

SAN JOAQUIN SOUNDING

California Women for Agriculture

NUMBER 249
JULY & AUGUST 2023

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SEPTEMBER
9-10 - September SWM and Ag Boosters BBQ in Fresno
14-17 - Lodi Grape Festival
27 - SJ CWA meeting, 5:30 at SJFB, 3290 N Ad Art Rd in Stockton

OCTOBER
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NOVEMBER
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HANNAH COOLEY, WEARS MULTIPLE HATS FOR ZENITH INSURANCE COMPANY. WHETHER PRESENTING AT A CONFERENCE, SPENDING A RARE DAY IN THE OFFICE OR OUT AT THE FARMS AND RANCHES IN OUR VALLEY, ONE THING FOR SURE, HANNAH WILL BE ADVOCATING FOR AGRICULTURE!

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Business and Member Spotlight Hannah Cooley with Zenith Insurance Company

Hannah Cooley graduated from Stanislaus State University in 2021 with her Bachelors of Science in Agricultural Sustainability. She was hired by Zenith Insurance Company in July of 2021 as a Safety & Health Consultant. Within the role, she has the unique opportunity to identify areas of exposure to help provide a safe work environment for the employees, all while staying rooted in her passions for the agricultural industry. Hannah is a field employee and spends most of her time in the field going to different operations and meeting with industry professionals - mostly with dairies, nut processors, and wineries. She commented that Zenith shares her similar values. Zenith supports the organizations that Hannah is actively participating in like CWA and Young Farmers and Ranchers.

During this year's Spring Luncheon, I was introduced to Zenith as we were setting up our tables with swag bags and place settings. Zenith was kind enough to donate their brightly colored "Ag Bags" and the logo caught my attention. After a quick conversation with Hannah I learned that she was their employee, our member, and a fresh face to the next generation of women in agriculture. She brings hope to the future of farming - not just for females, but for anyone who is worried what the California "farm climate" will look like in the next 10 to 20 years. She understands our needs as a state, identifies our struggles, and with her love of the industry could be part of the driving force behind new ideas and farm-friendly legislature.

(continued on next page)

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE, CONT.

Hannah became an active member of FFA at a young age. She found great passion in advocating for farming and agriculture. She writes, "When my career path aligned with the industry, I decided to join CWA in Spring of 2022. Membership has given me the opportunity to learn of current legislation, policies and emerging issues. It has shown me a need to strengthen my voice to be a better advocate." She now takes time to educate consumers on how food gets to our table as well as help shape programs and policies on issues such as ag and farm safety, land stewardship, sustainability, and water and climate resiliency. Hannah meets with leaders and professionals at all levels within the industry and continues to improve herself as a role model/mentor for other upcoming women in agriculture. Zenith is very lucky to have her enthusiasm and love for our field.

The Zenith website is very easy to maneuver. It explains how they assist your business in reducing injuries, lowering recovery times for injured associates, and protecting your profits from fraud. They are attentive and responsive so you can focus on running your business. Their commitment to their customers shows in their strong reputation among clients and even their own employees. Hannah spoke very highly of the "family feel" of the company, and enjoys being part of Zenith's mission!

See for yourself! www.thezenith.com

Candice Ghio

** Editor's note: This issue's Leadership Message is provided by Linden's Area Director, Candice Ghio.

STATE CWA PRESIDENT-ELECT PAYS US A VISIT!

KATHIE RIVARA
LESLIE AVANSINO
MELISSA MOREHOUSE



LORA DANIELS TERRY PAOLETTI
SUZANNE LONGSTRETH
KRISTA MCCOON

DEBRA STROSCHEIN, (FAR RIGHT, BACK ROW) STATE CWA PRESIDENT-ELECT, VISITED OUR CHAPTER AT OUR JUNE MEETING. SHE SHARED SOME LEGISLATION THAT NEEDED TO BE ADDRESSED AND SOME ENCOURAGING WORDS AS WE MOVE INTO SUMMER.
PHOTO: LORA DANIELS

CWA BOARD

Executive Board

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CALLING ALL MEMBERS

PAUSE ON LEGISLATIVE TOURS

Legislative Tours have been a fabulous way of showcasing the beauty and benefits of San Joaquin County's agriculture industry!

We wrapped up Spring tours, (see pg. 4) in late May at Corto Olive Oil and early June at O-GPacking Co. There may be one or two more tours this fall, contact Suzanne (209.573.0360) or Terry (209.481.2791). If you have an interest in organizing next year's tour schedule, please contact Krista McCoon at 209.402.5734 for more information.

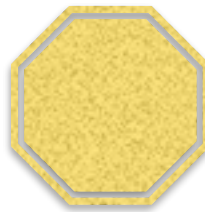
JAMS, JELLIES, PIES, CAKES, ETC.

You have a mission should you choose to accept it.

See page 6 for your orders!

IS YOUR ADDRESS HIGHLIGHTED IN **YELLOW**?

Attention: If your address label on the back of this issue is highlighted in **YELLOW**, then this is your last issue. If you would like to continue receiving The Sounding, the official newsletter of the San Joaquin Chapter of California Women for Agriculture, please contact Edele Norman (209.986.7641) about renewing your membership or clearing up any misdirected mail. The USPS is a very valuable part of our newsletter process but we just want to be sure that everyone who wants to be a member is getting their newsletter. Thank you for your help with this little bit of housekeeping.



AUGUST MEETING - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23

Our next meeting is August 23 at the San Joaquin Farm Bureau office in Stockton. Contact your Area Director for more information or Krista McCoon if you have any questions. Our potluck theme is Taco Salad / Nacho Bar. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

SENDING SUNSHINE



Our deepest condolences to Bill Tower, Glenda Tower Duyst, Carol Tower Blackwell and extended family, friends and neighbors of Laura Tower, a Charter Member of our chapter.

Our deepest sympathies to our Chapter President, Krista McCoon, at the passing of her grandmother, Barbara Montgomery while also experiencing the joy of becoming an auntie again to her sister's new baby boy, Carson.

Most sincere condolences to Rogene Reynolds and family upon the passing of her sister, Elizabeth Remonda

Sending get well wishes to Gayle Watkins. We are thinking of you, Gayle!

Send Sunshine to Suzanne Longstreth

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Publishing

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Memorial **Scholarships** are awarded to the children and grandchildren of SJ CWA members. This scholarship is funded through generous donations. Contact Karen Cultrera at 209.982.4945 for more information.

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LEGISLATIVE TOUR AT CORTO

BY SUZANNE LONGSTRETH



We visited Corto Olive on May 31, 2023. The company is owned by the Cortopassi Family.

Our amazing tour guide was David Garci-Aguirre, Master Miller for the past ten years at Corto.

We started out with a video of the company and then moved outside to the trees. The first trees were planted in 2006. They have numerous varieties and trials going on. Their first harvest was in 2009.

We were shown all of the processing equipment and where the oil is stored in vats.



Grape harvesters are used for harvesting the olives.

Corto's target market is chefs and restaurants. You can order their olive oil online and the brand is Truly.

We were treated to an olive oil tasting at the end of our tour. It was very interesting and David gave us tips on what we should smell and taste.

LEGISLATIVE TOUR AT O-G PACKING

BY SUZANNE LONGSTRETH



June 7, 2023, there were thirteen of us that toured O-G Packing and their cherry processing facility.

Laurel Hansen was our tour guide. She is in the Marketing and Sales company — Grower Direct which handles all sales for O-G Packing. Laurel's grandmother, Lynn Skinner, was the 1981 California Women for Ag State President.

Laurel showed us a video on how O-G Packing started and the progress of the company. We all had headsets as we went through the plant, so we could hear everything Laurel was saying. It was very helpful. We saw the the process of cherries coming in, going through the cold bath, electronic eyes, stem cutter, hand sorting, packaging, and cold storage. O-G sells to Costco and Walmart in the clam shell packaging. At the



end of the tour we were all treated to refreshments and received a bag of cherries. Thank you to Laurel for the amazing tour and taking time out of your busy schedule to give us lots of information about cherry processing.



SJ CWA SCHOLARSHIP BBQ AT MATT'S BARN IN RIPON



L-R: MALLORY BERHORST, AVA BUWALDA AND GRACE BRACCO ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THEIR UNIVERSITY ADVENTURE!

Congratulations to our 2023 scholarship winners. We have five young women who received the \$500 Community College scholarships. They are Janessa Baron and Paige Berchtold, both are from East Union High and want to be Ag teachers. Jessica Kinlaw from Lathrop High with a career goal of veterinary technician. Laci Martin from East Union who also wants to be a veterinary technician. Molly Terpstra from Escalon High who wishes to be an Ag Commodities broker. All will be attending Modesto Junior College (MJC) except for Paige who will attend Delta College.

Eight individuals received the \$1000 4-year college scholarships. Mallory Berhorst from Escalon High will be attending Cal Poly majoring in Ag Business. Brooklyn Beck graduated from Galt High and also will be attending Cal Poly with hopes of becoming a large animal veterinarian. Regan Boysen, a Linden High graduate, will be attending Cal Poly majoring in Bioresource Engineering. Grace Bracco also an Escalon

graduate will be going to Cal Poly majoring in Ag Ed hoping to become an Ag teacher. Ava Buwalda, a Ripon Christian graduate will be majoring in Soil Science. From Lodi High is Faith Hunt, attending Cal Poly majoring in Ag Business with hopes of becoming an Ag lawyer. Ripon High graduate Hailey Knief will venture up to Chico State with the career goal of a livestock veterinarian. Steven Sanguinetti from Linden will also be attending Cal Poly majoring in Ag Engineering. He also received the Sanguinetti Family Scholarship and the Barbagelata Family Scholarship. The Strecker Family Scholarship went to Paige Berchtold. The Togninali Family Memorial Scholarship went to Madelynn Miske of East Union. She will be attending Montana State with a major of Ag Ed hoping to become an Ag teacher. The Muzio Family Memorial was awarded to Gino Sandoval of Linden. He will major in Ag Business at Delta College. Receiving the CWA Memorial Scholarship is Hannah Ghio from St. Mary's High. She plans on attending Delta College with hopes of becoming a personal Hollywood prop maker.

We wish the best of luck to all of our recipients as they begin their college adventures.



JUNIOR COLLEGE BOUND: L - R: JANESSA BARON, PAIGE BERCHTOLD, LACI MARTIN AND MOLLY TERPSTRA WILL START THEIR COLLEGE CAREERS AT MJC OR DELTA, USING LOCAL RESOURCES TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS.



LEFT: GINO SANDOVAL OF LINDEN RECEIVED THE MUZIO FAMILY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP.



RIGHT: PAIGE BERCHTOLD RECEIVED THE STRECKER FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP.

L-R: DAVE CULTRERA, ROB NORMAN, ROBB LONGSTRETH AND CHUCK RIVARA DAVE AND HIS CREW TAKE A WELL-DESERVED BREAK IN THE ACTION.



September Statewide Meeting & Ag Boosters BBQ

September 9-10, 2023



Join us in Fresno for our largest statewide fundraiser of the year!

Schedule of Events:

Friday, September 8—Packaging Room
(Springhill Suites Fresno)

- opens at 3pm

Saturday, September 9—Meetings
(Fresno Farm Bureau office)

- Exec. Board - 10:30am
- Lunch - Noon
- SWM - 1:00pm

Sunday, September 10—BBQ
(Panoche Creek River Ranch)

- Packaging Room - 7am
- Set up Country Store - 8am
- Lunch @ Packaging Room - noon
- Group picture @ BBQ - 3pm
- BBQ - 4pm

***Check www.cawomen4ag.com for registration opportunities or statecwa@gmail.com for inquiries.

****Your Mission: We would love if you could share your handmade craft items, jams, jellies, preserves, chutneys, pickles, dried fruit, dried herbs, pies, cakes, cookies and brownies. This is an outdoor event, in Fresno, in September... and it will be very warm, please no icing on those cakes.**

We will be gathering up all these items on the Thursday or Friday before the event weekend.

Please contact Krista if you plan on going to the SWM and/or the Ag Boosters BBQ.

Hotel Information:

Springhill Suites Fresno
6844 N. Fresno St., Fresno, CA 93710
(p) 559-431-0004
Room rate is \$159

Dates to Remember:

Deadline to reserve hotel: **08/09/23**
Deadline for meeting registration: **8/31/23**
Task Force Director and District Director reports are due: **08/25/23**

Costs:

Statewide Meeting (Saturday) - \$40.00
Lunch (Sunday) - \$15.00
Ag Boosters BBQ Ticket - \$75.00

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE YOUR CWA CHAPTER

Stay tuned for information about how you can help with the November SWM and AAW Convention in Sacramento.

Serve as a member of the Officer Team. (President-Elect is vacant.)

Invite a friend to our next meeting.

Write an agriculture-related article for the Sounding. Tell your story.

Serve as an Area Director

Plan to set aside some of your baked goodies and preserved foods for the September Ag Boosters BBQ Country Store.

Mark your calendar with all the AgVenture dates and let Krista know, "I'll be there!"

Advocate for CA agriculture, in the grocery store, at a restaurant, on Facebook, Instagram, wherever you are.

DONOR MEMBERS

*CWA activities are made possible, in part, through the generous donations of our Donor Members.
Donor Members as of July 26, 2023.*

Double Diamond Level (\$1,000+)

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in yellow? See page 3. If not
highlighted, you're all good!

Current Resident or



UPCOMING EVENTS

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