



# NEWSLETTER

## *President's Message*

With the federal government's push to deport illegal immigrants, farmers in this country fear that they will lose their workforce. Over 90 percent of our farmworkers are immigrants, primarily from Mexico, and many of them are undocumented. Many people support the idea of a mass deportation because they believe that these immigrants just don't want to make the effort and pay the cost of going through the proper application procedure to become legal. They also believe that undocumented immigrants are avoiding paying taxes, that they are taking advantage of our social support systems and that they are stealing jobs from Americans. However, these beliefs are based on insufficient or inaccurate information.

People who are already here without legal documentation have no way to "get in line" and become legal. They can only apply from outside of the country. The customary path for legal immigration for employment or family reunification is through a written visa application from a legal U.S. resident for members of his immediate family or for a fiancé, any of whom must be residing outside of the United States. Any children must be unmarried and under the age of 21. Usually the applicant's employer is required to write a letter of employment verification. These requests must go through a U.S. Consulate in Mexico, and then the applicant waits for an appointment. The waiting period is the problem. It can be very long—decades, in fact. On top of that, no one country can receive more than seven percent of the visas available for the year, so there is a quota and there are always more applicants than there are slots available, especially for Mexico. I know a father who is a naturalized citizen here who has been waiting since 2002 for the papers to come through for his son, who is still in Mexico.

It is because the INS system is impossibly backlogged that so many people desperate for work have paid a smuggler or "coyote" thousands of dollars to sneak them across the border illegally. Once here there is no recourse to become legal. This is why we have millions of workers here without papers who have been working in the U.S. for many years and raising their families here.

These undocumented workers do pay taxes. Besides sales taxes and property taxes, they pay into Social Security and state disability through their payroll deductions. In 2013 the U.S. Social Security Administration estimated that undocumented immigrants—and their employers—paid 13 billion in payroll taxes alone for benefits they will never receive because of their illegal status. In spite of this, many of them go ahead and file tax returns, which they can do legally using an individual tax identification number (ITIN) provided by the IRS. They file tax returns with the hope that they will provide proof of responsible residency should an avenue to legalization ever materialize.

—(see *President's Message*, pg. 2)

## Calendar

**March 15** Next LCCWA Board Meeting Umpqua Bank 11:30 a.m.

**March 16** (9-1 pm) Ag and Natural Resources Day at the Lake Co. Fair

**March 21** National Ag Day

**March 22** (8:30 a.m - 2) AAMSI Reception, Sacramento Capitol.

**March 23-26** AAW Conference Dallas, TX  
**TBD** Spring Social with spouses or other guests.



## SENDING SUNSHINE

Our hearts and thoughts are with the following as they recover from or continue to bravely face health challenges:

PAMELA KIRKPATRICK, TONETTE BROWN, CHUCK MARCH, DON EUTENIER, PAT MCGUIRE, MYRON HOLDENRIED, KEITH PETTERSON and HUGH MACKEY!

## LAKE COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWS

The Lake County Farm Bureau office has been busy with a number of projects in January and February! We continue to be active in the planning of the inaugural Ag and Natural Resource Day on March 16. Farm Bureau hosted a Respirator Fit and Pesticide Safety Training in February. In December, the Regional Water Board announced they would be doing a number of inspections in Lake County during storm water season. LCFB staff assisted in these inspections in helping growers meet compliance with the Irrigated Lands Program. Finally, Lake County Farm Bureau continues to play an active role in Lake County's cannabis ordinance. There is a public meeting on March 7th at the Lake County BOS chambers which will seek input on cannabis cultivation in Lake County.

The spring will continue to be busy. LCFB is hosting a CPR class on March 29 at the Big Valley Grange building. There will be a morning class for English and an afternoon class for Spanish. On April 11, Basi Insurance will be hosting a Confined Space training for winery owners at Mt. Konocti Winery. LCFB is also hosting a Forklift Training and a Heat Illness training in June at Mt. Konocti Winery.

Lake County Farm Bureau has set the date of our 94th Annual Meeting for June 29th at the Cole Creek Equestrian Center in Kelseyville. Save the date! We hope to see you there!

~ Brenna Sullivan

## HEARTY SHOUT OUT!

This month we give a hearty shout out to the following:

- ❖ All our DONORS, new and renewed MEMBERS and SUPPORTERS, including our legislators!
- ❖ President DIANE HENDERSON and KAREN HOOK for their work on our Dec. Social!
- ❖ LCCWA Treasurer PAULA BRYANT- AND UMPQUA BANK - for their continued sharing of rooms for our monthly meetings! Also, for their yearly Christmas Giving Tree Project!
- ❖ Member and past president TONI SCULLY AND SCULLY PACKING for their dedication to our community's Christmas Basket project! Kudos to TONI for her tireless efforts on behalf of important ag related legislation, including youth labor rights in our packing sheds!
- ❖ Member TERRY DERENIUK on her well earned and well deserved retirement as executive director of the Lake County Winery Association (LCWA)! TERRY is "An incredible asset to the growth of our industry." (Debra Sommerfield, President of the Lake County Wine Commission)
- ❖ JILL RUZICKA - who replaces Terry as executive director of the LCWA! We wish Jill, former film production manager and Lake County officer, the very best as she focuses on building "a strong public relations foundation to elevate the story of the Lake County wine region, which should in turn increase our consumer base state-wide."
- ❖ Lake County's BEST OF CLASS AND SILVER AND ABOVE WINNERS from the 2017 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition! This includes our founding president Marilyn Holdenried and husband Myron's WILDHURST VINEYARDS! (Congratulations on their recent successful sale of and subsequent retirement from Wildhurst Winery and Tasting Room.)
- ❖ DAVE ROSENTHAL (husband of Monica) for his Star of Lake County (Agriculture) award!
- ❖ Member BONNIE SEARS whose wonderful photography was featured at the Lake County Wine Studio in Upper Lake during the month of February! "When I'm driving to work and I see the sunrise over Clearlake, I just have to stop and capture that."
- ❖ MENDOCINO COLLEGE for their offering of a Viticulture Skills Certificate! Instructor Paul Zellman (BS Viticulture UC Davis and MS soil science UC Riverside) states that the program offers "practical hands-on wine growing skills; basic knowledge of the science involved in the growing of grapes; and initial understanding of wine growing business aspects."
- ❖ ELIZABETH LARSON OF LAKE COUNTY NEWS for featuring our December Social and installation of officers!
- ❖ Member BRENNIA SULLIVAN for her continued diligence in educating LCCWA and the public on ongoing farming issues, and representing Lake County Traditional Farmers at our Board of Supervisors Meetings!
- ❖ ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN OUR FIRST Lake County Ag and Natural Resources Day (educating youth K-6 about agriculture) to be held March 16 at the Lake County Fairgrounds!



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT'D.



As for “leeching off the system,” these undocumented workers cannot collect welfare or food stamps or unemployment benefits. They can receive schooling and emergency medical care only.

Removing these immigrants from the country will not likely help the job market and will only hurt businesses, especially agriculture. California produces over half of all the fruits, nuts, and vegetables in the entire nation and much of this farm work cannot be mechanized. This is work that most Americans neither wish to do nor are equipped to do, no matter how high the wages are. This fact becomes increasingly apparent with the growing labor shortage and rising wages. Farm work involves hard physical labor, often in difficult weather conditions, and requires skills that are usually developed by being raised in a farming community, whether here or in another country. In addition, many of the jobs in agriculture are seasonal, not permanent. People like to work where they live, not move around from job to job in other areas.

However, we must have a migratory labor force available, particularly for harvests when the local labor force is not large enough to handle the workload. We desperately need a guest worker program similar to the old Bracero Program but with better worker protections. Under such a program, workers could enter the U.S. with seasonal work permits to work the harvests (or other seasonal jobs) from California on up to Washington. After that they would be free to go home to Mexico where they and their families wish to live.

If the federal government succeeds in this proposed deportation effort, the result will be devastating. Those farmers who cannot mechanize their labor will have to give up and sell out. The effect on the nation's food supply would be enormous and the economy of the entire country, let alone California, would be seriously affected. It's time to start appreciating the fact that the immigrants who have established their lives here are the backbone of farming and numerous other businesses that couldn't survive without them. We must continue to advocate for them and push for immigration reform!



*~Diane Henderson*

## FALL SOCIAL AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS .



We installed our 2017 slate of officers this year on December 8th at the Kelseyville Senior Center. Despite the stormy weather, all who could attend greatly enjoyed the lovely buffet and camaraderie! Pictured are (l to r) Diane Henderson, President, and Toni Scully, Vice-President, both accepting second terms. Member Terry Dereniuk also installed Lori McGuire, Co-Recording Secretary; Barbara Ehr, Corresponding Secretary; Karen Hook, Kelseyville Area Representative; and Karen Jones, Middletown Area Representative. Unable to attend but also confirmed were Muffie Panella, 2nd Vice President; Paula Bryant, Treasurer; Susie Kauffman, Co-Recording Secretary; Jill Jensen, Lakeport Area Representative; and Colleen Rentsch, Upper Lake Area Representative. We heartily welcome new members. For more information log on to our website: [www.lakecountycwa.org](http://www.lakecountycwa.org) and follow our Facebook page.

## FEATURE INTERVIEW: PAULA BRYANT

*We are pleased to feature Paula Bryant in our March issue. Talented and generous, Paula wears many hats for LCCWA, evident in the following introduction by President Diane Henderson, and the interview itself! Thank you, Paula, for all you do for our organization and county!*

## INTRODUCTION:



Paula Bryant picking pears

“Paula Bryant has served as chapter treasurer for Lake County CWA for as long as any of us can remember. It is Paula who keeps us all on track and on schedule with her organizational ability, technical knowledge, and reliable background support. Our large membership is testimony to her recruiting skills as is our long list of donors. Paula’s long career with Umpqua Bank has enabled her to establish ties with the Lake County community, and her years of work as a senior loan officer have helped her develop close working relationships with many county farmers. Paula cares about the people she works with, including her fellow CWA members. Besides handling the chapter’s finances and books, Paula provides the meeting place for our board of directors at Umpqua Bank and also the storage space for our files and other items. More importantly, she is a key contributor to the AgVenture program which is beginning its eighth year. She has been on the steering committee for this program from the beginning and is instrumental in managing the logistics of each session. In addition, she is the speaker who explains to the class how farm financing works, a very important part of the program. Paula puts her heart into all that she does. She is our rock and we love her!”

## INTERVIEW:

***Did you grow up in an agricultural family or community?***

My father was an avid gardener and always had a huge garden that my brother, sister and I had to help weed. My father’s side of the family are wheat farmers in North Dakota, so I guess it’s in his blood (although he told me he hated the farming life).

***When did you join Umpqua Bank, and what positions have you had with this bank?***

I have been at this location for over 23 years. I came here when it was Lake Community Bank. We have been Umpqua Bank for over 11 years. I started as the Note Department Manager then Umpqua Bank hired me as a Commercial Relationship Manager (loan officer).

***What have your responsibilities been to the ag community in Lake County?***

I do all types of agricultural lending, i.e. crop lines, ag real estate loans, equipment loans, and operating lines of credit. I try to stay on top of the the current issues for farmers in Lake County. CWA and its members have been a great resource for information.

***When did you join LCCWA and why?***

I joined about nine years ago. I had heard about the group and wanted to be a part of what they were involved in. I thought it was great they were so involved in legislative issues that affected farmers. I became Treasurer soon after joining due to an extra nudge from Toni Scully.

***What roles have you taken on for LCCWA?***

Mainly the Treasurer and Membership duties. I am also on the AgVenture Steering Committee which has been one of the most rewarding programs I have been involved in.

***What are the challenges and rewards of your position as regards the ag community? (loans, etc.)***

When the weather is good, there are heavy crops, and good prices, and it is the best ever. Having been here as long as I have, I have seen the ups and downs of farming and the farmers have become like family to me. I would say the worst times of my career are when the farmers suffered for one reason or another. They are such hard workers and for them to constantly be at the mercy of weather, pricing, or demand of their product is very difficult to witness.

*NOTE: I would like to add that it has been a pleasure to work with Paula on the board, as well as at our fund-raising activities (including pie and turnover making during the Pear Festival week-end), and appreciate her volunteering to do mailing tasks for our quarterly newsletter!*

~Lori McGuire, LCCWA Newsletter co-editor



## NEW SAN DIEGO CHAPTER HOSTS CWA STATE CONVENTION.

The 2017 CWA state convention held in early January in sunny San Diego was a success. Kudos go to the 2-year-old San Diego chapter who planned a great conference. Before convention kicked off on Saturday, Friday evening the Executive Committee, made up of the affiliate presidents and the elected CWA officers, met to discuss CWA business. Following are highlights from that meeting:



CWA President Jeanette Lombardo and Sharron Zoller

- \*Review of the America Agri-Women's conference
- \*Discussion of their AGDAY365 new campaign
- \*Sharing of Mini-Grant program for chapters
- \*Discussion of CWA's new fundraiser to support student scholarships (Chapters create a "destination" package to auction)
- \*Discussion of CWA's membership goal this year — to increase statewide membership by 500!
- \*Review of the by-laws for changes
- \*Establish the SWM locations and dates through 2019. Jan. 2018 will be in Folsom. Lake County Chapter volunteered to host the Hospitality Room.

While spouses enjoyed area tours, the general session for all CWA members opened Saturday morning with a flag ceremony by the local FFA. A full day of meetings and presentations on Saturday and half-day Sunday shared the results from items discussed in the Friday night meeting along with speakers covering water issues, promoting agriculture and utilizing social media to get the message out. A crucial water issue facing the

Modesto-Merced area now but with a wider geographical impact is California's Bay-Delta Plan created by the State Water Resources Control Board. A group fighting the plan, "Don't Go With The Flow," has an informative website: [worthyourfight.org](http://worthyourfight.org). Please consider supporting their position via their website.

After all-day Saturday meetings the evening started with a delicious dinner followed by the installation of the CWA state officers, an awards presentation and a Beer and Chocolate Pairing: beer and chocolate—delicious — who knew! It was an exhilarating three days with women committed to advocating for and promoting/educating citizens about California agriculture. The next CWA statewide meeting is March 4-5 in Santa Maria. Check out the AAW website: <http://americanagriwomen.org>

*-Sharron Zoller, CWA Northern District Representative*

## STATE CWA HAS A NEW WEBSITE

After several years of struggling with the technical issues of the old site, the new state CWA site has been launched and is beautiful, user friendly, and with new content being added all the time. A special tab to explore is the "action center." Under this section they have made it easy to have your voice heard on current issues facing the state's agriculture. Take a moment to check out the new site: <http://cawomen4ag.com> and let me know if you have any suggestions for improvement.

*-Sharron Zoller*

## TEACHER MINI-GRANTS



LCCWA awarded a mini-grant of \$300 to Lower Lake Elementary School last fall for multiple garden projects. Mini-grants will be available for 2017 as well. Courtney VanLeuven and Karen Jones will soon be sending out information and mini-grant applications to all Lake County elementary schools. They may be contacted directly at [courtneyvanleuven@gmail.com](mailto:courtneyvanleuven@gmail.com) or [karen.jones@middletownusd.org](mailto:karen.jones@middletownusd.org).

*-Diane Henderson*

## SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

We are currently accepting scholarship applications from male and female graduating high school seniors and college or vocational students now through April 1. Applicants must be pursuing a degree that is related to agriculture and attend a two or four year program as a full-time student. We are committed to promoting agriculture within Lake County through our AgVenture educational program, and throughout the state by speaking with California's state representatives about agricultural issues. Supporting students pursuing a career in agriculture is a top priority of our chapter, which awarded \$5,000 to six recipients in 2016. Lake County graduating high school seniors and college or vocational students who have a grade point average of 3.0 or above are eligible to apply. Application materials **MUST** be received by LCCWA on or before April 1, 2017. The application and criteria are available at [www.lakecountycwa.org](http://www.lakecountycwa.org). For questions concerning the scholarship program, please contact Sausha Racine at 707-245-4787.

## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT BLAIR BROOKES

We love hearing from our current and former scholarship recipients. Thank you, Blair, for taking the time to update us on your progress through this recent communication:



"Hello leaders of Lake County CWA, I hope this message finds you all doing well. It is hard to believe I am halfway through my junior year of college. I am busy as ever, but am enjoying all of the opportunities Cal Poly has to offer. Thank you again for your financial support in my endeavors. These past few years have helped me to grow personally and professionally, and I look forward to someday returning to Lake County to advocate for agriculture in our home community."

Pictured on the left is Blair with CFBF President Paul Wenger (center) and other members of her Cal Poly group. She recently made it into the Elite Eight round of the CA Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers Collegiate Discussion Meet!

## WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE FOLLOWING DECEMBER AND JANUARY DONORS WHOSE GENEROSITY MAKES OUR GOALS POSSIBLE!

Janet King  
Margaret Eutenier  
Rosalie Sisevich  
Jonas Energy Solutions  
Lianne Campodonico  
Bernie Butcher  
Dena Keithly  
Cecilia Aguiar-Curry  
Janis Eckert  
Monica Rosenthal  
Diane Henderson

Kelseyville Lumber and Supply  
Lakeport Tire & Auto  
Shannon Ranches  
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The Pear Doctor, Inc.  
Lincoln-Leavitt Insurance Agency  
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Calpine Corporation  
Tomkins Tax Consultants  
Scully Packing Company  
International Paper

Carolyn Henderson  
Wilda Shock  
Colleen Rentsch  
Karen Jones  
Shirley Campbell  
Janice Stokes  
Barbara Ehr  
Sharron Zoller  
Marilyn Holdenried  
Chacewater Winery & Olive Mill  
Hardesters Markets



*Thank you!*





## FALL SOCIAL PHOTOS

Please enjoy these photos from our Fall Social and installation of officers!



Toni Scully and Marilyn Holdenried



Nellie Dorn, Sara Dorn and Sharron Zoller



Lianne Campodonico, Brenna Sullivan, Karen Sullivan and Diane Henderson



Lindee Jones, Karen Jones and Karen Hook



Diane Henderson presides over the meeting



L-R: Terry Dereniuk, Karen Hook, Lori McGuire, Diane Henderson, Toni Scully, Barbara Ehr and Karen Jones



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