



JANUARY 2018

## THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

### Outgoing President's Message

I am just now sitting down to write my final Compass article. I was going to write an article on transition, say goodbye, and to thank all the members of this incredible organization for the privilege of serving as your president these past two years. However, the events of these past few days has thrown that plan out the window. You see tonight is December 6th and I write these final words amid the winds and fire that are engulfing my beautiful hometown of Ventura. This disaster has brought forth clarity of priorities and tonight what is important to me is to speak what is in my heart about this organization that I have loved so much all these years.

As President sometimes I am asked by our chapter members what the State CWA does for them on the local level. Normally I would state that State CWA educates and organizes our membership so that together we have a united and stronger voice to represent the agricultural industry. I would point out that the work of the State Board of Directors strives to honor the time earned reputation of the California Women for Agriculture name and move the organization forward as a relevant and respected resource for regulatory and legislative issues affecting our industry. Whereas I

believe with my heart all of that to be true, tonight I feel like our organization does and is so much more.

Friendship. Sisterhood. These are the things that make CWA stand out from all other organization and why we will remain strong and continue with our mission despite all odds. Together we have fought many battles for our farmers and ranchers, but where we really shine is when we come together to offer strength, courage, and assistance to our sisters. These past days CWA members from throughout the state as well as American Agri-Women members have reached out to me regarding the Los Angeles, Ventura, and Carpinteria chapters. They had seen the national news and the social media posts of our members and offered to help in any way that they could. I will tell you when you have no power, your boiling your drinking water, your eyes-throat-and nose are burning from smoke, and the winds just won't stop, those words mean so much. To know that we all have our sisters who love, care, and pray for us gives you strength to continue through sleepless nights despite the surreal loss all around you. In conclusion, I will say that I have never been so proud to be a member of this organization. I am so excited for Sara and her team,



and am confident that she will build upon the work of these past years and take the organization to even higher heights. Being your president has been an amazing journey for me. I hope that I have inspired some of you, but know that you have inspired me. During our time of controversy and trials I have also learned so much about myself. This last lesson learned with the fire by far was the greatest parting gift anyone could ever give me. What one of our founders said is true, "We came for the cause, but we stayed for the friendship." THANK YOU all for memories that will last my lifetime.

*"I hope in this year to come, you make mistakes. If you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things that you have never done before, and more importantly, you are doing something"*

# NEVER ARE WE MORE POWERFUL

## Incoming President's Message

As Jeanette is writing her final Compass article as State CWA President, I am writing my first. While we may be at different stages in our CWA journey, the sentiment is similar. I sit 400 miles from the fires raging in the Ventura and Carpinteria areas and my heart is heavy. I fight the urge to run to your sides, stand in solidarity, offer a shoulder to cry on, and help pick up the pieces only because I know adding one more being to the chaos and confusion would likely cause more harm than the comfort I could provide. I am devastated for those that have lost everything and scared for those that remain evacuated or ready to do so at a moment's notice. The tears I hold back represent not only those for the devastation and loss, but tears of pride and joy as I witness our membership link together in unity

for our sisters. I am so uplifted by the beautiful spirit that has shone through tragedy and devastation to help remind me of where our true power lies.

It is a poignant reminder, not only for us as a community and a sisterhood of strong, protective women, but for agriculture as a whole. Never are we more powerful that when we can come together and raise our voice as one. I am calling on our membership to use that as the lens through which we view and build the next two years and use the example of grace and grit set by the women that came before us to forge the path. We are sure to face challenges, whether that means the next big legislative hurdle or how to position our organization to remain relevant in a changing landscape of volunteer organizations. The best way we can to that is to be open and honest about the



challenge, participate in a constructive and meaningful way to find solutions, and be willing to hear and consider other points of view to determine the best path forward. I am counting on each of you to play an active role in how we continue to shape our organization and our industry. We are stronger together and together we will rise.

*"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." – Helen Keller*



## LABOR OF LOVE

During our "Date with the Coachella Valley" CWA State Meeting Farm Tour, we stopped at one of Ocean Mist Farms' fields to participate in a Labor of Love "Random Act of Kindness". Farm Tour participants assisted Susan Sternitzke and Kristen Sheppard from Labor of Love in handing out breakfast burritos, tacos, drinks, goody bags, ice cream gift cards and more to a Valley Pride labor crew that was thinning Romaine. Each member of the crew

received a raffle ticket. As part of the farm tour, we donated three \$50 gift cards that were included in the raffle items. Susan and Kristen recognized farm worker, Maria Aguilera, a longtime employee of Valley Pride with a gift certificate. Maria has worked for Valley Pride since 2004. She was interviewed and featured on their Facebook page.

Labor of Love was created by the Yuma Fresh Vegetable Association. It is a group that takes the opportunity to thank the farm workers in Yuma, the Coachella Valley, and Salinas area for their service to the agriculture industry. They perform random acts of kindness throughout the season, share stories of workers through social media and traditional media coverage, and feature worker stories on the Labor of Love web site. By sharing the farm worker's stories with a wider audience outside of the Ag community they want to ensure their valued contributions to the agriculture industry do not get over-looked. It was great to see firsthand what this organization does. Please make sure to visit their website and Facebook page to learn more about this wonderful group and how to support them. <https://laborofloveyuma.com/>

# NORTHERN DISTRICT 2017 ANNUAL REVIEW

Sharron Zoller

As 2017 moves swiftly to a close, we take a moment to reflect on and celebrate the achievements of the chapters in the Northern District. The four chapters, Lake County, North Bay, North Valley and Sacramento Valley, represent just under 300 CWA members. The chapters' membership size range from 30 to 110. Regardless of size, each chapter is active and involved in implementing CWA's 3 goals of promoting, educating and advocating on behalf of agriculture.

Scholarships are awarded to students to pursue their educational endeavors in an agriculture focused curriculum. North Bay gave three \$500.00 scholarships and Sac Valley gave two \$500.00 scholarships. Lake County gave \$6,000.00 and North Valley awarded \$10,000.00 to local high school graduates and college students. Lake County offers Mini grants for K-8 teachers who have an ag focused project/curriculum that needs financial support. North Valley has a unique student support program, Livestock Loan Program, offering \$300-\$500.00 interest free loans, which allows students to underwrite their 4-H and FFA project. Although the loan is interest free, the students are required to serve at the Silver Dollar Fair Buyer Dinner the goal is to encourage buyers

to bid on their animals at May's Silver Dollar Auction.

Community partnerships and chapter programs are essential to educate folks who may not fully understand not only what CWA does but also the local agriculture's practices and issues. North Bay chapter partners with Sonoma Marin Fair to assemble student bags for Petaluma Youth Ag Day and supports the community's Giving Tree program. North Valley chapter partners with the Farm City organizers in November for a weeks' worth of ag related events; Kids Day, displays, tours, awards' dinner, and local restaurants highlighting local ag by featuring local products. They also supported the Butte County Farm Bureau Summer BBQ. AgVenture, Lake County's customized educational event, completed its 8th year with 96 graduates. Community donations and student fees fund the program that showcases the area's four main crops, the science utilized and regulatory challenges, and the people and employment components. Sac Valley chapter partners with the Yolo County Fair where they create a large educational booth as well as sponsor a market swine trophy. They also participate in Capitol Ag Day in Sacramento and are instrumental in the

preparations for the annual Legislative May SWM in Sacramento. This chapter is also taking the leadership role in organizing a great 2018 January CWA Convention in Folsom.

Individuals don't just want to make 'donations'; they want to make 'investments' in a project/program whose philosophy they support. Fundraising events are successful because they promote CWA's values and are tailored to the community. The North Valley Chapter annual hosts 300 guests at a Steak & Prawn Dinner & Dessert Auction earning \$10,000.00 for scholarships. Lake County annually bakes 100 pear pies and 360 pear turnovers to sell at the Kelseyville Pear Festival. The Big Valley Grange, our partners also adds pies and turnovers to the numbers. Funds raised, \$2,640.00 this year, are designated to scholarships.

Socials & networking is an essential component for all chapters. Each of the four chapters has a spring/summer and a fall/Holiday social.

A special congratulation goes to Kelly Mora, North Valley Chapter, who received the 2017 Common Threads North Award.

## 2017 AG BOOSTER BBQ WRAP

This is Janie Sustaita the 2017 Co Chair for the AG One Booster BBQ and your CWA State VP. It has been a lot of work this past year preparing for the Sept BBQ. I am not sure if many of you are aware of the fact that the BBQ Committee starts working on the BBQ in Jan and we wrap up in Nov. The BBQ committee is made up of CWA members and local leaders in the community, who all come together to raise funds for Fresno State AG One Foundation and CWA. This is the only major fundraiser for the CWA State Board.

I am happy to report that, this year we raised 23,880.40 This surpassed our goal from last year! None of this could be done without the efforts from all the members from across the state.

Next year will be the first time that the Chair for the AG One Booster BBQ will be represented with two CWA members serving. I, will be the chair for the 2019 Committee and Lorna Roush, from the Central Valley who will be the 2019 VP for their chapter. We both are excited to be working with Kartina Steinhauer, Central Valley Chapter as our 2019 Ag Booster chair for CWA. Everyone on the State CWA board is extremely proud how our members set up and support this worth wild event.

# **CWA STATE GENERAL DONORS**

**SEPTEMBER 1, 2017**

**Gen. Donor - Platinum  
(\$1000+)**

Farm Credit Alliance of  
California  
PG & E

**Gen. Donor - Gold  
(\$500-\$999)**

CWA - San Joaquin Chapter  
CWA-Ventura Chapter

**Gen. Donor-Silver  
(\$100-\$499)**

## **CWA SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION**

We would like to give special thanks  
to the following organizations that have sponsored the reception:

Agricultural Council of California  
California Citrus Mutual  
California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations  
California Egg Industry Association  
California Farm Bureau Federation  
California Fresh Fruit Association  
California Grain and Feed Association  
California Growers Service Corporation  
California League of Food Processors  
California Poultry Federation  
California Strawberry Commission  
Dow AgroSciences  
DuPont  
Kahn Soares and Conway  
Monsanto  
Pacific Egg and Poultry Association  
Syngenta Crop Protection  
Tri-Cal, Inc  
Western Agricultural Processors Association  
Western Growers Association  
Western Plant Health Association  
Western United Dairymen



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



This member began her life in the tiny town of La Junta CO on a hot summer day. She grew up on a large cattle ranch on the Southeast plains of CO. From her humble beginnings she was a very driven child who worked to be the best she could be. On this ranch she lived with her dad and mom and her paternal grandparents lived less than a quarter mile away. Her grandparents, who she always called George and Jean, because that is what her parents did, doted on her. From the time she was old enough to toddle over to visit she was often at their home. Grandma Jean would sit her up on the kitchen counter so they could have a "conversation". Grampa George taught her how to skip because she was worried that she wouldn't be able to start Kindergarten because she couldn't skip. George and Jean kept her supplied with all the shoes and boots she needed and could be counted on to purchase anything for a fund raising project.

She started school 4 days before she turned 5. Her independent nature insisted that she could get on the school bus and ride the 30 miles to school by herself on the first day. She loved school with a passion seldom seen. Most days she would set up a schoolroom to teach her brother everything she learned that day. Her biggest issue in Kindergarten was convincing her teacher that she was left handed. In the 5th grade she had a teacher that was more interested in talking about what he did over the weekend than in educating young minds. She came home one day before the Christmas holiday beside herself with worry that she wouldn't "pass" the Iowa Basic Skills test taken every spring. She was able to get help from a family friend with math and studied her books at home to make sure she had the skills needed to do well. She participated in volleyball and basketball in Junior High. Her love of learning continued as she worked her way through junior high. The first day of high school came with a new goal. That was to be valedictorian of her class of 32. She found she had a passion for photography and was very good at it. Budget cuts at the school saw the end of this class so she had to take accounting. She loved accounting and soon determined this would be her career choice. She consistently placed in the top 5 at the state FBLA accounting contest. In high school she played basketball and was a cheer leader for fall sports. She graduated from high school in the spring of 1993 as valedictorian.



She joined 4-H at the age of 9. She wanted to show sheep but her grandfather who almost never denied her anything didn't want any sheep on the cattle ranch, so she decided to take a dairy project. Her first year she took 3 dairy heifers to the fair, showing the champion dairy, reserve champion dairy, and winning the dairy showmanship contest. Her champion dairy cow, Molly was a mainstay at the Lincoln County Fair for the next 9 years. It was always a contest at the fair to see if any of the other showmen in the Round Robin contest could handle Molly. It was a sad day to say the least when Molly had to "go to town" because she would no longer have a calf. It was a heart wrenching experience to watch her hug Molly one last time as she left home to return to college. She also took cake decorating, clothing construction, photography market hogs and market beef during her 4-H career as well as serving in every officer position in the Karval 4-H club.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - CONTINUED...

She went to college at the University of Denver, a private college with an excellent accounting program. Her work ethic and grades snagged her a scholarship that paid 75% of her tuition. She graduated from college with a Masters in Accountancy in 5 years. She worked for a large accounting firm for a couple of years then branched out to work for a major US bank doing agriculture auditing. For the first year or so at this job she traveled four days a week for three

weeks every month, counting pigs or chickens or beef or grains. She was soon promoted to analyzing the data she had once collected. She left this bank when she was asked to move to San Francisco, at that time she was not ready to leave Colorado. She started working at an agriculture lending firm at their Denver location. She was transferred to the Sacramento office in 2011 as their credit manager.

In 2009 she met the love of her life and was married in 2010. She and her husband moved together to Sacramento where they quickly became involved in many recreational activities. Hiking, biking and kayaking are some of their favorites



In 2010 Colorado formed an Agri-Women Chapter and the member spotlighted became very involved in the organization. When the CWA member moved to California she joined the California Women for Agriculture and quickly moved up the ranks of leadership to her soon to be position of President.

Sara Reid Herman is the member spotlighted in this issue. I am her mother, the one who has known and loved her since the beginning of her life. Her dad and I couldn't be more proud of the person she has become. Her compassion, sensibility and love for the industry she grew up in are unequalled by most women I know. I am so thankful I got the privilege of helping to nurture and raise her and my love for her knows no bounds. Congratulations Sara! We know you will rock being CWA president the next 2 years.

Love you to the moon and back!

*Mom*  
A.K.A. Janell Reid

*"Connecting Our Legacy to the Future"*





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www.CAWomen4Ag.com

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## 2018 Chapter Reminders and Deadlines

### January

Annual Meeting and Convention – Folsom	Jan 5-7
Items for March President's Newsletter – to Sara Reid Herman	Jan 15
Treasurers Report – Joan Webster	Jan 25
Chapter Bylaws – to Parliamentarian	Jan 31

### February

March Statewide Meeting Registrations – recipient TBD	TBD
Chapter Reports for March Statewide Meeting	Feb 10
World Ag Expo	Feb 13-15
Items for March President's Newsletter – to Sara Reid Herman	Feb 15
January Statewide Meeting Expenses – to Joan Webster	Feb 20

### March

Make initial contact with assigned legislators – report to Sarah Castro	throughout March
March Statewide Meeting – Lodi	March 3-4
Items for April President's Newsletter – to Sara Reid Herman	March 15
Capitol Ag Day – Sacramento	TBD
American Agri-Women Mid-Year Meeting – St. Louis, MO	March 22-25
Membership Report – report to Sue Poland, dues to Joan Webster	March 31

### April

Make/confirm legislative appointments – report to Sarah Castro	throughout April
Designate attendees for May Statewide Meeting and Legislative Visits (Minimum 2)	throughout April
May Statewide Registrations – recipient TBD	TBD
Items for May Compass – to Janie Sustaita De Raadt	April 1
Items for May President's Newsletter – to Sara Reid Herman	April 15
March Statewide Meeting Expenses – to Joan Webster	April 18
Chapter Reports for May Statewide Meeting – to your District Director	April 16

### May

May Statewide Meeting – Sacramento	May 7
Legislative Visits – Sacramento	May 8
Items for June President's Newsletter – to Sara Reid Herman	May 15

### June

American Agri-Women Fly In – Washington DC	June 3-6
Items for July President's Newsletter – to Sara Reid Herman	June 15
May Statewide Meeting Expenses – to Joan Webster	June 22
Membership Report – report to Sue Poland, dues to Joan Webster	June 30

# CHAPTER REMINDERS AND DEADLINES - CONTINUED

## July

Ag Boosters BBQ Country Store/Silent Auction items – contact Katrina Steinhauer throughout summer  
 Items for August President's Newsletter – to Sara Reid Herman July 15

## August

September Statewide Meeting Registrations – recipient TBD TBD  
 Items for September Compass – to Janie Sustaita De Raadt Aug 1  
 Items for September President's Newsletter – to Sara Reid Herman Aug 15  
 Chapter Reports for September Statewide Meeting – to your District Director Aug 17

## September

September Statewide Meeting – Fresno Sept 8-9  
 Ag Boosters BBQ – Madera Sept 9  
 Items for October President's Newsletter – to Sara Reid Herman Sept 15  
 Chapter Delegates for Annual Meeting – to Parliamentarian Sept 20  
 Membership Report – report to Sue Poland, dues to Joan Webster Sept 30

## October

November Statewide Meeting Registrations – recipient TBD TBD  
 State Ballots Distributed Oct 1  
 Items for November Presidents News Letter – to Sara Reid Herman Oct 15  
 Chapter Reports for November Statewide Meeting – to your District Director Oct 13  
 Sept Statewide Meeting Expenses – to Joan Webster Oct 24

## November

State Ballots – to Parliamentarian Nov 1  
 Items for Year End Compass – to Janie Sustaita De Raadt Nov 1  
 November Statewide Meeting – Los Angeles (tentative) Nov 3-4  
 American Agri-Women Convention – Springfield, IL Nov 14-18  
 Chapter Elections to be complete Nov 15  
 Greenbook Directory Information – to Renee Avilla Nov 15  
 Items for December President's Newsletter Nov 15

## December

Annual Meeting/Convention Registrations – recipient TBD TBD  
 Chapter Reports for January Annual Meeting Dec 15  
 Items for January President's Newsletter – to Sara Reid Herman Dec 15  
 November Statewide Meeting Expenses – to Joan Webster Dec 19  
 Membership Report – report to Sue Poland, state portion of dues to Joan Webster Dec 31



# CHAPTER REMINDERS AND DEADLINES - CONTINUED

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## Meetings

- **Annual Meeting** – Discuss and vote on changes to formation documents (Bylaws, Operating Policies and Procedures, Issue Policies), annual budget, etc.
- **Statewide Meetings (SWM)** – Discuss and plan state activities. Meetings open to all, all Board of Directors and Chapter Representatives are voting members. Chapter Presidents/Chapter Representatives should plan to attend all SWMs either in person or via call in.
- **Executive Board Meetings** – Actions are discussed and recommended by Executive Board for consideration by Board of Directors and Chapter Representatives. Meetings open to all but voting limited to Exec Board. Attendance by Chapter Presidents/Chapter Representatives is strongly encouraged.
- **American Agri-Women (AAW) Meetings** – open to all, AAW members are voting members for many items
  - Mid-Year – Discuss and approve Policy Positions
  - Fly In – legislative and regulatory meetings in Washington DC
  - Convention – annual meeting, tour, election

## Reports

- **Treasurer's Report** – due annually to provide information for a consolidated CWA tax return. Treasurers receive specific training.
- **Membership Report** – due quarterly with corresponding dues payment. Membership numbers at the end of the year determine voting delegates. Updates throughout the year help state leadership distribute communications to membership. Membership directors receive specific training.
- **Chapter Report** – update provided to your District Director to share at Statewide Meetings. Includes a discussion of chapter activities, events, other news, etc.
- **Expense Reports** – used to request reimbursement for eligible expenses.

## State Publications

- **President's Newsletter (PNL)** – internal communication, distributed monthly. Feel free to share chapter news and events with the state.
- **Compass** – external newsletter, delivered to members and stakeholders, distributed four times annually. Feel free to share content or suggest ideas.
- **Greenbook** – internal reference book containing governing documents, directory information, etc. Originally named for the green notebooks that contained this information. Contact information is provided to facilitate open communication between chapters, directors and the Executive Board. Content is STRICTLY for CWA use only.



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## State Executive Board Contact Information

### **President**

Sara Reid Herman  
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303-870-4376

### **Vice President – External Relations**

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Adopt-a-Legislator*

### **Secretary**

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### **Northern District Director**

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### **Central District Director**

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### **Southern District Director**

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### **Membership Director**

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805-649-2212

### **President Elect**

Rose Tryon Van Cott  
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*\*responsible for issues and legislation*

### **Vice President – Internal Relations**

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Chapter relations, fund development,  
membership, meetings*

### **Treasurer**

Joan Webster  
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### **North Central District Director**

Brandi LoForti  
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### **Central Coast District Director**

Marta Alvarez  
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### **Past President**

Jeanette Lombardo  
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### **Ag Boosters BBQ Director**

Katrina Steinhauer  
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### **Parliamentarian**

TBD

# YEAR IN REVIEW



LET'S BE  
**Social**  
P Instagram f Twitter  
FOLLOW US  
& TAG YOUR PHOTOS



# 2017



TIME-DATED MATERIAL

NON PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
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SACRAMENTO, CA

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SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/StateCWA>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/statecwa/>

**CONTACT US:**

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1521 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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E-mail: [statecwa@gmail.com](mailto:statecwa@gmail.com)

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*If you eat food and wear clothes,  
you are involved in agriculture.*

*Working to protect California agriculture  
and the ability to feed ourselves by  
educating consumers, policymakers, and  
our membership, CWA is the largest and  
most active all-volunteer grassroots  
agricultural support organization in  
California.*