

New Hampshire

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 a story from the New Hampshire Affiliate president:

Present: Ann Belisle Hamilton

I am in my 35th year of employment with the UNH Cooperative Extension and a 35-year member of NEAFCS. I joined the Association for professional development and leadership opportunities.

My role with Extension has changed over the years. I worked as a general family & consumer sciences educator for 22 years. As a Food Safety Field Specialist for the past 13 years, I have focused exclusively on food safety with the food service industry, food pantries, soup kitchens, home-based food businesses, poultry and rabbit producers, farmers' markets vendors, and home food preservation enthusiasts.

A program I redesigned, enhanced, and now co-present with a colleague is Safety Awareness in the Food Environment (SAFE) for Food Pantries. This is a 2-hour program on safe food handling topics for food pantries that would like to learn more about safe food handling in a pantry environment. It is also a training requirement for New Hampshire Food Bank member agencies that distribute food to people in their community.

One of my most memorable experiences with NEAFCS was at an annual session where there was a keynote speaker who worked with Mr. Rogers. The person shared a video of Mr. Rogers trying to put up a tent. I have never laughed so hard at an annual session. The experience has stuck in my memory ever since. For the actual show, the tent was already put up.

My wish for NEAFCS is that it continues to grow and support the wonderful work of all its members.