



# SPEAK OUT!

WINTER 2016

## HAPPY NEW YEAR! by Susan Wall, IAW President

Believe it or not, it is January 2016! By the way, what did you get for Christmas? Ice or rain? We got rain here, a little over twelve inches to be exact. We received most of it in twenty-four to thirty-six hours. Flooding here is worse than the great flood of 1993. Farmers have been moving grain, cattle and families to higher ground. Everyone helping and watching out for each other in our country kind of way.

Christmas is over. Even though I am not in the fields now, it seems that I am still working hard and being rushed in other ways. I am trying to get farm records recorded and done, I am helping with cattle chores and hay moving,. Now that the holidays are coming to an end, I have slowed down from the "harvest hop to it pace" to the "normal get 'er done" pace. During those few moments of slower living, I have been thinking about what a busy year 2015 was and all of the great things I have been doing as President of Illinois Agri Women. We have had a great year and have gained many new members. IAW and I are proud to boast about the many wonderful agricultural women who make up our organization. Oh, the things we have done and what we've yet to do!

On November 17<sup>th</sup> we had a great Leadership conference in Bloomington. It was exciting to have over 120 in attendance and to meet everyone and find out how they are involved in agriculture. Those who were there got a little glimpse into the "Leadership at its Best" Syngenta program that several of us have attended. We had three regional meetings in 2015. I really enjoy going to those. I am hoping to hear from some more of my regional coordinators as to when their meetings will be. Just a meal together with some nice quiet conversation with each member would be great. I enjoy meeting everyone and I think the members really like it too.

Agriculture in our state had several challenges last year. We had an abrupt change of our Secretary of Ag and our state budget is still not settled. Farmers all across the state had to deal with wet weather and also low prices. All you hear on the news for months now is about the presidential election for 2016. Who do we want to run our country? Ask me right now and I would say that I am not impressed with anyone. I am sure we will need to study this one a lot.

They say that "good things come to those who wait". Farmers do a lot of waiting. They wait for weather to change, crops to grow, prices to go up and for a pat on the back. My mom and her little sister were young when the

### Dates to Remember

#### 2016

**Jan 14 IAW & IARC Strategic Meeting** Bloomington FS Auditorium, 402 N. Hershey Road, Bloomington, IL

**Mar. 3, Pre-WCFA reception**  
5-7 pm. Marriott Convention Center Bloomington

**Mar. 4, WCFA**  
ISU, Bone Student Center

**Mar. 9-13 AAW Mid-Year**  
Wichita , Kansas

**Mar. 17 IAW Annual Meeting**  
Beck's Seed Plant  
Effingham, IL

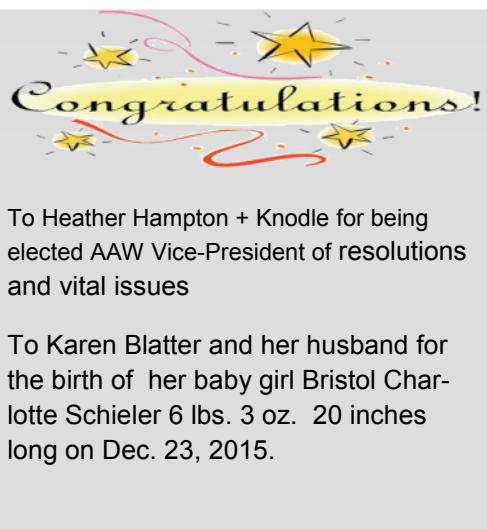
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"Great Depression" hit. They used to talk about how they only got an orange and a shiny new dime for Christmas. Nevertheless, my aunt would always ask for a baby doll. She never got one. When she was about 50 years old she wrote an article in our local newspaper about her "depression days" Christmases. Suddenly she started receiving a baby doll each year, which was mysteriously left on her door

with a touching note from Santa about how he was bringing her these dolls because she had waited so patiently all these years. If we wait patiently and keep on working together for agriculture, great things will happen. I want to wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year!



## AAW Convention Photos



## 2016 IAW Memberships Dues

### New Member / Renewal

I would like to renew my IAW membership  
Dues \$50 per year, including IAW/AAW newsletters.

I would like to join IAW.  
Dues \$50 per year, including IAW/AAW newsletters.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Ph \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Annual dues of \$50.00 are due March 1, 2016 to be current. Our organization needs your support, both physically and financially, to meet our goals and promote agriculture in Illinois. Please send your check and complete form to Jennifer Waters.

**Send to:**  
**Jennifer Waters**  
**4974 Robinson Rd**  
**Pleasant Plains, IL 62677**  
**Membership renewals are due each**  
**March. If you have not yet renewed**  
**please remit today!**

## IAW Member Receives Convention Scholarship

Priscilla Koser, Dunlap, Illinois, was one of three award winners of the Helen Whitmore Convention \$500 Scholarships.

This scholarship was named to honor Helen Whitmore, a well respected rancher and teacher from California. The scholarship is for any AAW member to attend the annual AAW Convention, who has not attended a previous convention. Up to three \$500 scholarships can be awarded each year at the discretion of the committee. The recipients for the 2015 convention were from Montana and Michigan in addition to Illinois. Applications must be received by August 15.

Our scholarship program has grown over the last couple years. We give academic and event scholarships for a total of ten scholarships that can be

awarded annually.

The Legacy Kids Scholarship is given in memory of Trenna Grabowski. A \$200 scholarship award can be given to two youth ages 8-18, each year, for expenses to attend the AAW Washington D.C. Fly-In. Application is due May 1.

Gail McPherson Fly-In Scholarship, is given in memory of a founding Mother of AAW. It is available to any AAW member to attend the annual AAW Fly-In held in Washington D.C. in June. Up to three \$500 scholarships are awarded at the discretion of the committee. The applicant can be any age, but cannot have attended a past Fly-In. Applications are due May 1.

We give two Daughters of American Agriculture Scholarships. Jean Iben-dahl High School Scholarship is for ages 18-23 years and Sister Thomas More Bertels is for Continuing Edu-

by Arda DeWall

cation Scholarship ages 24 years and older. These two scholarships are available to pursue accredited courses in agriculture leadership, communications, rural sociology, medicine and other courses directly related to agriculture. A total of 140 scholarship applications were received this year. A \$1,000 scholarship is given to each age division. Applications must be received by June 1.

Ardath DeWall donated a \$500 Dairy Scholarship on behalf of International Women in Dairying.

Make sure to include all parts of the scholarship application in one packet when you submit it. Not including all portions will disqualify your application.

We encourage everyone eligible to apply for a scholarship.

## Wreaths Across America

John J. Mc Daniel, Retired Lieutenant Colonel, is the founder of Wounded Warriors in Action Foundation Inc. He spoke to us after the opening ceremonies for the 2015 AAW Convention. Before John retired from the United States Army he began taking wounded veterans on fishing trips in the Florida Keys and in the Tampa Bay area. Seeing first hand the benefits these sport outings had for those wounded in action, this grassroots initiative grew into a national move-



Photo Credit: Max Armstrong, Director of Broadcasting Penton Media, *This Week in AgriBusiness*

ment. Upon retirement John bought some acreage in Wisconsin where sporting events could be held for the benefit of the

by Mary Meinhart

wounded warriors. In 2014 WWIA hosted 55 outdoor sporting events in 35 states and three foreign countries. WWIA serves approximately 200 combat wounded Purple Heart recipients every year.

John's future plans include establishing four Regional Healing Centers across America. They would be the world's first eco-friendly, American Disabilities Act compliant healing centers run and

## Telling Her Story

*Editor Note: The Syngenta Drive to Thrive winner is building a successful career in agriculture and giving other young women the blueprint to do the same.*

Like many young girls growing up on a farm, Krista Lottinville dreamed of trading in the slow, steady pace of Sheldon, Illinois, for the “hustle and bustle” of the big city. But exposure to the diverse opportunities that agriculture offers set her on a different course.

Lottinville shared her journey in the 2015 Drive to *Thrive* contest, in which Syngenta asked participants to explain how agriculture drives their communities to thrive. Her simple, yet poignant, account of how agriculture helped a little farm girl grow up to become a role model for dozens of other young women swayed the panel of judges and online voters alike to name her the grand prizewinner. A closer look at Lottinville’s ongoing story reveals a caring, compassionate legacy grower, full-time Burris Seed account manager and young leader whose future in agriculture is as bright as her positive outlook on life.

### Do Better, Think Bigger

During Lottinville’s early years, she equated a career in agriculture with a lifetime on the farm. After all, her family had lived and worked on its farm for more than 100 years, and she was surrounded by friends with similar backgrounds.

Her high school agriculture classes and FFA program helped broaden her understanding of what a career in agriculture could mean. She traveled to national events in Washington, D.C., and Louisville, Kentucky, with highly motivated students who pushed her “to do better and think bigger” about the changing industry. And when a teacher exposed her to the industry’s entire supply chain, she learned that making a living in agriculture could extend beyond the farm into business, manufacturing and policy-making.

“I was surprised when I realized just how big the industry is,” Lottinville says. “But the best part of ag class was talking about it with like-minded, hard-working farm kids with big dreams.”

Yet just as she grew excited about a future outside Sheldon, a devastating loss drew her closer to home. In her junior year of high school, her older brother Clint died suddenly, leaving Lottinville the sole remaining heir to run the family farm.

The responsibility to carry that legacy forward renewed her commitment to a lifetime in agriculture. “I embraced the idea and knew that I needed to learn more about the industry, to both work on the farm and supplement with off-farm income,” she says.

### Finding Strong Women in Ag

One specific group helped Lottin-

ville find a place where her deep-rooted passion for agriculture could flourish: Illinois Agri-Women (IAW) and its affiliated program, Women Changing the Face of Agriculture (WCFA), both of which Syngenta is proud to support.

IAW is a grassroots organization of female farmers and agribusinesswomen that promotes a better understanding of agriculture and family-farm systems. It organizes conferences like WCFA, a series of outreach events that give women the opportunity to explore career paths and network with other female agricultural professionals.

Lottinville began volunteering with WCFA in 2010, when she was a senior studying agriculture business at the University of Illinois. In the five years since then, she has become heavily involved in a number of groups that promote leadership in agriculture, including the Ford-Iroquois Farm Bureau Young Ag Leaders, Illinois Agricultural Leadership Foundation Program, and, of course, IAW and WCFA.

“Krista has been a dynamite force in developing our programs,” says Penny Lauritzen, a WCFA planner and longtime leader in the local community. “She can relate to younger women and knows which ideas

By Lauren Jones

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will and won't engage them." Lottinville's help in reaching out to high schools and colleges helped the WCFA conference swell to more than 800 students in 2015, Lauritzen notes.

"Girls will come up and say they're interested in photography," Lottinville says, "and I'll say, 'Great! AgriNews needs people.' It's the perfect opportunity for conversations like that. As the ag industry thrives, there are more opportunities for women."

### Leadership at Its Best

A longtime supporter of IAW, Syngenta recently sponsored the Leadership Enhancement Skill seminar, which included IAW members and many previous WCFA participants. The session was part of the Syngenta Leadership at its Best<sup>SM</sup> program, through which the company

partners with top agricultural organizations to help their members develop leadership skills and become stronger industry advocates.

"It's about telling your story," says Kelsey Vance, retail sales representative for Syngenta, IAW member and WCFA organizer. "The program helps participants articulate what they do for their community and how much they care about providing healthy, safe food that is grown and harvested responsibly."

The seminar gave Vance, Lottinville and other ag leaders a place to tell their stories to young women seeking guidance. "It's easier going in the direction you want once you know someone else has done it," Vance says. "You're together, celebrating the same successes and facing the same challenges."

The event also celebrated Lottinville's Drive to Thrive win. As the grand prizewinner, she could designate one local charity to receive a \$1,000 donation from Syngenta in her name. Not surprisingly, Lottinville selected WCFA. Syngenta also presented her with a \$500 gift card, which she chose to donate to the group. Lottinville hopes the donation will help the organization continue its mission of empowering her community of women to succeed together.

"I love agriculture, and I want young women everywhere to love it, too," she says.

*This article is provided to IAW, compliments of Syngenta. To see more photos of Lottinville and read additional articles about agriculture, visit [www.sygentathrive.com](http://www.sygentathrive.com).*

## Illinois Agricultural Resource Council Corner

*By Diana Ropp, IARC President*

"Job Well Done" was the consensus following the Syngenta sponsored, IARC hosted Leadership Seminar held at the Asmark Institute on November

17. Steve Powell from Solum Consulting couldn't have been a better moderator of the conversation and topics discussed by 120 ladies in attendance. We were thrilled with the diversity of the group which included a solid group of college students (35), professionals and longtime faithful IAW members.

Jennifer Waters did a dynamic job of leading the group in a version of Speed

Networking for everyone to share business cards while discussing career and education paths in a 4 minute time frame. The conversations shared with the individuals I found myself paired with were informative and surprising at the same time.

Production agriculture, as we know it, is becoming increasingly under fire from misinformed consumers and overreaching regulatory groups. Steve's comments and direction gave all of us a few more

'tools' to add to the conversation tool box when speaking with peers at the gym or in the grocery store.

Ladies, don't forget to reach out to those you met through the networking activity and encourage them to join IAW. There is no time like the present to add to the membership roster.

All the Best to my IAW friends; blessings be with you in the New Year.

## State and Federal Legislation

### STATE

**Public Act 99-434** – High school history curriculum must include a semester of civics. Signed into law August 21 by Governor Bruce Rauner. Source LaSalle News Tribune.

**Senate Bill 1833** – Strengthens the state's Personal Information Protection Act, which requires companies hit with data breaches to notify their customers. Vetoed August 21, 2015 by Governor Bruce Rauner, who said the bill goes too far. Source LaSalle News Tribune.

**Public Act 99-249** – Families can decline vaccinations for their children on religious grounds. Signed into law August 3 by Governor Bruce Rauner. Source LaSalle News Tribune.

**Public Act 99-447** – Grants amnesty to underage drinkers who call 911 to get help. Signed into law August 24 by Governor Rauner. Source LaSalle News Tribune.

**Public Act 99-405** – Not-for-profit groups can hold poker runs and counties must provide licenses. Signed into law August 19 by Governor Rauner. Source LaSalle News Tribune.

**Public Act 99-454** – Hospitals can't bill sex assault victims for collecting rape kits. Signed into law August 24 by Governor Rauner. Source LaSalle News Tribune.

**Public Act 99-375** – Expands the veterans property tax exemption to partially disabled veterans and increases the exemption for veterans more seriously or permanently disabled. Signed into law August 17 by Governor Rauner. Source LaSalle News Tribune.

**Public Act 99-463** – Illinois companies seeking an air permit will be able to get it directly from the state, instead of going through the federal government. Signed into law August 25. Source LaSalle News Trib.

**Public Act 99-470** – Requires the installation of carbon monoxide detectors in schools. Signed into law August 27 by Governor Rauner. Source LaSalle News-Tribune.

### FEDERAL

**H.R. 2493** – The Wounded Warrior Service Dog Act provides assistance dogs to wounded and disabled veterans. Filed May 21. Source LaSalle News Tribune.

**H.R. 2503** – Prison inmates cannot collect unemployment. Filed May 21. Source LaSalle News Tribune.

**S.1076 and H.R. 2024** – Smart phones must be installed be installed with a "kill switch" to disable it in case of loss or theft. S.1076 filed April 23, 2015, H.R. 4065 filed April 23, 2014. Source LaSalle News Tribune.

**H.R.3134** – Defunds Planned Parenthood. Filed July 21, 2015. Source LaSalle NewsTribune.

**Voluntary GMO Food Labeling** – The U.S. House voted to pass H.R. 1599 which would prevent states and local governments from implementing mandatory GMO food labeling laws. The Illinois delegation voted 13-4 in favor of the bill. The bill sets up a voluntary labeling process through USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service similar to the organic certificate. Senator Mark Kirk supports voluntary GMO food labeling. Senator Durbin still has concerns. Source Working the Hill (ilfb).

The U.S. Senate voted to advance a "clean" continuing resolution to keep the federal government operating through December 11. While Speaker Boehner's decision to resign might have averted a government shutdown, some are predicting that a shutdown will happen in December. Source Working the Hill (ilfb).

Sen. Mark Kirk became the 44<sup>th</sup> co-sponsor of S. 1140, a bill that would force EPA and the Corps to withdraw and rewrite WOTUS before the end of the Obama administration. Source Working the Hill (ilfb).

On the last day of session before the holiday break, Congress passed the Fiscal Year 2016 omnibus appropriations and President Obama signed into law immediately.

The 2,009-page bill includes various items important to agriculture but also failed to address certain issues:

- **COOL** — repeals mandatory country-of-origin labeling requirements for beef and pork. Labeling requirements remain for poultry and lamb.
- **Section 179:** A bill to permanently extends deductions at \$500,000, up from \$25,000 previously. Bonus depreciation is set at 50% for property acquired during 2015, 2016 and 2017 and phases down, with 40% in 2018, and 30% in 2019. Additionally, the conservation easement tax credit is made permanent.
- **Animal research** — \$57 million is withheld from the Agricultural Research Service until the USDA certifies that the ARS has updated its animal care policies and improved practices at its animal research facilities.
- **Dietary guidelines** — Congress included language that says if the administration makes

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changes to the 2010 guidelines, they must be 1) "based on significant scientific agreement" and 2) "limited in scope to nutritional and dietary information" thus not sustainability.

- **School meals** — Continues the delay in further reduction in sodium limits and allows states to provide waivers to schools regarding whole grains requirements.

### *Items not included in the bill:*

- **WOTUS** — The bill does not stop the administration from proceeding with enforcement of the Waters of the United States. The administration strongly opposed any provision regarding WOTUS.
- **GMO labeling** — Does not provide for a voluntary labeling program. (Source: National Hog Farmer)

The Third Appellate Court has scheduled oral arguments on the Illinois Commerce Commission's (ICC) Order on the Rock Island Line (RICL) for Dec. 1. The ICC's application of existing utility laws to this merchant transmission proposal have been appealed by several parties representing landowners, agricultural interests and a major utility.

The RICL project is a proposed, 500-mile high-voltage direct current electric transmission line that seeks to make a profit shipping electricity from Iowa to East Coast markets. RICL is not part of any regional grid expansion studies or plans.

Appeal of the ICC's 2014 order were filed by the Illinois Landowners Alliance (ILA), the Illinois Farm Bureau and Com Ed, asking for review of the ICC's final order for RICL, and the ICC's denial of subsequent requests for a rehearing.

In conjunction with the oral arguments, the Appellate Court will review findings of fact and the ICC's application of the law to the facts. There is no time line for the Appellate Court to make a decision.

Curt Jacobs, ILA Board member, stated, "Our private property rights are under assault from a private, speculative company trying to circumvent the existing planning process for a project that has not been determined needed."

In Iowa, the fate of RICL is equally uncertain. RICL has directed the Iowa Utility Board to suspend all work on their application. In spite of 18 months of land agent activity, less than 15 per cent of the easements have been acquired, and opposition remains strong.

In the meantime, RICL has shifted its energies to Washington, D.C., where former RICL project manager Hans Detweiler is now lobbying for federal eminent domain.

Mary Mauch, co-founder of Block RICL, said, "What started as a small, grassroots movement to educate impacted landowners has now blossomed into a national movement to educate our Congressional representatives on state rights in the face of federal efforts to usurp state authority to site and permit electric transmission." (Source Bureau County Republican.)

## **Wreaths** continued from page 3

administered by Wounded Warriors.

Following John's presentation, Karen Worcester, co-founder of Wreaths Across America spoke to us.

Worcester Wreath Company supported the cottage industry by buying wreaths people made in their homes. In 1992 they had a surplus of wreaths near the end of the season. Morrill Worcester, Karen's husband remembered the

impression the Arlington National Cemetery made on him as a 12 year old paper boy who won a trip to Washington DC. He remembered his good fortune in life was partially due to the Veterans who make the ultimate sacrifice for their Country. The Worcesters made arrangements to place the wreaths on the graves at the Arlington cemetery. A local trucking company provided transportation for the wreaths and locals volunteered to lay the wreaths. In 2005

this annual tribute was noticed nation wide by pictures on the internet. In 2014 over 700,000 memorial wreaths at 1,000 locations were laid. On Dec. 12, 2015 wreaths will be placed at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery at Elwood, IL just outside of Joliet, IL. This touches me personally as my sister and brother-in-law, a navy veteran, are interred in this cemetery.

## **WOMEN CHANGING THE FACE OF AG SPONSORS 2015**

### **LUNCH SPONSOR: CNH Industrial**

**GOLD SPONSORS:** Cargill, 1st Farm Credit DAF, DuPont Pioneer, Agrium/Crop Production Services, Illinois State University

**BREAKFAST SPONSORS:** Prairie Farms Dairy, Illinois Pork Producers

**Silver SPONSORS:** CHS Foundation, Illinois Corn Marketing Board, AT&T, CGB Diversified Crop Insurance Services, BASF, Bunge, John Wood Community College, GROWMARK, Inc., Farm Credit Illinois, Archer Daniel Midland, Dow AgroSciences

### **Bus Sponsor: Brandt**

**BRONZE SPONSORS:** Greene Farm Management Services, Inc., Advance Trading, Inc., Beck's Hybrids, Birkey's CNH, Country Financial/Illinois Farm Bureau, Edlong Flavors Technology, Farm Week, Illinois Soybean Association, Monsanto, Prairie Farmer Magazine, WJBC Radio, Topflight Grain Cooperative, USDA - Farm Service Agency, Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE)

**Student Sponsorship:** Syngenta, Great Lakes Hybrids, One Earth Energy, North Central Bank, USDA - Natural Resource Conservation Service, American Water, McLean County Timeless Clovers, Blaine's Farm & Fleet, The Andersons, Bates Commodities, Farm First Dairy, FarmHer, National FFA Foundation, Northern Partners Cooperative, Nutrients for Life Foundation, USDA - Rural Development, Western Farm Business Farm Management, Parkland Community College, Carthage Veterinary Service, Illinois Agricultural Leadership Program, Illinois Certified Crop Advisor Program, Kent Precision Foods, Maurer-Stutz, Inc., University of Illinois, RFD Radio, WSMI Radio

## **SPEAK OUT!**

Publications of the Illinois Agri Women  
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