

## **NEAFCS Members Come Together at JCEP**

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During the Extension Leadership Conference in Kansas City, MO last month, over 50 NEAFCS members attended our association meeting. Prior to the meeting, we sent out a survey to members attending the meeting and had meeting participants provide additional comments on the survey results. We had great discussion among members and the results were recorded and reviewed by NEAFCS President Susan Routh, President-Elect Julie Garden Robinson, Regional Directors Rick Griffiths and Lisa McCoy and NEAFCS National Office Staff Danielle Jessup and Will Ferguson. From these review sessions, several items were identified to be shared with NEAFCS committees such as awards, membership, public affairs, webinars, bylaws, and professional development.

Here is a synopsis of the comments and recommendations provided by our members who attended ELC:

- **Membership:**
  - Promote the benefits of NEAFCS membership to help recruit new members
  - Expand membership to paraprofessionals and FCS students
  - Reduced membership fees for first year members
  - New member cohorts yearly
  - Communicate the value of NEAFCS membership (this could also be shared with administration)
  
- **Other Member benefit suggestions**
  - Retirement and finding educators to follow
  - Corporate benefits (i.e., discounts on rental cars or insurance, box store discounts)
  - Professional coaching
  - Curriculum database
  - Officer training and /or cohorts
  
- **Professional Development**
  - Create an administrative track – leadership
  
- **Public Affairs**
  - Clarify job titles, expectations, degrees, family, and consumer sciences – can share with fellow Extension colleagues to understand it is not a soft science
  - Create elevator speech for advancing FCS Extension
  - Website impact statements
  
- **Awards**
  - Recommend at least 75% of members for team awards be a member of NEAFCS
  - Use scholarship monies to provide mini grants to support programs that can be shared at annual session
  - Travel / host for award winners
  - More SNAP-ed awards

- More individual Wellness awards (example: weight management)