



# NEWSLETTER

## President's Message

Farmers in California are facing a multitude of challenges these days. Crops have been damaged by years of drought and record high heat necessitating water rationing, followed by a year of heavy rains and flooding, which killed root systems and promoted bacterial and fungal infections. Our global economy has resulted in a surge of invasive pests from other countries, pests with no natural enemies here. Researchers are scrambling to find environmentally safe ways to defend against them. Our trade business is being threatened by President Trump's desire to pull out of NAFTA.

Meanwhile, growers are being buried by an avalanche of new state and federal regulations on overtime pay, break time and nonproductive time pay, new sick leave requirements, increased training and record keeping requirements, and now a comprehensive food safety program that involves special training, multiple audits, detailed irrigation water testing, and a huge binder full of standard operating procedures (SOP's).

The biggest challenge of all, however, is finding enough workers to farm the crops. The workforce that was established through Ronald Reagan's 1986 amnesty program is aging out. The flow of immigrants from Mexico, the primary source of agricultural labor, has dropped to a trickle not only because of the crackdown on the border and the threat of deportation by ICE, but also because the Mexican economy has picked up and the birth rate is down. This year the shortage of labor was dramatic, resulting in late picked or unpicked fruit and crop damage due to poor picking. Wages have steadily increased over the years and growers raised them again significantly this year in an effort to attract workers, but the effort largely failed. Not only were growers short-handed, but the workers they had were often undependable, unruly, and careless. Consequently, a lot of fruit was knocked to the ground or left on the tree.

The labor problems have caused more growers to attempt to use the only government program available to recruit foreign agricultural workers, the H-2A program. Those who have used it say that the workers are great but the requirements of the program are daunting—and expensive. A grower must apply for a precise number of workers for a precise time several months in advance. Then he must provide transportation to and from the workers' country, free housing (which has to pass inspection), medical care, and a specified period of work for a high-enough wage not to undercut the local labor market. The H-2A workers cannot go looking for work elsewhere and they don't have to pay income or Social Security taxes. This program is costly, risky, and too complicated to adequately meet agriculture's labor needs.

Hope for a more reasonable approach has come with a new bill to replace the H-2A program that will provide a more efficient, flexible and market driven guestworker program. It is sponsored by House Judiciary Committee chairman Bob Goodlatte, R-Va, and is called the Agricultural Guestworker Act of 2017 (AG Act). If passed, it will be known as H-2C and will be administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

*(See President's Message, pg. 6)*

## Calendar

**Oct. 27:** AgVenture Session 3

**Nov. 3:** AgVenture Session 4

**Nov. 4-5:** SWM, La Quinta

**Nov. 15:** LCCWA Meeting

**Nov. 15-19:** AAW

Convention, Bloomington, MN

**Dec. 7:** LCCWA Fall Social

**Jan. 5-7:** State CWA

Convention, Folsom (LCCWA to host the Hospitality Room)



## SENDING SUNSHINE

Our hearts and minds are with the following folks as they continue to brave health challenges:

KEITH PETTERSON, PAT MCGUIRE, DON EUTENIER, SYD STOKES, CHUCK MARCH, PAMELA KIRKPATRICK AND TONETTE BROWN.

You inspire us with your courage and perseverance!

Our deepest condolences go out to all those affected by the recent fires.

## HEARTY SHOUT OUT!

- ❖ We are pleased to give a hearty SHOUT OUT to the following:
- ❖ MICHELLE SCULLY for her recently hailed book *BROKEN: TALES OF A TITANIUM COWGIRL*. Available now on Amazon, her work has been described as “A book that has it all: hurt, heart, healing, horses and ultimately happiness.” Its “honesty” and “brilliant good humor” are sure to capture your heart! (*Tom Moates of Spinning Sevens Press.*)
- ❖ ALL who donated items for the Fresno SWM Country Store and BBQ: MARGARET EUTENIER — delicious pear jam; JAN ECKERT— yummy pear preserves and a lovely hand-woven scarf; LUANN BAUER— a bottle of her gold-medal winning (L.A. competition) Hill Creek Ranch olive oil; SHARRON ZOLLER—a beautiful ceramic serving bowl “basket” filled with Lake County products for the auction; SCULLY PACKING—pears for gift baskets and boxes for auction, and for receiving and shipping these donations!
- ❖ COURTNEY VAN LEUVEN for her attendance at the June 24th USS Hornet Carrier Tour and Media Training!
- ❖ ALL involved in the donation to the Lake County “Bidding for Good” fundraiser for CWA statewide: LAUJOR WINERY, THE SAW SHOP and PARK PLACE restaurants in particular!
- ❖ DIANE HENDERSON for her continued leadership and participation in our successful AgVenture and Pear Pie and Turnover Sales projects!
- ❖ ALL who worked so hard in our pear pie and turnover preparation and sales! Special thanks to ANDREA ADAMS, SUSAN KAUFFMAN, and MORGEN WELLS for their leadership, and to our faithful charter member CAROLYN-HENDERSON ROHNER who undoubtedly has set a record for most days working at this venture! JEANNIE LEWIS of Clovis, (former resident of Lake County) and daughter of Leroy and Bernice Thomas, also lent a helping hand, and LINDEE JONES AND friend MISSY DENNO came to help at just the right time! (Lindee will also be a new speaker for AgVenture.) And we so appreciate the ladies of the BIG VALLEY HALL led by PAM AYLE for their co-sponsoring of this major fundraiser!
- ❖ BRENNAN SULLIVAN for her countless hours representing traditional farming at local and statewide meetings, then apprising and educating LCCWA of the outcomes!
- ❖ BLAIR BROOKES, JARED SMITH and LINDEE JONES, former and current scholarship recipients, who have made us proud with their recent successes. Blair, a senior at Cal Poly SLO, recently completed her internship with Dow Chemical in Chicago; Jared is currently a sophomore at Cal Poly SLO and hopes in the future to join his uncle in his Sonoma County Nova Vine venture; and Lindee, who stopped by to help out with the pear preparation for our Pear Festival Sales, accepted Toni Scully’s invitation to join LCCWA!
- ❖ RACHEL WHITE, former LCCWA member and co-editor of our newsletter, who is now teaching nursing skills through Azusa Pacific College and is working as a nurse at UC San Diego!
- ❖ THE CALIFORNIA FOUNDATION FOR AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM for its 2017 “Imagine This” Story Writing Contest!



Michelle Scully



## WOMEN WHO WOW!

Fall is in the air, and with it hints of harvests past (pears), present (wine grapes) and future (walnuts.) These three traditional crops, which form the backbone of our county's agricultural economy, warrant recognition yet again. Also deserving of recognition are the outstanding and hard-working women of our Lake County Women for Agriculture organization who give so much as advocates for agriculture in all of its forms. I'm calling them Women Who Wow. Let's take a look:



*Marilyn and Sharron*

❖ **MARILYN HOLDENRIED**, our founding LCCWA president and Pear Festival and Lake County Quilt Trail creator, continues as an educator, advocate and supporter of all things ag. Even though she handed over the reins as Festival organizer after 23 successful years and has recently retired from the Holdenried Wildhurst tasting room venture, she can still be seen helping create quilt blocks, supporting LCCWA functions, and advising, sponsoring and giving support to the Festival. Marilyn has received several awards, including Star of Lake County, has been featured in a variety of media publications and videos, and through her many ventures has put Kelseyville on the map! Marilyn and Sharron Zoller were Grand Marshalls of the 2016 Pear Festival. She and husband Myron, who have also served as past Grand Marshalls of the Pear Festival, continue to grow wine grapes.

❖ **TONI SCULLY**, taking the lead as our president more than once, has been and is a staunch advocate for the pear industry at the local, state and national levels, especially as it pertains to youth labor laws. She also continues in sponsoring the Pear Festival (Scully Packing) and in donating and preparing pears for the wonderful pies and turnovers for the Festival, as well as for many other events throughout the year. She works countless hours before, during and after the Festival and helps with AgVenture year after year. Toni has also been the recipient of many local, state and national awards, including Star of Lake County, and has been featured in numerous articles and videos, including the one highlighting Scully Packing and the Scully Family used as a promotion for the Festival. She and Phil, along with sons Pat and Andy, continue to successfully run the Scully Packing operation.

❖ **DIANE HENDERSON**, our current two-term president, lends her expertise as well as written, oral and organizational skills to the causes of agriculture, including Farm Bureau. She is a model for all growers. While pears is her forte, she has been a driving force in the success of AgVenture with its multi-crop education. Diane has been the recipient of numerous awards, including Star of Lake County, and has been featured in several videos, including "Gift of the Gods." She and husband Syd served as Grand Marshalls of the Pear Festival in 2008. She has taken part in many aspects of the Festival over the years, including preparing pears for the pie and turnover sales and helping organize the yearly Pear Pavilion. (Carolyn Henderson-Rohner, Diane's mother, served as Grand Marshall with husband Skip in 1999. She could be seen again this year with her well-worn pear peeler, along with Diane, preparing hundreds of pears for the pies and turnovers!) Diane has recently handed over the reins of her successful pear operation to her nephew Greg Panella.



*Diane and Carolyn*

❖ **SHARRON ZOLLER**, having served as our LCCWA president, is now our outstanding CWA Northern District Representative. When not working on her walnut ranch she is busy with meetings at the local and state levels, and does a great job keeping us abreast of the workings of CWA. Sharron wrote an excellent article featuring our Toni Scully for the August edition of the statewide newsletter COMPASS. Sharron devoted 23 years to the Pear Festival, served as Grand Marshall with Marilyn Holdenried last year, and with husband Broc in 2006.

*~ continued on page 4*



WOMEN WHO WOW CON'T.

❖ **BRENNA SULLIVAN**, our AgVenture Co-ordinator, Farm Bureau Executive Director and LCCWA liaison, LCCWA Newsletter Co-editor and steadfast traditional crop advocate, spends countless hours at local Board of Supervisors meetings as well as state Farm Bureau meetings, keeping abreast of the ever- changing proposals for non-traditional farming. She does an outstanding job keeping LCCWA apprised. She has also been an advocate for the equestrian world and could be seen once again demonstrating at the Festival with her wonderful Peruvian Paso and Tennessee Walker steeds.



*Brenna on Boopy*



*Andrea, Toni and Susie*

❖ **SUSIE KAUFFMAN**, continuing to serve as LCCWA Recording Secretary, has been a powerhouse behind the pear pie and turnover making, which provides the funds for our yearly scholarships. Working sun-up to sun-down the day before and day of the Festival, she is an excellent example of dedication to a cause.

❖ **ANDREA ADAMS**, our second-year Co-Chair and chief organizer of the Pear Pie and Turnover Making and Sales is also deserving of high praise for its success. Another dawn to dusk dynamo, you won't find her wasting a minute during this busy time!

❖ **PAULA BRYANT**, our faithful LCCWA Treasurer and Vice President and Commercial Relationship Manager for the Lakeport Umpqua Bank, continues to lend her support and advocacy of agriculture in many ways throughout our community. She could be seen once again preparing those pears for our pies and turnovers. Paula continues to help with the distribution of our newsletter, and makes sure we have a place to meet each month, among many other activities.



*Paula and Jill Jensen*

❖ **THE WOMEN of our LCCWA AGVENTURE STEERING COMMITTEE** is



*Bess and Terry*

comprised of AgVenture founder **ANNETTE HOPKINS** and members **DIANE HENDERSON, TONI SCULLY, BRENNA SULLIVAN, PAULA BRYANT, TERRY DERENIUK** and **DEBRA SOMMERFIELD**. Due to the vision, creativity and hard work of this committee, AgVenture, which is completing its eighth year, continues to be a highly successful and popular educational tool for agriculture county wide.

❖ The sights, sounds and smells of harvest during this time of year bring back many fond memories. Having grown up on a pear ranch and having worked harvests many years, I am still struck by the folks who labor so hard and give so much to our ag industry. The women mentioned here are but a few of the women in our organization who have wowed us with their strength and advocacy. Margaret Eutenier, original editor of our newsletter, and member and staunch supporter of LCCWA, was honored along with her husband Don as Grand Marshalls of the 2003 Festival. And the photo below is my mother Bernice Thomas, past president of LCCWA. She and my father Leroy served as the very first Pear Festival Grand Marshalls in 1992. Other Grand Marshalls who have gone on but who also served faithfully in LCCWA are sisters Jean Holdenried and Katie Petterson ,1999; and Carmen Carpenter, with her family, 2007. Let us not forget the foundation upon which our organization was built, and the women who continue to wow us with their unwavering dedication!



*Bernice Thomas in the 1992 Pear Festival*

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**WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE STATE AND NATIONAL WOMEN FOR AGRICULTURE****California Women for Agriculture (<http://cawomen4ag.com/>)**

September SWM held in Madera, September 9-10, 2017.

Featured speaker was Rachel Michelin, CEO of California Women Lead, which focuses on preparing and supporting women to run for elected office or to gain political appointments.

This meeting, which includes a silent auction and country store, is an important fundraiser for state CWA. Each chapter president and district director provides an item/gift basket for the event. Thank you to Tony Scully who not only sent boxes of pears but also coordinated the shipment of all the Lake County goodies.



November SWM will be held in Coachella Valley, November 4-5, 2017.



CWA's second and newest fundraising event is with an internet site, ***Bidding for Good***. Each chapter was asked create and provide an item/activity for this fundraising venture. Lake County's chapter, with Terry Dereniuk's leadership, created a two-night stay at Laujor Vineyard Loft, a food and wine pairing for two at Laujor Estate Winery, and \$100 gift certificates from Park Place Restaurant and the Saw Shop Gallery and Bistro. The value of the package was \$650. Annette Hopkins purchased it for full value. Thank you!



January 5-7, 2018 is the State CWA Convention. Food items will be needed and greatly appreciated, especially baked goods (which can be frozen when doing holiday cooking and thawed out a day or two ahead of time.) It will be held in Folsom. We, Lake County chapter, have volunteered to coordinate the Hospitality Room. Mark your calendars! More information to come.

**American Agri-Women ([americanagriwomen.org](http://americanagriwomen.org))**

The AAW's National Convention will be held in Bloomington, Minnesota on November 15-19, 2017. Each November American Agri-Women hosts a National Convention inviting all its members and affiliate members to come together for tours, leadership and professional development sessions, and to listen to speakers, panelists and round table presenters covering many subjects including trade, dairy, farm to fork, and food security. They will also host their annual business meeting.

**Advocating for Agriculture (<http://www.cfbf.com/farmteam>)**

It's more important than ever to advocate for agriculture. This is why each of us *needs to do* her part to keep current on the issues confronting agricultural professionals, to educate ourselves on the concerns, and to inform others about what/why modern farm practices are utilized to provide a safe and reliable food source. Being an advocate doesn't mean you have to be in front of hundreds of people talking about agriculture. *Advocating revolves around having personal conversations.* It can be the littlest things from sharing a picture of your tractor ride to talking to someone at the grocery store. The Farm Bureau's *Farm Team* is a good resource for up-to-the-minute information and it provides an easy avenue to voice your position on critical issues.

*Sharron Zoller, CWA Northern District Director*

## LAKE COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWS



The Lake County Farm Bureau office has been involved in a number of projects through the summer. Cannabis policy development continues at both the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. Lake County Farm Bureau and Mendocino County Farm Bureau have also partnered to host a FSMA Food Producers Safety Training on November 8th. All food producers are required to receive training. The LCFB Education Corporation will begin billing for the Irrigated Lands program in November. Growers will be billed for the 2017 growing season. Any changes to acreage or parcels should be updated to the office by Oct. 31. The Farm Bureau office wishes all Lake County farmers and ranchers a successful and profitable harvest season!

~ Brenna Sullivan

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT'D.

H-2C would provide more flexibility for the length of time a guestworker can stay, yet require him to return home afterward for 45 days or a time period equal to 1/12th of his stay, whichever is less. H-2C workers who do not return home as required would be barred from reentry to the U.S. Once E-Verify is in operation, H-2C workers already in the U.S. could seek at-will employment with registered farmers. This program would also allow experienced farmworkers who are currently illegally present in the U.S. to identify themselves, participate in the H-2C program, and return home to re-establish ties to their home countries. Under the AG Act, 500,000 visas would be available each year for H-2C workers. Returning H-2A workers and previously unauthorized farmworkers who participate legally in the new program will not count toward the annual visa limit.

Farmers must pay H-2C workers the higher of the state/local minimum wage or 115% of the federal minimum wage. Employers will deposit 10% of H-2C workers' wages into a trust fund. Workers can only access the escrowed amounts by going to a U.S. embassy or consulate in their home country. H-2C workers cannot bring spouses and minor children (unless they are also guestworkers). These workers will be ineligible for federal public benefits, ineligible for Obamacare subsidies, and ineligible for federal refundable tax credits like the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit.

It is only through immigration reform with an agricultural program like this that we can maintain California as the powerhouse source of fruits, nuts, and vegetables for our entire nation.

~ Diane Henderson

## RECENT DONORS

Hats off to the following donors who have contributed since our June newsletter. Because of you, we are able to carry out our goals and meet our objectives! Our heartfelt thanks go out to:

Beckstoffer Vineyards  
 Community Development Services  
 Umpqua Bank  
 International Paper  
 Peggy Campbell  
 Savings Bank of Mendocino County  
 Bob Bartley Pump, Inc.  
 Cat's Paw Vineyard  
 Jonas Energy Solutions  
 Barbara Ehr



American AgCredit  
 Lake County Farm Bureau  
 The Pear Doctor, Inc.  
 Harry and Roberta Lyons  
 Bengard Marketing  
 Lynette Porter  
 Campodonico Olive Ranch  
 Community First Credit Union  
 Sutter Lakeside Hospital



MAKING, BAKING AND HAWKING AT THE PEAR FESTIVAL



*Susie Kauffman, Blaise Bahara, Bess Giannakakis and Paula Bryant; Jeannie Lewis; Lindee Jones and Missy Denno*



*Carolyn Henderson-Rohner; Andrea Adams, Toni Scully, Susie Kauffman, Lindee Jones and Lori McGuire; Kris Eutenier*



*Karlene Ellis and Martha Casey*

*Rebecca Southwick and Susie Kauffman*



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