



SUMMER 2019

CONSERVATOR

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BUCKEYE



Life Stewardship

BY HEIDI CARPENTER-HARRIS

What do you value?

Most people when asked that question have the immediate answers of family, health and home. Some vary a bit but most use those on the jump. These values are to the brim and running over with emotions, feelings, honor and respect. Country songs are written about what are known as American Core Values our Family, Faith, and Freedom. The meaning of each one of those vary as per a person's perspective, experience and beliefs. So, what do they mean to you?

Life Stewardship asks you to discover and uncover your core values. To focus in on areas of concern in your life where you want to see change and growth. If you are standing in stagnant water, it may be time to walk to the current.

We only change when the pain of staying the same is worse than the pain of change. It does not matter if it is work, life, landscape, home front, or community- we all have those places that have grown dank and change needs to flow in.

For years I have had the opportunity to stand beside people as they explore their landscapes and

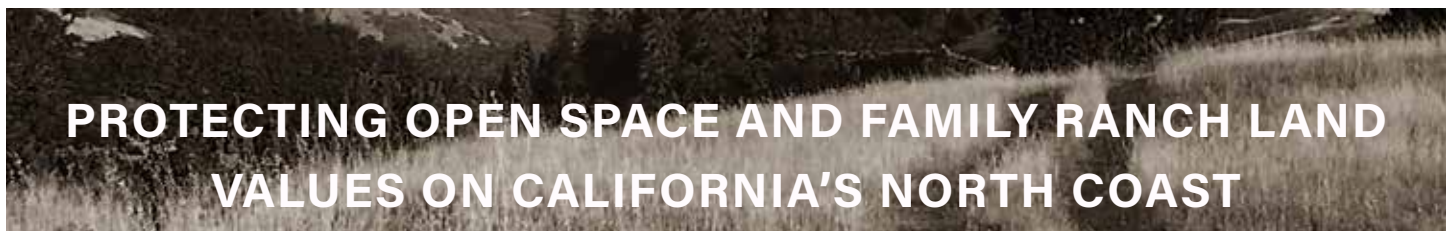
identify what they value on them. Creating maps, shaping grazing plans, removing brush, opening forest stands, fixing roads and developing water-never in all this time did the plan stay the same from beginning to end. In every case things changed; what they thought they knew or wanted always went through a metamorphosis in the process of implementation. Over the years, I learned that the landscape tells the story of the people who live on it and can never tell a lie. By looking at the land, I can see what the owner's value. We do what we value, we spend money on what we value, we spend our time on what we value, we are what we value.

We, just like the land around us can get lost in false values. That cheap load of hay brought star thistle, loaning money to an old friend against our gut instinct sowed anger, finishing later rather than now begot a much bigger problem, gonna get to it is now 5 years in the making- there comes a time and place when we just have to turn and face it. The things we gave up, for the things we wanted in the moment have become our lives.

We now live far from our intent, caught in the flow of emotion, instant gratification, and for some stolen opportunities, as life slapped what we really wanted out of our hands.

Many of us have taken the time to build land management plans, conservation plans, financial plans and vacation plans, yet somewhere in it all we neglect to build life plans. Stewarding our life is reasonable and necessary.

Leading yourself well is the first step to leading your families, lands and business well. Your core values are the brick and your beliefs the mortar to the foundation your life is built on. We can become like old houses that need to be jacked up to work on the foundation, this workshop is a jack. Don't miss out on a chance to do some good work on your personal underpinnings. Your life will reflect your efforts faster than you think.



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We are dedicated to the promotion, communication and implementation of ideals and policies that support ecological and economic sustainability of natural resources and open space in family ownership.

From the Buckeye Chair

Since I last wrote we have kept busy. We are trying to stay on top of some land zoning conversations at the county, and continuing to develop our new scholarship and seed grant program. We held a fun Cider for Non-Profit event at Humboldt Cider Co. to bring about some community awareness for the new project. Fellow Buckeye Board member Cody Nicholson-Stratton and I have been appointed to the California Cattle Council representing our industries. We are hosting a new professional development series this month that has a lot of opportunity for our members. Also consider joining us as we host the bar at the Cattlemen's Fall Tour at the Barn at Fernbridge Sunday, Sept 15th at 2:00 PM.

Until next time,

Sarah L. Mora, Buckeye Chair

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Redwood Capital Bank



Invite your neighbors over for coffee

NOTES FROM THE KATUN ROAD IN MONTENEGRO

This summer, my friend and I hiked roughly 45 miles along the Katun Road and Biogradska National Park, one of Europe's few rainforests. We stayed with nomadic sheep herders in small wooden huts (katuns). The katun life is becoming an underappreciated part of Montenegro's culture. It is a challenging and labor-intensive lifestyle that is struggling with challenges like next generational land transfer, profitability, and environmental and economic sustainability, all challenges and opportunities that mirror the education we do with The Buckeye. I was also reminded of the value of sitting down to a cup of coffee and conversation.

During this trip it felt like we stepped back in time. Extended families live together at the katuns, built and milled from lumber on-site. Here they spend the summer grazing their livestock in the mountains. Each family had 2-5 cows, sheep, goats, pigs and chickens in the mountains. They harvest and store figs, blueberries, and potatoes for the winter. The daily meal consists of homemade cheese and bread, plus whatever else is growing in the garden. When guests arrive, it seems the small wood fired cookstove is constantly delivering meals, evidenced by the footprints worn into the dirt floor in front of the oven.

At one of the katuns, a small Yugo car pulled up the grassy road towards us and stopped. A man stepped out, his hands clasped behind his back, leaning forward as he walked toward the katun. Our host Danka's father emerged from behind a steep hillside where he was tending to the cattle. He

approached the man, hands also clasped behind his back. Startlingly Danka's mother stepped out the front door of the katun and began screaming something in Serbian from the porch, while waving her arms.

As outsiders, my friend and I had a hard time reading the body language and understanding what all the yelling was about. Danka, came out amongst the commotion and shared with us that this is a traditional neighbor to neighbor interaction in Montenegro. When a neighbor visits you absolutely insist they come in for "café". The dialog goes something like "oh won't you please come in for coffee." The neighbor in this case said "no, maybe tomorrow." And she continues insisting, while they continue denying until some other event breaks up the conversation. We were grateful to this was a friendly exchange.

A few days later, on a 12 mile hike between huts closer to the Kosovo border we encountered only one person, a shepherd. We couldn't understand much of what she said, but then we heard "café". Having learned and experienced the insisting of hospitality, we understood her request and followed her along amongst her sheep through a steep trail to enjoy a cup of coffee in her katun.

Above all else on this trip I was reminded of the value of inviting a neighbor over for coffee. Even more, the value of inviting a perfect stranger, with a different background and speaking a different language. I encourage us all to be reminded that a small but simple act of kindness can have great value in our communities.

Valerie Elder

Valerie Elder, Executive Director



Meet the Board: Scott Downie

"Come teach in Australia," a young Scott Downie hears over his shoulder as he walks down the hallway. Finished with his Master's degree, and carrying the last box from cleaning out his desk at Humboldt State University, he was approached by the Australian recruiters. He politely declined them, but they insisted "Do you like sports, the most beautiful women and best beer in the world?" Scott walked to the door at the end of the hallway and made a career altering choice. "I turned around and signed up," Scott laughed, "and what they said was true".

Scott's three-year experience in Australia as a humanities and science teacher became fundamental to expanding his understanding and expertise in fish biology. This eventually led to his notable career with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife where he was instrumental in leading stream assessment and restoration work creating fish habitat in the Eel River Basin.

"Where I really got into biology was in Briagolong, a remote hamlet in Victoria, Australia. They were short on teachers. I had a herpetologist, he was one

of the people that lived in the bush station (ranch) house in "Briag" with me, plus two biologists and a horticulturist. I was the only non-credentialed bloke in the house (in science). I read a great deal and learned a lot from working with them." We all taught at area High Schools, which included year one of University.

I traveled with Scott early this summer to Bull Creek in Humboldt Redwoods State Park. Campers and tourists seemed to be just arriving, buzzing around taking in the sights of the giant redwoods or "Big Reds" as Scott calls them. We passed drivers swerving into traffic to avoid the enormous trees, people weaving on bikes, children led by the hand while hiking with their parents. All seemingly unaware of their immediate peril, or the recent history of the landscape adjoining the Park, damaged from days when the slopes where logged prior to modern regulations and techniques, plus the Park flood damage in 1955 and 1964, or the routine post-flood removal of fallen trees and woody-debris from streams, and the ongoing restoration work to put some back.

“Beginning back in the 1920’s there was something in people’s heads that trees in creeks were bad things.” Scott said, matter of fact, “large woody debris is exactly what our coastal streams need for good fish habitat.”

Before Scott taught in Australia, and long before he joined with the Buckeye, he started out his work in the redwoods of Southern Humboldt. As a small boy he hauled water bags and fuel cans for his stepdad, later worked as a logger himself; he then worked heavy construction through college. After many travels and ending up back in Humboldt County he bought a fishing boat and eventually became vice-president of the local Fishermen’s Association. He said that about that time we started

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to realize we needed to help replenish the resource we harvested. Scott later became the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Association fisheries program manager. He did stream contract work for PALCO and finally the Department of Fish and Wildlife (then Fish and Game) and some federal entities. As a fourth-generation southern Humboldt, J.P. Thomas family member, he knows the history of land use and steps made toward improving the habitat features in our lands and streams like the back of his hand.

“Good old Cow Creek. I used to bring staff here for seasonal training in stream survey and habitat assessment work for many, many years. Cow Creek is a cool little stream for that training since it’s so diverse in creek structure and has great water quality.” He describes the riffles, pools, streambank vegetation and root structure like the finest qualities of an old friend.

We were looking at stream habitat a few steps off the Mattole Road that runs through the Park, just beside the typical tourists’ normal stops. The California Conservation Corp (CCC) built some stream restoration structures here nearly thirty years ago. A log lays diagonal in the stream, and a low flow notch concentrates the water to cascade there, forming a scour pool below the

fall. The structure was based on common habitat features created when a log falls into the stream. He said the concept is simple: “water falls over a sill aligned with the lateral angle of its the sill, here angling the water flowing over the log toward the right stream bank, and the pool also back-scours under the log itself.” We spent the latter part of the tour exploring the complexity of experiences and interactions that have shaped our local watersheds. All of which made learning watershed and stream dynamics and creating structure projects in these high energy systems, challenging, creative, and rewarding work for Scott.

Beyond the Park, much of Scott’s stream work required private landowners to agree to participate in the various programs, and work with their neighbors to accomplish stream enhancement projects. In the context of this work he said, “It became clear when the ranchers and lands started being broken up it would become impossible.” He soon recognized a need for landowners to work collaboratively and partnered with Joanna Rodoni, Joe Russ, Andy Westfall, and others, to help make it happen by facilitating a CDFG grant that helped form the Buckeye as a non-profit organization.

“We need to encourage people and enable them to stay on the land with their smaller holdings. The grant was enough to get the Buckeye’s feet on the ground and see how it worked for attracting and recruiting members. Response was good, we had many key players. When I retired from the Department, I was finally able to join as a landowner member!”

Scott’s legacy continues in the fish enhancement structures shaping streams winding through Humboldt Redwoods State Park, and the rivers and tributaries of Humboldt County, and along the entire coast of California. He is very involved in the local community with the Buckeye, Ferndale Repertory Theater, Fortuna Sunrise Rotary, Eel River Watershed Improvement Group, and the Redwood Acres Fair boards. Other organizations, such as the Watershed Stewards Program and the Eel River Watershed Improvement Group were formed under his leadership. Scott is an avid golfer, gardener, photographer, enjoys traveling, and of course fishing.

His contributions have been far reaching, following a lifetime of varied experience in the woods and schools of Humboldt County, heavy construction, teaching abroad, commercial fishing, and hatchery, stream, and watershed restoration work. It is fortunate he chose to return home from Australia, and our resources are better for Scott’s long-time dedication to fish, forests, arts and people in our community.



Parallel Passions

Remembering the legacies of two of Humboldt County's finest by CCA Director of Outreach and Creative Content Katie Roberti
Reprinted with permission from the May, 2019 California Cattleman Publication

"He's gone all the time," Lawrence Dwight said about Jim Timmons over 30 years ago when he first started working for Jim on his ranch in McKinleyville.

It wasn't long before he learned why Timmons was frequently spending time away from his ranch, much more time than he probably wanted.

"I was running him to the airport a lot," Dwight said. "Over time, I started finding out about all the boards he served on and all the instrumental things he'd done for the county."

Timmons wasn't just active on local boards but was also serving in state and national roles as well. One of those volunteer positions was serving as president of the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) from 1987- 1988, and another was chairing the Private Property Rights Committee for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

Not every county has a spokesperson, or someone as involved as Timmons was within the livestock and timber industries, but fortunately for Humboldt County, this wasn't the case.

Just down the road from Timmons' ranch, Joe Russ was also a passionate advocate for both the livestock and timber industries. As Jim did, Joe devoted much of his life to serving in leadership roles on a variety of boards from the local level to the national level.

Dwight, who still runs cattle on the same land where he started working for Timmons, also had close ties with Russ, who was Dwight's relative, godfather and neighbor.

While being active advocates for Humboldt County in the livestock and timber industries was one common thread Timmons and Russ shared, it is not where the list of parallels the two shared during their lives ends.

In 1926, James W. (Jim) Timmons was the 4th generation of his family to be born in Humboldt County. A decade later, Joseph (Joe) Russ IV was born, also the 4th generation of his family to be born in Humboldt County. Both men attended school in Humboldt County, and both went on to graduate from the University of California, Berkeley. Each of them served in the military, Timmons with the Army Air Corp, and Russ in the U.S. Marine Corp.

In leadership roles, they each were active in their community. Timmons was a member of the Arcata School Board for many years, and Joe dedicated decades of service on the Planning Commission.

Leadership within the livestock industries was something they both were passionate about as well. Each served as president of the Humboldt Del-Norte Cattlemen's Association, and both went on to serve in roles at the state level: Timmons as president of CCA and Russ as president of the California Woolgrowers. Russ also worked closely with CCA as his brother, Jack, served as president from 1979-1980. Interestingly, Timmons and Russ, along with their families were investors in the CCA building, the office CCA still operates out of today.

“Dad believed you were entrusted with stewardship and the resources of the land and that there was a beauty to managing it for the other people around,” Rick Timmons said. “He really believed you had to stand up not only for your rights on the land but for the best interest of the land.”

Both Timmons and Russ were each honored to receive the California Livestock Man of the Year award. Joe Russ receiving it in 1987 and Jim Timmons being awarded it in 1994. They saw great value in environmental stewardship and taking care of the land. Jim was on the committee that started the Environmental Stewardship Award Program for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. Joe was vital in the implementation of the Williamson Act, which insured a way for ranchers to continue producing on the land.

The list of parallels from throughout both men's lives comes all the way down to their last day. Jim Timmons and Joe Russ passed away on the same day each at home on January 12, 2019.

More than a story of two men with similar paths and interests throughout their lives, Jim and Joe have left long legacies that testify the power of protecting your passions.

Jim's son, Rick Timmons and Joe's son, Lane Russ, can attest to why their dads took the time to be strong advocates for the industries that mattered to them, with one of their most parallel passions being protecting land and private property rights.

“He (Jim) was one that believed if you believe in something, you better stand up and speak about it,” Rick Timmons said about his father.

As part of the less than two percent of people in the U.S. involved in production agriculture, caring for the land was something Jim Timmons stood up for and spoke about often.

“Dad believed you were entrusted with stewardship and the resources of the land and that there was a beauty to managing it for the other people around,” Rick Timmons said. “He really believed you had to stand up not only for your rights on the land but for the best interest of the land.”

Rick says something his dad tried to communicate to the legislators and staff he met with on all of his trips to Sacramento and Washington, D.C., is to trust the people who are on the land because they know how to take care of it and are going to take care of it best.

“Dad always believed and said he was a conservationist; if you look up that definition, that is what he professed,” Rick said. “He was a champion for the industry and for the people who ran it and carried it on.”

Today Rick continues to operate Essex Ranch, G.F. Timmons and Son, the ranch Jim started with his own father in the 1950s. Although Rick has been managing the ranch for the past four years, he says his father was involved on the ranch up until the day he died.

Similarly, Joe's son Lane Russ, says his dad, would want to be remembered by, “his passion for producers taking active involvement and action on defending agriculture. This was a big part of his life and what he did.”

Joe Russ was passionate about being involved, “primarily because he saw that if individuals are not willing to advocate on their own behalf, the nature of government would act against individual

PARALLEL PASSIONS

producers," Lane said.

The implementation of the Williamson Act is one area Joe stood up and spoke out.

Lane noted that being in the ranching business in California lends itself to being outnumbered compared to our urban friends. When Joe and others saw California's population and popularity rising, they recognized this would only put more demands on land.

"At that time in California he could see, given the value and demand for land, we needed some way to have a system that represented the productivity of the land and not the development value," Lane said.

The Williamson Act is a solution that provided a way to keep more producers ranching.

"The legacy of keeping private property intact was very true to both of them," Dwight said.

Cattlemen, such as Dwight, from across state and country who interacted with Jim and Joe over their many years of involvement and service to the livestock industries, no doubt recognize the path they paved for the next generation of ranching, not just for their own families and community, but beyond.

"Jim should be remembered for his transparency within our industry," Lawrence Dwight said. "He would share and talk with both sides and those who don't know."

Dwight says whether it was on water quality, wetlands, endangered species, etc., the topic didn't matter. Jim and Joe would show up to tell their stories.

"I can say that for Joe, too," Dwight said. When it comes to a word to remember his legacy, "the word transparent comes to mind. He was able to pull whatever he needed out of whoever we were talking to."

Walt Giacomini, another rancher from Humboldt County, can also speak to the value Jim and Joe brought to the table at every meeting they attended.

"Joe was certainly one of the most influential cattle leaders from our area, and Jim was too," Giacomini said.

Right out of college, Giacomini got to know Joe at a young age, when he got to work alongside him while working for Joe's father. He continued to know Jim well as the years passed.

"He knew a lot of people and how to communicate with them," Giacomini said. "Joe was always ready

to go to that important meeting and tell our story. He was a positive force on influencing not just on the North Coast, but for the whole state."

"They supported the industry in a very wonderful and upscale way," John Lacey, of San Luis Obispo County, said about Jim and Joe. "Their involvement and work always moved the industry and association ahead."

Lacey says while he knew Joe well from serving on many boards together and seeing him on trips up to visit the Humboldt County group, he had a very close friendship with Jim.

"It was a friendship made in heaven," Lacey said.

As Lacey served as CCA president in 1985 and 1986, while Jim served as first vice president.

"Jim followed me to the presidency of CCA," Lacey said. "We traveled all over the state together."

Although they knew each other before serving together on the CCA board, Lacey says his friendship with Jim was strengthened through their time on the officer team, and as they became closer serving together, their wives also became friends.

Through their time together on the CCA board, Myron Openshaw of Butte County also got to travel frequently with Jim.

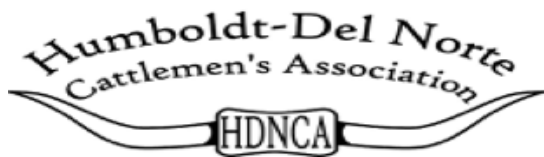
"He was a great friend and a good mentor," Openshaw said.

Openshaw got a front row seat to Jim's leadership with CCA, as he served as first vice president of CCA while Jim was president.

"He was a very thorough man," Openshaw said. "He always thought things out and was very positive."

Openshaw moved on to serve as president of CCA following Jim's term. While he says he didn't know Joe as well as he did Jim, he said Joe was well thought of and that he made a significant impact on agriculture.

"Jim and Joe were both eager to serve and willing to take on the responsibility of serving their industry," Openshaw said, "More of us need to take on the effort to make it better, and they did that."



FALL MEETING



The Barn by Fernbridge | 9/15/19 | 2:00 PM
\$20 per family | Cattlemen's provides tri-tip & bread
Bring a side to share.

Bar hosted by: American Ag Credit & The Buckeye

Dear Fellow Cattlemen, Cattlewomen and Buckeye Members,

It's that time of year again when the evenings get cooler, your first fall baby calves are hitting the ground, kids are off to school and sports are in full swing. With that said, we are getting ready for our Humboldt Del- Norte Cattlemen's General Membership Fall Meeting.

This year the meeting will be held at "The Barn by Fernbridge" on September 15th 2019 at 2:00 PM. We would like to see our local Cattlemen and Cattlewomen come together to visit and dine in good company, including our guest speaker's that will be highlighting on recent events/issues that pertain to our industry.

Our general membership is strong and your elected board members are here to represent you and your needs as cattle producers. This is your opportunity to bring any questions or concerns you're having to the table. Agenda/ Guest speakers email Donny at: mobleyconst@gmail.com

This will be a family, friendly environment with cornhole games and a western classy atmosphere. We ask each family to pay \$20.00 to help cover our rental charge. The Cattlemen's Association will be providing the Tri Tip and bread and American Ag Credit and Buckeye will host the bar. We ask each couple or family to bring a side dish of their choice, either a salad or desert. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming Fall Meeting.

Susie Hunt
HDNCA First Vice and Fall Meeting Chair



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HEIDI CARPENTER HARRIS
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FRIDAY, SEPT. 27
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In April we gathered for a fun Friday evening talking about prescribed fire over a little “fire water” at Old Growth Cellars in Eureka.

Lenya Quinn-Davidson, Area Fire Advisor, and Jeff Stackhouse, Livestock and Natural Resource Advisor with the University of California Cooperative Extension generously led the conversation. Members of the Humboldt County Prescribe Burn Association and Buckeye Members joined in sharing their experiences.

When they formed in 2018 the Humboldt County PBA was the first of its kind in the western U.S. PBAs are common in the Great Plains and some other regions, but California and other western states hadn’t had PBA-style burning since the mid-20th century, when range improvement associations were more common.

The Humboldt County PBA has implemented 18 projects for a total of 1,022 acres, addressed conifer encroachment in oak woodlands, invasive grasses and blackberry encroachment in coastal rangelands, understory fuels, and grasshopper herbivory in a vineyard. The PBA has 82 members, now including the Buckeye. The Humboldt County PBA one of the biggest PBAs in the country.

Since our April event they burned three days in a row at the end of June. First at Phelps Ranch in Briceland, then Stansberry Ranch in Honeydew, and finally on the Hunt Ranch in Bridgeville. Many volunteers made those burns happen. This is the third year that we’ve burned successfully during the last week of June. Block that week in your calendar.

In late June, they hosted 20 community leaders from across the state who are interested in starting PBAs. The group left that week with a renewed sense of vision for their local efforts, and with the inspiration and connections they need to make progress. Since Humboldt led the way in 2018, PBAs have formed in Sonoma, Plumas, Nevada, and Mendocino counties, and Butte, Tehama, San Benito, and other counties are not far behind. The County of Humboldt/Humboldt Fire Safe Council

recently received a grant to hire a Southern Humboldt PBA Liaison. Kai Ostrow, landowner and VFD member in Briceland and one of our most active PBA members, was recently hired into the position

Their fall burn schedule is starting to come together, so make sure to reach out if you have a unit you’re interested in burning. Thank you to Jeff, Lenya and the Humboldt County PBA for sharing the message. Great job Humboldt County PBA!

To join the Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association email Lenya:
lquinndavidson@ucanr.edu





WE ARE FAMILIES
...RANCHING FOR GOOD!

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SUMMER 2019
NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Life Stewardship | What do you Value?
By Heidi Carpenter-Harris
- Meet the Board- Scott Downie
- Parallel Passions
By Katie Roberti | CCA
- Cattlemen's Fall Meeting | Sept. 15
- Spring Mixer Recap- Wine and RX Fire
with the Humboldt County PBA

WE ARE FAMILIES...RANCHING FOR GOOD!

STEWARDSHIP & LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

August 30 | September 27 | October 26

WITH HEIDI CARPENTER-HARRIS
AKONITI LEADERSHIP



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