

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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CALIFORNIA WOMEN FOR AGRICULTURE HOSTS 39TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Petaluma, California played host to the California Women for Agriculture (CWA) last weekend for their 39th Annual Convention and State Wide Meeting that the San Luis Obispo Chapter attended.

Early arriving attendees were treated to a local tour Friday. Tour stops included Petaluma Creamery hosted by Larry Peter, Dairy Dell hosted by Camilla Gray-Nelson and Lagunitas Brewing Company.

Two days of meetings were kicked off daily by Boy Scout Troop 9 and the Green Valley 4-H members leading our nation's Pledge of Allegiance. Warm welcomes were offered by California Assembly Member Mark Levine and Sonoma County 2nd District Supervisor David Rabbitt Saturday and Sunday respectively. The women attended workshops specifically designed for newly installed local chapter officers as well as a Legislative Boot Camp to prepare for CWA's yearly visit to Sacramento communicate to elected officials the Agriculture Industry's concerns on pending legislation and ongoing political issues.

Remarks were offered by Outgoing President Karri Hammerstrom about her two years serving the organization. Hammerstrom was gifted a handmade leather briefcase as well as a donation to a charity of her choice in her name as tokens of appreciation for her hard work and dedication during her tenure.

Saturday night featured an Installation of Officers and Banquet. Past Presidents Jeri Hansen-Gill and Celeste Settrini performed a traditional ceremony and officially welcomed the 2014 Officer Team. Team Members include President Lynn Figone, Petaluma, President Elect Lisa Bodrogi, Santa Maria, Vice President Internal Affairs Lora Azevedo, Sacramento, Vice President External Affairs Jeanette Lombardo, Ventura, Secretary Sarah Reid-Herman, Folsom, Treasurer Kathy Stroschein, Blythe, Assistant Treasurer Julie Ruiz, Carmel Valley, Past President Karri Hammerstrom, Kingsburg, District Directors Angie Vana, Linden, Nancy McHutt, Santa Maria, Rose Tryon, Chico, Kendal Hamilton, Tulare, Gloria Stroschein, Blythe.

The meeting wrapped up Sunday with a visit from Petaluma's own Laurie Figone. Cousin of President Figone, Laurie began experimenting in the kitchen and entered a few cooking contests. She soon had a collection of winning recipes and found them published in cookbooks. With courage and confidence, she accepted an offer to host her own TV show "Cooking with Laurie". The show focused on Farm to Fork dishes educating viewers on locally grown commodities.

This year's Convention was attended by nearly 100 members from 17 of the State's 20 chapters in good standing. The next Statewide Meeting is scheduled for March 8-9th, 2014 in Blythe. The San Luis Obispo chapter attendees included, Lisa Bodrogi, Carin Ryan, Lynette Sonne, Stephanie Marden, Ruth Jensen, Sarah Kramer, and Susi Griffiths.

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CWA would like to thank the many sponsors who donated funds, services and information to their annual Convention. CWA would also like to thank the North Bay Chapter for their hard work hosting a fantastic event especially Co-Chairwomen Mary Sanchez and Ruth McClure.

(con't) California Women for Agriculture is a non-profit organization boasting 2,000 plus members across the state. CWA is the most active, all volunteer agricultural organization in the state and members are actively engaged in public relations, education and legislative advocacy on behalf of agriculture.

CWA protects the farmer's right to farm and the consumer's right to choose. CWA would also like to remind you that if you wear clothes or eat food, you are involved in Agriculture.

For more information about California Women for Agriculture including membership, donations and chapter activities in your area, please call **916-441-2910** or email info@cawomen4ag.com .

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