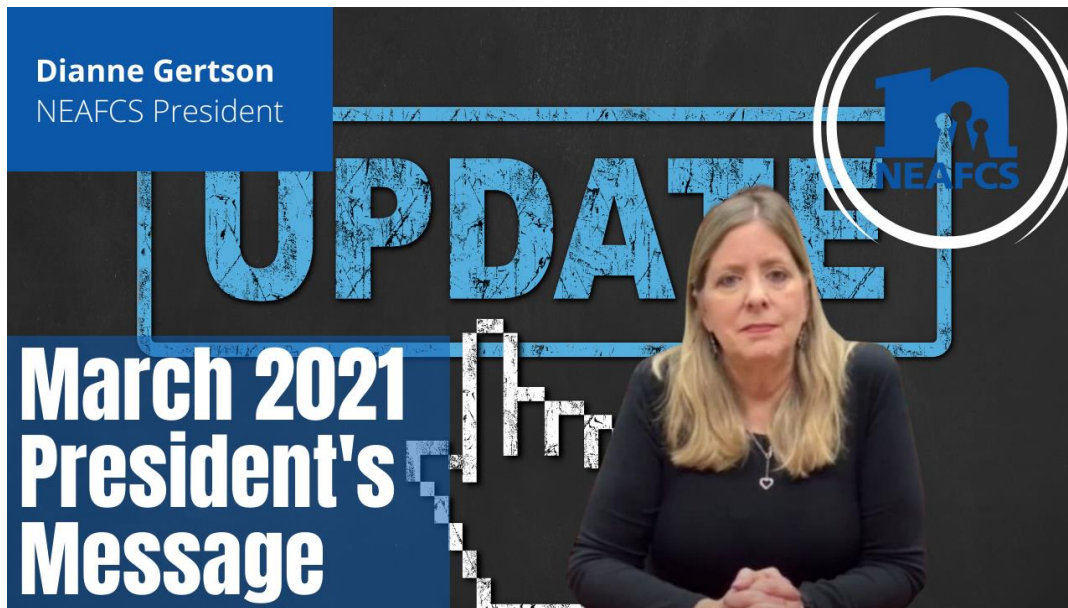


**President's Message:**

*Dianne Gertson (TX), President*



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

**Mentioned in the President's Message:**

- [Donate \\$21 in 2021 to the President's Charity](#) - the NEAFCS Endowment

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.

**Professional Development Webinars**

*Patricia Brinkman (OH), Vice President of Professional Development*

NEAFCS hosts webinars to provide information and professional development. NEAFCS Committees can request to do a webinar and do not have to go through the review process. So far, this year we have had webinars from the Program subcommittee, Mentor and Leadership subcommittee and the Journal of NEAFCS.

Help us to have at least one professional development webinar each month on different topics dealing with Family and Consumer Sciences. All submitted webinar proposals go through a review process being reviewed by three webinar committee members. Those meeting the critique are accepted. Please consider submitting a proposal. You can help your fellow peers in learning some skills or information you know.



Calling all coffee drinkers! Don't miss our upcoming webinar on "[Coffee Time: Exploring Health Benefits and Cautions](#)" on March 16th at 3:00 Eastern.

## **Story Be Told**

*Madeline Bielecki (MI), 2021 Annual Session Planning Committee Member*

Our MEAFCS members are looking forward to welcoming everyone to Michigan this November! My name is Madeline Bielecki and I am a member of the NEAFCS planning committee. I would like to take this time to feature Story Be Told founder, Jenifer Strauss.



Prior to beginning her career as a narrative consultant, Jenifer worked 10 years as a middle school educator, where storytelling played an important role in many aspects of her classroom. In 1993, Jenifer was able to combine her passion for storytelling and teaching, creating Story Be Told. Jenifer created the Turning Points Narrative Process; she now provides over 300 presentations a year on it across the country to various organizations, schools, and businesses.

Jenifer will be leading the workshop 'Turning Points: A Narrative Approach for Capturing, Writing and Presenting Interesting Impact Statement'. Storytelling can be an influential instrument in making connections with stakeholders and the community. During this time, participants will learn ways to incorporate a personal narrative into an impact statement and about Jenifer's Turning Points Narrative Process.

We are excited to have Jenifer share her knowledge with us during our conference! If you are interested in learning more about Story Be Told, please visit <http://storybetold.com/>.

## **2021 JCEP Extension Leadership Conference**

*Vanessa Hoines (ND), Central Region Director*

The 2021 JCEP Extension Leadership Conference was held virtually with more than 90 NEAFCS members attending with 56 receiving scholarships. Lorrie Coop, Southern Region Director and Vanessa Hoines, Central Region Director facilitated a NEAFCS gathering during the final session of the conference. The session included a presentation from Suzanne Stluka, Division Director, Family & Consumer Sciences and Youth and 4-H at NIFA, discussion of the new Leadership Ladder and national board positions and an opportunity for members to work in small groups to brainstorm about the future of NEAFCS.



Each scholarship recipient was required to write a reflection paragraph about their experience. The paragraphs can be found on the [JCEP Extension Leadership Conference Scholarship webpage](#).

## What is your level of intercultural competence?

*Samantha Kennedy (FL), Diversity Committee Member*

I recently had the honor of becoming the chair of my extension district's Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) committee. The committee was formed as part of a larger diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiative at the University of Florida, spearheaded by the Chief Diversity Officer, Antonio Farias.

Our committee has 11 members from across the 16 counties of Florida's panhandle. Each one of us is dedicated to improving the IDEA principles internally with our colleagues and externally with our clientele.

As a new committee, we looked for guidance about how to get started. Dr. John Diaz, Assistant Professor and IDEA liaison with UF/IFAS, suggested the committee members take the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI).

Designed to measure overall levels of intercultural competence, it shows a person's or group's progression along a continuum of cross-cultural competence and provides in-depth insights on how individuals and groups make sense of and respond to cultural differences.

Taking the IDI was an eye-opening experience. The assessment provided me with both my perceived orientation score and my developmental (or actual) orientation score. In what should probably be unsurprising results, my perceived orientation score was further along the continuum than my developmental orientation score. In other words, I thought I had more intercultural competency than I actually did. Fortunately, though, my developmental orientation score placed me at "Minimization," which means that while I have work to do to improve my intercultural competence, I already possess a good foundation upon which to build my knowledge and skills.

The IDEA committee members welcomed this opportunity to learn more about their levels of intercultural competence. As a group, we have already created a strategic plan to help us set goals and plan activities and other efforts to help ourselves, our colleagues, and our clientele continue to improve in this area and make Extension more diverse, equitable, and inclusive at all levels.



## 2021 NEAFCS Hall of Fame Nominations Open

*Susan Routh (OK), President-Elect*

The NEAFCS Hall of Fame was created in 2019 to recognize an outstanding NEAFCS member or life member who has given their time, treasure, and/or talent to benefit NEAFCS. They have demonstrated their commitment and dedication to NEAFCS through effective leadership or involvement at the state, regional, or national level. Any NEAFCS member (active or life) may be nominated by an NEAFCS Executive Board member or state affiliate President. [The NEAFCS website features Past Hall of Fame Winners.](#)



Current NEAFCS Executive Board members or state affiliate Presidents are responsible for submitting nominations for the 2021 winners. The [application/nomination website is now open](#) to accept nominations. If you would like to nominate a deserving NEAFCS member, please contact an NEAFCS Executive Board member or your state affiliate President.

Nomination information requires the nominee's contact information and a one-page (double spaced) written document describing why you believe that this person should be inducted into the NEAFCS Hall of Fame. Please address their NEAFCS leadership roles at the national,

regional, and state level and their contribution to the development of NEAFCS as an organization. Please describe their commitment and dedication to advance the mission and values of NEAFCS. Nomination deadline is May 1st.



### **Professional Development Update**

*Patricia Brinkman (OH), Vice President of Professional Development*

Reviewers for proposals have been busy reviewing and are finishing up the process. We had 100 concurrent proposals submitted and 16 Showcase of Excellence proposals. Thank you to all who signed up to be reviewers and have helped with the process. Information should be sent out by the end of the month or early April.

I hope you joined us on February 4<sup>th</sup> for the Mentor and Leadership Subcommittee presentation on “Leadership Experience: The New Mentoring and Leadership Opportunity for NEAFCS Members.” Get involved in the program as a mentor or mentee with NEAFCS. On March 10 we hosted, “Tips and Tricks for Successful Submission to the *Journal of NEAFCS*.” If you missed these, please check them out in our archives.



### **No Excuses! Get Ready for the Next Awards Season NOW!**

*Katie Cullum (AR), Awards Training Committee*

*I didn't do much last year.*

*It's too early to plan for next year!*

*I'm not old enough for DSA.*

These are all excuses! NOW is actually a great time to prepare for applying for awards next year. Remember, read the manual. I used to think that everything had to have been done in the past year. NOPE. Most awards are from the past 3 years.

You can start pulling the needed information NOW – background information, statistics, what you're doing, and more. Then, as the year progresses, you can just add to the file. Talk to partners. Have a plan for evaluation and impact. Look over what you have. Do you need to beef it up? You'll still have time, IF you start now.

As you're working, you'll want to plan for editing and proofing. When you start typing, you may find that you go over the 5-page limit. That's okay for now. But when you really start editing, look for clear and concise. Don't get too wordy. Check your spelling and your grammar. Ask others to proof your application. Ask more! Give them the judging sheet and ask them to score your app. This will help you to fill in some blanks and focus on the most important information.

**Awards Video:** <https://youtu.be/CIgnoLgNjac>

Good luck!



## Meet the Board

*Rick Griffiths (NM), Western Region Director*

Greetings all,

If we haven't met, I'm Rick. I have the privilege of serving as the Western Region Director. I'm very grateful for this opportunity to serve the members of NEAFCS, learn about the many facets of our Association and try to share that information with you.

I grew up just outside of Salt Lake City, Utah and received my bachelor's degree in Family and Consumer Science Education from Southern Utah University and my Master of Education from Westminster College of Salt Lake City. Before joining Extension, I was a high school Family and Consumer Science teacher and worked as a corporate trainer in the health insurance industry for a short time.

In 2014, I was hired by New Mexico State University as the San Juan County Family and Consumer Science Agent. On my first day at NMSU, the County Director who was also an FCS Agent handed me a NEAFCS Application with the instruction sheet she had printed off. She told me that if I wanted to be successful as an agent, I needed to join the Association and become involved as soon as possible. She said that has a small state we didn't have many professional development opportunities and attending Annual Sessions is a good way to fill the gap. She also told me that the Promotion and Tenure Committee highly values service to the Association. As she was the Chair of the Promotion and Tenure Committee, I took that as good advice. I have served as the New Mexico Affiliate Vice President of Awards and Recognition, Affiliate President and I'm currently serving as the Affiliate Immediate Past President. I have also attended six Annual Sessions since joining Extension.

That I think is our Association's superpower, our ability to build each other up and to learn and grow from one another. Being involved in the Association has given me the opportunity to meet amazing people who go out of their way to support everyone around them. I am ever thankful for the many individuals that have guided me along my path and that continue to point me in the right direction. If there is any way I can help you along your journey, please feel free to reach out to me.

## 21 Tips for 2021

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

I am so excited that 2021 is finally here! I hope this year will be a great deal better than 2020 for everyone! I am excited to be able to share my "Two Tips for 2021" with my NEAFCS family.

My two tips for 2021:

- 1) Challenges are like hurdles. Jumping high enough will help you clear them all.
- 2) Pessimism is like a flat tire. You cannot get anywhere until it's changed.

I wanted to share these two tips because life is filled with highs and lows. When hit with the "lows", it is sincerely important to stay positive during those times. With so much happening in the world today, it is so critical to "choose" to look at life in an optimistic way. I often reflect on these tips both professionally and personally. They really apply to both aspects of our lives. Most importantly, I find solace in them when faced with life's hiccups. The positive thing about life's hiccups..... most are temporary. I truly believe the outlook we take when faced with these moments, can surely make the difference.



Hoping what you have read is not only good food for the soul but something to contemplate throughout the entire year. Enjoy and I wish each of you a fantastic 2021! Be sure to make the best of it!

## **Central Region Update**

*Vanessa Hoines (ND), Central Region Director*



Greetings from the Central region!

Minnesota Update - Suzanne Driessen:

- 15 annual members and 1 new life member with 100% participation on affiliate committees
- Membership committee is working on a mentoring program for new members and a membership recruitment video.
- Public Policy/Public relations committee: Submitted 12 impact statements submitted from 13 members in 7 categories. Promoted Dining Out monthly promotion in December included Social media and 2x a week emails to membership. Kicked out Living Well month with news releases and social media posts.
- The Awards committee is judging 8 award applications in 5 categories.
- Monthly memo on blog here: <https://neafcsmn.wordpress.com/>

North Dakota – Cindy Klapperich:

- NDEAFCS members recently reviewed and updated their Constitution.
- Meetings are now being held quarterly, rather than semi-annually using Zoom.
- An NDEAFCS Strategic Planning committee was established and has begun their work.

Iowa – Sara Sprouse:

Hello from Iowa!

Iowa members have been busy! Several members attended JCEP ELC. In preparation for the conference, we hosted a Virtual Coffee Break and invited members of other JCEP associations in Iowa that were planning to attend the conference. It was a great opportunity to get to know each other and showcase presentations from our state. We are now making plans for our Spring Business Meeting.

## **Western Region Update**

*Rick Griffiths (NM), Western Region Director*



I would like to congratulate AnaMaria Diaz Martinez of Washington State on her appointment to a second term on the Finance Committee. As well as Diane Christensen of New Mexico on her appointment to the bylaws committee for her first term.

The Western region also had one state successfully submit a proposal to host the 2024 Annual Session. The proposal has been approved by the NEAFCS board and planning will begin shortly.

We've had a number of individuals sign up to be National Awards Judges. However, we still need more Judges from the West, so please consider submitting an application.

Additionally, we need individuals to volunteer to be mentors for the Association's new Leadership Experience program. This is a great way to help build our next generation of Extension leaders. I encourage everyone to learn more about the program and consider applying.

## NEAFCS Winter Board Meeting Highlights

*Kate Shumaker (OH), Secretary*

Your 2021 NEAFCS Board met virtually February 23-25. Over the course of this 3-day session many topics were discussed including:

- Partnership opportunities for organizations, associations and companies
- Realignment of regions – benefits, consequences, possible scenarios
- Review of NEAFCS meeting at the Extension Leadership Conference and discussion of plans for the Public Issues Leadership Development Conference.
- Plans for a new evaluation tool for use in committees.
- Progress on plans and submissions for Annual Session locations in 2023 and 2024!
- 2021-2023 Strategic Plan
- Beverly Coberly, COO Extension Foundation (formerly eXtension), provided information about resources available from the Extension Foundation.



We ended the meeting discussing the results of the recent “Future of NEAFCS” survey. There are definitely challenges ahead. However, if the long history of FCS has shown us one thing, it is our ability to “reinvent” the profession as times change.

## Prepare an Article for Submission to the Journal of NEAFCS

*Meagan Brothers (IN), Journal Editorial Subcommittee*

As you consider submitting proposals for Annual Session and Awards, I invite you to also to consider submitting an article to the peer-reviewed Journal of NEAFCS. This is a wonderful way to showcase your efforts and share your successes and programming ideas with colleagues around the nation. We also need peer reviewers – what a great way to read about and provide feedback for those who submit articles. **Submissions are due April 15, 2021.**



All the information you need to know is located on the website:

<https://neafcs.memberclicks.net/journal-of-neafcs>. You can also check out past publications. We hosted a webinar on March 10, 2021 to answer questions and provide more information about the journal submission process. Visit the [Webinar Archive page](#) to view that recording now!

Contact Co-editors Dana Wright at [dana.wright@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:dana.wright@mail.wvu.edu) or Ashley Dixon at [adixon@email.arizona.edu](mailto:adixon@email.arizona.edu) with any questions.



# *In Remembrance*



Dena Barnes (AL), Lifetime  
Dora Grace Smith (AL), Lifetime  
Jannette Lackey (AL), Lifetime  
Tammy Powell (AL), Lifetime  
Frances Benge (KY), Lifetime  
Ila Coe (KY), Lifetime  
Jane Howerton (KY), Lifetime  
Margaret Berg (KY), Lifetime  
Nancy Edwards (KY), Lifetime  
Patricia Margolis (KY), Lifetime  
Rebecca Gibson (KY), Lifetime  
Thelma Johnson (KY), Lifetime