

**NEAFCS Network  
January 2021**

**President's Message:**

*Dianne Gertson (TX), President*



*Please click the image above to view this month's President's Message*

*The first 5 people to [email me](#) with the location of the icon will be entered into a drawing for a free registration to the 2021 NEAFCS Annual Session.*

**President's Charity 2021 – NEAFCS Endowment, Members Supporting Members**

*Dianne Gertson (TX), President*

The NEAFCS President's Charity for 2021 is the NEAFCS Endowment. The Endowment campaign will start in January of 2021 and continue through Annual Session in Grand Rapids, Michigan, November 2 – 5, 2021.

Donations to the endowment are not spent. Instead, the endowment is an investment tool and the investment income is utilized for targeted projects. As we grow the endowment, more funding will be available for special projects. Beginning in 2021, the endowment is accepting proposals for innovative ideas that benefit NEAFCS and its members or promote the profession of Family and Consumer Sciences. More information can be found <https://www.neafcs.org/endowment>.



I'm encouraging each member to donate \$21 for 2021 to the NEAFCS Endowment. Donations of any amount will be accepted. Donations can be made online at <https://www.neafcs.org/endowment>.

Let's work together to create a lasting imprint on NEAFCS, support targeted projects, champion our profession and support the profession we believe in.

I truly appreciate each contribution to the 2021 NEAFCS President's Charity.

### **Awards and Recognition Highlights**

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



Happy New Year! Best wishes on your 2021 award applications. We look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of our affiliate members.

I have two updates this month. Please consider putting your name on the list as a potential judge and check out our new "Awards Affirmation" for applicants. It is similar to a checklist.

#### **1. Calling All Judges!**

It's time to begin gathering **judges** for our national award program. We will need about 60 judges. We sincerely thank you for sharing your time and careful consideration of our applicants who work diligently assembling their applications. I will use the same system as last year: an online collector followed by random drawings of names for judges. You may or may not be randomly selected, but I thank you for making yourself available. Judging usually takes place in April.

[Please copy/paste or click on this link](#) to let us know which category/ies you would be interested in judging. Be sure these are categories in which you will NOT be submitting an application as an individual or member of team.

Direct link to the sign up form: <https://forms.gle/ufVj3Juubnz2wMQw9>

#### **2. Applicants: Please Review the NEAFCS Awards Affirmation**

If you apply for awards individually or as a member of a team, be sure to review our brand new NEAFCS [Awards Affirmation](#) (Awards Manual pp. 104-105) that you need to consider when applying for awards. Also, please remember that state deadlines are different from the national deadline (March 15).

Special thanks goes to Hope Wilson from the Awards Training Subcommittee for providing us with some additional tips for submitting applications.

Here's to a new year with fewer challenges! We hope to see you in person in Michigan. If you have questions for me, please contact me at [Julie.garden-robinson@ndsu.edu](mailto:Julie.garden-robinson@ndsu.edu) or 701.231.7187.

## Professional Development Update: Submit, Review, Watch – Who could ask for anything more?!

Patricia Brinkman (OH), Vice President of Professional Development

**Submit your proposal for our 2021 Annual Session now.** The application is available on the [2021 Annual Session](#) page under Professional Development on the website. Read through the [FAQ Document](#) for information. Review the webinar on “[Submitting a 2021 NEAFCS Session Proposal](#)” for a step-by-step guide with screen pictures. Tip: Always have another person read your proposal and comment according to the judging criteria. The judging criteria is listed on the [FAQ document](#). The link to submit a proposal for the 2021 Annual Session will **close on January 31<sup>st</sup>**.



Sign up now to be a reviewer at the bottom of the 2021 Annual Session [webpage](#). As a reviewer you decide what track/tracks you are willing to review. Most of the time you only need to review 5-7 proposals during the month of February. One way to learn about writing a good proposal is to be a reviewer, so *volunteer*. A webinar on how to review proposals will be presented on February 2 at 2 PM (Eastern).

Upcoming Webinars are “Leadership Experience: The new Mentoring and Leadership Opportunity for NEAFCS members” on Thursday, February 4 at 3 PM Eastern and “Coffee Time: Exploring Health Benefits and Cautions” on Tuesday, March 16 at 3 PM Eastern. [Registration](#) is available now.

Do you have a presentation you could share? Complete the online proposal [form](#). Webinar proposals are peer-reviewed. The webinar subcommittee in December completed a new evaluation form for webinars.

**2020 ANNUAL SESSION RECORDINGS**  
*Coming Soon!*  
**PURCHASE BY EDUCATIONAL TRACK**

Available **now** to members who attended the 2020 Virtual Annual Session for **FREE!** General membership will be able to purchase the videos by track for a small fee mid-year.

NEAFCS  
EXPERIENCE  
LIFE ELEVATED  
NEAFCS ANNUAL SESSION 2020

The banner features a scenic background of a desert landscape with a rock archway under a blue sky with light clouds. The text is overlaid in various colors and fonts. In the bottom left corner, there is a small graphic with the NEAFCS logo and the text 'EXPERIENCE LIFE ELEVATED' and 'NEAFCS ANNUAL SESSION 2020'.



## **2021 PreConference Introduction!**

*Erin Powell (MI), 2021 Annual Session Planning Committee Member*

Hello from Michigan! My name is Erin Powell and I am a member of the NEAFCS Annual Session planning committee. I'd like to take the opportunity to introduce you to one of our preconference speakers, Ritchie H. Harrison.



Ritchie will be leading the preconference session *Values Driven Leadership: Working Towards a Vision for Common Good*. This workshop will help participants broaden their knowledge and understanding of the key leadership skills and values that can empower self and others. Topics will include effective strategies for working across differences, identifying core values to create a greater sense of satisfaction, creating synergy between values, vision, and impact, improving interactions in conversations and dialogue with others, and increasing feelings of inspiration, drive, and enthusiasm.

Ritchie is currently the co-director of the Great Lakes Leadership Academy (GLLA) at Michigan State University Extension. Ritchie is a passionate leader and advocate for building thriving communities. He has led programs targeting neighborhood improvement and revitalization in the City of Detroit. His range of experience and competencies includes community and economic development; urban planning and land-use; community engagement; diversity, equity, and inclusion; and leadership development.

Prior to joining Michigan State University Extension, Ritchie was the community planner for the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy where he led extensive planning and development efforts targeting the Detroit Riverfront. His work demonstrates successful achievements of collaboration, diverse civic participation, and engagement.

We hope you consider joining us for the preconference session to learn more about values driven leadership!

## **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Moving from Reflection to Action**

*Karim Martinez (NM), NEAFCS Diversity Subcommittee Member*

The new year is a time for reflection on the past and planning action for the future. 2020 brought us a global pandemic that exposed horrendous health inequities. The killing of George Floyd by police sparked a global movement to address racial inequities. In recognition of the importance of these and other social justice issues, Extension is increasingly engaged in conversations around topics such as Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). The good news is that we in Extension CAN make a difference.



Through reflection and action, each of us can promote DEI efforts within our own spheres of influence. We can reflect on what each term means to us and identify strategies to promote them within our environments. For example, we can ensure diversity by reaching a variety of audiences. We can promote inclusion by not only ensuring diverse people are represented in our programs but also making sure they have a voice. Inclusion can be achieved by involving

clientele in the program development process by asking what information is relevant to them and how they prefer to receive information. And lastly, we can increase equity. Addressing issues of equity involves identifying disparities and then implementing practices or policies to create equal access to opportunities. Within Extension, equity can mean being intentional about increasing the number of diverse faculty and staff in our organization, as well as in leadership positions.

While these are just a few examples of how we can promote DEI efforts, it is important for each of us to first reflect and then think about what actions we can take to create a more just and equitable world. Remember, we CAN make a difference.



### Meet the Board

*Michelle Wright (TX), Vice President of Member Resources*

I am Michelle Wright and I bring each of you greetings from the lone star state. I am excited to take this moment to share a little about myself with YOU... my NEAFCS family. I grew up in a small Texas town called Kingsville. Kingsville is home to one of the largest ranches in Texas... the King Ranch. Being the baby of five girls, I chose to go to college close to home and near my mom. I attended Texas A&I University which later became Texas A&M Kingsville. At this university, I had the chance to take a class in the spring of 1989 that changed my life forever! That class helped to chart the path that I am currently on today as an Extension educator! After two Extension internships and graduation, I was fortunate enough to be employed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and moved to Bellville, Texas. After numerous agency name changes, I am still here and loving every minute of what I do for the people of Austin County. For twenty-nine years, my career has given me so much joy and fulfillment. With that being said, I am extremely grateful for taking that "Careers in Home Economics" class in the spring of 1989. I have enjoyed playing a role in the lives of so many wonderful people in Extension. At the same time, they



have also played a critical role in mine. As your VP of Member Resources for NEAFCS, I look forward to doing the same with each of you. From my family to yours, have a wonderful and successful New Year!

## Member Spotlight Video



*Please click the image above to watch this month's member spotlight video featuring John Fuller (MO), Affiliate President-Elect.*

## Kicking Off Awards Season: What should I be doing?

*Hope Wilson (AZ), Awards Training Subcommittee, Member*

We've made it through 2020 and here's hoping 2021 is a better year. It's time to do all those things that we have put off until the first of the year. Add applying for an NEAFCS Award on that list of things. The national award submission deadline is March 15. That may seem like you have plenty of time, but there is a lot to do before that deadline. Here are some things to do now so that you can be successful this 2021 NEAFCS awards season.



1. **Confirm you state affiliate award deadline and submission process.** March 15 is the final date that your state affiliate has to submit your affiliate award winners to NEAFCS for regional and national consideration. However, each affiliate has its own process for award submissions and affiliate deadlines will be much earlier than March 15.
2. **Review the 2021 Awards Manual/Guidelines.**  
(<https://neafcs.memberclicks.net/assets/awards/2021-awards/2021-Awards-Manual.pdf>)  
Even if you have been applying for awards for years, there are usually changes to this

document every December. If you have never submitted an award application, this document is a valuable resource to understand eligibility requirements and judging. Do not skip the general eligibility requirements on page 6.

3. **Identify the award(s) for which you plan to apply.** You might start by scanning the 2021 Awards-at-a-glance to get some ideas <https://neafcs.memberclicks.net/assets/awards/2021-awards/2021-NEAFCS-Awards-At-A-Glance.pdf>. Then check the Awards Manual / Guidelines to see if you or your program meet the specific eligibility requirements for the award you are considering. Take a moment to consider awards that might not be the immediately obvious choice. Is there another award that might fit as well?
4. **Look at application requirements for each award when developing your timeline for completing your applications.** Some awards may require letters of support which will need to be requested soon so that you will have them by your affiliate deadline.
5. **Spend some time reviewing the NEAFCS Awards page on the NEAFCS website.** <https://neafcs.memberclicks.net/awards> There are many helpful resources, tips and videos to help you prepare for this awards season. You can see past award winners and award statistics. New resources are added frequently, so check back regularly.

## 21 tips for 2021

*Dianne Gertson (TX), President*

The NEAFCS Board will be sharing “21 Tips for 2021” with our members in the NEAFCS Network from January through October. The tips will cover a variety of topics – life, work, whatever.

I know many are glad to see 2020 in the rearview mirror and are looking forward to a great 2021. While for me, 2020 was a good year, I know some are dealing with the stress of the pandemic, personal or family illness and even work-related issues. We have all had to learn new ways to navigate the world. Can we say Zoom Fatigue? Many of our face to face activities both in our personal life and work life have gone virtual.



One of my tips is pick a word of the year. Choose one single word to be your focus and guidance for the upcoming new year and all your goals. Choose something meaningful that will guide you through the year and be a compass throughout life's many decisions, something that will encourage you to be the best version of yourself. My word for 2021 is FEARLESS. Have courage and determination in all that I do.

My second tip is to choose joy. Joy is more than emotion. It is an attitude. It is a lens to see the world through. Choosing joy is not something done once and forgotten. Choosing joy is a habit. Choosing joy requires us to look beyond our immediate circumstance to connect with a bigger picture. Joy requires connection.

- Choosing to make joy a habit requires you to turn your focus outward. Repetitively.
- Shift your attention away from your problems, your difficulties and yourself, and think about others. Repeatedly.
- Connect with the feelings of those also affected. Regularly.

I hope these tips will help guide you to an awesome 2021. Happy New Year!



## **NEAFCS Leadership Experience Taking Off**

*Gina Lucas (MO), NEAFCS Mentoring and Leadership Subcommittee Chair*

Leading. Learning. Mentoring. Growing. If you began this New Year with a desire to grow or to make an impact, we have the opportunity for you! The Mentoring & Leadership Subcommittee has been working feverishly developing the 2021 NEAFCS Leadership Experience and the wait is almost over!



The NEAFCS Leadership Experience is comprised of two components. First, a cohort of mentees will participate in four monthly interactive zoom sessions. In the first session, mentees will learn to lead themselves, developing trust in self, identifying strengths and communication styles. Next, mentees will learn to lead in their communities, discussing relationship-building, being vulnerable, and building teams. Mentees will also learn to lead as FCS professionals, focusing on collaborating, measuring impact and developing their brand. Finally, mentees will learn to lead within NEAFCS, learning the structure of NEAFCS, what leadership entails and how to dream bigger, taking steps that may be scary.

The second component of the NEAFCS Leadership Experience is the one-on-one mentoring. Mentors will work with their mentees to determine goals for their relationships and will share their own experiences, challenges and victories as mentor and mentee grow together. Mentors will participate in one of two mentor trainings in August, then the eight-month mentor/mentee portion begins in September. These relationships officially continue until April 2022; however, we hope they last a lifetime!

We are looking for NEAFCS members who are ready to grow as either mentors or mentees. Applications will open on February 1st. For more information, feel free to contact me at [lucasg@missouri.edu](mailto:lucasg@missouri.edu).





# *In Remembrance*



Future issues of the NEAFCS Network will include recognition of members who have passed. If you would like to report the death of a NEAFCS member, please visit [www.neafcs.org](http://www.neafcs.org).

Angelene Phillips (OH), Life Member  
Clara Spath (OH), Life Member  
Darleen Myers (OH), Life Member  
Eleanor Kersh (OH), Life Member  
Emily Brown (OH), Life Member  
Helen Storer (OH), Life Member  
Katherine Whinnery (OH), Life Member  
Myra Philpott (OH), Life Member  
Olive Woodyard (OH), Life Member  
Ruth Paine (OH), Life Member  
Patsy Glass (OH), Life Member  
Marie Anglin (TN), Life Member  
Susan Cardwell (TN), Life Member  
Laverne Farmer (TN), Life Member  
Angie Fugate (TN), Life Member  
Phyllis Inman (TN), Life Member  
Geneva Potter (TN), Life Member

Margaret Propst (TN), Life Member  
Helen Rader (TN), Life Member  
Barbara Chatelain (LA), Life Member  
Frances Cormier (LA), Life Member  
Bonnie Gaddis (LA), Life Member  
Rea Gilbert (LA), Life Member  
Margaret Hayes (LA), Life Member  
Ruth Hernandez (LA), Life Member  
Marie Lacasse (LA), Life Member  
Joan McCrory (LA), Life Member  
Dorothy Shell (LA), Life Member  
Kathryn Shaffer (WV), Life Member  
Maude Middleton (NC), Life Member  
Jean Baugh (KY), Life Member  
Rosalind Burke (NY), Life Member  
Sandra Jones (OK), Life Member  
Grace Jennings (VA), Life Member