



Affiliate Annual Report Form

Submit this form to your Regional Director and the
NEAFCS National Office, 325 John Knox Rd. Suite L103 Tallahassee, FL 32303
Fax: (850) 222-3019 Email: djessup@executiveoffice.org

Please return this form by December 31st of each year to your Regional Director and a copy to the National Office.
This report should cover anything that has occurred between January 1 and December 31 of the current year.

State/Territory: Mississippi/SE Region Date: 11/13/2018
Person Completing Form: Kimberly Gowdy Phone: 228-865-4227

What accomplishments/progress has your Affiliate made in the past year? (Consider member resources, awards and recognition, public affairs, etc.)

Natalie Ray, Vice President of Professional Development, spearheaded an innovative technological approach to overcome the budget deficit while addressing the need for statewide professional development training for FCS agents. Zoom is a video-conferencing tool that can be utilized among agents, students, and faculty. It can be used from any PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, Android device or phone line. Through the use of Zoom, our agents had the opportunity to participate in eight sessions over a five week time frame. We had nine presenters covering topics from mental health, technology to aid agents and their clients, finance, gerontology, and how to utilize data at our fingertips regarding health in our communities. While networking opportunity were missed, it was pointed out that this method worked better for agents with their busy schedules and allowed them to not have to utilize travel money or be out of the office for an extended time. There were approximately 42 people who attended the eight sessions. Comments in general were positive from participants and with fiscal constraints again this year we will implement this form of training again for the upcoming year.

Natalie Ray's efforts are to be commended for her dedication and role in this association by maintaining a level of continued educational successes among our Mississippi FCS agents. It has proven to be a great opportunity for our agents to network and keep abreast of things in our field.

What are your Affiliate's goals for the next 12 months?

Our theme this year for MEAFCS is Stevie Wonder's Signed, Sealed, Delivered! We want to become more visible in our communities through the use of technology. We are currently working on developing a FCS statewide Facebook page to highlight our programs. Also, we want to increase membership with our Mississippi State University FCS students and gain their interest into this profession.

FCS agents do so much and sometimes our efforts go unnoticed, but this new initiative will allow us to create an awareness of all the great programming that we offer within our communities. We want every program that we conduct to be Signed, Sealed, Delivered with researched based education that will strengthen each individual and family in our great state of Mississippi!!

What challenges do Cooperative Extension and/or Family & Consumer Sciences pose in your state?

The biggest challenge for us which is shared throughout is the steady decline in our state budget. The decline in funding has posed serious challenges to many FCS agents that are having to do more programming and/or serving adjacent counties that may not currently have an FCS agent on staff.

To assist NEAFCS in future planning and communication, please list concerns your Affiliate has for the NEAFCS Board to address: