

Voices from the Past – Present – Future

Christine Kniep (WI), Past President & Historian

On June 29th, 1933, in Milwaukee, WI, during the annual meeting of the American Home Economics Association, The National Home Demonstration Agents' Association became a reality. Present were twenty-one home demonstration agents from 13 states: Alabama, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Vermont, Virginia, and Wyoming.

The 90th Anniversary Committee has asked each of these 13 states to collect stories of their work and membership in NEAFCS from a retired or life member, the affiliate president, and a "new" member – the start of an ongoing narrative history of NEAFCS. Between now and our 100th Anniversary, stories will be collected from all of the affiliates. These stories will be included in our newsletter, on our website, and in our historical records.



It is with great pleasure that I share the next set of stories from the Wyoming Affiliate, featuring:

* **Past-Denise Smith, Retired**

* **Present-Mary Evans-WEAFCS President 2024**

* **Future-Sara Olsen-WEAFCS President-Elect**

PAST

Name, years of Extension employment, years of NEAFCS membership: Denise Smith. I was an Extension Educator for 46 years and a member of NEAFCS for 46 years

Current job title and description of position/role: Retired March 31, 2022

Description of one current program effort: Food Preservation education

Reason for joining NEAFCS: In 1976 when I was hired by University of Wyoming Extension it was an unwritten understanding that as a new employee you would join the professional association to learn more about your new profession. I was so glad that I did join as I learned a great deal throughout the years, met many wonderful people and traveled to places that I would not have gotten to see otherwise.

Memory from an NEAFCS event: When the national meeting was in Big Sky, Montana each state was asked to create a covered wagon that represented their state. The wagons were in a parade to introduce each state. After the meeting the wagons were donated to a local children's charity. Our wagon had a cover made from University of Wyoming brown and gold fabric featuring our bucking horse mascot. The three members from Wyoming attending the meeting drove the wagon and were outriders riding custom made stick horses. We had a great time and even won one of the prizes! At each of the national meetings I attended there was always at least one very memorable event.



PRESENT



Name, years of Extension employment, years of NEAFCS membership: Mary Evans, 9 years of Extension employment and 6 years as a NEAFCS member

Current job title and description of position/role: Snap Ed. and Community Vitality and Health Educator, Nutrition and Wellness primary focus.

Description of one current program effort: Walk Wyoming – Senior walking series and weekly speaker.

Reason for joining NEAFCS: When I joined NEAFCS, I was a SNAP Educator, and membership wasn't pushed. I submitted a proposal with a NEAFCS member, which was chosen for a concurrent session. I was able to attend and loved the networking and educational opportunities

offered. I renewed my membership, and lo and behold, I was elected President of our affiliate. I have now attended 3 in-person sessions and two virtual sessions. I still love the opportunity to network and the educational opportunities offered both in person and in webinars.

Memory from an NEAFCS event: My first National Annual Session and how I felt such a part of the Family and Consumer Sciences family.

A wish for the association: We hope that we continue to grow and thrive both at the affiliate level and the national level.

FUTURE

Name, years of Extension employment, years of NEAFCS membership – Sara Olsen, 1st year in

Extension and first-time member to NEAFCS

Current job title and description of position/role - UW, Campbell County Extension, Community Vitality and Health Educator- Health and Wellbeing are my focus areas

Description of one current program effort- Offering DWD- first class had 11!

Reason for joining NEAFCS – Recommendation from mentor and other Extension Educators.

Memory from an NEAFCS event- excited to make some memories!

A wish for the association - Keep going another 90 years!! I am so excited to be attending the annual session once again!

