

January 2026 Salinas Valley California Women for Agriculture (SVCWA) Newsletter



Note from the President

2026 was kicked off with Salinas Valley CWA President Miranda Sampson and Salinas Valley CWA Secretary (and now Central Coast District Director) Mary Ann Hooker traveling to Manteca, CA for the CWA Annual Convention and State Wide Meeting (SWM).



On Friday, attendees got to tour the Port of Stockton, a vital hub for receiving and shipping goods globally; Sabbatical Labs Distillery, a small batch, family run whiskey operation; and Costco's Tracy Meat Processing Plant, where we got to see the Costco Hot Dog being made! These experiences reinforced that agriculture thrives beyond the farm gate through collaboration, innovation, and interconnected systems.

On Saturday evening, we had the State Office Installation, welcoming our new Executive team members.

- Parliamentarian** - Victoria Weatherly, Santa Maria Chapter
- Northern District Director** - Joan Webster, North Valley Chapter
- North Central District Director** - Fatima Gioletti, Stanislaus Chapter
- Central Valley District Director** - Stacey Jischke, Kern County Chapter
- Central Coast District Director** - Mary Ann Hooker, Salinas Valley Chapter
- Southern District Director** - Summer Spraggins, Palo Verde Chapter
- Past President** - Debra Stroschein, Palo Verde Chapter
- Assistant Treasurer** - Nancy Machut, Santa Maria Chapter
- Treasurer** - Susie Sorenson, North Valley Chapter
- Secretary** - Paola Saenz, Central Valley Chapter
- Vice President Internal** - Jill LeVake, Sacramento Chapter
- Vice President External** - Sandy Fiack, North Valley Chapter
- President Elect** - Nannette Simonian, Central Valley Chapter
- President** - Lora Daniels, San Joaquin Chapter



January also marks SVCWA's Annual Planning Meeting. Our chapter gathered on January 17, 2026, to review our budget, set goals, and discuss the meetings and tours we hope to host throughout the year. We're eager to involve more members in our activities, so if you have ideas for tours or events you'd like to see, please reach out at salinasvalleycwa@gmail.com!

Some of the preliminary events we're exploring include a wine-tasting membership mixer, an apricot farm tour, a dairy farm tour, and more.

I'd like to close with a special acknowledgement. While November 2025 marked the beginning of celebrating CWA's 50th anniversary year as an organization, Salinas Valley CWA was officially chartered on December 9, 1976. As we begin our year, I hope we keep this upcoming anniversary in mind to honor the legacy SVCWA has built over the last 50 years—and carry that spirit forward for the next 50.

. - *Miranda Sampson, 2026 President*

Member Spotlight

We would like to highlight our members! Answer a few questions about your background relating to Agriculture and why you joined CWA!

Email membership@salinascwa.org if you're interested in being highlighted for our Membership Spotlight for an upcoming month!

2026 Meetings & Events

On the evening of February 10, 2026, we are invited to speak at San Benancio 4-H's monthly meeting. The informational talk will be about 10 minutes and will highlight local crop production and the lifecycle of ag in the Salinas valley. We will also integrate career opportunities in the industry, within all facets of ag related business, into the talk. If you're interested in joining President Miranda Sampson at this talk, please email salinasvalleycwa@gmail.com.

SVCWA will be hosting a **4-H Baking Contest in King City on February 28, 2026, ~7am-12pm**. Our group of volunteers are actively helping to coordinate and judge the event. Stay tuned for pictures next month!

Our next Board Meeting will be held on March 10, 2026 at 5:30 pm at Visionary Vegetables 19045 Portola Dr., Suite H, Salinas, CA 93908. Please email salinasvalleycwa@gmail.com if you would like to attend virtually.

The 2026 March State Wide Meeting (SWM) is being held in Carpenteria, California! We are looking for one member who would like to attend the meeting alongside President Miranda Sampson. Expenses are reimbursed from the State for mileage (carpooling encouraged) and ½ the cost of the hotel (sharing a room with another member has full cost covered). Regular State Wide Meetings are two night affairs - usually arriving at the hotel Friday night, Tours Saturday, and the SWM on Sunday. This is a great opportunity for members to understand more about the larger picture of CWA. Email salinasvalleycwa@gmail.com if you're interested or want more information. All members are welcome to attend, but only one member besides the SV President can be reimbursed and is a voting member at the Sunday SWM. If multiple people are interested in attending, the board will evaluate and determine who will attend on behalf of SVCWA with reimbursement.

Looking far ahead, our chapter has been selected to host the 2027 January Convention and SWM. For those who haven't attended a SWM before, the events take place over a weekend. Friday brings local tour stops (ag tours or other production related features of our area) with lunch provided. Saturday consists of meetings and breakout sessions, with an evening gala and State Officer installation. Sunday is the actual state meeting, introducing the board, with speakers. The club took some time during our annual planning meeting in January to brainstorm ideas. For those who could not attend the January planning meeting we are still very interested to hear your ideas. Please contact any of the current year board members with your ideas.! If you could attend any SWM, this will be the one!

Committees

Interested in joining a committee? Email SalinasValleyCWA@gmail.com.

Scholarship

In our continuing commitment to promote awareness and education, the Salinas Valley Chapter of California Women for Agriculture (SVCWA) offers two scholarship programs for women in Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties. Scholarships are now open and are due March 24, 2026. [Visit our website](#) for links to applications and more information about requirements!



Photo Contest

Our Photo Contest is excited to continue this year where it all started, with Helen Dunston as the committee chair! Helen founded the photo contest. If you're interested in participating or want to hear more about the responsibilities, email SalinasValleyCWA@gmail.com cc photo@salinascwa.org!

For those who love to participate, start thinking about your submissions for next year! Maximum of 2 entries per person, photos should reflect agriculture, and photo format should be vertical with at least 300 dpi.

Bus Trip

Our Annual Bus Trip was on November 1, 2025! Thank you to all our big sponsors who made the day successful and possibly our most money raised yet - over \$30,000! Our bus trip primarily raises money for our scholarship program, but also helps our organization operate throughout the year. A huge thank you to our premier sponsors!

