

Central Region Update

Vanessa Hoines (ND), Central Region Director

Greetings from the Central region! Michigan is planning an Annual Session that you won't want to miss. Read on to find out about what is happening in the Central region. Affiliates have great ideas to connect with their members.



Ohio – Cheryl Spires

- Ohio affiliate members were matched up with Ohio lifetime members and they were sent a letter or card thanking them for their past and continued support of our organization. It was well-received by lifetime members and affiliate members were happy to let them know how much they are appreciated. They were able to update the lifetime members on current programming efforts.
- Margaret Jenkins, FCS Educator in Clermont County, is this year's Ohio Association of Family and Consumer Sciences President and she is working very hard to connect our two organizations to build, support and promote the Family and Consumer Sciences profession in all areas including Extension. We are looking forward to the Annual Session in Michigan and connecting with colleagues from around the world.

Iowa – Sara Sprouse

- April has been another busy month! The Iowa Affiliate held a Virtual Spring Social Event on April 27th. The event included a virtual afternoon tea party, virtual tour of the Brunner Art Museum on campus at Iowa State University, social time and prizes. A formal invitation with tea and a Scone for One recipe were sent to members prior to the event. Twenty-two members attended via Zoom, including four life members. A big SHOUT OUT to Iowa Affiliate Executive Board members Barbara Woods, Mackenzie Johnson, Danielle Day, Jill Weber, Lori Korhals, and Joy Rouse for their role in making the spring event a success! We appreciate your dedication and contributions!
- The Iowa Affiliate Executive Board has prioritized engaging our life members this year. Thirteen life members are now receiving the monthly affiliate email update and, as stated above, four attended the Virtual Spring Social Event.

Minnesota - Suzanne Driessen

- The Minnesota's Public Policy and Public Relations committee created a fact sheet with all of Minnesota's impacts that were submitted to the national portal. The Minnesota impact statement was shared with Extension administration and shared with Minnesota congressional representatives via Zoom session as part of the Public Institute Leadership Development Conference in April.
- The 2021 NEAFCS Minnesota Affiliate Professional Development Day is August 4, 2021 via Zoom. The theme is: Over the COVID Rainbow: Silver Lining and Sifting Through the Pieces. Presenters will highlight the silver lining and the gains made during COVID during the Over the COVID Rainbow session Zoom session. Topics will focus on the things we learned and relationships we built that maybe would not have happened had we not had COVID. Watch for registration details soon.

- The bylaws ad hoc committee is reviewing and updating the bylaws to be consistent with national NEAFCS bylaws.

Michigan - Georgina Perry and Kylie Rymanowicz

- Mindfulness A to Z: Kylie has written a book on mindfulness for kids and families. You can read more about the article here: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/mindfulness-a-to-z-book-helps-support-social-emotional-health>.
- Talking with Kids About Race: Vivian Washington and Kylie are in the process of developing a training for parents/caregivers on “Talking with Kids About Race.” They are currently piloting the program.
- Keeping Kids Safe Resources: The SAFE team (Kylie, Christine Heverly, Jodi Schulz and Janelle Stewart) is doing a lot of great work on creating resources for parents about how to prevent child sexual abuse. You can see the resources here: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/creating-safe-environments/resources>
- Heads In, Hearts In Family Engagement Materials: Jodi Schulz and Kylie have created several sets of family engagement resources. They’ve added sections on early childhood, social emotional development and mindfulness to go along with our sets on early childhood, healthy living literacy, and science. You can see these resources here: https://www.canr.msu.edu/early_childhood_development/heads-in,-hearts-in/index.