



President's Message

Roxie Price (GA), President

Happy New Year to you all!

Last week the NEAFCS Executive Board members met to conduct the 2020 Winter Board meeting and hold Strategic Planning Sessions for 2021-2023.

After conducting member surveys, 5 areas of emphasis were identified as important for our association's sustainability and growth over the next 3 years.

1. Enhancing Professional Development
2. Leadership Development
3. Young Professional Development
4. NEAFCS Mentoring
5. Utilizing Technology

The board members had two full days of brainstorming. Utilizing NEAFCS committee members' input to guide the strategic planning, several ideas are being added this year; where as a number of the topics will be addressed throughout the strategic plan.

Be on the lookout for information about the new concept of NEAFCS Ambassadors in an upcoming newsletter. The goal is to provide quality brand representation to all speakers, exhibitors, and attendees during annual session to enhance the professional atmosphere.

Another concept will enhance FCS marketing and program impact. Our Extension Professionals' program area information will be gleaned to show partners and potential partners our educational reach. We are an untapped valuable resource, as boots on the ground, for many businesses and organizations across the states. Watch for an email regarding gathering member information. In return, this will provide you with an awesome resource for marketing FCS in your state.

Life Members have been an area of concern for our association. This year they will receive a postcard to verify contact information, so we can reveal a new life member benefit for 2020 Annual Session.

In the survey, networking was revealed to be one of the most valuable member benefits. You will find opportunities for networking focusing on "asset building" during Annual Session in

Utah. One type will be structured networking by specialized program areas. The other will be unstructured networking using unique conversation starter cards daily.

As a member of a NEAFCS Committee, you will have the option to join a video conference and be an active member during the committee meetings in Utah. This allows members to stay involved and have the option to engage in committee activities even if they cannot attend Annual Session. As a committee member, you should receive communication from the Vice President or Chair of the committee, asking for your ideas and concerns. Your input will be added to NEAFCS Executive Board meeting agendas. Expect to receive feedback. Also, be aware that members will be removed from committees yearly. You will need to renew each year to be added as a member to your committees of choice. This resolves the issue of committees with 50 plus members but little member interaction. We want, and need, you to be active members in your committees. Make 2020 the year that you support NEAFCS actively with your time and talents. You DO NOT have to be asked to join a committee. PLEASE go to our website, [review committee action plans](#), and find a place where your talents can shine.

I am excited about the idea for more partner collaborations. Recently I have received calls and emails from organizations looking to join forces with our members. During one of our strategic planning sessions, a collaboration quickly formed that will set an example for many more to come. Watch and see.

Videos were a hot topic with the technology group. If you are interested in creating 3 minute or less videos promoting FCS, introducing a best practice, highlighting new technology, or any other idea, [email me](#).

These ideas are products of our strategic planning. Thank you to everyone who completed the survey. Member input should be, and is, our top priority for the continued success of NEAFCS.

The first 5 people to [email me](#) with the location of the icon, and a tip on how to enhance this newsletter, will be entered into a drawing for a free registration to the 2020 NEAFCS annual conference in Snowbird, Utah.



2020 National Leadership

Karen Munden (VA), Immediate Past-President

Welcome to 2020, a brand new month, a brand new year, a brand new decade, and a brand new you. Many of us have established goals for the New Year and developed strategies to accomplish them. You may have set social, physical, financial, or professional goals. I would like to suggest you run for a National Office as one method to assist with achieving your professional goal. You may possess the knowledge, skills, and abilities that are well suited for one of the following 2020 National Officer vacancy: President-Elect, Vice-President Member Resources, Vice-President Professional Development, Secretary, Eastern Region Director, and/or Western Region Director. Just think, 2020 could be a great opportunity to share your talents with colleagues across the country. Please visit the NEAFCS website under Member Resource – [Forms and Templates](#) to retrieve an application and review the [Policy and Procedure Manual](#) to learn about the qualifications for each officer. You will have until May 1, 2020, to submit your application, so do not delay. To learn more about the responsibilities of the position, you may contact the person who currently holds the office. Please feel free to contact me via [email](#) or contact one of the following National Nominating Committee members if you have any further questions:

[Darcy Dixon](#)

[Lora Lee Howard](#)

[Hannah Fincham](#)

[Amy Peterson](#)

[Beverly Jackey](#)

[Rita Ussatis](#)

[Jill Harris](#)

[Kayla Wells](#)

You can also contact the following individuals with questions:

[Ashley Dixon](#)

[Linda Law-Saunders](#)

[Chelsey Gerstenecker](#) [Melanie Thomas](#)



Awards Reminders

Julie Garden-Robinson (ND), Vice President for Awards and Recognition

Awards season is heating up, and the national due date for award submission is March 16, 2020. To recap my December reminder, the committee and sponsors made several updates to awards, including the Financial Management Award, the Past President's New Professional Award, and the Educational Curriculum Package Award. We also have a new award opportunity: the Extension Disaster Education Award.

Special thanks go to our committee members for providing a webinar. Check out the article by Judy Corbus, NEAFCS Awards & Recognition Training Subcommittee with tips about preparing an award application. My best advice is to read and follow the application criteria carefully.

Best wishes for a healthy and happy new year! If you have questions or comments, please share it with me at my contact information noted below.

Julie Garden-Robinson, Vice President for Awards and Recognition Julie.garden-robinson@ndsu.edu or 701-231-7187.



Proof, Proof, Proof Your Application

Judy Corbus (FL), NEAFCS Awards & Recognition Training Subcommittee

You have worked hard on your award application and are ready to submit it. But have you completed that key final step? Proofread your application! Taking time to carefully check your work can make all the difference when submitting an award-winning application. Here are some tips:

Check and Follow Directions:

Pay close attention to the information to include for your specific award. Check and adhere to word and page limits. Review the score sheet (in the awards manual) to make sure you have met all requirements. Do not inadvertently lose points or disqualify your application because you did not follow directions.

Practice the Four Cs:

Clean – Check carefully for spelling, grammar, and formatting errors.

Clear – Explain your program in such a way that virtually anyone reading your application can understand what you have done. Consider asking someone outside of Extension, such as a teacher, to read your application for clarity. Spell out any acronyms at their first mention in the application.

Concise – Avoid wordiness. Review each section to see how you can “tighten” your narrative to convey your activity clearly; this also will help you to stay within the page limit.

Call on a Friend:

Enlist the help of your “Comma Queen” colleague or “Grammar Police” friend to proof your application. A fresh set of eyes can pick up punctuation errors more easily and offer suggestions for re-wording incomplete or unclear sentences.

Give your application that final “wipe down” before you click Submit so your best effort shines brightly!



Come Join Us at JCEP Extension Leadership Conference

Mary Ellen Fleming (CO), Western Region Director & Sharon McDonald (PA), Eastern Region Director

Please join us at the upcoming JCEP Extension Leadership Conference in San Antonio, Texas, February 12 -13, 2020.

The conference will be at the Wyndham San Antonio River Walk. The purpose of the Extension Leadership Conference (ELC) is to support and challenge Extension professionals in

their leadership development journey. The theme for this year’s conference is *2020 A Vision for the Future*.

Recognizing that many of our Affiliates do not have the resources to send a representative, the NEAFCS Board of Directors is offering thirty-five (35) \$350 scholarships to subsidize the cost of attendance. Even though the deadline for applications was December 15, applications will be accepted until the 35 have been given based on the date received. Go to the NEAFCS website for the [application](#).

There is a time designated for NEAFCS attendees to gather and discuss issues relevant to our association. You will hear from NEAFCS President Roxie Price and Regional Directors Mary Ellen Fleming and Sharon McDonald. Sharon will lead you in a discussion on moving our association into this new decade. Mary Ellen will present a Hands-On Parliamentary Procedure Primer. You will learn the ins and outs of Parli Pro to contribute to a well-run and successful meeting. We look forward to seeing you and working with you in San Antonio. If you have questions, don’t hesitate to give Sharon or Mary Ellen a call or send a quick email!

Raising kids
Eating right
Spending smart

March is Living Well Month

Mary Liz Wright (IL), Vice President for Public Affairs

Help NEAFCS promote “Living Well Month” from now until the end of March.



get you started.

Extension has been promoting and celebrating The Living Well Month for 20 years to raise awareness of the educational programming offered by Extension Family and Consumer Sciences educators. The NEAFCS web page has many ideas to

- Visit the [Public Affairs](#) tab on our website and you will find a plethora of tools, templates, and ideas to help you and your state celebrate Living Well!

- For social media materials: Visit [Promotional Material](#) for an easy way to promote this great campaign
 Seriously, it could not be easier: **Just go to the webpage!**
- Include a “Living Well” logo with the slogan, “Raising Kids, Eating Right, Spending Smart, Living Well” on your email signature. The logos are available [online](#).
- Check out what other states have done---and [send me what your state is doing!](#)



Time for Impact Statements

Mary Liz Wright (IL)

See Mary Liz’s video message for this month by visiting:

<https://vimeo.com/385355588>

Just a reminder, for Vice-Presidents of Public Affairs: PILD (April 5-8, 2020) is right around the corner and we need to have our Impact Statements complete soon so we can share the finished product with our legislators. Please visit the [website](#) for samples of previous years and forms to complete this year. The recent changes to this process have made it so much easier to submit information---we need all of your impact data entered into the [portal](#)!

The deadline for submission is February 1, 2020!



Journal of NEAFCS Reviewers Request

Dana Wright (WV), JNEAFCS co-editor

Happy New Year! I hope you had a joyous holiday season with your family and friends. As the New Year begins, I encourage you to consider serving as a peer reviewer for the Journal of NEAFCS. This is an ideal opportunity for both professional development and service to the profession without the requirement of a huge time commitment. Because the Journal committee understands the daily demands of our profession, we try our best to limit the number of articles assigned to individual reviewers. Reviewing the written work of colleagues has its benefits. Reviewers get experience in identifying scholarly and relevant work in the areas of research, best practices, and implications for use within Extension. Submissions selected for publication will affect our work today and in the future. The reviewer experience can also prove helpful when creating and submitting your own work for publication. If interested in this opportunity, please send your contact

information to [Rebecca Hardeman](#) by March 1, 2020. We look forward to having you on our team!



External Reviewers

Cindy Schlenker Davies, VP of Member Resources

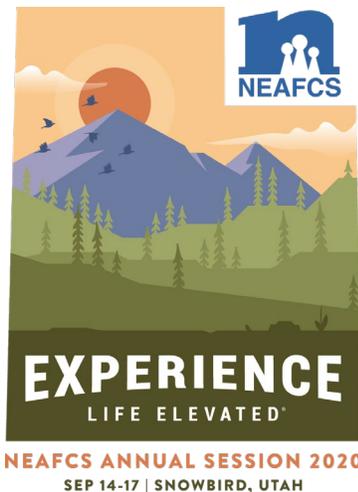
This month I would like to high light a Member Resource you may not be aware of. There are several NEAFCS members who have volunteered to be External Reviewers for promotion and tenure documents as well as publication reviews.

Roxie Dinstel, a life member from Alaska CES, has been the lead on our External Reviewers effort for many years. Roxie is working with Will

Ferguson to make sure our list is current.

If you could benefit from this member's resource, or would like to be a reviewer, we would love to hear from you! On the NEAFCS website go to Member Resources and click on the [External Reviewers link](#).

There are times in all of our careers we could use an extra set of eyes reviewing our professional document. I hope many of you will take this opportunity. Thank you to all our members who have served as reviewers; we appreciate your expertise!



Make 2020 the Year You Invest in Yourself

Sheila Gains, CO, 2020 Annual Session Tri-Liaison

If investing in your own professional and personal development is on your 2020 New Year's resolution list, make plans to attend the 2020 NEAFCS Annual Session in Snowbird, Utah.

It is never too early to put the 2020 NEAFCS Annual Session on your calendar. It might be just in pencil now, but if you do not write down these dates (September 14-17, 2020), they will fill up with other commitments. In addition to inspiring speakers and amazing breakout sessions, the 2020 meeting will expose you to the foods, sights, sounds and unique culture of Utah.

Make plans to come early or stay late to enjoy one of the many varied and amazing Utah adventures.

Loveland Living Planet Aquarium: Loveland Living Planet Aquarium (LLPA) in Draper, Utah, is home to more than 4,000 animals from around the world. Conveniently located off Interstate 15 at exit 291 and just minutes from downtown Salt Lake City, this world-class Aquarium features a 300,000-gallon shark habitat with a 40-foot tunnel that guests can walk through and enjoy an underwater view of seven different species of sharks, sea turtles, stingrays, and more. You can also explore five different animal habitats – from the rainforests of South America and Asia to the world’s Oceans, Antarctic, and local ecosystems – and come face-to-face with playful penguins, Clouded leopards, adorable otters, sloths, and a variety of animals from the sea to the sky.

Thanksgiving Point: Thanksgiving Point houses the North American Museum of Ancient Life, one of the largest dinosaur museums of its kind, featuring one of the most valuable Jurassic dinosaur collections in the world, including a 150-million-year-old dinosaur egg. There is also the Johnny Miller-designed Thanksgiving Point Golf Club and two gorgeous garden displays with activities for every season. The Museum of Natural Curiosity features more than 400 interactive experiences; there is a real working farm, butterfly biosphere, shops, and cafes, adding even more options for education and discovery into your visit to Thanksgiving Point. (40 minutes south of Snow Bird in Utah County.)



My Perception of a Person’s Worth Based on Age

Jane Henderson (VA), Diversity Committee

Individuals from each generation bring with them values and opinions that have been influenced by economic, political, and social events happening at that time. We work and interact with all generations from traditionalists to generation Z! When I was young, I loved to listen to the stories of my great-grandparents. I learned so much. Today, the art of communication, the exchange of information, is rarely practiced in the workplace or our society.

When we relate how we view someone’s opinion based on age, gender, or race we narrow the possibilities for finding solutions to address societal challenges. At one point, I thought millennials were rude because every response was through an email or text. Why can’t they just pick up the phone to talk? Lessons I learned in a diversity training taught me that it is just how millennials communicate. You might be able to tell that I am not a millennial. Since then, my perception of younger workers has changed. I learned something new and changed how I interact with them.

Take the time to talk to someone that is not in your current generation. Imagine the opportunities that you can create together. We like what we know and are resistant to change.

Well, a change will happen whether we want it or not. You may have heard this quote by Tony Robbins before, “If you do what you’ve always done you’ll get what you’ve always gotten.”



Southern Region Update

Lorrie Coop (TX), Southern Region Director

Hello from the Southern Region. I feel so honored for the opportunity to serve in this role and be a voice for our members. I look forward to highlighting some of the successful initiatives that our affiliates are implementing throughout the year in our newsletter and hope you’ll agree that networking and sharing is a great way to increase our resources and strengthen our association.

Tennessee Highlights - Submitted by Carla Y. Bush

- Established a website for our state affiliate, <http://teafcs.tennessee.edu/>
- 18 members attended the NEAFCS Annual Session at Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA
- Currently planning our 2020 TEAFCS Annual Conference being held in Memphis, TN, April 15-17, 2020 at the Guesthouse at Graceland

Kentucky Highlights – Submitted by Judi O’Bryan

- Completed a project to compile documentation regarding their history and house the information with the University of Kentucky archivists for future generations
- Held an 85th Anniversary celebration and donated over 85 jars of peanut butter to the University of Kentucky student food bank
- Worked diligently to increase our membership to regain four voting delegates

Texas Highlights – Submitted by Brittany Martin

- Revamped the Texas website to make it more user-friendly
- 53 members and guests attended the 2020 Annual Session in Hershey, PA
- Developed and implemented a coordinated effort to improve and strengthen the partnership between our affiliate and our administration, due to several key leadership position changes within the agency, including a new director



Affiliate Spotlight on Colorado

Debby Mathews, (AL) 85th Anniversary Chairman

Colorado's 85th Celebration was led by their Member Resources Committee chairman. They celebrated during the Spring Professional Development Retreat in Denver with the theme "Honor the Past and Celebrate the Present/Future of NEAFCS". The three elements of the celebration were:

1. Contest/Challenge

Historic FCS Extension Documents/photos/news stories – to be donated to CSU/NEAFCS Archives. **Clean out those filing cabinets and storage boxes and help us preserve the history of Extension FCS and our NEAFCS/CEAFCS association!**

**Awards for "Best Photo" in AGENT AT WORK, WHAT ARE THEY DOING?, MAKING AN IMPACT, FCS/CEAFCS categories.

2. Celebrate FCS! – The affiliate assembled a directory of current members' photos with highlights of a program/aspect of the job they found most satisfying.
3. Hashtag Social Media Campaign -- **#csufcsmy1thing** Using good, action photos of members doing/teaching the one thing that's got them jazzed about FCS work. They posted to NEAFCS Facebook and Instagram.

At the retreat, Abby Weber gave a brief lesson on her use of Instagram/Facebook. She taught us how and why to hashtag. "What we are doing now!"- **#csufcsmy1thing**: Instagram/Facebook Tutorial.

With several very new members present, seasoned members shared some of the benefits of NEAFCS membership – including attending national conferences, and our state/national awards program.

How did your affiliate use the NEAFCS history/archives information on our website? (Under *About NEAFCS*) Which resources did you use?

We did not yet make use of this resource. We'll use this info in our upcoming annual meeting in October.

How did you use the NEAFCS Facebook monthly 85th Anniversary tidbits?

We shared a few pics on Facebook of our NEAFCS Anniversary celebration using the hashtag **#csufcsmy1thing**. Will Ferguson commented on the post.

How did your affiliate implement the *85 Things to-do* list as a group /individually?

We distributed copies of the "85 Things" to our members at the fall 2018 state meeting in advance of the 85th Anniversary year, and again at our spring retreat in May 2019.

Additional comments/feedback regarding our 85th Anniversary celebration

Looking back on the year, I wish we had narrowed our focus and provided more support to our members such as Press Releases on the national and state association history with a fillable paragraph where they could put more localized information about the FCS agents who served their county/area.