

Meet the Board

Barb Wollan (IA), Treasurer

Hello everyone! I am a Minnesota native who went to school in North Dakota and Minnesota and now work in Iowa, after a detour of six years working in Illinois! What can I say, I like the upper Midwest!



I started my connection with Extension as an “Extension brat” – that is, my mom was a county Extension home economist in Minnesota when I was little. One bonus of that was that I got to tag along to 4-H camp even at ages 5, 6, and 7! When I was 7, my dad got a position as one of the first Extension community development agents in Minnesota – remember, this was in the 60’s... Community Development was new! I was a 4-H’er for ten years and went to college with the intent to enter Extension, although I took a brief detour as a classroom teacher, as well. In Illinois I got to experience EFNEP up close, as the supervisor of a 10-12 member EFNEP unit; that was a rewarding and challenging experience I wouldn’t trade for anything. But when an opportunity to apply for a position in neighboring Iowa focused on the element of family and consumer sciences that is most interesting to me, I checked it out, and I’ve been here over 25 years now. My role with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach focuses mainly on financial education in a 9-county area, although there are changes underway that will broaden my scope to include some of what we’ve traditionally labeled as “family life.”

As your NEAFCS Treasurer, I am loving opportunities for new connections, new skill-building, and new experiences. I’m also excited to get involved as a mentor with the new Leadership Experience project. I have always valued our association as a means for connecting, learning, supporting our profession and influencing the future of FCS Extension. Serving on the board has broadened my awareness even further, giving me even more reasons to appreciate NEAFCS and what it means for us.

I have two adult daughters who I’m very proud of and enjoy spending time with occasionally (they do not live nearby), and I’m grateful to still be able to spend time occasionally with my mom, who lives in central Minnesota. I’m active in my church, including church music groups, as well as in Community Chorus, and when our great local community theater needs a pit orchestra for a show, I jump at the chance! I read a lot, and I love baking – especially bread.