

New York

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 York Affiliate:

PAST

My name is Judy Price. I retired for the first time in 2002 from Cornell Cooperative Extension in Monroe County. My background as a generalist allowed me to teach nutrition, food safety, human development, and household environmental issues through workshops, local radio and television stations, and supervising volunteers on a consumer helpline. My extension career began as a part time program assistant in 1983. When I became a full time professional, I was able to join NEAFCS (known then as NAEHE). I gained much from belonging, interacting with and learning from colleagues, and holding various leadership positions, culminating as NYS Affiliate President in 2000.

The Food Safety Master Food Preserver program I developed with a colleague allowed me to continue teaching workshops on a part time basis after my retirement. We taught hundreds of extension educators and consumers who came from all over the country and Canada. I retired a second time in 2023, leaving the program in the capable hands of others.

At NEAFCS National Conferences, I learned much from colleagues. I applied for awards, and highlights were receiving the National First Place Communication Award in 1998 and the Distinguished Service Award in 2000. A favorite Conference was in South Dakota, including an evening at Mt. Rushmore and coming face to face (in a car) with a very large buffalo and her calf at Custer Park!

When you give of your time to an organization, you receive so much! I encourage new professionals to join and support NEAFCS.