



Tony Stobiecki, president of the Vya Conservation District Board on which Norma Hapgood has served for 42 years.

Norma Hapgood receives Conservation District honor

At the Modoc Ag Expo in Cedarville on March 8, the Vya Conservation District (VCD) Board President Tony Stobiecki, and Melany Aten from the Nevada Department of Natural Resources, honored Surprise Valley rancher Norma Hapgood for her many years of dedicated service. The Nevada Association of Conservation Districts (NvACD) contributed a letter of commendation and a plaque acknowledging Norma as a member of their Hall of Fame.

Although records are incomplete, the first official mention of Norma's service to the conservation district was 42 years ago in December of 1976. Since that time, Norma has continually served on the board in various capacities, including board president and secretary.

One of her main focuses has been to help establish and support the Vya Conservation District Scholarship for graduating high school seniors. The scholarship is available to students who plan to major in an agriculture-related field at either a university or technical school. Originally offered to students at Surprise Valley High School, in recent years the scholarship has been expanded to include students at Gerlach High School as well as homeschool and charter school students living within the boundaries of the conservation district. As a tribute to Norma's ongoing support of educating future generations of farmers and ranchers, the VCD has renamed their scholarship The Norma Hapgood Scholarship.

The mission of the Vya Conservation District is to support natural resource conservation through educational, technical, and financial assistance to landowners in Northwestern Nevada. Norma's dedication and her support of the next generations of farmers and ranchers have been instrumental in helping the conservation district achieve those goals.