The 2024 President Charity

Rick Griffiths (NM), NEAFCS President

As part of the Annual Session, it has become tradition that the President designates a charity to raise money for leading up to and at Annual Session. This year I have decided to follow the lead of our recent Past Presidents by using this opportunity to highlight ways we can invest back into ourselves and NEAFCS. This year, there are three different opportunities for you to choose to participate in; I encourage you to participate in the way or ways that seem most relevant to you.



The NEAFCS Star Donor Club, the Star Donor Club was started by the Awards and Recognition Sponsorship and Support Committee as a way for members to show their support for the Awards program and provide additional funds to enhance the work of the Awards Committee. You can join the Star Donor Club by making a \$50 donation to the Star Donor Club, the Club is limited to 100 members each year. To join the Star Donor Club, follow the link on the NEAFCS Homepage.

The NEAFCS Endowment, The Endowment Committee has set a goal of raising an additional \$90,000 for the Association's 90th Anniversary. All funds donated to the Endowment are held in perpetuity and invested in the Endowment Account. Each year, the Finance Committee designates a portion of the investment gains to return to the Endowment Committee to be used for membership grants to support innovative programming and now endowment scholarships to attend Annual Session. This is a great way to support the Association's future for years to come. To reach their \$90,000 - 90th Anniversary Goal, the Endowment Committee is asking members to consider donating \$90.00 to the endowment in 2024. More information can be found by following the link on the NEAFCS Homepage.

Invest in yourself! Attending a relevant NEAFCS webinar or apply for the NEAFCS Leadership Experience. Create a plan to apply for the NEAFCS Endowment Grant or a National Award. Join a State or National Committee. There are many ways we can invest in ourselves through NEAFCS.I would like to thank everyone who chooses to participate in the President's Charity in advance



National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences



What YOU Need to Know NOW in NEAFCS!

National Office Staff

- NEAFCS Endowment Grant and Annual Session Scholarships Deadline May 15
- NEAFCS Annual Session Pre-Planning Available Registration expected to open late
 May
- Annual Session Hotel Discount Deadline August 12

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

Email all answers to Rick Griffiths rickgrif@nmsu.edu

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 <u>lap5981@illinois.edu</u>



Progress on Nutrition Security from the USDA

This spring, the USDA is <u>celebrating their second</u> <u>anniversary</u> of the USDA Food and Nutrition Security Initiative. As part of the celebration, <u>Agriculture Secretary</u> <u>Vilsack</u> celebrated the progress the department is making on tackling food and nutrition insecurity. Food and Nutrition service also published some <u>top</u> <u>accomplishments</u>.





Leadership Inspiration for May

Jennifer Bridge (KY), NEAFCS President-Elect

Inspiration from your NEAFCS President-Elect



^{රිරි}Leadership is the capacity to translate a vision into reality ୨၇

Jennifer Bridge (KY)

-WARREN BENNIS

Share comments, concerns, and questions with Jennifer at jennifer.bridge@uky.edu



Eastern Region Update

Jesse Ketterman (MD), Eastern Region Director

Spring is starting to settle in in the Eastern Region. With that comes the planning of summer affiliate meetings. It is a great time to reconnect with your colleagues throughout the state. It sure is good to see people face to face again. Members in the region have been busy with conferences. Several



attended ELC and PILD. Others mentioned conferences like the Pennsylvania Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Conference and the Extension Risk Management and Education Conference. It is also time to start planning for the Regional Business Meetings at Annual Session.

We will need volunteers for the Credential Committee, Recorders, Reviewers, Parliamentarian, and Tellers to name a few. It is important to volunteer when the request come out.



Share comments, concerns, and questions with Jesse at

jketterm@umd.edu

Time to Get Active in NEAFCS!

Michelle Wright (TX), Appointed VP Member Resources

Have you ever wondered about the powerful impacts that are often associated with becoming more active in NEAFCS? If not, hold on to your hat because I want to share a few with you!

Representation - Being more active ensures that your voice is heard and represented at the national level. It gives you the potential to shape policies, regulations, and standards that will affect our profession nationwide.

Networking and Partnerships - Networking opportunities are limitless at this level. This broadens your professional circle, fosters collaboration on projects, and opens doors to new career opportunities.

Amazing Professional Development - NEAFCS is at the top of its game in professional development! NEAFCS offers a host of professional development opportunities throughout the year in the form of webinars, forums, etc., which can be viewed from the comfort of your desk!

So, get active in NEAFCS and watch your FCS journey soar to new heights. Getting active in our professional association will undoubtedly lead to a strategic investment in your career! Get moving and enjoy!



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



Read all about our 2023 National Award Winners Monthly!

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



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



Professional Development for and by NEAFCS Members

Marcia Parcell (IN), VP Professional Development

Currently, the anticipated 2024 Annual Session, "Under One Sky" is taking shape as educators confirm presenting their concurrent session or poster. Thank you to all the educators and teams, who submitted proposals for the 90th Anniversary of NEAFCS to provide professional development for our members. These sessions are only part of the professional development provided.



For the first time, accepted presenters are encouraged to submit Proceedings for their sessions. A professional development team is developing guidelines for submitting the Proceedings. Writing the Proceedings can be another professional development opportunity for educators to build the skill of sharing about their programming. In turn, publishing the Proceedings is a new means to provide NEAFCS members greater benefits to connect with educators, who are doing work that interests them.

NEAFCS members also have additional professional development opportunities for pre-conference and in-depth sessions due to the great work of the liaisons and team in Arizona. While participating in Annual Session, you can always be networking. I also cannot forget the meeting of mentors and mentees in the Leadership Experience. **First Timers to Annual Session are also provided special sessions to optimize their opportunities**. NEAFCS members plan now for your professional development at Annual Session.

If you cannot attend Annual Session, remember to check archived and upcoming webinars. Let Me Tell You What You Need and Habit Shift Mindset are the newest archived webinars. **Thank you to NEAFCS members for presenting these webinars and for planning Annual Session.** NEAFCS provides many professional development formats.



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

NEAFCS Network Newsletter: May 2024

PILD Conference & Why Impact Statements are Important

Chris Zellers (NJ), VP Public Affairs

This April I had the pleasure of attending the Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) Conference in Washington DC on behalf of



NEAFCS. The PILD conference is an opportunity for Cooperative Extension professionals to visit Capitol Hill and share our impact with representatives, but it is so much more. I had the opportunity to visit cross-disciplinary concurrent sessions and learn about what other states are doing not only in FCS but also in 4-H and Agriculture. There were network opportunities as well, but **I think the**



thing that left a mark on me was that despite being a second-generation Extension professional, PILD gave meaning to things I didn't even know I didn't know. It allowed me to better understand the big picture of Cooperative Extension and feel a part of the greater good.

When I returned from PILD I had two colleagues ask me **why should they contribute to the NEAFCS impact statements**. I told them about PILD and how it is an opportunity to address funding for our programs on a large scale and again they said, "well why do I need to submit impact statements to NEAFCS, how does that demonstrate local impact?" When you look at the number of people who have been impacted by FCS' reach collectively through NEAFCS' Impact statements its eye-opening. When you meet with a local representative why not take the NEAFCS Impact Statement along and say to them, "this is what we do nationally in my profession, and we have a lot to offer". I'm sure it will WOW that representative, so utilize the Impact Statements by carrying them along to explain what we do or email them to people and represent our wow factor!

The marketing committee did an incredible job making info

graphics for all of the impact statements. Be sure to check them out and use them to promote NEAFCS member's hard work! Many thanks to the committee members and the chairs of all three committees for doing such great work!



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

COMING SOON: Becoming a 2024 NEAFCS Ambassador

Jessica Trussell (MO), Ambassador Committee Member

Are you ready to step up and shine as a beacon of positivity, professionalism, and passion? The NEAFCS Ambassador Committee is on the lookout for outstanding members like you to represent your state, association, and profession at the upcoming Annual Session in Tucson, Arizona!

As an Ambassador, you'll be the face of NEAFCS, dedicated to supporting and assisting speakers, exhibitors, and fellow attendees throughout the event. But it's not just about putting on a smile – it's about making meaningful connections and leaving a lasting impression.



What's in it for you? Well, besides the chance to showcase your skills and expertise, Ambassadors will have the opportunity to:

- * Host concurrent sessions and serve as ignite hosts
- * Assist with special guests and provide support in the exhibit hall
- * Offer guidance and assistance to attendees
- ✤ Support the conference wherever needed

Does this sound like something you would enjoy? Then mark your calendars! The application portal will open later this month. Don't miss your chance to seize this incredible opportunity – head over to the NEAFCS website under Professional Development > <u>Ambassador Program</u> to apply.

The application deadline is July 8, 2024.

Selected Ambassadors will receive exclusive training on August 16, 2024, at 3:00 PM Eastern. *If you cannot make it to the live session, no problem – just watch the recording within 7 days.*

Remember, **this Ambassador appointment is for the current Annual Session only**, so don't let this chance slip through your fingers. Join us in making a difference and shining bright at NEAFCS 2024 Annual Session!



If you have questions, concerns, or comments about the ambassadors, contact Lisa Peterson, Secretary, at lap5981@illinois.edu

Celebrating Our Past and Future in NEAFCS

Melinda Daily (KS), Endowment Committee Member

As I look back through my years as an NEAFCS member, I remember Jean Clarkson-Frisbie, a past NEAFCS National President in 1999, promoting the NEAFCS Endowment everywhere she went. I don't recall anyone else promoting it as much in my state as Jean did. And with good reason -- **the endowment has great opportunities that provide scholarships and grants to our members as well as funding special projects.**



Now, think of your future in NEAFCS and how the endowment can work for you. First of all, this is our organization's 90th year. I can see our younger generation coming up with new and inventive programming in the future. What better way to celebrate the 90th year with everyone donating \$90.00 to the endowment and then looking for opportunities to receive grants or scholarships through the endowment.

Donations can be one-time, a two-year pledge, or monthly payments. You can also donate in honor or in memory of a colleague. Because of Jean Clarkson-Frisbie and her enthusiasm I will be donating in her memory.

Go to <u>www.neafcs.org</u> and click on About NEAFCS \implies then Endowment \implies and donate.

Thank you again for considering donating to the NEAFCS Endowment. Please help us Be NEAFCS Strong as we celebrate 90 amazing years!

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



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.

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

- * Past-Carol Schlitt-Life Member, Retired
- * Present-Staci Coussens-IEAFCS President 2024
- Future-Emily Harmon



Carol Schlitt, Employed by University of Illinois Extension 1976-1981; 1991-2010 Member of NEAFCS: 26 years (active) 14 years retired (Life member) Current job title: **Retired but owner of 2 companies**.

My biggest program efforts at the time of my retirement in 2010 was conducting Dining with Diabetes sessions and teaching food sanitation in southern Illinois. I would typically do two to three. 3- part sessions each month in the Dining with Diabetes program. I would also teach a 5-hour Food Sanitation Refresher Course required by the Illinois Department of Public Health for Food Sanitation Managers, usually teaching two to three monthly sessions.

Reason for joining NEAFCS -- I joined NEAFCS (then NAEHE) in 1976 when I got my first job as an assistant Home Economics Advisor in St. Clair County. My boss told me that I needed to join...so I did.

Memory from an NEAFCS event: I will always remember my last day as President of NEAFCS in St. Paul MN when I got hit in the eye with a bungee cord and missed the Annual Business Meeting.



My wish for the association: I wish for NEAFCS to expand their awards and scholarship offerings to their membership and continue to provide innovative professional growth and development opportunities.



NEAFCS Network Newsletter: May 2024

PRESENT



My name is Staci Coussens and I have worked for University of Illinois Extension for 12 years. I have been a member of IEAFCS and NEAFCS for 6 of those years. **I am a SNAP-Ed educator** which means my programming is not traditional Extension programming, but I work with community partners to change policies, systems, and environments to make the healthy choice the easy choice for SNAP eligible families.

Biggest Programming Efforts- One project I am working on currently is supporting a federally qualified health center make their food pharmacy program stronger and more data driven while also supporting the pantry that supplies the foods for the program in procuring foods that meet the specific criteria to be in the food pharmacy selection.

Reason for joining NEAFCS-- I joined NEAFCS so I could connect with other FCS professionals. I wanted to find more people like me that I could brainstorm with and just talk to who understands Extension.

My wish for the association is to continue to support FCS professionals in Extension for another 90 years!

FUTURE



Emily Harmon, 5 years with University of Illinois Extension, 1 year with IEAFCS. As a **Family Life Educator**, I provide healthy living/healthy aging programming in my local counties as well as across the state

One of the current program efforts- I am the most excited about is the development of a rural health series that is targeted at traditionally low-income jobs in health care for professional development. Reliable health education in rural communities has been identified as an emerging need. The Illinois Extension FCS team is addressing this need by providing health education to rural healthcare workers in the nursing home/assisted living setting for them to gain valuable information and gain continuing education credits. Our hope is that that this information will improve their overall well-being and encourage them to keep providing healthcare in our rural communities.

Reason for joining NEAFCS-Before I became an FCS Educator (FCS Agent) I worked within various positions in Extension. I saw all the wonderful things NEAFCS/IEAFCS did for its members. The biggest reason I joined was to gain professional development that was completely applicable to my field.

Attending my first national conference with my lovely colleagues and creating strong bonds with them. Also having the sense of, 'this is where I belong and fit in.'

My wish for the association is that it continues to grow and emphasizes the mission and how crucial our work is across the nation



Spreading the NEAFCS Message

Mindy McCulley (KY), Marketing and Public Relations Subcommittee Chair

\$1,663,430,722!!! with a B! I don't know about you, but that number is hard for me to wrap my head around. Can you imagine how much larger that number would be if EVERYONE in NEAFCS who is conducting financial management programs reported their programming numbers?

The goal of the Marketing and Public Relations Committee is to share the message of the great works performed by NEAFCS members in a relevant and relatable way. When you report the work that is being done in your state then you have done half of our job for us . . . you have gathered the data, now we just have to put it in a format that is easy for you to share!





So, to that end we have created a couple of ways that you can share the work that we are doing across the nation. The **Impact at a Glance** infographic (see Chris Zellers Article) shares the contact numbers gathered from nationwide.

While these numbers are great, they truly only reflect about 20% of our nation. In addition to the social square (figure 1) referenced in the first paragraph, ten more NEAFCS Impact 2024 social squares highlight the work reported nationwide. Both of these resources can be found on the Public Affairs page on the NEAFCS website.

The impact of the national work will be even greater if you couple it with the work that has been done in your state. So, we have provided editable graphics that mirror the national graphics, for your use. You will find a link and QR code at the end of this article for the editable resources. We recommend downloading and sharing a national graphic

and a state graphic together or a state graphic and a local graphic together. This helps your clientele make the connection between local, state, and national work.

On the infographic template, simply edit the state name in the descriptor paragraph, and update the data. You may change the contact information to your local information if you wish.

For the social square template, on each square you will need to:

- edit the state symbol in the top left corner.
- edit the data.

Of course, the stories behind the data are the **Impact Statements** which are also found on the Public Affairs page. These statements inform stakeholders of the vital and valuable work that happens throughout the nation each and every day. Thank you for all that you do and for taking the time to share your story. Without your story, the data is just numbers.

You can access the two editable resources at:





https://bit.ly/StateImpact2024



https://bit.ly/StateImpactAtAGlance

Latest Leadership Experience Class is Chosen

Joy West (AR), Mentoring and Leadership Committee Chair

Of the many opportunities NEAFCS offers, participating in the Leadership Experience may be the most beneficial. This program helps you develop the skills and confidence needed to improve leadership skills.

The Leadership Experience program was developed to grow leaders from within



EXPERIENC

the association through Professional Development and Mentoring. It enhances the opportunities and skills for Mentees by providing guidance, support, encouragement, and empowerment needed for a successful career. This is done by focusing on developing skills in self-confidence, self-esteem, job satisfaction, work-life balance, and more.



Mentees are matched with an experienced Mentor. These Mentors are given the opportunity to share their knowledge and passion for FCS and NEAFCS, while positively impacting the life of another

professional. They often find they are also renewing their own inspiration to grow as Extension professionals by gaining new insights from their Mentee.

The committee chose nine mentees and paired them with nine excellent mentors. We are so excited these individuals are willing to invest in developing their leadership skills or in the abilities of others. We are pleased to announce the following cohort pairs this year:

- > Sara Attig (IL) mentee will be mentored by Brad Averill (GA)
- > Alicia Boatwright (AR) mentee will be mentored by Caroline Everidge (IN)
- > Haily Burgher (IA) mentee will be mentored by Roxie Price (GA)
- > Chi Catalone (PA) mentee will be mentored by Susan Conner (TN)
- > Jenna Dyckman (UT) mentee will be mentored by Christi Demitz (MI)
- Jessica Gardner (NC) mentee will be mentored by Anna Mae Kobbe (PA)
- Anna Goff (AR) mentee will be mentored by Lora Lee Howard (KY)
- > Katie Golden (AR) mentee will be mentored by Darlene Minniefield (AL)
- Maria Gonzales (LA) mentor will be mentored by Diana Romano (OK)

Although not all applicants were chosen for this year, we encourage those applicants and all of you to apply next year for the Leadership Experience.



We are excited about these Leadership Experience Mentees and Mentors and wish them success as they are investing in themselves, their profession, and their future in NEAFCS. We look forward to great things this year with this cohort!

NEAFCS Member Resources: Membership Committee

Jackie E. Ogden, (GA), Membership Committee Member

In 2024, NEAFCS, your professional organization for Extension Family and Consumer Sciences is celebrating our 90th Anniversary! I encourage you to visit the NEAFCS website to review and complete your Member Profile under the "My Features" tab on the NEAFCS website. Then you can select and join one or more of the NEAFCS 13 Committees.

The Membership Committee extends an invitation to you to join this committee to participate and engage in promoting NEAFCS membership in the categories of Active Member, Associate Member, Life Member, Student Member and Partner Member. This committee meets quarterly by Zoom, in-person at the NEAFCS annual conference or as new opportunities develop throughout the year.



The Membership Committee is looking forward to welcoming you to the 90th NEAFCS Annual Conference, September 16-19, 2024, in Tucson, Arizona. The Membership Committee annually hosts a welcome event for **First-Timer NEAFCS Conference** attendees and this year this event will take place on Monday, September 16th at 1:00 pm with a conference orientation and door prizes. NEAFCS leaders and members will be available to answer your individual questions to prepare you for a fantastic NEAFCS educational conference experience!

As a member in NEAFCS, you have the professional opportunity to be involved in an association that links to the needs of Family and Consumer Sciences educators, who impact the quality of life for individuals, families, and communities.

The NEAFCS Member Resources: Membership Committee promotes the **seven key benefits** of Extension Family and Consumer Sciences and the mission and goals of the Land Grant University Extension System.

- 1. Provides members with a **NEAFCS NETWORKING** membership base with 2,900+ fellow members that form a dynamic community to engage from coast to coast.
- 2. Provides up-to-date information to **STAY INFORMED** on the latest products, methods, resources, and technological advances to enhance the effectiveness of your Extension programs.
- 3. Provides **AFFORDABLE INVESTMENT** through your \$110 membership dues with endless opportunities for Extension professional growth.
- Provides **RECOGNITION** opportunities to present research and program impacts at professional conferences and in peer-reviewed publications and achieve recognition through our Regional and National Awards system.
- 5. Provides personal **GROWTH** opportunities to develop and enhance your personal leadership and management skills in addition to promotion and tenure.
- 6. Provides **Scholarships** to NEAFCS members to participate in conferences and sessions for JCEP, ELC, PILD and NEAFCS.
- Provides NEAFCS MEMBER DISCOUNTS to save money on registrations, in addition to providing free webinars for members.

Thank you for your NEAFCS membership and I extend an invitation to you to join the Member Resources: Membership Committee.



2024 Annual Conference Silent Auction: How you can help!

On behalf of the NEAFCS Awards Sponsorship Support Committee, I would like to extend a sincere **thank you** to everyone who donated and purchased items at our Silent Auction in Portsmouth, RI. Your generous contribution helps to fund the resources needed for quality awards and recognition activities.

The 2023 efforts were profitable, and fun, and create a great opportunity for collaboration and team building. A heartfelt thank you to the members who donated their time in Rhode Island to support the Silent Auction. Because of your hands-on support, the Silent Auction was a success.

Again, we are most appreciative of everyone's generosity and support of NEAFCS!

So, how can you help with the 2024 auction?

- 1. **Donate an item to the auction**: Share your creativity with a handmade craft, create a basket that displays what your state/county is famous for, or donate a "one size fits all" item.
- 2. **Volunteer in Arizona:** It takes many hands to create a successful silent auction. Once we have a schedule, an online sign-up system will be available.
- 3. **Serve on the committee**: I was asked by a friend to help volunteer... fast forward a few years and I am now the chair! Why? Because it is so much fun! The committee's responsibilities mostly take place at conferences and innately create the opportunity for you to network with fellow members. It is a wonderful opportunity to serve when you can only allot a limited amount of time.
- 4. Become a **Star Donor:** Our Star Donor Club (limited to 100 members) is a limited membership that shows your support to the NEAFCS Awards Program via a \$50 donation. In thanks, you'll receive an electronic badge to display as you wish and, if you attend Annual Session in person, you'll receive a gold star pin to denote your contribution to the success of the association!
- 5. **Bid, Bid!** Come to the auction tables and bring a friend. Enjoy some retail therapy while supporting an organization you love.



Get to Know the National Board

GET TO KNOW THE NEAFCS EXECUTIVE BOARD

Hometown: Meeker, OK

Thus far, what is your top career highlight?

Becoming a national officer and working with a great board/staff; as well as having the opportunity to work with NEAFCS members across the state/nation

What advice would you give your younger self as a new educator? It's ok to ask for help

What's your most-used productivity tip?

Schedule time throughout week/month to prepare for programs, meetings, events, etc.

If you did not work for Extension, what career would you have pursued? Caterer

DONNA JUNG VP of Awards & Recognition VORLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

