

**NEAFCS Network
October 2020**

President's Message:

Dianne Gertson (TX), President



Please click the image above to view this month's President's Message

The first 5 people to [email me](#) with the location of the icon will be entered into a drawing for a free registration to the 2021 NEAFCS virtual annual conference.



Here We Go into a New Awards Year!

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

Thanks to everyone who attended our first-ever [virtual NEAFCS awards presentation](#)! Congratulations to [all who received an award](#) and to everyone who submitted an application. We appreciate all the efforts of our subcommittee members and the national office for making the 2020 awards program possible. Be sure to fill in and share the [press release information](#) posted on the NEAFCS.org website (under "Awards" then "[Other Award Information](#)") with your administration and local media. Watch for Facebook posts of our national winners on the [NEAFCS Facebook page](#).

Last year we had more than 500 award applications submitted into the system. I hope we have even more applicants in 2021! The awards submission portal is set to go "live" on Dec. 1, with state winners being submitted online by March 15. We will be providing training tips and updates in the coming months, along with opportunities to become involved in judging and on subcommittees.

I also want to thank all the affiliates and individuals for their donations to the virtual silent auction. We raised a significant amount of money to support awards and recognition.

Please let me know any questions you might have at Julie.garden-robinson@ndsu.edu or (701) 231-7187.



Friend of NEAFCS & Hall of Fame Award Recap

Roxie Price (GA), Immediate Past President

The annual **Friend of NEAFCS Award** is the highest honor bestowed by the Association in recognition of an individual or organization who has made significant contributions to Extension Family and Consumer Science education programs.

- 2020 Recipient, Bob Ohlensehlen

Bob Ohlensehlen received a B.S. and M.S. Degree from the University of Idaho. He began his career as a high school Vocational Agriculture Instructor. His Extension career began as a County Agricultural and 4-H Educator. In that role he served two counties in Idaho as the lead Educator as well as serving as an Interim District Director during his career. Bob received several state and national awards for his work in agriculture, community development and 4-H. [Click here to read full bio.](#)

The **NEAFCS Hall of Fame** recognizes individuals for their commitment, dedication and effective leadership and involvement in NEAFCS at the state, regional and/or national level.

- 2020 Inductee, Mary Blackburn

Mary L. Blackburn, Ph.D., MPH, President, California State Affiliate. Dr. Blackburn has been a member of NEAFCS since 1991 and is active in the association at the state, regional, and national level. She has held elected offices in the California Affiliate for almost 30 years, and its President multiple times. Currently she has held the office of president since 2011, and represents the affiliate at the annual leadership forums during the annual conferences. Often, she was the only face representing California at national and regional business meetings. The California Affiliate is small so she has contributed continuously to multiple national committees and subcommittees for over two decades. [Click here to read full bio.](#)

- 2020 Inductee, Anna-Mae Kobbe

Anna-Mae Kobbe, Ph.D. Retired from USDA; Past President, NEAFCS-1985. Dr. Kobbe has served as an invaluable role model, mentor, colleague, and friend to many. Her significant leadership accomplishments and contributions to the field of Family and Consumer Sciences, NEAFCS, and the Land-Grant University System make her a natural candidate for this award. Following a 37.5-year career with USDA's Land-Grant University System, Dr. Anna-Mae Kobbe retired from her position of Director of Family and Consumer Sciences and Nutrition at NIFA-USDA in 2006. In this position, she provided national leadership for Family

and Consumer Sciences programs while supervising a staff of 15. [Click here to read full bio.](#)

- **2020 Inductee, Josephine Swanson**

Josephine A. Swanson, Ph.D. NEAFCS LIFE member, Josephine ("Jo") Swanson was Associate Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) and Assistant Dean of Extension and Outreach for the Cornell University College of Human Ecology from October 1998 until her retirement in June 2009. Jo began her career in CCE as an Extension Associate in Nutritional Science in 1971, before becoming both an Extension Associate and Senior Extension Associate in Consumer Economics and Housing from 1974 – 1993 where she developed Extension programs and curricula and providing training for extension professionals across New York. [Click here to read full bio.](#)



150 Educational Opportunities! What a great Annual Session
Pat Brinkman (OH), Vice President for Professional Development

Wow! What a great virtual conference! A big thank you and congratulations to the past Board and our management company for putting it together in a short time. The platform worked great and was easy to use. I know we all appreciate the work they did to put on this excellent virtual conference.

Our presenters did an excellent job, too. We had 71 Concurrent Sessions, 28 Ignite Sessions and 41 Showcase of Excellence posters. We also had 10 Exhibit Forums. I hope you were able to attend many of the concurrent sessions and take advantage of viewing others before November 14th. Allowing us to continue to view the presentations until November 14th was appreciated. Although the virtual conference worked well, I really missed seeing and talking with you in person as I am sure many of you did. It is so good to talk to a friend from another state in-person.

A few comments:

Grocery Shopping Challenge - "A shopper is challenged to spend \$12 to purchase one food from the 5 food groups of My Plate with good nutrition in mind. They assessed their selections to decide if there were better choices." Marcia

Nutrition for Healthy Aging - Excellent nutrition program for aging adults with researched impacts. Sue

Wellness Activities – Wow! I participated for the first time at a conference. Jan

Thanks to our management company for providing us with information about who visited our Showcase of Excellence posters and numbers for attendance in our Concurrent or Ignite sessions. These will help with end-of-the-year reports.



PILD 2021!

Mary Liz Wright (IL), Vice President for Public Affairs

The JCEP PILD committee is diligently planning for 2021! The Public Issues Leadership Development conference will be held April 12-14, 2021 in Arlington VA. The theme for this year is “Building Our Future Together”. The RFP for presentations will be sent out very soon. Be thinking about how your affiliate shared Extension’s impact during this past year with decision makers. How did you advocate for support in these unprecedented times? Stay tuned for more info!

Please remember that these sessions are NOT program reports, but a presentation about HOW you communicated to your decision maker.



New Look, Same Great Resources! New NEAFCS Website Unveiled

Kate Shumaker (OH), Secretary

On October 1st, the new NEAFCS website was released. The first thing you will notice is a fresh new look to the homepage with beautiful photos of members. Scroll down for current events, information, and opportunities. The log-in to MemberClicks, NEAFCS’s private social network has moved to a simple blue button on the right.

A big change you may notice is in MemberClicks. This system has been reset. Everyone has a clean slate. The only information transferred from the former site was the member profile, committees and e-lists. Take a few minutes to upload a new photo (I know mine was way out of date!) and make some new connections!

Much has stayed the same, however. Along the top right, you will find the same menu buttons. Most, if not all, of this information has stayed in the same locations. Forms and templates have been updated for easier uploading. The site is optimized to work best using Google Chrome. It has been tested and should also work well using most other popular browsers.

I encourage you to spend some time familiarizing yourself with the NEAFCS website. There are so many wonderful resources just a click away!

[Impact Statement Reports](#)

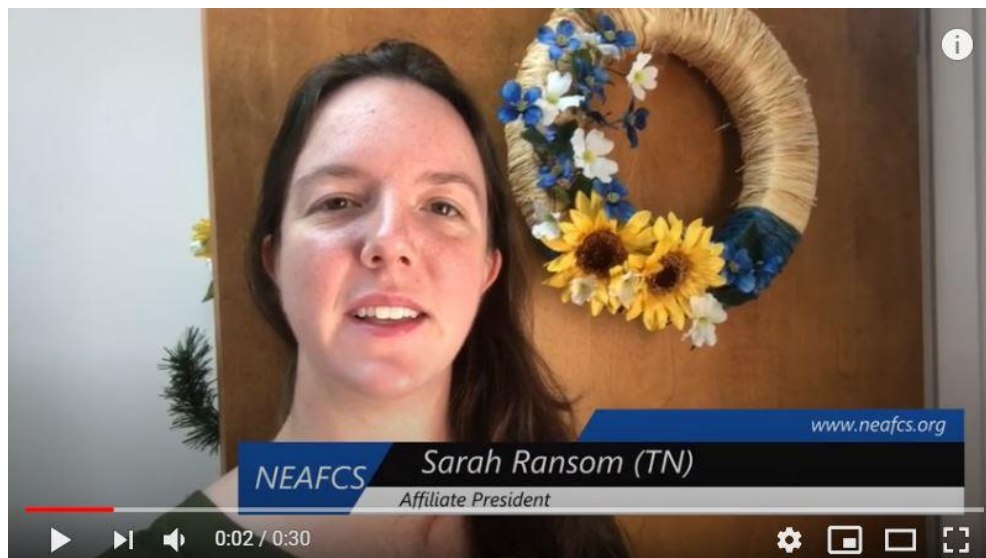
[Webinar Archives](#)

[Printable NEAFCS Notecard template](#)

Just to name a few....

Member Spotlight Videos

Click the images below to view the two member spotlights this month.



Updates from the Vice Presidents...



Michelle Wright (TX), Vice President for Member Resources

Greetings from the Member Resources Subcommittees! The last two weeks have been a whirlwind and so much has been accomplished by all the subcommittees. As we prepare for 2021, I look forward to being their voice on the board. Currently, each subcommittee is working hard on their Action Plans. What I have seen so far is extremely impressive! Looking forward to submitting them all very soon.



Mary Liz Wright (IL), Vice President for Public Affairs

Each Public Affairs committee met via zoom and created Action Plans for 2020-2021. The conversations were lively and each committee is led by an enthusiastic chair. I am looking forward to Will's communication encouraging members to sign-up for committee positions (we still need two apprentices). We are looking forward to a good year!



Dealing with Incivility and Unprofessional Behavior Regarding Diversity

Glenn Sturm (VA), Diversity Committee Member

We've likely all heard friends, family, colleagues and others make disparaging comments and jokes about marginalized groups and those that are common targets of discrimination. What should you do? Below we'll discuss a scenario and four possible actions.

You overhear Robert, a male co-worker, telling a joke about Rednecks. Yesterday you heard him make a joke about people of color and last week you heard him telling a joke about obese women. You know he is trying to be funny, but you find the jokes offensive. While you want the behavior to stop, you work in the same unit and you don't want to make any enemies.

Option #1 - The say nothing response

You don't say anything due to concerns he will turn people against you or start telling jokes at your expense. You may also be concerned about your job security if he's your supervisor or has a higher position in the organization than you. Unfortunately, silence is the same as condoning the behavior. By not saying or doing anything to address racist/sexist jokes, you help perpetuate the problem. In most scenarios, this is the least helpful option.

Option #2 - The one-on-one response

You ask to have a word alone with Robert and let him know his jokes make you feel uncomfortable and you think the office should be a space where everyone can feel at

ease. Talking to the person directly is generally a good strategy, but if you feel unsafe or fear retaliation, consider other options.

Option #3 - The organizational response

You tell your supervisor (or if he's at a higher position than you, his supervisor) about the situation. This is a good option, especially if you don't think Robert will respond well to one-on-one discussion. The supervisor can help address inappropriate workplace behavior and issue a warning. However, while Robert might change his behavior, he may not learn anything or gain any new insight from a purely disciplinary approach.

Option #4 - The institutional response

Talk to someone in HR. This can also be a good option if you don't think one-on-one discussion will work. Also, speaking to an outside third party can inform you about your options and any relevant policies that may help you make an informed decision about how to best approach the situation.



Not all options will be helpful or feasible given each individual situation; however, if you're committed to creating a diverse and inclusive environment and want it to be clear that these sorts of jokes and comments are not condoned, it's important to respond. Remember, silence is the same as condoning the behavior!



Looking forward to 2021 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.....

Courtney Aldrich & Georgina Perry, (MI) Annual Conference Liaisons



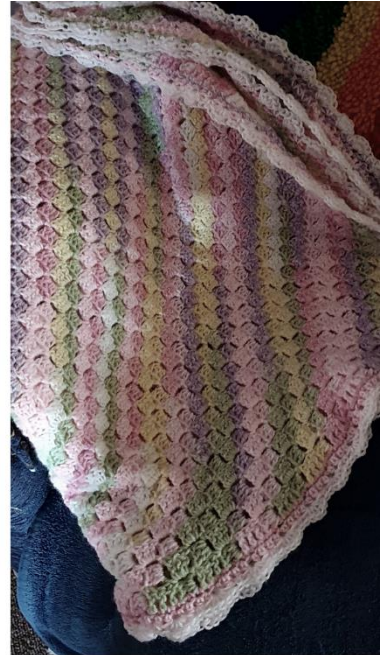
Where Are They Now?

We recently caught up with Past National President, and current Life Member of NEAFCS, **Barbara Maidment** (Eichner) before the 2020 NEAFCS Annual Session. Barbara was National President 1987-1988. She now lives in Western Australia.

“Thanks to the pandemic, all of my activities, including local government consulting, have come to an abrupt halt and only now (early August) are beginning to normalize. Western Australia called an immediate and sweeping lockdown, closing our international borders, state borders, and here in WA even our regional borders. For a long time, I couldn’t even go to Perth! Luckily the regional restrictions were lifted about 2 months ago so that allowed me to get a broken tooth fixed, do some shopping, and catch up with American friends.

“I still feel very isolated and trapped. I was due to visit my brother in Oregon this year, and of course that was cancelled, along with all my international involvements in IFYE and small business. For me, it’s been a nightmare and somewhat depressing. Even our church was instructed to close the building to ALL use, including our Sunday services (which all went online). Frankly, if I never have another Zoom meeting, it will be too soon!! However, having said all that, I recently rediscovered my love of crochet and have been making a ton of baby blankets, a few scarves, and a few other things. It keeps me sane! And now that our cafes, etc. have reopened, I am enjoying quiet coffees and lunch with friends.

“I remain President of the local high school School Board, as well as a member of the board of directors for our local Chamber of Commerce and the Small Enterprise Association of Australia and New Zealand (SEAANZ). With SEAANZ, I officially represent our interests in South Asia on the Board of the Asia Council for Small Business (ACSB), and attend the regional conferences. I often represent Australia to the Asia Regional IFYE Association and attend their conferences as well. As a member of the International Council for Small Business (ICSB), I also attend their international conferences when I can. So normally, I can be quite busy, but not at the moment...except online!”



In Remembrance



Future issues of the NEAFCS Network will include recognition of members who have passed. If you would like to report the death of a NEAFCS member, [please click here](#).

Dora-Grace Smith (AL), Life Member

Jannette Lackey (AL), Life Member

Dena Barnes (AL), Life Member

Tammy Powell (AL), Life Member

["Tres" James Magner, III \(NC\), Active Member](#)