

HISTORICAL REPORT

By 2022-23 President Julie Garden-Robinson

Year 2022-23

President's Name Julie Garden-Robinson

Goals for the Year

- Use technology (including social media) to communicate regularly with members with announcements and through Town Hall Meetings.
- Encourage members to become more involved with their State Affiliate, with the Ambassador program and within committees at the National Level
- Provide high-quality professional development for members and the board.
- Develop networking opportunities for members.

List of Board Meetings

The board met monthly on Mondays using Zoom from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. CT, except for the week of the mid-year Board meeting and conference. The President's call with members of the executive team (President, Immediate Past-president, President-elect, VP of finance, Executive Director) usually preceded the meeting a few days in advance of the board meeting.

January 24-25, 2023: Mid-Winter Board meeting (by Zoom).

May 9-10, 2023: Mid-year Board meeting in Tampa, FL.

In addition, two NEAFCS Town Hall Meetings were held to provide updates and gather input from affiliate members: April 27, 2023 and July 25, 2023.

List of Leadership Workshops

February 7-8, 2023: Joint Council of Extension Professionals -Extension Leadership Conference (ELC), Kansas City, MO (served as co-vice-chair).

April 16-19, 2023: Joint Council of Extension Professionals – Public Issues Leadership Development Conference (PILD), Arlington, VA (served as co-vice-chair)

Annual Session Information

September 11-14, 2023, Convention Center - Providence, RI

Theme – Exploring Oceans of Opportunities

The professional development team cleverly used “sea themes” in the wording of the conference objectives:

- Sea ways to develop personally and professionally.
- Sail-a-brate a resilient, thriving you.
- Embark on Rhodes of opportunities for mentorship, team building, and connecting with FCS-mate.
- Dive into oceans of innovative approaches to education, policy, systems, and environmental change.

- Map out new funding and collaborative opportunities to navigate fresh program topic ideas.

Major Accomplishments

As a board, we planned the 2023 conference at a site without an affiliate and used a regional model for conference planning. We implemented an award system that made greater use of technology. We continued a successful ambassador program, relaunched Connecting with Colleagues, hosted professional development opportunities (webinars) that fostered connections across state lines, and created Impact Reports with social media posts for broad use. We began preliminary work on our next strategic plan, and we began plans for our 90th anniversary celebration to lead into the 100th anniversary celebration.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The following accomplishments were noted in 2023:

- Increased the total number of awards applicants from 2022 and saw growth in the number of applicants for previously under-applied-for awards (e.g. Human Development/Family Relationships).
- The Ceremony Subcommittee streamlined the RSVP process for award winners in order to make the process more efficient for both winners and staff.
- Re-secured sponsorship of the Extension Housing Outreach Award from Montana State University and the Housing Extension Research Association.
- Recruited over twice as many members willing to serve as awards judges.
- Successfully used the Review Panel system to judge awards this year.
- NEAFCS Hall of Fame, which was launched in 2019, continued in 2023 with two recipients of this honor selected with the use of a new rubric for consistency in the selection process. The following two Hall of Fame members were recognized.

Theresa (Terri) Mayhew began her Cornell Cooperative Extension career as a resource educator in Columbia County, New York in November of 1990. She delivered numerous programs in her county and was recognized with the Distinguished Service Award in 2001 and the Continued Excellence Award in 2003. Terri held affiliate leadership positions at the state, including New York affiliate president in 1998. Terri retired from Columbia and Greene Counties on January 29, 2021. Terri has been an NEAFCS Active Member, and now Life Member, for more than 30 years. From 2011-2018, she served as the NEAFCS Eastern Region Director, Vice President for Public Affairs, President-elect, President and Past President for NEAFCS. Despite being retired, Terri's commitment remains. She currently chairs the NEAFCS Endowment Committee, served as a tri-liaison for the 2019 conference in Hershey, PN and actively helped with the conference in RI. In addition, she served on the Joint Commission of Extension Professionals (JCEP) conference from 2015–18 and was the chair of the Public Issues Leadership Development Conference in 2018. During her speech, Terri acknowledged her husband Mark, who has helped with numerous conferences. She has worked hard to provide innovative professional development and has served as a mentor to many NEAFCS board members

Barbara Tricinella served as a Family and Consumer Sciences County Educator and Community Nutrition Education Program (CNEP) Area Coordinator in Oklahoma. Known as the “Food Safety Expert” and a “Rock Star Educator” in her state, Barbara taught food safety education in the Tulsa area in English and Spanish and developed content for the growing Spanish-speaking population in the food service area. She had an early morning TV segment about current issues in family and consumer sciences in Tulsa. Barbara was the mentor to several of Oklahoma’s members and encouraged them to serve on NEAFCS committees and to run for an office. Barbara has been a member of NEAFCS since 1981. She has served in various leadership roles and officer positions, including her roles as the NEAFCS annual meeting Site Coordinator (1990), Southern Region Director (1995), and NEAFCS President-Elect, President and Past President from 1995-1998. During this time, she also served as JCEP Secretary (1996) and on the JCEP Galaxy I Conference Planning Committee in Cincinnati (1997). Barbara has worked diligently on efforts to support and promote knowledge of quality-of-life issues in family and consumer sciences. She has encouraged state specialists and county educators to become involved with NEAFCS. Barbara is highly deserving of recognition for her county, state and national leadership, mentorship and educational outreach efforts in her long career.

MEMBER RESOURCES

- Member Resources includes the Diversity Committee, the Membership and Life Members Committee, the Journal Editorial Committee, and the Mentoring and Leadership Committee in creating and following their action plans.
- The affiliate Vice Presidents of Member Resources were encouraged to identify new ways to share the many advantages of membership in the NEAFCS organization.
- A high-quality journal was produced in 2023, and it is housed on the NEAFCS website.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

One hundred nine proposals, including 92 Concurrent and 17 Showcase of Excellence Proposals were submitted. Of the submissions, 73 proposals were accepted (63 Concurrent Sessions [68% acceptance rate] and 10 Showcase of Excellence [58% acceptance rate]). The Program Committee co-chairs provided two webinars, one on submitting a proposal and one on how to review a proposal.

The Annual Session Planning Committee – Tri-Liaisons were Shauna Henley (Delaware), Maria Pippidis and Gina Crist (Maryland) and Eastern Region Director, Jesse Ketterman. Tri-Liaisons and committee members met monthly to plan the Annual Session in Rhode Island. Tri-Liaison, Shauna Hensley, pursued and obtained a \$50,000 USDA grant to support the 2023 Annual Session.

First-timer’s scholarships were awarded to members to attend JCEP conferences. In 2023, 29 scholarships were awarded, including 18 scholarships for the Extension Leadership Conference and 11 scholarships for the Public Issues Leadership Development conference.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

- NEAFCS was well represented with thirty-two members attending JCEP-PILD.
- Eight impact statements were created by members of the Education committee along with other NEAFCS members through many hours of writing and editing by committee

members. The statements were created using information submitted by affiliates and formatted by the national office. Printed copies of the statements were shared with PILD participants to distribute to elected leaders during their congressional visits. Copies were emailed to NIFA and other program leaders to create a better understanding of the valuable work of our members.

- The marketing committee created a social media post for each statement. They also made the graphics fluid so affiliates could update for statewide or local use.
- Based on the data reflected in the impact statements and infographics, NEAFCS was asked to serve on the Extension Health Metrics Workgroup. The goal of the group is to gather state information and develop metrics at the national level by which Cooperative Extension can access and communicate the results of health-related work.

NEAFCS had 32 Family and Consumer Sciences individuals to attend Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) – JCEP in Arlington, VA. The Impact Statements comprised the categories listed below:

- Childhood Obesity Prevention
- Community Health and Wellness
- Diabetes Prevention and Management
- Disaster Preparedness
- Family Stability and Vitality
- Financial Management
- Food and Nutrition
- Food Safety
- Housing and Environment

First Time Events, Activities, Happenings, etc.

- Notable updates this year include updating the Joint Council for Extension Professionals (JCEP) representation section to align with the organization's new executive board calendar which sees the associations presidents-elects join the JCEP board May 1st following their election, and immediate past presidents remaining on the JCEP board until May 1st following the expiration of their association term.
- The action plan process, the process was updated to require committees to submit action plans for the coming year by June 1st.
- We began planning for the 90th anniversary in 2024, naming a 12-member committee from throughout the U.S. headed by former NEAFCS president, Christine Kniep.
- We began preparations for the strategic plan development (under 2024 president).
- In 2023, a rubric was designed to help with selection of our Hall of Fame award winners. Two outstanding lifetime members were honored with the Hall of Fame Award in Providence, RI.
- We continued our affiliation with the Alliance for FCS and connected our organizations.

2022-23 Board Members

- Julie Garden-Robinson, President - North Dakota

- Rick Griffiths, President-Elect - New Mexico
- Susan Routh, Immediate Past President- Oklahoma
- Lisa Peterson, Secretary - Illinois
- Glenn Sturm, Treasurer - Virginia
- Marcia Parcell, Vice President for Professional Development – Indiana
- Gina Lucas, Vice President for Member Resources - Missouri followed by Michelle Wright, Texas, after Gina's resignation
- Samantha Kennedy, Vice President for Awards and Recognition - Florida
- Jennifer Bridge, Vice President for Public Affairs - Kentucky
- Jesse Ketterman, Eastern Region Director - Maryland
- Dianne Christensen, Western Region Director - New Mexico
- Keishon Thomas, Southern Region Director - Georgia
- Cindy Thompson, Central Region Director - Iowa
- Christine Kniep, Historian - Wisconsin

2022-23 NEAFCS Membership (total): 2,908

Active Members: 1,767

Life Members: 1,103 (11 new in 2023)

Associate: 19

Transition Members: not a category anymore

Student Members: 3

Partner Members: 8

*We saw growth in the fairly new associate member category, which usually attracts paraprofessionals in Extension.

Dues: \$100.00 for the year

During the Annual Business Meeting held in conjunction with the 2023 NEAFCS Annual Session in Providence, Rhode Island, the membership voted to increase dues for the first time in 12 years. The dues increase is 10% across the board. The new membership rates are outlined below.

Active Members - \$110

Associate Members - \$55

Life Members - \$330

Student Members - \$55

Partner Members - \$110

Friend of Extension: Not applicable in 2023.

President's Charity

The President's Charity in 2023 was the NEAFCS Endowment, which provides grant funding to members. In 2023, two grant projects were funded. In honor of the upcoming 90th anniversary of NEAFCS and the "Be NEAFCS Strong" Endowment Fund Campaign for 2023-24, members

were encouraged to donate \$90 (in whatever way that worked for them) to support the Endowment Fund.

Where is the national office, who is the Executive Director and other staff members?

- National Office (Partners in Association Management) is in Tallahassee, FL
- Executive Director: Danielle Jessup, CMP
- Conference Planner: Elizabeth Lane
- Program Manager: Will Ferguson

2023 Annual Conference Attendance and Key Note Speakers

770 enthusiastic NEAFCS members attended the conference in Rhode Island, marking an increase post-pandemic.

The Opening Keynote Speaker was Rita Landgraf, Director of Government Affairs – Lead for Family Caregiving and University of Delaware’s Professor of Practice and Distinguished Health and Social Service Administrator in Resident. Rita’s presentation examined the factors that lead to health inequities, with these focus areas.

- 1) Acquire foundational knowledge of the social determinants of health/vital conditions of health, and the ways in which these broad determinants intersect with one another to widen health inequities;
- 2) examine current public health policy and resources, and the impact on communities;
- 3) acquire foundational principles and values of community engagement, and the shared stewardship model.

Jim Snack of the HUMOR Project was our closing speaker, who provided an entertaining talk using magic. In his program, we learned how to use humor to “tickle” stress before it “tackles” you; differentiate between stress reducing and stress producing humor; understand the role of humor in building resilience, health and wellness; and how to move from “yes, but” to “yes, and” thinking.

Was there a major concern or focus of the board this year?

There were no major concerns during 2022-23. We were pleased to be able to meet in person during the waning of the pandemic.

In closing, I was pleased to be the first president from North Dakota in the history of the organization and to learn that someone from my state was at the table when the association launched in 1934. I certainly appreciated all the creativity and work of officers and members as we continued our work as an association.

Submitted by:

Julie Garden-Robinson, June 2024

