

# BENEFITING U

UnitedAg Quarterly Newsletter | Winter 2022-23 Edition

## President's Message

by Kirti Mutatkar

When I look back on 2022, I find inspiration at every turn—forged by an industry of innovators taking risks day in and day out, all with hopes of passing on the family legacy. After 22 years in the agricultural healthcare industry, I'm still passionate about our work and the community we serve and excited by the possibilities that lie ahead. As we begin a new year with new intentions, I hope to grow and expand our capabilities to help our members become the best version of themselves mentally and physically.

While the unique circumstances of the past three years have certainly influenced our approach to day-to-day operations, it has remained our overall goal to be the health plan of choice for Agribusiness.

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## President's Message Continued

This is an incredibly exciting time to be part of our organization as we focus our efforts on **building healthy communities**. I encourage you to be a part of the process by attending our upcoming 43rd Annual Conference and listen to industry experts, connect with friends, and, most importantly, be a partner in change. Until we connect again, I leave you with an important assignment to listen to my latest podcast episode with our Chief Medical Officer Dr. Rosemary Ku. I hope you walk away learning more about the UnitedAg ethos and the importance of human connectedness not just one-on-one but with an entire community.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge and thank all of our members, service representatives and partners for their support and trust in UnitedAg. **Here is to 2023!**

## Upcoming Events



**OPS Forum: SPD Changes for 2023**  
Zoom Webinar (Registration required)



**OPS Forum: Teladoc Health**  
Zoom Webinar (Registration required)



**43rd Annual Meeting & Conference**  
Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa  
(Registration required)



**HealthChats: Healthy Eating**  
Zoom Webinar (Registration required)



**WomenAg Network Coffee Chat**  
Zoom Webinar (Registration required)

To register, visit [unitedag.org/events](https://unitedag.org/events)

"BUILDING  
COMMUNITIES  
will foster  
connection  
amongst our  
membership and  
offer a collective  
space for  
experience  
sharing."

KIRTI MUTATKAR



## SPECIAL GRATITUDE & APPRECIATION FOR RETIRING TRUSTEES

At the annual meeting in March, we will be honoring three members who have retired from the board of trustees: **Les Graulich**, **Glenn Miller** and **Tom Amaro**. These members have performed with commitment and tenacity, and we are forever grateful for more than 45 years of combined service to UnitedAg & UABT. We are thankful for the trustees' dedication, as serving on a board is one of the most challenging volunteer roles.



### Les Graulich, Trustee

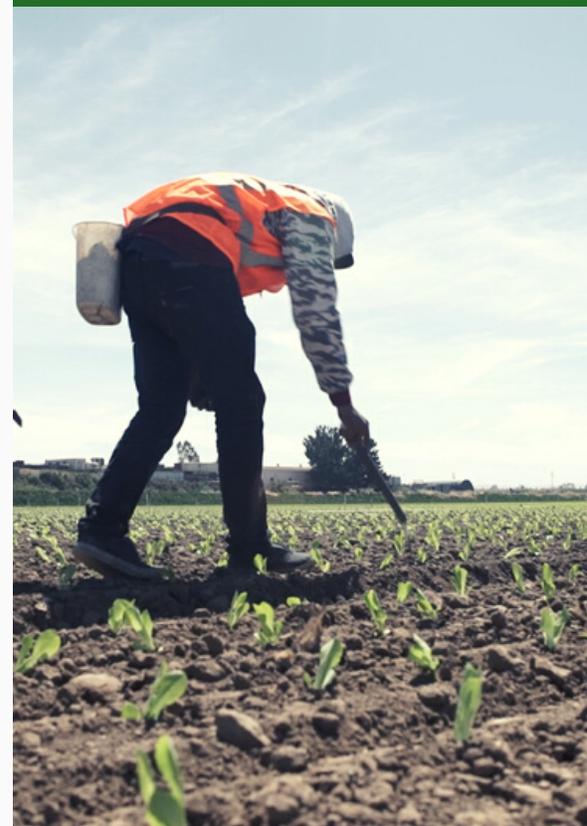
(2017 - 2022)

Les Graulich has announced his retirement as CFO and Secretary/Treasurer for Plantel Nurseries, Inc., a large vegetable transplant nursery in Santa Maria. Les has been an integral part of our organization, and his hard work and commitment to our industry are worthy of admiration.

He joined the Board of Directors in 2015 and was appointed to the UnitedAg Board of Trustees in 2017. Les will be greatly missed, and we wish him the best in his future endeavors.

"Leadership is not a position or title it is action & example"

CORY BOOKER



## Glenn Miller, Trustee

(2005 - 2022)

With mixed emotions, we announce Glenn Miller's retirement as president and CEO of the Santa Paula, California-based Satcoy Lemon Association and past Chair of the UnitedAg Board of Trustees.

To sum up, Glenn's contributions and achievements of over 43 years of dedicated service to our industry is both difficult and impossible. Glenn will always be remembered for his contributions to UABT and the AEF scholarship foundation. On behalf of the entire UnitedAg family, we wish him the BEST!



## Tom Amaro, Trustee

(2002 - 2022)

After 20 years of serving on the UnitedAg Board of Trustees, Tom Amaro is stepping down from the board to pursue personal and professional endeavors. Tom recently launched AMARO CBD Beauty & Wellness, a product line carefully formulated and crafted in California using a symphony of food-grade, all-natural & organic apothecary herbs, oils, and ingredients. As experts in sustainable farming and agriculture, they proudly cultivate and grow some of the best hemp CBD in the world.

Although Tom will no longer serve on the UnitedAg Board of Trustees, he will continue to play an integral role in the advocacy committee. We will cherish his contributions throughout the years and look forward to what the future holds for Tom. THANK YOU!

"It always seems impossible until it's done."

NELSON MANDELA



## Election Results for 2023/24 Board of Trustees

This past November, UnitedAg's Trust UABT held its Bi-Annual Board of Trustees election for the 2023-2024 term. Mack Ramsay was elected chairman, Pat Regan was elected vice chair, and Danielle McShane was elected treasurer. Incumbents Craig Waite, Judy Lundberg, and A.J. Cisney were re-elected to the Board and Allan Teixeira as chair emeritus.

We proudly welcome former UnitedAg Director Michael Heisinger, CFO of Ippolito International, LP, to the Board of Trustees.



## Thank You for Participating in the Election Process

The UnitedAg Board of Directors, Trustees and Staff appreciate the contribution of members in the Bi-Annual Board of Trustees election. Members play an integral role in the process. If you have any questions or comments for your Directors and Trustees, please email UnitedAg Membership at [membership@unitedag.org](mailto:membership@unitedag.org).

### UABT Board of Trustees

Chairman

**Mack Ramsay**  
*Pacific Commerce Group*

Vice Chairman

**Pat Regan**  
*Regan Distributors, Inc.*

Treasurer

**Danielle McShane**  
*Merrill Farms, LLC*

Trustee

**A.J. Cisney**  
*Rancho Guadalupe, LLC*

Trustee

**Judy Lundberg**  
*Babé Farms, Inc.*

Trustee

**Craig Waite**  
*Growers Container, Co.*

Trustee

**Mike Heisinger**  
*Ippolito International, LP*

Chair Emeritus

**Allan Teixeira**  
*Teixeira Farms*

## Fifteen WomenAg Leaders Graduate this Spring

This March, the 2022 graduating class of WomenAg leaders will be recognized during the 43rd Annual Conference Luncheon at Disney's Grand Californian Hotel and Spa for completing 12 months of coursework in the academy.



- Kiran Sibia**, *Montna Farms*
- Connie James**, *Plantel Nurseries*
- Kari Nale**, *Kings River Packing*
- Brenda Allison**, *Coast General Insurance Brokers*
- Laura Penea**, *Braga Fresh Family Farms*
- Elvia Torres**, *Valley Pride, Inc.*
- Marylu Ramirez**, *Good Farms*
- Sarah Bell**, *Kaiser Permanente*

- Tricia Geringer**, *Agricultural Council of CA*
- Sasha Jones**, *CA Ag Soilworks*
- Shelby Campiz**, *Moore Insurance Services*
- Patty Emmert**, *Duncan Family Farms*
- Mayra Guerrero**, *Red Dog Management*
- Channy Lee**, *UnitedAg*
- Yarizza Gonzalez**, *UnitedAg*

## 2022 Ambassador Awards

Three outstanding member ambassadors will be recognized during UnitedAg's 43rd Annual Conference Luncheon for their successful health initiatives and campaigns in 2022. Join us in congratulating them for their hard work in helping their workforce stay healthy!

Member Ambassadors are member employees who promote and educate their peers about the importance of wellness and influence the policies and procedures that directly affect their company's health benefits.



### Ag Improvement Award

**Veronica Luna**  
*Rancho Guadalupe, LLC*



### Ag Innovator Award

**Kacy Smith**  
*Valley Farm Management*



### Ag Best All Around Award

**Veronica Blanco**  
*Innovative Produce, Inc.*

# BUILDING COMMUNITIES

43rd Annual Meeting & Conference

**MARCH 6 - 7, 2023**

Disney's Grand Californian Hotel® & Spa | Anaheim, CA

BUILDING COMMUNITIES is a conference that will foster connection amongst our membership and offer a collective space for experience sharing. Explore inspiring sessions where you'll discover how to elevate your communication and collaboration experiences to bring you closer to your vision.



Keynote Speaker

**Sasha Strauss**

*Brand Strategy Firm Founder,  
Professor & Speaker*



Session 1: Mobilizing Community through Advocacy

**Jeff Aiello**

*Chief Executive Officer, ValleyPBS*



Session 2: Building Healthier Communities

**CarlaDenise Edwards, PhD**

*Strategic & Board Advisor, Parsley Health,  
Clover Health, and Heluna Health*

Take advantage of early-bird registration at [unitedag.org/conference](https://unitedag.org/conference)

## Staff Anniversaries (September - December 2022)

Christina Lopez	24
Channy Lee	22
Laura Betancourt	21
Carrie Jaimes	21
Kirti Mutatkar	21
Donna Bares	19
Sophia Perez	14
Mayra Orozco	13
Sonia Aguilar	12
Judy Solis	6
Araceli Varela	6
Krista Williams	6
Dayne Miller	5
Jessica Lopez	3
Cindy Rodriguez	3
Alex Chee	2
Angela Hicks	2
Judy Mendez	2
Kathy Nguyen	2
Karen Worth	2
Lily-Uyen Do	1
Vanessa Enciso	1
Rhianna Macias	1
Justin Sosnowski	1
Jayson Welter	1

## Welcome to the UnitedAg Family!

Acord Logging	Jireh Farming, Inc.
Ag Funding Assistance, LLC	John Mann Packaging, Inc.
Best X Termite & Pest Control	Lapco Beer Distributing, Inc.
Black Fox Timber Mgmt. Group	LMG Ag Products
Cal Gap, Inc.	Mainsheet Capital
California Craft Brewers Assn.	McKahn Family Cellars, LLC
Central Irrigation Tulare, LLC	Modern Building, Inc.
Central Valley Ag Grinding, Inc.	MR Joullian OP, LLC
Double Eagle Dover Investments	Naumann Ranch
Dubug No 7, Inc.	Orradre Farming, Inc.
Eelan Nelson	Porter's Welding, LLC
Family Winemakers of CA	Prowood, Inc.
Farmers Fertilizer and Supply	Red Bluff Veterinary Clinic
Feed Processors, LLC	Rich's Butcher Shop, Inc.
Gary Francioni & Sons	Riverbend South
H. Miller Trucking, Inc.	Scan-Vino, LLC
Hilmar Lumber, Inc.	Scudder Roofing Company
Hilmar Rentals, LLC	Soul Flowers Wine Co.
Hooven & Co., Inc.	Twisted Roots Wine
ISA In Studio Architecture, Inc.	Yosemite Valley Beef Packing
Jacobszoon and Associates, Inc.	Zophakinrico, LLC
Jessee Machine Works	

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