

Life Members Update Zoom Meeting - June 8, 2022

Luann Boyer, NEAFCS Membership Committee

A small but mighty group of NEAFCS Life Members joined this Association Update at 4 pm ET on June 8. Membership Committee Chair Amanda Hardy welcomed all and gave a brief review of the meeting agenda.

Will Ferguson gave a short tutorial on navigating the NEAFCS website. He encouraged all Life Members to check the website to see if their Log In is still working. If you don't have a Log In to access the Member information on the website, contact Will for help in setting it up.

On the Member System, you can select My Profile which all Life Members are encouraged to check and update if necessary. On this page, you'll also see messages you have received - OR should have received from the NEAFCS. Across the top, you can select Connections where you can Browse the Association Directory to find both active and Life Members. Another option across the top bar is My Features where you will see information on Committees. Life Members can be on committees, and it is one way to stay connected with association activities. Take a few minutes and check out the Member section to see what is available to Life Members.

Michelle Wright, VP for Member Resources gave an update on the Bylaw changes made by NEAFCS. With the change, Life Members have the same membership privileges as active members. This includes being able to serve as a National Board Member.

Pat Brinkman shared some of her experiences with her NEAFCS Mentee. Being a Mentor is a 1-year commitment. Participants share information on monthly Zoom meetings learning about the Association as well as ways to be a better Extension professional and learning how to balance personal and professional responsibilities.

Pat also gave a brief update of the 2022 National Meeting in Raleigh, NC in September. Will mentioned that Life Members will have an Ala Carte Registration option where they select the specific events they wish to attend. The Life Member event will be held early in the week so they will be able to connect with their former colleagues. Will shared the NEAFCS Membership is currently 1,674 Active Members and 1,119 Life Members.

Life Members shared what is happening personally, and it was obvious Extension professionals don't fully retire. Activities shared ranged from sewing for the Green Bay Packers uniforms to volunteering for non-profits. They shared being involved in a variety of educational type "jobs" which use their Extension skills.

Zoom attendees did a poll what they hoped to get out of this Zoom type of Life Member event. This will be shared with the Life Member Committee. Those on the Zoom were asked to share the skills they could bring to the association and also the best time for a mid-year Zoom Session in 2023.

The recording of this June 8 Zoom Meeting will be made available for all Life Members to access.