

Sister Thomas More Bertels, OSF  
Wisconsin Women for Agriculture



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**AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN POLICIES**  
**Adopted Nov. 14, 1984, Peoria, IL**  
**THE PRIME TRUTH, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES**

**THE PRIME TRUTH** which explains the purpose of AAW's existence.

**GOALS** which direct our action, and some

**STRATEGIES** by which we hope to accomplish our goals.

**PRIME TRUTH: THE FAMILY FARM SYSTEM MUST BE PRESERVED AS THE BULWARK OF THE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM.** ( Private enterprise is the best method to develop human potential.)

**GOAL I:** To present the real identity of American farmers to urban consumers, politicians, media and church leadership.

**Strategy A** To foster a positive self image.

**Strategy B** To correct the inaccurate images presently accepted within and outside the agricultural community.

**GOAL II:** To develop an appreciation within and outside the farming community of the interdependence of the components of the agricultural system.

**Strategy A** To institute dialogue between the agricultural community and other segments of the consuming public such as labor unions, women's organizations, churches, media.

**Strategy B** To promote an understanding of the interdependence of agriculture and the consumer.

**Strategy C** To clarify the interdependence of the diverse segments of agriculture and its support systems

**GOAL III:** To support a marketing system which makes quality food and fiber available to all on a reasonable cost basis and at a fair profit to the farmer.

**Strategy A** To ensure farmers are represented in the decision making process whenever price formulas, tariffs, embargoes, aid and trade negotiations are involved.

**Strategy B** To inform the public about the nature and value of the free enterprise system.

**Strategy C** To provide standby authority for a supply management option as part of the existing price support program to be used during times when government purchases of surplus dairy products exceed a specified reasonable level, which would provide dairy farm families viable opportunity to adjust their production to the needs of the world.

**GOAL IV:** To seek that common ground which provides the foundation for a united agriculture.



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**Strategy A** To foster communication and cooperation among the various agri-businesses, farm organizations, commodity groups, farming regions and individual farmers.

**Strategy B** To promote positive attitudes and understanding among all components of the food and fiber systems.

**GOAL V:** To effectively stand against coercive methods which unjustly attack the agricultural system.

**Strategy A** To identify oppressive attitudes and actions which prey upon the agricultural community

**Strategy B** To respond with appropriate action accepting our responsibility to future generations.

**Strategy C** To aid the industry in the protection of agricultural commodities.

**GOAL VI:** To develop allies to broaden agriculture's influence in the market place and in the political areas on all levels: local, state, regional and national.

**Strategy A** To initiate dialogue with potential allies.

**Strategy B** To pursue and to develop common ground.

**GOAL VII:** To develop a responsible and accountable membership that is willing to assume positions of influence in areas that affect the private enterprise system.

**Strategy A** To discover, to care about, nurture and utilize the capabilities and interests of membership.

**Strategy B** To encourage members to assume leadership roles in areas of influence.

**Strategy C** To foster an attitude of constructive dissent and to develop a sense of responsibility to leadership in the face of controversy.

**Strategy D** To develop and encourage open communication within membership.

**Strategy E** To develop a responsible leadership and membership accountable to each other.

**GOALS** are interpreted as being statements which we will always be working on; they cover our total area of operation.

**STRATEGIES** are interpreted as the variety of ways in which we can carry out goals. We suggested some likely ones. You may wish to change these or refine them...whatever.

**ACTIONS** are listed under each strategy and are the actual tasks we undertake.



**BYLAWS**  
**AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN, INC.**  
(Amended Bylaws, adopted November 11, 1993)

**ARTICLE I      NAME**

The name of this organization shall be American Agri-Women, Inc., an international coalition of farm and ranch organizations and individuals, and hereafter referred to as AAW.

**ARTICLE II      PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

**Section 1      Purpose**

We, as women's agricultural organizations and individuals, unite together, to communicate with one another and with other consumers to promote agriculture for the benefit of the American people and the world.

**Section 2      Objectives**

- A. To educate our members to the important issues involving the agriculture industry.
- B. To use this knowledge to provide the industry with a strong public relations outlet.
- C. To influence policy and legislation that is of concern to the agricultural industry.
- D. To serve as a communications link-up for farm and ranch women and organizations interested in the well being of the agricultural industry.
- E. To promote an educational program to advance the interests and welfare of agriculture.

**Section 3**      Affiliated groups or individual members shall not represent AAW in an official capacity without the approval and direction of the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE III      MEMBERSHIP AND DUES**

**Section 1      Membership**

Membership shall be open to the following who accept the purpose and objectives of AAW and recommendation of the Board of Directors.

A. Individual Membership: all persons involved with agriculture who have paid the annual dues. There shall be three classes of individual memberships:

1) Single Memberships: in a state or commodity affiliate that pays an affiliate fee based on the number of its members, all members who wish to join AAW as individual members would pay the annual dues of \$20.00. Individuals who wish to join AAW but not any state or commodity affiliate would also pay \$20.00 dues.

2) Individual Affiliate Membership: when the affiliate collects the AAW dues with its affiliate dues and forwards AAW dues with membership data to the AAW Membership Chairman, the dues shall be \$10.00 per year per member. If AAW dues are optional, then the affiliate dues must be paid. Once an affiliate has dual membership, it will continue as dual membership. All future state affiliates will pay the dual membership.

3) Lifetime Membership: when an individual chooses to pay \$500.00 in one lump sum; or when an individual or group wishes to gift a special member with a one time \$500.00 lifetime membership: that member enjoys all the rights and privileges of full yearly voting membership for her



lifetime and joins an elite group of AAW leadership for special recognition.

B. There shall be two classes of Donor Members:

1) Silver Donor: When an individual chooses to pay \$50.00 per year in addition to the single member fee: that Member will appear on the silver honor roll to be published in The Voice.

2) Gold Donor: when an individual chooses to pay \$100.00 per year in addition to the single member fee: that member shall appear on the golden honor roll to be published in The Voice, and will be recognized at the Annual Meeting.

C. Affiliate Membership: agricultural organizations who are approved by the membership committee and make annual contributions as follows:

	Commodity	State Affiliate
1-500 members	\$25.00	\$50.00
501-1,000 members	50.00	100.00
1,001-1,500 members	75.00	150.00
1,501-2000 members	100.00	200.00
2,001-2500 members	125.00	250.00
2,501 + members	150.00	300.00

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

E. Associate Non-Voting Membership: commodity and farm-related organizations who contribute annually \$200 or more.

F. Donor Non-Voting Membership: Non farm businesses and organizations who contribute annually \$500 or more.

G. Organizations and individual members will be dropped from membership when dues are not paid or they no longer support the purpose and objectives of AAW.

**Section 2** A. Membership dues shall be payable to the treasurer to be considered a member in good standing. The amount of the annual dues will be decided at the annual meeting.

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

**Section 3 Newsletter**

A. A subscription to the newsletters shall be included in all memberships.

B. A non-member subscription price will be determined annually by the Board of Directors.

**Section 4** The fiscal year shall be October 1 to September 30.

**ARTICLE IV OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTION**

**Section 1** The officers shall be: President, three vice presidents, secretary and treasurer. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by the bylaws and the parliamentary authority.

**Section 2** All officers shall be members in good standing, active in promoting a better agricultural industry, and insofar as practical, they shall reside in different geographic regions. No officers, except the treasurer, may be elected to the same office for two consecutive terms. The nominee for First Vice-President must have served on the Board of Directors for at least one year prior to nomination and have attended a national convention within three years prior to her nomina-



tion.

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

**Section 4** There shall be a nominating committee of five, four of whom shall be elected at the annual meeting, and the chairman shall be appointed by the president. The committee shall nominate at least one qualified person for each office to be filled and four nominating committee members, and secure their written consent to serve, if elected. The slate of nominees from the nominating committee shall be presented at the annual meeting, following which nominations from the floor will be in order, provided written consent of the nominee has been obtained and qualifications met.

**Section 5** Officers shall assume their duties at the close of the annual meeting.

**Section 6** Vacancies in office or in the nominating committee may be filled until the next annual meeting by the Executive Committee. The office of President shall only be filled by an officer elected for that purpose. Any officer serving more than one-half of a term shall be considered as serving a full term.

## **ARTICLE V DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

**Section 1 President** - The President shall preside at all meetings except committee meetings; serve as an ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating and election committees; furnish a meeting agenda for each member; present an annual report for membership; confirm bills to be paid by the treasurer; appoint a parliamentarian; appoint committee chairmen and the convention coordinator; and such other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors or Executive Committee. The President (or appointee) will be the official spokesman for AAW - only after policy has been approved by the Board of Directors and/or Executive Committee.

**Section 2 First Vice President** The First Vice President shall serve as an aide to the President, fill the office of president in the event of a vacancy, and coordinate the work of committees not otherwise assigned. This officer shall assume the office of President upon completion of the term. Committees shall be appointed and ready to begin working at the close of the annual meeting.

**Section 3 Vice President of Communications** - The Vice President of Communications shall coordinate the work of communications.

**Section 4 Vice President of Education** - The Vice President of Education shall be chairman of the Education committee and serve as liaison with the Resource Center Board.

**Section 5 Secretary** The Secretary shall keep in permanent form accurate minutes, including a record of attendance, of the Executive Committee, Board of Directors and the annual



meeting; conduct related correspondence; and such other duties as assigned.

**Section 6 Treasurer** - 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 Executive Committee as requested, the Board of Directors at the midyear meeting, and to the membership at the annual meeting; have the books compiled and reviewed by a Certified Public Accountant following the close of the fiscal year in order to have the reviewed financial report for the annual meeting; and deposit all monies in the name of American Agri-Women, Inc. in a bank approved by the Executive Committee. The treasurer is responsible for the coordination of mailing lists, finance and membership. She shall prepare an annual treasurers report for the President and the Board of Directors; and she shall oversee the finance committee.

**Section 7** The Treasurer and Executive Committee shall be responsible for preparing the annual budget.

## **ARTICLE VI ANNUAL MEETING**

**Section 1** An Annual Meeting shall be scheduled by the Board of Directors to be held during the last quarter of the year.

**Section 2** A quorum shall consist of one-third of those voting delegates registered at the convention, and must include at least three officers, five affiliate delegates, and five commodity or issue chairmen.

**Section 3** The meeting site shall be determined two years in advance by the convention site committee comprised of the AAW Executive officers and the president or official representative of affiliate organizations. The first vice president shall preside over this meeting. Following selection of the site the president shall appoint the convention coordinator for that convention.

**Section 4** The treasurer and the Executive Committee shall prepare in writing a budget for adoption by the membership at the annual meeting.

**Section 5** A voting member shall have but one vote, though entitled to vote in more than one capacity, and there shall be no proxy voting.

**Section 6** In the event of a national emergency, the meeting may be canceled by the Executive Committee and necessary business conducted by mail.

**Section 7** All resolutions to be considered at the Annual Meeting, except those coming from the Board of Directors, shall be sent to the Resolutions Committee at least 60 days before the Annual Meeting. The committee shall prepare all resolutions for consideration and provide copies for publication in the Voice. Resolutions originating with individual members or affiliated organizations shall be signed by at least 10 members and be accompanied by supporting data and rationale. Emergency resolutions may be presented by a two-thirds vote of the delegates. Copies for each delegate must be provided by the presenter.



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## **ARTICLE VII THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Section 1** The Board of Directors shall consist of the elected officers, the immediate past president and presidents of affiliated organizations, or their appointed representative.

**Section 2** They shall hold a mid-year meeting and a meeting preceding the Annual Meeting.

### **Section 3 Duties**

- A. Uphold the bylaws and work toward fulfillment of the purpose and objectives of AAW.
- B. Develop policy and promote implementation of strategy.
- C. Transact necessary business between annual meetings and report to the membership in the newsletter.
- D. Recommend the amount of annual dues to be adopted by the membership.
- E. Amend the adopted budget, if necessary.

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

## **ARTICLE VIII EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Section 1** The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers and immediate past president.

**Section 2** Meetings shall be held two times a year and upon the call of the president, or upon the request of any two officers; business may be conducted by conference call when deemed advisable.

### **Section 3 Duties**

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

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

## **ARTICLE IX COMMITTEES**

**Section 1** Standing committees shall be: Education, Membership, and Finance.

**Section 2** Other committees and commodity groups shall be appointed as deemed advisable.

**Section 3** The president shall appoint committee chairmen in consultation with the



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Executive Committee. Such appointments shall be for one year and may be reappointed.

**Section 4** All committees shall meet during the week of the Annual Meeting and at such other times as deemed necessary with the approval of the president; present periodic reports in the newsletter; and seek increased membership to further goals and objectives.

#### **ARTICLE X PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall be the parliamentary authority for all meetings of AAW and shall prevail when not in conflict with these bylaws and any special rules which may be adopted.

#### **ARTICLE XI AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1** These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at any annual meeting, provided the following requirements have been met. All members shall be sent a copy of the proposed changes at least thirty days in advance of the meeting. Publication in the newsletter shall be considered sufficient notice.

**Section 2** Proposed amendments may be submitted to the president at least sixty days prior to the meeting provided such proposal is signed by at least ten members in good standing.

**Section 3** Amendments may be proposed by a majority of the Board of Directors in any meeting in which a quorum is present.

**Section 4** These bylaws may be amended by unanimous vote at any annual meeting without previous notice.



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# Traditions



## INSTALLATION SERVICE AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN

It is indeed a pleasure to be with you for the 19th annual convention of American Agri-Women. It is exactly 20 years tomorrow (November 14, 1974) that this organization was formed at the Marc Plaza Hotel, Milwaukee WI at a meeting sponsored by Women for the Survival of Agriculture in Michigan. Next year we will celebrate 20 years of working together as a coalition of farm and ranch women's organizations at the 20th annual convention in Oregon.

**Installing Officer:** I have the honor this evening to install the officers who will serve for the next year with those officers who were elected last year.

The membership of American Agri-Women have spoken and entrusted you with the mantle of responsibility to abide by and take action under the Statement of Principles: The Call To Power of this organization. You are the "leaven" or the "yeast" in the bread to help us seek the truth, to grow, be caring and effective.

\_\_\_\_\_ As Treasurer, it will be your responsibility to collect dues and donations, expend funds as designated by the Board of Directors and maintain a complete and accurate record of finances and membership.

This yellow rose is a symbol of loyalty and golden wheat--the prime ingredient of bread, the staff of life.

\_\_\_\_\_ As Secretary, you will have the pleasant duty of expressing the goodwill and forthrightness of this organization in correspondence and in keeping an accurate record of minutes of American Agri-Women.

This rose is a combination of yellow and pink which symbolizes the sunshine and help your efforts will bring just as we depend on the sunshine to make our crops grow in abundance.

\_\_\_\_\_ As Third Vice President you are Chairman of the Education Committee and serve as liaison with the Resource Center Board. Education is key to preserving the Prime Truth of the Call to Power--that the family farm system must be preserved as the bulwark of the private enterprise system.

This white rose is a symbol of faithfulness and purity and represents the constant pursuit of truth which we affirm in our principles.

\_\_\_\_\_ As Second Vice President of Communications, you coordinate publications and media relations in our efforts to forge the true image of the farm entrepreneur and seek greater understanding and appreciation of the food and fiber industry system.

This white and pink rose is a symbol of light and the spread of truth and knowledge to the world around us.

\_\_\_\_\_ As First Vice President of Vital Issues, you monitor critical national issues, make recommendations, and chair the resolutions process. You serve as an aide to the



President and in the future will service this body in that capacity.

This bright pink rose symbolizes the bravery needed to educate other organizations and government bodies regarding issues affecting agriculture for the benefit of all.

..... As President you will communicate with the membership, guide our efforts under the principles and goals of the Call To Power, coordinate AAW's activities, and be a spokesman for the organization.

This red rose is a symbol of leadership, courage and sensitivity in dealing with others as you carry the mantle of American Agri Women.

.. As Past President of AAW, you have demonstrated patience, initiative and leadership in your administration. Your wisdom will be of tremendous value in assisting the Executive Board.

This peach rose is a symbol of honor and loyalty as you work together towards the goals of AAW.

Please repeat after me:

I faithfully and sincerely promise to abide by  
The Statement of Principles: The Call To Power  
Of American Agri-Women.  
I will perform the responsibilities  
Of the office to which I have been elected  
To the very best of my ability  
And that I will do all in my power  
To carry out the purposes and vision of AAW.

At this time we will affirm the seven goals of American Agri-Women.

A member of the Executive Board will light a candle as each of the seven goals of the Call To Power are read.

The Prime Truth is that the family farm system must be preserved as the bulwark of the private enterprise system. Or to paraphrase that private enterprise is the best method to develop human potential. These are the seven goals and the strategies to reach them can be found in your copy of the Call To Power.

1. To present the real identity of American farmers to urban consumers, politicians, media and church leadership.

2. To develop an appreciation within and outside the farming community of the interdependence of the components of the agricultural system.



3. To support a marketing system which makes quality food and fiber available to all on a reasonable cost basis and at a fair profit to the farmer.
4. To seek that common ground which provides the foundation for a united agriculture.
5. To effectively stand against coercive methods which unjustly attack the agricultural system.
6. To develop allies to broaden agriculture's influence in the market place and in the political areas on all levels: local, state, regional and national.
7. To develop a responsible and accountable membership that is willing to assume positions of influence in areas that affect the private enterprise system.

**Members of American Agri-Women:**

You have heard the pledge of your officers and affirmation of our goals. With your help and cooperation they will be able to forge ahead. Do you promise to give them your loyal support? **I DO.**

Would you all join me in stating our purpose which began 20 years ago tomorrow.

**All:** We, as women's agricultural organization and individuals, unite together, to communicate with one another/ and with other consumers to promote agriculture/ for the benefit of the American people and the world.

**Installing Officer:** I declare the Officers duly installed and ready to begin their responsibilities. Congratulations to all of you.

May this coming year be a successful one!!!

As we strive to reach our goals, remember our motto "We Can Do It--Together!!"

(This installation service was written in 1993 by 1st National Coordinator, Sharon Steffens, at the request of President Trenna Grabowski. It may be modified for use by any affiliate of American Agri-Women. Installing officers may need to substitute other flowers besides roses or in combination because of the unavailability of certain colors at different times of the year and local markets.)





**AAW Spans the Generations —  
A Few of AAW's Multigenerational Member Families**





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# AAW Meetings and Activities



## **AAW Annual Meeting Sites**

1974	Milwaukee, WI	Coalition Meeting
1975	Milwaukee, WI	Chartering Meeting
1976	Kansas City, MO	1st Annual Meeting
1977	Green Bay, WI	2nd Annual Meeting
1978	Oklahoma City, OK	3rd Annual Meeting
1979	San Diego, CA	4th Annual Meeting
1980	Hershey, PA	5th Annual Meeting
1981	Grand Rapids, MI	6th Annual Meeting
1982	Overland Park, KS	7th Annual Meeting
1983	Eugene, OR	8th Annual Meeting
1984	Peoria, IL	9th Annual Meeting
1985	Phoenix, AZ	10th Annual Meeting
1986	St. Paul, MN	11th Annual Meeting
1987	McAllen, TX	12th Annual Meeting
1988	Philadelphia, PA	13th Annual Meeting
1989	Grand Forks, ND	14th Annual Meeting
1990	Sacramento, CA	15th Annual Meeting
1991	Boise, ID	16th Annual Meeting
1992	Worthington, OH	17th Annual Meeting
1993	Itasca, IL	18th Annual Meeting
1994	Tigard, OR	19th Annual Meeting

## **AAW Publications**

AAW has had many publications over the past 20 years, including the semimonthly newsletter the VOICE of the American Agri-Woman and the annual Directory of American Agri-Women. Other publications have included a resource guide to educational materials; the AAW Cookbook; the AAW Farm Activity Colorbook; and many educational brochures.



## AAW MEMBERS ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE

In 1980, three ladies from Australia attended the AAW Convention in Hershey, Pennsylvania. The Australians participated in an interesting and educational panel discussion. Lyn Johnson, Wilma Byrne and Dorrie Mason are shown in the photo with AAW leaders Sharon Steffens, Evelyn Landis and Joan Adams

Over the years, many AAW members have participated in USDA-sponsored foreign travel and private ag-related trips. Jean Ibendahl, Carolyn Leavens, Gen Long, Trena Grabowski, Diane Stadtmuller, Mitzi Purdue and others have represented AAW on foreign soil.

Wendy Welland was a guest at the 1984 AAW Convention in Peoria, Illinois. She was representing the British Women's Farming Union, an organization similar to AAW.

Mitzi Ayala Purdue participated in the United Nations Conference on Women, in Nairobi In July 1985. The delegation was headed by Maureen Reagan.

Following the 1989 AAW Convention in Grand Forks, North Dakota, a delegation of AAW members and spouses crossed the border and spent an enlightening and wonderful day with their Canadian counterparts.

The latest AAW international experience was the AAW People to People Trip to Australia in 1994. Twenty members and spouses toured Australia agriculture and attended the First International Meeting of Women in Agriculture, in Melbourne, Australia. Trena Grabowski and Martha Rittinger were two of the speakers from the United States who were featured on the program. The photo below includes most of the AAW delegation.



Sharon Steffens, Lyn Johnson, Wilma Byrne, Evelyn Landis, Dorrie Mason, and Joan Adams



AAW's delegation to Australia in 1994



## AAW Activities

AAW members have been involved in a wide range of activities through the years, which have served to accomplish our purpose. Educational and legislative activities remain key endeavors of American Agri-Women and its affiliate organizations. AAW members are continually involved in activities such as classroom education, letter-writing, testifying, and media contacts.

In addition to the Annual Meeting, AAW holds a Mid-Year Meeting each spring. The Mid-Year Meeting focuses on sharing information between affiliate organizations and committees.

The Washington Fly In has become an annual event in June, during which AAW members meet with congressional and policy officials, delivering educational packets to every Member of Congress.

The AAW Leadership Academy is sponsored every other year by Ciba Plant Protection for a group of 15 AAW leaders.

In addition to AAW meetings and events, AAW, both as an organization and through individual members, has actively participated in farm/agriculture women's forums through the years.

### Forums Through the Years

Nov. 12-14, 1974	WSAM/FWN	National Farm Women's Forum	Milwaukee
Nov. 11-13, 1975	Farm Wife News	National Farm Women's Forum	Milwaukee
Nov. 1-4, 1976	Farm Wife News	Cancelled	St. Louis
Nov. 15-17, 1976	AAW	American Agri-Women	Kansas City
Dec. 7-9, 1977	Farm Wife News	National Farm Women's Forum	Kansas City
Nov. 27-30, 1978	Farm Wife News	Today's Farm Women: The Vital Link	Milwaukee
Sept. 1980	Farm Wife News		Chicago
Oct. 1980	USDA, Sec. Bergland	Farm Women's Forum	Washington
Spring 1982	USDA, Sec. Block	Mktg Strategies for Increased Profits (Farm Women's Forum)	Washington
Feb. 27-Mar. 1, 1983	Farm Wife News	Marketing Conference	Chicago
Spring 1983	IRRR *	National Farm Women's Forum	Silver Lake, WI
Spring 1983	USDA, Sec. Block	Farm Women's Forum	Washington
Feb. 26-28, 1984	Farm Wife news	Marketing Conference	Chicago
Spring 1984	USDA, Sec. Block	Farm Women's Forum	Washington
Spring 1985	USDA, Sec. Block	Farm Women's Forum	Washington
Theme for 1984 and 1985 Forums:		"Reach Out - Speak Up for Agriculture"	
June 5-7, 1986	Agri-Pulse	Farm Women's Leadership Forum	Washington
June 10-12, 1987	Agri-Pulse	Farm Women's Leadership Forum	Washington
June 2-4, 1988	Agri-Pulse	Farm Women's Leadership Forum	Washington
June, 1989	Agri-Pulse	Farm Women's Leadership Forum	Washington
June 1990	Agri-Pulse	Farm Women's Leadership Forum	Washington
June 1991	USDA	Farm Women's Leadership Forum	Washington
June 1992	AWLN **	Farm Women's Leadership Forum	Washington
June 1993	AWLN	Farm Women's Leadership Forum	Washington
June 1994	AWLN	Agricultural Women's Forum	Washington
		The Challenge of a Changing Environment	

\*Institute for Responsible Research & Reporting    \*\*Agricultural Women's Leadership Network



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# Photos



## Our Presidents with U.S. Presidents



From the beginning...



...our voice has been heard.



## More Washington Friends of AAW



AAW members are shown with (clockwise from top left) former Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block, former First Lady Rosalyn Carter, Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole, and House Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts.