

Virginia

Voices from the Past – Present – Future

Christine Kniep, NEAFCS Historian and the 90th Anniversary Committee

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 on-going 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 I share stories from the Virginia Affiliate, featuring:

Future – Naida Young

Past – Johanna Hahn

Present – April Payne

FUTURE - Nadia Young

Name, years of Extension employment, years of NEAFCS membership - Naida Young, first year of employment and first year of NEAFCS

Current job title and description of position/role - Associate extension agent - FCS ; providing education on nutrition, physical activity, food safety, foods, and lifestyle habits on wellness. Also helping others manage chronic diseases and prevent the onset of certain illnesses using dietary habits and activity

Description of one current program effort - prevent the onset of Type 2 Diabetes with this year long program focusing on lifestyle habits

Reason for joining NEAFCS - interested in the professional development opportunities - national conference, book club

Memory from an NEAFCS event (state, regional, or national) - excited to make my first memory in Arizona!

A wish for the association - continue to grow in it's membership by adding on new agents like me

Past - Johanna Hahn, Life Member

Retired from Cooperative Extension in 2023 after 44 years of service (NY & VA). I began career in Kingston, NY as a Home Economist; and retired as the Trainer for the VA Family Nutrition Program.

I'm proud of my efforts to recruit and train family day care providers in the mid 1990s for the Dept. of Social Services. I've served on the VEAFCFS board, and on the NEAFCS board as Southern Region Director, and VP for Awards & Recognition. My first Annual Session was in 1984, in New York City! My membership in NAEHE/NEAFCS has been an integral part of my professional life and have made lifelong friends , an added bonus!

PRESENT – April Payne

My name is April Payne and I've been with Cooperative Extension for ten years. I've been an NEAFCS member since 2020.

I am a Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent with Virginia Cooperative Extension. I mainly focus on nutrition education, food safety, chronic disease prevention, and physical activity programming.

I joined NEAFCS because it is a very impressive association with great professional development and excellent networking opportunities.

My favorite memory of an NEAFCS event would have to be the Leadership Event banquet at national conference in Providence, RI. I enjoyed connecting with colleagues and really met some wonderful individuals while enjoying a beautiful space.