

Association Advisors

Chris Kniep (WI), Historian

The history of NEAFCS includes a group of Family and Consumer Sciences professionals that served in an advisory role for the organization. In fact, Miss Grace Frysinger, Washington D.C. Home Economist of the central states worked with Miss Clara Brain, home advisor in McLean County Illinois to organize the first meetings of our association. During the first fifty years members of the Advisory Council included representatives from USDA, Regional program administrators and State Program Leaders. You'll recognize some of the names from our awards program: Florence Hall, Don Felker and Grace Frysinger.



In 1967, President Maxine Reeves introduced the first male Advisory Council Member – Dr. William M. Smith, Jr. He was assistant director for Family Youth and Community Development, Cooperative Extension Service, Pennsylvania State University. As President Reeves shared, "Dr. Smith is well aware of the problem, activities and accomplishments of Extension home economist and has appeared on NEAFCS programs."



Dr. William M. Smith, Jr.

Association Advisors continued into the 1990's, attending board meetings, sharing perspectives and representing USDA and Program Leader colleagues from across the Country. While I haven't found when/why the Advisory Committee ended, since the 2000's, state FCS program leadership has held face-to-face meetings during the NEAFCS Annual Session, lending their support for our organization by attending our Annual Session.