Year-Round Professional Development

Rick Griffiths (NM), NEAFCS President

As I write this message, we are halfway through the NEAFCS year, and a lot is happening. I greatly enjoyed spending time with the 45+ NEAFCS members who were able to attend the JCEP Extension Leadership Conference in Tampa, FL, last month. I want to thank our Regional Directors, Jesse Ketterman, and Dianne Christensen, for the great work they did planning the NEAFCS Association meeting, where members could engage in productive conversations in program areas and regions.

The JCEP Public Issues Leadership Conference is quickly approaching in Arlington, VA, April 15th through 17th; this year's theme is Year-Round Advocacy. I want to thank the NEAFCS members on the Planning Committee, including Robin Ridgley, VP of Public Affairs Christine Zellers, Immediate Past President Julie Garden-Robinson, who's serving as the Committee's Co-Vice-Chair and Past President Susan Routh, who is serving as the Conference Chair. I want to encourage everyone to learn more about this outstanding conference at: https://www.jcep.org/pild and to attend if possible. I look forward to seeing many of you in our Nation's Capital in April.



Another great year-round professional development opportunity is NEAFCS webinars. The Professional Development Webinar Committee works year-round to provide regularly scheduled webinars focused on improving content knowledge, sharing best practices, and keeping members informed of the various aspects of our Association. NEAFCS webinars maintain the same rigor as concurrent sessions submitted for Annual Session. I encourage you to be on the lookout for e-mail announcements of new webinars to attend. As well as regularly checking the webinar page of our website for a listing of upcoming webinars https://neafcs.memberclicks.net/webinars.

Additionally, as a member of NEAFCS, you can view the Association's archive of webinars at https://neafcs.memberclicks.net/webinar-archives. Here, you can find hours of recorded webinars focusing on topics across our curriculum areas and our association. I highly encourage you to take advantage of these resources to expand your professional knowledge and gain insights into the inner workings of the Association.

If you find that a topic is missing from the archives, or you have a great idea for a NEAFCS webinar, I would like to encourage you to consider submitting a webinar proposal. You can find the webinar proposal submission form and webinar selection criteria by clicking on the professional development tab of the website and looking about halfway down the menu for the submit a webinar proposal tab or following this link

https://neafcs.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com mcform&view=ngforms&id=2056468#!/.

Webinar proposals are accepted year-round and are an outstanding way to add national presentations to your CV, as well as share your knowledge and passion with your colleagues. I look forward to learning from the great information that will be presented at future webinars. I hope everyone has a great month! I hope spring is finding its way to you!





Questions, advice, or concerns to share with Rick?

Contact him at rickgrif@nmsu.edu

What YOU Need to Know NOW in NEAFCS!

National Office Staff

This feature of the newsletter highlights current reminders of member benefits, programs, and approaching deadlines to keep you in the know.

- Awards Portal Dec 1st March 15
- o Journal of NEAFCS 2024 Manuscript Portal Open. Deadline April 1.
- NEAFCS is looking for Peer Reviewers for the Journal of NEAFCS. If you are interested, please sign-up to learn more -Scholastica Training for Peer Reviewers scheduled for April 3, 2024 https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJctd-GygzogG9Q1EKrlEymyKwviOPyV3eNA
- NEAFCS National Officer Candidate Application Deadline May
 1. Click here if you are interested in serving on the NEAFCS Executive
 Board this website provides resources on each position including qualifications, expectations, and more.
- o NEAFCS Endowment Grant Deadline May 15

Be entered to win conference registration by unscrambling the word hidden in the newsletter!

Unscramble the letters to the word hidden in the newsletter and email your answer to Rick Griffiths.

The first five correct answers will be entered to win! The letters for the answer are hidden throughout the newsletter in orange.



Curious about what is discussed at the monthly Executive Board meetings?

Log in to neafcs.org and click document library in the member center tab to find monthly meeting notes!

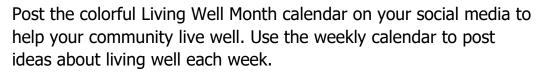


Share comments, concerns, and questions about the eNEAFCS network newsletter with NEAFCS Secretary Lisa Peterson at lap5981@illinois.edu

Let's celebrate...it's Living Well Month!

Rosie Stewart (AZ), Public Affairs Advocacy Committee Chair

It's March which means it's Living Well Month. Check out the resources available to you on the Living Well Month webpage on the NEAFCS website under the Public Affairs tab. The Public Affairs Advocacy Committee has tried to make sharing the work of Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) easy.







Videos on each of the eight dimensions of wellness are available for NEAFCS members to use. Add the Living Well Month logo to your email signature to let people know about our profession and Living Well Month.

Find the materials that work best for you at https://neafcs.memberclicks.net/living-well-month-campaign, and share how you're using them on the NEAFCS social media page!





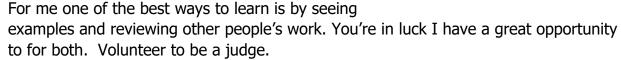
If you have questions, concerns, or comments about public affairs, contact Christine at zellers@njaes.rutgers.edu

We NEED You!

National Award Judges

Are you interested in learning about AMAZING programs across the nation? Would you like to serve NEAFCS but not sure how? Volunteer to judge NEAFCS Awards and you can do both!!!

If you're like me, you have hosted programs that other people thought would be great to write an award for but doubted yourself, so you didn't.





It's easy peasy. All awards are submitted online, and you will have a window of time to review them. All you do is log into the portal, open the awards, read them, make notes on the scoresheet then rank all in that category and submit. The judging will be April 1 - 15th.

Please sign up to judge here: https://forms.gle/ieADFHtr9UEcnwb87

If you have questions, concerns, or comments about awards, contact Donna at donna.stangl@okstate.edu



Come to Tucson Early for Three Pre-conference Workshops!

Dan McDonald & Katherine Speirs (AZ), Educational Offerings Subcommittee Co-Chairs, 2024 NEAFCS Annual Session Planning Committee

Consider coming to the annual session a little early to participate in one of three pre-conference workshops.

Artificial Intelligence: An Introduction for Extension Professionals

During this workshop Brock Turner, MPH, MS, CHES®, CPT, Extension Educator, Health, and Human Science at Purdue University, will provide a basic understanding of how artificial intelligence is relevant to Extension professionals' work and resources to explore it further. Mr. Turner will provide a balanced mix of theory, practical applications, and ethical considerations, catering to varying levels of artificial intelligence knowledge.



Expand Your Financial Education Toolkit with Take Charge Today!

Robin Palmer, Director of Entrepreneurship and Financial Math at the Arizona Council on Economic Education, will lead a pre-conference workshop that will prepare attendees to deliver Take Charge Today. This finance curriculum for middle to high school students or adults takes a decision-based approach to personal finance and includes more than 75 lesson plans designed, tested, and edited in collaboration with university researchers, financial industry experts and master educators.



Data Without Surveys: Alternative Ways to Gather Input and Information

During this workshop, the Community Research, Evaluation & Development (CRED) team, a multidisciplinary team at the University of Arizona that conducts high-quality, culturally responsive, community-based research and evaluation, will present ways of gathering data without sending yet another survey. Attendees will learn by doing in this interactive workshop, in which presenters will walk attendees through collecting data from a range of audiences (including children and youth) and how to digitize, clean, analyze, and visualize data for use in presentations and reports.





Share comments, concerns, and questions with Dan and Katherine at mcdonald@cals.arizona.edu and kspeirs@arizona.edu

Hey, Y'all! A Southern Region Update

Sam Kennedy (FL), Southern Region Director

It's almost spring in the South! Award applications are in bloom, and we are just as busy providing great FCS programming to our clients as we are cleaning pollen off our vehicles!

The Southern Region is booming. It's tax season again, and those of us who work with



the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program are filling our days dealing with forms of a hundred different letter and number combinations. "I need you to complete the 13614-C." | "Do you have your 1099-NEC?" | "Have you signed your 8879?"



Beyond taxes, the southern agents are busy with other excellent programming, teaching the importance of work-life balance while often struggling with their own and generally being a wealth of resources for the people they serve.

Thank you to the affiliates who have completed and submitted their annual report. (If you have not done yours, it's not too late! We will still accept it.) Those affiliates who reported talked about their accomplishments, goals, and challenges.

Here are some of the listed accomplishments:

Kentucky: "[We] increased communication among membership with implementation of virtual town hall meetings and newsletter committee formation."

Louisiana: "We enjoyed a wonderful LEAFCS State conference and are in the process of planning a state conference for 2024."

Oklahoma: "OEAFCS state winners were submitted to NEAFCS with 7 Southern Regional winners and 4 national winners."

Tennessee: "Membership was opened to the new category of Associate members, we had 3 individuals sign up to become associate members. We currently have 121 members across the state of Tennessee."

Texas: "The State Conference was held in Fredericksburg, Texas, where 181 members and 23 guests attended. One of the largest conference attendances!"

Feedback from affiliates regarding their successes and challenges is important to the future success of NEAFCS. Do not hesitate to reach out to me or your Regional Director with any insights, questions, or concerns.



Share comments, concerns, and questions with Sam at skennedy@ufl.edu

What you Missed at the JCEP Leadership Conference

Jesse Ketterman (MD), Eastern Region Director

If you were not there, you missed it! Traveling to Tampa, FL, was great this time of year. The weather was great, and so was the conference.

The highlight was the NEAFCS meeting on Day 1.



45 attendees from 25 states and 6 national board members attended the affiliate meeting

There was an opportunity to network with other members throughout the country. In addition, there were updates on the strategic plan, the 90th Anniversary, and the Annual Session.

Our keynote, delivered by Karl Bradley, focused on creating a successful partner mindset, and there were so many wonderful presentations.

SAVE THE DATE: You can start planning for ELC 2025 that will be on February 18th and 19th in Savannah, GA.



We Need YOU! – Tenure/Promotion and Permanent Status Reviewers!

Michelle Wright (TX), Appointed VP Member Resources

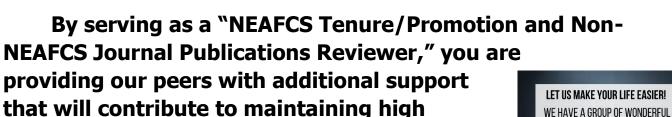
The NEAFCS Tenure/Promotion and Non-NEAFCS Journal

Publications subcommittee need

the review process associated with promotion/tenure or permanent status. This process is critical in many ways and is sometimes associated with that individually ability to retain ample month.

individual's ability to retain employment with their university/state.





standards within their disciplines and institutions. Because each university/state's
process varies, having knowledgeable members from
each state as a part of this endeavor would be truly
beneficial. Additionally, your support will enhance

beneficial. Additionally, your support will enhance your understanding of the criteria and standards associated with tenure and promotion, which may personally benefit your career advancement.





If you are interested, please contact Michelle at michelle.wright@ag.tamu.edu and she will connect you with someone from that subcommittee.



VOLUNTEERS THAT HAVE AGREED TO

REVIEW YOUR TENURE/PROMOTION

DOCUMENTS OR NON-NEAFCS
JOURNAL ENTRY FOR YOU.

Read about our 2023 National **Award Winners Monthly!**

Learn more about the award winners and get inspired at https://neafcs.memberclicks.net/2023-award-winners.

The deadline to apply is March 15th!





Have a question about awards or previous award winners? Contact the VP of Awards and Recognition, Donna Jung, at donna.stangl@okstate.edu



Professional Development Webinars are Waiting for You!

Marcia Parcell (IN), VP Professional Development

Did You Miss the Annual Session Proposal Deadline?

NEAFCS has many member benefits. One of those benefits is providing professional development via webinars. Did your schedule not allow you to complete the proposal process for the 2024 Annual Session? The Professional Development Webinar Committee would appreciate your submitting a webinar proposal for later this year. They are looking for a few more good webinars to complete their schedule of webinars before the 2024 Annual Session Under One Sky in Tucson, Arizona in September.

Presenting the webinar virtually can be a home run. First, the proposal will be peer-reviewed, as is the proposal for Annual Session. The second win is your webinar will be presented from the comfort of your location. Third, the webinar will be archived on the NEAFCS website. This means NEAFCS members can view your webinar at their convenience. On a side note, I plan to view the February webinar, "Canning with a Twist: 5 Approaches to Food Preservation," which I missed due to a booked schedule. Another win, I feel, is that you can attend more sessions at Annual Session because you do not have a session to present. **Please submit your webinar proposal.**

You submit a webinar proposal by going to Professional Development on the NEAFCS website. You will scroll through information about Upcoming Webinars and Webinar Archives to Webinar Proposal Submission. You will find the link to click to submit a proposal.



Don't hesitate to contact Marcia Parcell, VP of Professional Development, should you have questions or need assistance with this process. Her email is mparcell@purdue.edu

Busy Making a Difference in February

Chris Zellers (NJ), VP Public Affairs

February has been a busy month for all of the committees in Public Affairs. The Education committee received 254 impact statements from affiliates across the nation. Volunteers from the education committee spent the month of February compiling the impact statements into the NEAFCS report. Many thanks to members of the education committee who worked diligently to frame the collective programming and outreach of our members to create a resource to share with stakeholders.



The advocacy committee was gearing up for Living Well Month in March by encouraging members to use the templates they created. There are several



great resources that make it easy for affiliates to include Living Well Month information in various ways, from proclamations to Facebook posts. The marketing committee is bringing back the elevator speech contest and working on promotion ideas and criteria to help members elevate themselves. Please be on the lookout for updates on the work the Public Affairs committee is doing and if you are interested in sharing your talents with one of the committees,

please feel free to reach out.

Don't forget to use the Living Well Month logo with your email signature if your institution permits it.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments about public affairs, contact Christine at zellers@njaes.rutgers.edu



So, You've Applied for An Award...Now What?

Donna Jung, (OK) NEAFCS Vice President for Awards and Recognition

Today is the deadline to apply/submit for NEAFCS awards. It may be tempting to heave a deep sigh of relief that awards season is finally over. But wait...not so fast! Awards submissions may be over but there is still so much more to do.

WHAT NEXT:

The next step is for each affiliate to complete the state winner form with the list of winners they want to submit for regional and/or national award consideration. Once these applications are submitted, they will be sent to the judges for scoring in each category at both the regional and national levels. **Notifications to winners and non-winners alike will be sent out in early May.**

Then, of course, the regional and national award winners will be recognized in high style at the NEAFCS conference in Tuscan, Arizona. Expect lots of smiles, sparkles, and thundering applause!

BUT FIRST...

Before we get to the fun stuff, we need to recruit award judges. By now, you should have received an email from me if you are an Affiliate President or VP of Awards and Recognition. I will be looking for members to step up and support their colleagues by judging awards. And don't forget: You can still be a judge even if you signed up for regional or national consideration. There are a lot of awards categories that need judging, so there is sure to be one you haven't applied for that would be perfect for you to judge.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments about awards, contact Donna at donna.stangl@okstate.edu



90th Anniversary-Challenge your State!

Christine Kniep (WI), NEAFCS Historian

Celebrating our 90th year at the national, affiliate and individual levels is one of the goals of the 90th Anniversary Committee. Two individual/affiliate level challenges will be shared with affiliate leaders at the JCEP Leadership Conference in February:



- **90 Ways to Celebrate our 90th Anniversary** 90 suggestions for celebrating our 90th Anniversary including both individual and affiliate activities. See how many activities you can complete by September 2024!
- **90**th **Anniversary Video Contest** creating a video, 90 seconds or less that features the NEAFCS Creed. Submissions are due July 1, 2024. The top five videos will be premiered at Annual Session 2024 and posted to the NEAFCS Website.

WHERE TO FIND ALL THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY INFO: Go to neafcs.org and on the front page, there is a link to all the 90th anniversary information or type https://neafcs.memberclicks.net/90th-anniversary into your web browser.

We are hoping <u>ALL</u> NEAFCS members accept these challenges and become part of our yearlong celebration!

To help the committee connect directly with affiliates, we are asking each affiliate to identify a contact person for the 90th Anniversary activities. Please submit your affiliate's contact information to Cindy Thompson at cpthom08@iastate.edu



Email Chris at ctkniep@new.rr.com with questions, concerns, or information you'd like to share!

Outreach Strategies in Extension Educational Programs to Foster Inclusion

Lorrie Coop (TX), Diversity Committee Member

In educational programs within Cooperative Extension, fostering inclusion requires intentional outreach strategies. Here are several approaches to promote diversity and ensure that Extension programs are accessible and welcoming to all:

Culturally Tailored Outreach: Develop outreach materials and messages that resonate with diverse cultural backgrounds. Translate materials into multiple languages and utilize culturally relevant imagery to ensure inclusivity.

Community Partnerships: Forge partnerships with local community organizations that have established connections within diverse populations. Collaborate on outreach events, workshops, or informational sessions to reach a broader audience.

Targeted Marketing: Utilize targeted marketing strategies through social media, community bulletin boards, and local publications. Tailor messages to address the specific needs and interests of various demographic groups.

Accessible Platforms: Ensure that information about Extension programs is available through diverse channels, including online platforms, community centers, and local gathering spaces. This can enhance accessibility for individuals with different communication preferences.

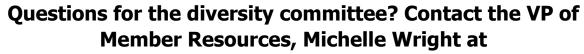
Inclusive Event Planning: Plan events with inclusivity in mind, considering factors such as venue accessibility, diverse food options, and accommodating schedules. Create an environment where everyone feels comfortable and represented.

Flexible Program Formats: Offer flexible program formats, such as online courses, evening classes, or weekend workshops, to accommodate individuals with diverse schedules and commitments.

Feedback Mechanisms: Establish open feedback mechanisms to understand the experiences and needs of participants. Use this feedback to continually adapt and improve Extension programs to be more inclusive.

Scholarship and Financial Support: Provide scholarship opportunities or financial support to reduce barriers to participate, particularly individuals from underprivileged backgrounds.

By implementing these outreach strategies, Cooperative Extension educational programs can promote inclusion and ensure that their offerings cater to the community's diverse needs.



michelle.wright@ag.tamu.edu





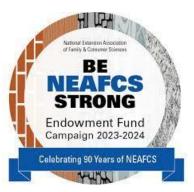
Celebrating 90 Years in 2024

Dianne Gertson Drennan (TX), Past President & Endowment Committee Member

As we reflect on the first 90 years of NEAFCS, one of the major accomplishments was the establishment of our very own endowment. **The initial goal was \$300,000. This amount was reached in 2016.** Since then, the endowment has provided scholarships and grants to our members as well as funding special projects.



How does the endowment work, you ask? The



principal amount is permanently invested and only a portion of the interest is utilized to provide benefits to our members. We are currently in the midst of our Be NEAFCS Strong campaign. This campaign is in celebration of our 90th anniversary. By growing the principal amount, the earned interest will be greater

thus allowing for additional members to benefit from the scholarships, grants and special projects.

Thank you to those who have donated over the years to support the NEAFCS Endowment. The Endowment Committee is inviting all members to contribute and Be NEAFCS Strong!



If you have questions or concerns for the endowment committee, contact the endowment chair, Terri Mayhew. Her email is mmayhew1@nycap.rr.com

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, posted on our website, and included in our historical records.



Past

It is with great pleasure I share the first set of stories from the Missouri Affiliate, featuring:

Past-Denise Sullivan-Life Member, Retired

- **Present-Carrie Elsen-MEAFCS President 2024**
- **Future-Sue Robison-MEAFCS Treasurer 2024**

National Extension Association

of Family & Consumer Sciences

Celebrating 90 Years in 2024

Denise Sullivan

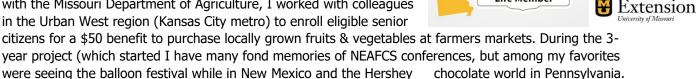
Retired Life Member



My name is Denise Sullivan and I retired in January 2024 from the University of Missouri Extension as the Jackson County Nutrition and Health Education Specialist. My 7 years in Missouri capped off a 38-year Extension career, having previously worked for Extension in Kansas for 28 years and Texas for just under 3 years. I have been a member of NEAFCS for my entire career and served in numerous leadership positions, including president of the Kansas affiliate and secretary of the Missouri affiliate.

I joined NEAFCS because I was invited! I quickly realized that membership was a way to learn and grow as a young professional. Not only did it allow me to connect with colleagues in my state, but I also met peers in other states, many who became good friends. My favorite impactful project with MU Extension was the Senior

Farmers Market Nutrition Program. Through a partnership with the Missouri Department of Agriculture, I worked with colleagues in the Urban West region (Kansas City metro) to enroll eligible senior



My wish for NEAFCS is innovation during challenging times and continued success for professional growth opportunities.



NEAFCS Network Newsletter: March 2024

PRESENT



My name is Carrie Elsen, and I am honored to be the 2024 Missouri Extension Family Consumer Science (MEAFCS) President. Several

years ago, I made the decision to join this organization, and I would not be the person I am today without it. This organization has provided me with the valuable tools and support to flourish and lead in my profession. The ability to network among colleagues nationally and ample professional development opportunities has been invaluable.

My favorite project has been the NEAFCS Leadership Experience. The Leadership Experience was created to empower the next generation of NEAFCS leaders, giving extension professionals the opportunities for growth in leadership. I will be forever grateful for the personal growth, connections, and collaborations obtained from this experience. I am ecstatic about my continued involvement within the NEAFCS Members Resources, Mentoring and Leadership Subcommittee, "Leadership Experience."

As Missouri's president, I have been given the highest

honor to represent and up uphold our mission of supporting, promoting, and recognizing MEAFCS educators. Missouri continually strives to offer professional development opportunities for our members. In recent years, our educators have successfully advanced our educational offerings in the virtual setting to help broaden our reach to our Missouri participants. My wish for the organization is to continually grow, developed, and flourished our profession to meet people's needs where every they are!

FUTURE

Hello, my name is Sue Robison, and I have been a NEAFCS member for 4 years. I am a member of Missouri Extension Association of Family and Community Sciences affiliate. My story with NEAFCS began through the

encouragement of a colleague. The wealth of webinars initially drew me in, covering topics from food preservation to leadership and community engagement. These invaluable sessions have enriched my knowledge and equipped me with the professionalism needed to better serve the citizens in my role as a Nutrition and Health Specialist.

Joining NEAFCAS has been beneficial. The support and shared commitment from Extension colleagues from all over the nation to share their commitment to excellence have encouraged me to continue to grow and learn. NEAFCS has had a positive impact on my life and the lives of other members.

Today, as a State Officer, I desire to continue to foster professional development, provide avenues for sharing success stories, and invite our member's knowledge and skills. Through these efforts, I aim to create an environment where every member feels empowered and

National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences

Celebrating 40 Years in 2024

Sue Robison

MEAFCS Treasuer

Extension

University of Missouri

informed to serve their communities effectively. As NEAFCS celebrates its milestone, may the ongoing efforts of NEAFCS and the opportunities continue to provide for collaboration, growth, and making a lasting impact on the lives of those we serve. Here is to the next 90 years.



Meet a Board Member!

GET TO KNOW THE NEAFCS EXECUTIVE BOARD

Hometown: Rupert, ID

Thus far, what is your top career highlight? Getting through the promote and tenure process and earning tenure.

What advice would you give your younger self as a new educator? Learn to say no

Why are you a member of NEAFCS?

I enjoy the connection and collaboration of working with others that do similar work. I am serving in the organization to learn and use the skills I have to help continue the growth of NEAFCS.

If you did not work for Extension, what career would you have pursued? I would flip homes full time, and buy some rental properties to manage.

in Extension in one word







