

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 Ohio Affiliate, featuring:

* **Past-Marilyn Sach-Life Member, Retired**

* **Present-Misty Harmon-OEAFCS President 2024**

* **Future-Emma Horstman**

PAST

Marilyn Sachs was Home Economics Agent in Williams County, Ohio and a member of NEAFCS from 1991 until she retired in 2009.

Marilyn's mother, Bernice Smith, was a Home Demonstration Agent in Illinois, Hawaii, and Ohio from 1935-1951. Marilyn's daughter, Shannon Carter, has served as Family and Consumer Sciences Educator in Fairfield County, Ohio from 1998-2005, and again 2012 through the present.

A favorite memory of NEAFCS for Marilyn was presenting at Annual Meeting with her daughter. Marilyn and Shannon shared their unique story of 85 years of FCS Extension through three generations of educators in their family, from 1935-2020. They explored generational norms that influenced their decisions in balancing work and family and ways Extension helped audiences become resilient in the face of change.

For Bernice, Marilyn and Shannon, FCS as a career exemplifies the best of both worlds at home and at work. The name has changed over the years – home economics, applied human ecology, family and consumer sciences but the mission has stayed the same: to research and teach better practices for better living.

The job provides daily opportunities to apply what we learn on the job at home, and to apply what we learn at home on the job. Even in retirement, Marilyn is challenged to put into practice what she learned over the span of her career for a better living experience at home and in her community. **Our advice to new and current professionals - Practice what you teach and enjoy the journey!**



PRESENT



Present



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My name is Misty Harmon. For almost 8 years I have worked for Ohio State University Extension as the Family and Consumer Sciences Educator in Perry County (SE Region). I was just promoted to Assistant Professor in January. I provide FCS related programming in Perry County and across Ohio through statewide team efforts and/or collaborations with other educators.

My programming focuses on health and wellness. As a Mental Health First Aid Instructor, YMHFA Instructor, and teen MHFA Instructor, I provide programming about mental health and recognizing someone may be experiencing challenges. Other programming focuses on physical health, disease prevention, parenting, and food safety.

I have been a member of NEAFCS for 7.5 years. **When I started with Extension, I had two great mentors who encouraged me to join NEAFCS and to get involved with a committee.**

They reassured me I could switch committees if I decided one

wasn't for me. My mentors reinforced the importance of being involved in professional organizations and service to those organizations. I am grateful to have had their encouragement and support early in my Extension career.

One memory I have is when five Ohio educators were attending their first annual session in San Antonio. I remember feeling nervous and honored to be presenting to my peers from across the nation at my first national conference. It seems so long ago now.

My wish for NEAFCS is continued membership growth, increased recognition by others, and timely adaptation to the everchanging needs of the people we serve.

FUTURE

My name is Emma Horstman and I have been employed with The Ohio State University for six months as the Family and Consumer Science Extension Educator in Paulding County (NW Ohio). After a month in this position, I became a member of NEAFCS and traveled to Providence, Rhode Island for my first national conference. I joined NEAFCS and decided to attend a national conference so early to step out of my comfort zone and to hopefully spark some new interests.

This is my first job outside of school. I was blessed to have many opportunities so soon after graduating. I made countless memories in Providence. **My favorite memory from that week was the New Member Luncheon.** I attended by myself and sat at a table in the front of the ballroom. When I sat down, I met two nice ladies, Chris and Donna. I thought they were also attending their first conference, but I was wrong. Chris and Donna are life members! I received great advice and such kind words. Chris and Donna spoke to the entire room encouraging us to be "All In" as new members. I think of them often and cannot wait to meet with them again this year in Tucson.

Upon leaving the conference, I was inspired and have been using an add-on curriculum I learned in programming and activities! **My wish for this organization** is to continue their outstanding support of past, present, and future members, and for every NEAFCS member to be "All In."



Celebrating 90 Years in 2024



Emma Horstman



Future



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