



Candidate Application for National Office

What you can expect when applying for a National Board Position:

- Newly elected individuals will receive training from board members, and materials related to the position will be passed down.
- Candidates will be invited to join the Pre-National Board Meeting as an observer to become familiar with board business (will not be reimbursed by National to attend)
- Newly elected Executive Board members may be reimbursed for one night's lodging for post board meeting (at a rate of ½ of double room) but are not reimbursed for additional travel costs. Meal reimbursement for day of post board meeting will follow Policy Manual and current approved budget.

Upon applying for the position, I acknowledge that I will have the necessary resources (i.e. computer, internet, etc.) to complete the duties of the position. I agree Yes, I agree

Office Applied for: _____ Secretary _____ Date: _____ April 15, 2024 _____

This form should be used as a guideline. When typing your own form, add more space as necessary.

Cynthia (Cindy)	P	Thompson		
First Name:	Middle Name:	Last Name:		
Human Sciences Specialist/Family Wellbeing	Iowa State University			
Job Title:	Employer:			
218 South Main, PO Box 700	Fayette	IA	52142	
Work Mailing Address:	City:	State:	Zip:	
cpthom08@iastate.edu	kcthom6@yahoo.com			
Work Email Address:	Home Email Address:			
319-334-8013	NA	319-334-8013		
Work Phone/Extension:	Work Fax:	Home Phone:		

I. Education Background

BS/BA	Psychology	Northwest Missouri State University	1991
	Major	Institution	Year
MS/MA	Human Development and Family Studies	Iowa State University	2011
	Major	Institution	Year
PhD			
	Major	Institution	Year

II. State/Territory Affiliate Experience

Iowa Affiliate President Elect/ Secretary (dual role)	2018
Iowa Affiliate President	2019
Iowa Affiliate Past President	2020
Committee Chair	Year(s)
Bylaws Committee	2019
Committee	Year(s)
NA – small affiliate which rarely uses committees	

III. NEAFCS Experience

Office	Year(s)
Central Region Director	2021-2023
President-Elect Candidate	2023
Committee Chair	Year(s)
Served on committees by not as chair.	

Other Assignments Representing NEAFCS **Year(s)**

Professional Development Committee Member	2019
Professional Development Webinar Subcommittee Member	2020-2021
Concurrent Session Reviewer	Volunteered 2018, 2019, selected 2020, 2023
Awards Reviewer	2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
Volunteer at Annual Session	2019, 2022, 2023, 2024
Presented at JCEP	2019, 2023
Bylaw Committee	2021
Journal of NEAFCS Reviewer	2022
90 th Anniversary Celebration Committee/ Secretary	2024
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee	2023, 2024

Annual Sessions Attended (list years)

2023 – Providence 2022 – Raleigh 2021 – Virtual 2020 – Virtual 2019- Hershey 2018 – San Antonio

2017 – Omaha 2016 – Montana 2015 – West Virginia

**Submissions for Awards, Webinars and/or Annual Session Proposals (concurrent session, poster, ignite)
Submission did not have to be accepted.**

Check all that apply:

- ✓ Webinar Submission Year(s): 2018, 2023 _____
- ✓ Annual Session Proposal Year(s): 2017, 2018 _____ Proposal Type: _____ Concurrent _____
- ✓ Award Submission Year(s): 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024

IV. Non-Association Extension Leadership Assignments

(Annual conference committees, search committees, etc.)

Assignments: Elected (E) or Appointed (A)	Year(s)
Human Sciences Search Committee (A)	2014 & 2022
Human Sciences Community Council (A)	2014-2018

Served as **secretary** for most of my time on Community Council (E)

Chair of multiple internal and regional teams

V. Membership/Leadership in Other Organizations

(Professional, civic, service, religious or agency related organizations)

Organizations, Leadership role	Year(s)
Volunteer Liaison, Girl Scouts of Lakota Council (A)	1997-1999
St. John School Board Secretary (E)	2001-2004
Secretary , St. John School Board (E)	2003-2004
Vacation Bible School Coordinator	2005-2009
Secretary , Independence Mustang Athletic Booster Club (E)	2011-2014
Iowa Army National Guard, 1-113 Cav Scout A-Troop, Key Caller (Kosovo Deployment)	2020-2021
Vice President, Pint's Water Association (neighborhood association) (E)	2021-2023

VI. Work Experience Other Than Extension (if applicable)

Positions	Year(s)
Training Coordinator , Child Care Resource & Referral of Northeast Iowa	2011 - 2012
Family Support Worker , Buchanan County Volunteer Co-op	2009 - 2011
Parent Services Coordinator , Child Care Resource & Referral	2003 - 2009
Trainer/Consultant , Program for Infant Toddler Care	2001 - 2008
Registered Family Child Care Provider , Self-Employed, Nebraska & Iowa	1992 – 2003

VII. Awards and Honors

Awards	Date(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Award for Powerful Partnerships; Affordable Care Act Team, 2015 (team award)</i>• NEAFCS 1st Place National Environmental Education Award; <i>Growing Up Wild: Reaching Out to Child Care Professionals and Families, 2016 (team award, lead writer)</i>• NEAFCS 2nd Place Central Region Award; <i>Community Partnerships for Quality Child Care, 2016 (team award, lead writer)</i>• NEAFCS 1st Place Central Region Award; <i>Essential Pre-Service Online Training, 2018 (team award, lead writer)</i>	

Please email one copy of your completed application
to the National Nominating Committee Chair (NEAFCS Immediate Past President).

- *Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Award for Powerful Partnerships*; Essential Child Care Training, 2019 (team award, co-author)
- *Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Award for Outstanding Practice in Community Engagement*; Strengthening Relationships with the African American Community in Black Hawk County, 2019 (team award)
- *National Extension Diversity Award*; U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Cooperative Extension, and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, 2019 (team award)
- *Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Creative to Service to All Iowans*; Suicide Prevention Outreach with Agricultural Professionals, 2020 (team award)
- *NEAFCS 1st Place National Environmental Education Award*; *Nurturing Nature Explorers*, 2020 (team award, lead writer)
- *Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Creative Service to All Iowans*; Mental Health First Aide Outreach, 2022 (team award)
- *NEAFCS 2nd Place National Communication Award: Educational Publication*; *COVID-19 Child Care Considerations*, 2022 (team award, co-author)
- *NEAFCS 2nd Place National Human Development and Family Relations*; *Virtual Journey Through Parkinson's Disease*, 2022 (team award, lead writer)
- *NEAFCS 2nd Place Child Care Training*; *Passport to Early Childhood Education*, 2023 (team award, mentored new writer)

Position Statement

A. Why would you like to be a candidate for this office?

The short answer to why I would like to be a candidate for national NEAFCS secretary is because it is what I do and what I love!

The long answer is that I stumbled upon the role of secretary when serving on a local parochial school board, and over the last few decades have found it a role that utilizes my strengths and keeps me engaged. I have served as secretary in both volunteer and professional roles. As a matter of fact, one volunteer secretary role helped build the skills I needed for success in Extension.

For three years, I served as the secretary of the local high school athletic association. In addition to capturing important meeting notes, I spearheaded a weekly email to members that was so successful it became a marketing tool for membership. I also had opportunities in the role to work with community partners for the first time, building a tradition of businesses volunteering to work concession stands at home football games that continues 10 years later and has expanded to other sports. Attention to details, communicating with constituents, and thinking outside the box with partners are all important Extension skills.

Throughout my Extension career, I have leaned into the role of secretary in big and small ways. I was the Human Sciences Community Council secretary for the majority of my tenure on the committee, which served in an advisory capacity to the director of Human Sciences Extension and Outreach. I've also served as secretary on ad hoc committees, team meetings, and planning sessions.

This year, I'm serving on the NEAFCS 90th Anniversary Celebration Committee, and, as is my nature, volunteered to serve as secretary. I have found using my skills in typing, word-smithing, document management, and communication not only provides a valuable service to the teams and committees I'm on, but also helps me stay focused and engaged in the important work of Extension. As NEAFCS Central Region director, I had an opportunity to utilize some of these skills to support NEAFCS. The role of NEAFCS secretary would allow me to continue to support the organization I hold so dear in ways that maximize my skills, interests, and strengths.

B. If you were elected, what would be your top priority/goal for your term?

If elected to the role of NEAFCS secretary, my top priority would be to maintain and build upon the recent efforts of others to build up our organization. For example, our current secretary has worked diligently to gather feedback about our newsletter and infuse creativity into the publication. I want to build upon that work around how we use our newsletter, what makes it relevant, and explore opportunities to be more engaging with how we utilize full scale communication tools. The new Ambassador Committee, of which the secretary is chair, has built a lot of momentum in how we support members at Annual Conference. The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee is exploring ways to foster a more inclusive sense of belonging across members, and I see many opportunities for these two committees to join efforts. And soon we will have a new strategic plan based on the hard work of the current board and feedback from members. In addition to taking accurate notes of decisions unfolding from this new plan, as secretary and chair of the Bylaws

*Please email one copy of your completed application
to the National Nominating Committee Chair (NEAFCS Immediate Past President).*

Committee Chair, I want to lead thoughtful and thorough conversations with this committee on how the strategic plans impacts our bylaws.

Are you willing to be considered as a candidate for a different office? The national nominating committee chair would contact you first as to your preference and willingness to serve in any other position. Yes No Maybe **Unsure**

Are you willing to leave your application on file for three (3) years in the event of a position vacancy or for reconsideration for office for the next election? Yes No

Your signature below confirms that you have read the current NEAFCS Policy Manual and agree to the duties and qualifications for the position in which you are applying for as well as additional policies outlined in the Manual.



Signature of Applicant

April 15, 2024
Date

Letters of support and recommendation from the following individuals must accompany the application.

- ▶ State Director of Extension (required)
- ▶ State Program Leader or immediate supervisor (one required)
- ▶ NEAFCS board member or state/territory affiliate president (optional)

Applications are due to the National Nominating Committee Chair by May 1st. Please include with your application a high resolution headshot photo for the candidate display at Annual Session.

NEAFCS is an equal opportunity/affirmative action association. NEAFCS values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of race, color, gender, age, religion, national origin, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation. Membership is not by invitation. (Strategic Plan 1993-97)



National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences

Danielle Day
NEAFCS-Iowa Affiliate President
1770 Boyson Rd, Ste. 702
Hiawatha, IA 52233

March 20, 2024

To whom it may concern,

This letter is written in support of Cindy Thompson's application for the position of secretary on the National Executive Board. Cindy would bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position. Having worked with Cindy in various levels of capacity over the past 12 years, I've had the pleasure of witnessing first-hand her impeccable attention to detail and organizational skills. Both of which are crucial to the role of secretary. She is often the first to offer to take notes or minutes during a meeting and completes an accurate record of decisions with the perfect amount of detail in concise language.

Cindy has been mentoring, new to their role, human sciences specialists for several years at Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and always advocates for becoming active in NEAFCS by sharing her experience and encouraging new members to get involved in attending annual session and becoming part of specific projects and committees. Since attending her first annual session, Cindy has shared that experience with others and provided

helpful tips when planning to attend for Iowa affiliate members that are planning to attend their first annual session.

Cindy's knowledge of the organization is extremely beneficial to the Iowa affiliate, and she is often called upon to help with interpretation of by-laws, parliamentary procedures, and accurate recording of minutes of the meetings. During her term of presidency, Cindy led the effort of an update to the Iowa affiliate by-laws. Cindy's ability to lead coordination efforts on various projects at the same time, keep accurate records, adhere to deadlines, and communicate effectively would be an asset to the national executive board and NEAFCS as a whole. Her past experience in her term as a Central Region Director brings a valuable perspective and representation from multiple affiliates to the executive board.

The right candidate for the secretary requires skills of accurate recordkeeping, ability to coordinate and lead efforts, effective communication, knowledge of the organization, and accountability; all of which Cindy possesses at an exceptional level.

With Support,



Danielle Day

NEAFCS-Iowa Affiliate President

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

Sarah L. Francis, PhD, MHS, RD
Interim Associate Dean and Interim
Director of Human Sciences
Extension and Outreach
036 MacKay Hall
Ames, IA 50011-1122
Phone 515-294-1456; Fax 515-294-6193
Email: sfranci@iastate.edu

April 12, 2024

Chair, National Nominating Committee
National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences

Dear Chairperson,

I am pleased to write in support of Cindy Thompson as a candidate for the position of Secretary for the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS). In her 11 years as a Human Sciences Education Specialist in Family Wellbeing with Iowa State University (ISU) Extension and Outreach, Cindy has proven to be a highly effective educator and a strong contributor to the teams on which she serves.

Cindy has served northeast Iowa as an educator, working with local Extension staff and community partners to bring research-based educational opportunities related to early care and education, parenting, mental health, stress, literacy and aging to communities. In this role she has demonstrated strong skills in communication, organization, team building, participant engagement, and facilitation skills. Two years ago, she was asked to step into an interim role providing support and guidance to the state early childhood team, and her skills in this role have led to her continuing to serve in this capacity. Cindy was able to make this shift quickly and smoothly, using her already strong set of skills in new ways and increasing her skills related to human resources, statewide expectations and travel, and time/energy management. In her shifting roles Cindy has consistently shown enthusiasm, a willingness to learn, and a dedication to collaborative approaches.

In her 10 years as a member of NEAFCS, Cindy has taken many opportunities to grow as an Extension professional and develop her leadership skills. She has written and received numerous national team awards, presented conference concurrent sessions and live webinars, and has served as a reviewer for awards, presentation, and journal publications. As affiliate president-elect she researched Iowa's past NEAFCS history, and as affiliate president reestablished past member benefits like social events and member recognition with a current twist that set a shift in Iowa NEAFCS leadership momentum. Using the skills established as affiliate president Cindy sought the nomination of, and was elected as, NEAFCS Central Region Director, serving as a liaison between twelve states in the Midwest and the national NEAFCS board. As a regional director, she built upon her strong organization and communication skills to build relationships with the state affiliate leaders. These relationships helped build a

bridge between state affiliates and the national board, a goal Cindy set for herself going into the regional director position.

In each of her leadership roles with NEAFCS, Cindy has been proactive and strategic, working with her supervisor and Extension leadership to establish a plan for success in both her local, regional and state responsibilities as well as her NEAFCS responsibilities. Cindy has skills in communication, organization, and facilitation, and has consistently demonstrated leadership at ISU Extension and Outreach in secretary roles. Pursuing a role as NEAFCS national secretary is an appropriate and natural next step in her leadership development. If she is elected to that position, our organization will support her by ensuring she has the needed time to carrying out her duties.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, slfranci@iastate.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah L. Francis", is positioned above the typed name.

Sarah L. Francis Ph.D., M.H.S., R.D.
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach
Interim Associate Dean and Director for Human Sciences Extension and Outreach
Associate Professor, Food Science and Human Nutrition
Jane Armstrong Chair in Food Science and Human Nutrition

Date: April 15, 2024

Chair, National Nominating Committee
National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences

Dear Chairperson,

I am pleased to write in support of Cindy Thompson as a candidate for the position of Secretary for the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS). Cindy has served as a Human Sciences Education Specialist in Family Wellbeing with Iowa State University (ISU) Extension and Outreach for 11 years.

Cindy is a dedicated educator and leader, deeply engaged in her community. Collaborating with local Extension staff and community partners, she has successfully introduced research-based educational programs covering a wide array of topics, including early care and education, parenting, mental health, stress management, literacy, and aging. Her role requires adept communication, strong organizational abilities, team-building prowess, and effective facilitation skills. Recognizing her exceptional performance, Cindy was invited to join our state early childhood team, where she seamlessly transitioned, leveraging her existing skill set while developing new competencies in human resources, statewide expectations, travel logistics, and time/energy management. Throughout her evolving roles, Cindy has consistently exhibited enthusiasm, a thirst for knowledge, and a steadfast commitment to collaborative endeavors.

In her 10 years as a member of NEAFCS, Cindy has taken many opportunities to grow as an Extension professional and develop her leadership skills. Cindy's achievements extend to her national recognition, evidenced by her authorship and receipt of numerous team awards, as well as her contributions through presentations at conferences and live webinars. Additionally, she has contributed her expertise as a reviewer for awards, presentations, and journal publications. In her role as affiliate president-elect, Cindy delved into Iowa's NEAFCS history, laying the groundwork for her subsequent tenure as president. During her presidency, she revitalized member benefits, introducing innovative updates to traditional offerings like social events and member recognition. This revitalization injected fresh momentum into Iowa NEAFCS leadership. Leveraging her experience as affiliate president, Cindy sought and won election as NEAFCS Central Region Director, facilitating communication and collaboration among twelve Midwestern states and the national NEAFCS board. In this capacity, she fostered strong relationships with state affiliate leaders, bridging the gap between local affiliates and the national board, a goal she had set for herself upon assuming the regional directorship.

In each of her leadership roles with NEAFCS, Cindy has been proactive and strategic, working with her supervisor and Extension leadership to establish a plan for success in both her local, regional and state responsibilities as well as her NEAFCS responsibilities. Cindy has skills in communication, organization, and facilitation, and has consistently demonstrated leadership at ISU Extension and Outreach in secretary roles. Pursuing a role as NEAFCS national secretary is an appropriate and natural next step in her leadership development. If she is elected to that position, our organization will support her by ensuring she has the needed time to carrying out her duties.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jason Henderson".

Jason Henderson, Ph.D.
Vice President for Extension and Outreach

