

Meet the Board

Julie Garden-Robinson (ND), Vice President of Awards and Recognition

I have been honored to serve our organization in two national Vice President roles: Public Affairs, previously, and Awards and Recognition, currently. I have learned so much in four years on the board, and I am happy to see the strides made, especially during these challenging times. I am excited to see the mentoring programs, the ongoing networking, and the “leadership ladder” as we all shape the future of our profession.



I grew up in rural Minnesota, in a town that probably has about 200 people these days. My world was quite small, and I had no idea where my education could take me. I am a registered dietitian with master’s and doctorate degrees in food science/cereal chemistry/biochemistry. I have a minor in music, and that background helped pay many years of college as I played/sang in many weddings and banquets. This summer I will begin my 22nd year as the contemporary music coordinator at my church.

I have been a food and nutrition specialist for more than 25 years for North Dakota State University Extension. Along with my colleagues throughout North Dakota and beyond, we have carried out projects in youth/adult nutrition and health, and food safety/preservation. I welcome you to our website at www.ag.ndsu.edu/food to check out some of our program materials. My family members have been frequent “stars” of my weekly column, *Prairie Fare*, in the nearly 24 years I have written it.

My career as a food and nutrition specialist/professor has involved travel all over the U.S. I especially enjoy networking with people from neighboring and distant states. I have gotten to know so many of you through my role on the board and participation in conferences. I especially enjoy sharing information about your successes.

I had many hobbies B.K. (before kids) and I am starting to rediscover previous skills, such as my recent remodeling of a prom gown. I also enjoy drawing/painting, and I am back playing flute in a community band. My husband and I are master gardeners, and we work with personnel in community gardens as well as in our own yard. Oh, yes, I like to cook and bake, too! That goes without saying, I guess.

My husband of 28 years and I technically will be empty nesters by Fall, because our three children (a son and two daughters) will be ages 18 to 26. We also have three “senior” dachshunds who still think they are puppies. I have a backyard filled with lots of entertaining birds and squirrels that we feed and observe (and sometimes post on social media).

Life is an adventure every day, and I think it is important to savor every moment.