

From Hats and History to Networking and Knowledge... The Value in Attending Annual Session

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Our Association's first meeting, described as a "House Party" in 1930 was held in Denver, CO. Officers were identified at the "Breakfast Meetings" held at the Schroeder Hotel in Milwaukee, WI, in 1933, the Hotel Pennsylvania in New York City in 1934 and the "first" Home Demonstration Agents National Association Meeting at the Palmer House in Chicago, IL in 1935. Pictures of these meetings show our predecessors dressed in heels, hats, and gloves!



From those beginnings, Annual Session has been held at sites across the country – Chicago, Denver, Honolulu, Miami Beach, Pittsburgh, Phoenix, San Diego, New York City, and many places in between. Each host state(s) partners with the Association Board and National Office to provide a program rich in content, with local flavor and a wide variety of opportunities in a jam-packed schedule, balancing the traditions of "Welcome Events" and "Workshops on the Move" with a formal business meeting and award recognition.

If you're in the thinking stage about attending Annual Session 2022 in Raleigh, NC, here are ten reasons I'd encourage you to attend (not in any order of importance!)

1. Professional Development – workshops across the FCS spectrum of programming
2. Bigger Picture Perspective – learn what Extension colleagues are doing across the country
3. Get to know Raleigh North Carolina and Carolina Extension colleagues
4. Raise funds for the awards and recognition program
5. Meet and get to know our National officers and National Office Staff
6. Connect/Re-connect with colleagues across the country – friends in every state!
7. Make memories – from the site, to the colleagues, to state's night out
8. To thank the officers who have provided leadership to our association this past year
9. Recognition of the outstanding work being done by NEAFCS members
10. Help decide the future of NEAFCS through the Business Meeting
11. Re-connect in person after two virtual Annual Sessions
12. Get energized for the next programming cycle

Oops, that's 12 and I could go on and on! Attending NEAFCS Annual Session is a must for me – hope to see you there!

