

Springing into PILD and Showing Appreciation

Rick Griffiths (NM), NEAFCS President

It is a busy time of year for the association. I am grateful for everyone participating on the national committee, writing and reviewing impact statements, judging national awards and concurrent session proposals, and all the additional work being done throughout the Association. When this letter comes out, I will be meeting with some of you at the JCEP Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) conference in Arlington VA, and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone.

I want to thank Robin Ridgley and Vice President of Public Affairs Christine Zellers for serving as NEAFCS' representatives on the PILD Planning Committee and planning our Association at PILD. I would also like to thank Past President Susan Routh for serving as the Planning Committee Chair and Immediate Past President Julie Garden Robinson for serving as the Planning Committee Co-Vice Chair.



THANK YOU!



ROBIN RIDGLEY (IL)



CHRIS ZELLERS (NJ)



SUSAN ROUTH (OK)



JULIE GARDEN-ROBINSON (ND)

I appreciate the members' support and understanding of the Board's decision to increase Annual Session registration fees. I assure you that the association will continue to award scholarships to National Award Winners, Annual Session First Time Attendees, Affiliate Presidents, Speaker Stipends, and other member scholarships. **In addition, hopefully, you have heard about the new scholarships offered through the Endowment to assist with Annual Session registration and/or travel.** More information on these scholarships can be found on the website here - <https://www.neafcs.org/endowment>.

In May, the National Board will convene for its once-a-year in-person meeting, where our primary goal will be developing the new strategic plan. We have contracted with an external facilitator who completed a survey of stakeholders. The new plan will be shared at the Annual Session in Tucson, Arizona.

I hope spring is blooming where you are, and you are beginning to enjoy warm spring weather.

-Rick

Questions, advice, or concerns to share with Rick? Contact him at rickgrif@nmsu.edu or call at 505-334-9496