

## NEAFCS Network November 2020

### President's Message:

*Dianne Gertson (TX), President*



*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 annual conference.*



### **Renew Your Membership!**

Barbara Wollan (IA), Treasurer

Your affiliate Treasurer and/or your membership chair has likely reminded you sometime recently that now is the time to renew your NEAFCS membership, and I want to add my two cents to that reminder. First of all, the process is easy – simply log in to the NEAFCS website, find “[Dues Renewal](#)” under the Member Resources tab and make any needed updates to your member profile. Then print the confirmation page or the confirmation email you are sent and send it to your affiliate treasurer along with your check for national and state dues. It’s one of those easy tasks that we just need to DO, rather than procrastinate.

In my younger years, as a single parent with two young children, I remember needing to plan for the timing of that check. Money was tighter then than it is now that my children are “launched.” But I never once questioned the importance of those dues. Why? Two main reasons:

- 1) As a college student and young adult, my mother had (through her example as well as her words) helped me understand the value of professional organizations. She shared ways in which professional associations helped her stay up-to-date in her field, and she also shared a firm belief that if there was an organization that advocates for her profession and helps her profession move forward, then she felt it was her responsibility and her privilege to support that organization. The result was that I came into FCS and Extension already expecting to be part of NEAFCS.
- 2) I was fortunate, as a new Extension professional in Illinois, to quickly experience the benefits of membership via regional association meetings that helped me build strong relationships with my new colleagues, with particular support from an

FCS colleague in my own county office. On top of that, the national meeting was held in Illinois that year, so even though I was just a newbie, I was encouraged and funded to take advantage of all that a national meeting offers. Those early experiences cemented my belief that this organization holds great value for me.

Our national organization, as well as each state affiliate, strives to provide that value to all our members. This year's virtual annual session was just one example of our ability to create valuable experiences through many different channels. Your membership and involvement in NEAFCS is an investment in your own professional future. Over the long term, the dues you pay and the time you invest will prove to be small investments that pay off richly in the form of growth and learning, professional advancement, opportunities and relationships.



### **New Grant Process from the NEAFCS Endowment Committee**

*Marsha Lockhard (ID), and Mary Ann Leinhart-Cross (IN), Endowment Committee Chairs*

The NEAFCS Endowment Committee is excited to announce a new grant application process that will open in early December! Any affiliate, committee, or group of two or more NEAFCS members is invited to apply for funding to support an innovative project which promotes the profession of Family and Consumer Sciences in one or more of the designated areas of: Leadership/Professional Development, Awards & Recognition, Public Issues, or Diversity. It is anticipated that most proposals will fall in the range of \$300-\$3,000, but proposals of any size will be accepted for consideration.

Full details will be available in a few weeks, but now is a great time to start brainstorming ideas and assembling your team of members. The deadline for proposals will be January 31, 2021, with funding decisions to be announced by the end of March. When the full details and on-line submission portal are available, you will see announcements via social media and email. Questions? Email [mlockard@uidaho.edu](mailto:mlockard@uidaho.edu) and/or [leinhart-cross@purdue.edu](mailto:leinhart-cross@purdue.edu).



### **Public Affairs Committees Working Hard to Promote Our Profession**

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

The Public Affairs committees have been busy! If you are a returning committee member or if you are interested in helping us with what we do please join—it's so easy, just [visit the online form!](#)

- Education Committee is hosting a webinar: *Impact Statements—Why? How? So What?* on November 9 at 3:00pm EST
  - Have you been asked to submit an impact statement? Not exactly sure what is needed? Join us as we navigate the process and talk about the whys of our annual impact statement submissions. (The recording of this webinar is available on the [Webinar Archives page.](#))
- Advocacy Committee would like to encourage you to help promote Dining In Day, December 3rd
  - Please take a look at the resource page <https://www.aafcs.org/fcsday/home> and watch our Facebook page—more to come!

- Marketing Committee reminds us that we can order NEAFCS-branded merchandise at any time <https://neafcs.memberclicks.net/neafcs-store>

I look forward to working with you as we progress through the Public Affairs year.



### **Program Development Committee: It's Never Too Early to Draft Your Proposal**

*Patricia Brinkman (OH), Vice President for Professional Development*

The Webinar Subcommittee met virtually to work on their plan of work. We would like to have at least one webinar a month for our members. If you have a topic to share or have a state specialist or someone who would provide an informative, interesting, and research-based presentation please encourage them to apply. To apply to present please complete this online [form](#) on the NEAFCS website. The webinar subcommittee is also working on an evaluation form to be completed at the end of a webinar. Webinar proposals are peer-reviewed.

The Program subcommittee will be meeting this month to complete their plan of work for 2021. However, the co-chairs are already busy on developing a new PowerPoint with pictures to present in early December to provide you with instruction and tips on submitting a proposal for the 2021 Annual Session. If you can't make it the day of the presentation it will be recorded, and you can check online to view the presentation. The link to submit a proposal for the 2021 Annual Session will be open on December 1, start thinking ahead on what you could present. We will need reviewers for the proposals. One way to learn about writing a good proposal is to be a reviewer, so *volunteer*.



### **NIFA Welcomes New Family and Consumer Sciences Division Director**

Dr. Suzanne Stluka joined NIFA as the Division Director for the Division of Family and Consumer Sciences and she will also lead the Division of Youth and 4-H in the Institute of Youth, Family, and Community. Prior to joining NIFA, Dr. Stluka served as the Associate Director at Montana State University Extension and served in several leadership roles at South Dakota State University Extension for 13 years. Throughout her career she has maintained an active research and extension portfolio, exploring topics such as community resiliency, farm stress, trauma, food insecurity, nutrition education, community development, community coaching, and policy, systems, and environmental work in the areas of nutrition and physical activity. Her research was primarily conducted in and with rural, frontier, and tribal communities. Stluka earned a B.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences Education and Nutrition (Dietetics) from South Dakota State University, an M.S. degree in Family and Consumer Sciences from the University of Eastern Illinois, and a Ph.D. degree in Human Sciences from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is also a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist.



## Awards and Recognition: Highlighting 2020 and Looking Toward 2021

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

As we continue to celebrate NEAFCS members' accomplishments, we hope you are enjoying the [NEAFCS Facebook highlights](#) showing 2020 award winners. As we gear up for the 2021 awards program, please note that the awards manual goes "live" on December 1. Our awards training committee will be providing training and highlighting some award categories in the next few months.

**This month, I would like you to consider whether you might qualify for the 2021 Distinguished Service Award (DSA),** if you have not received it previously. This award is selected by your state and does not go on to regional or national judging.

The number of awards given per Affiliate is determined by the number of paid active members as of December 31, 2020:

- 1-50 members - 1 nominee
- 51-100 members - 2 nominees
- 101-150 members - 3 nominees
- 151-200 members - 4 nominees
- 201- plus members – 5 nominees

The specific qualifications for the DSA are the following:

1. Minimum of 10 years NEAFCS membership.
2. Applicant must have attended at least two (2) NEAFCS Annual Sessions. (*Yes, the 2020 virtual conference "counts" as an annual session.*)
3. Evidence of superior accomplishments, including evidence of impact.
4. Award can be received only once.

**Please remember that to qualify for awards or fellowships, membership dues must be postmarked to the National Office by December 31, 2020. We cannot make exceptions to this rule.**

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



## See you in Grand Rapids, Michigan!

*Georgina Perry (MI), Annual Session Planning Committee Co-liaison*

Greetings from Michigan, fellow NEAFCS Members. My name is Georgina Perry, and I serve as Michigan President and a co-liaison for the NEAFCS 2021 Annual Session planning committee. It brings me great joy and excitement to invite you to attend NEAFCS 2021, November 2-5, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, which happens to be my hometown! The planning committees are busy planning an amazing conference that you do not want to miss. So, mark your calendars, clear your

schedules, and get ready to join us in Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2021 “Great Depths, Greater Impacts”. Stay tuned for upcoming newsletters as we gradually unveil everything we have planned for your enjoyment. As a proud Grand Raptidian, I want to share some fun facts with you about Grand Rapids, Michigan.

#### Grand Rapids, MI - Did You Know?

- Grand Rapids is the second largest city in Michigan.
- The name Grand Rapids comes from the Grand River, the largest inland river in Michigan.
- Grand Rapids used to be known as “America’s Furniture Capital”.
- Grand Rapids was the first city to add fluoride to its drinking water in 1945.
- The Fifth Third Riverbank Run, America’s largest 25k road race takes place in Grand Rapids.
- 38th President of the United States, Gerald R. Ford, was raised in Grand Rapids.
- Gerald R. Ford and his wife Betty Ford are buried on the grounds of the Gerald R. Ford museum.
- The Gerald R. Ford International Airport is the second largest airport in Michigan and the 86th largest airport nationally.
- Grand Rapids was voted Beer City USA and named Best Beer Town and Best Beer Scene by USA Today. Grand Rapids is home to over 80 breweries.
- World Boxing Champion, Floyd Mayweather Jr. was born and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- Grand Rapids, Michigan has a plethora of Arts and Culture – home to Art Prize, Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, and six museums in the downtown area that are within walking distance of each other.
- Grand Rapids Medical Mile – Specializing in Medical Research and Healthcare is where you will find the Nationally Ranked Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital, The Van Andel Institute, the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine Secchia Center and Biomedical Research Center, and a host of other universities of higher learning.

Grand Rapids, Michigan is a diverse and growing urban city, full of unlimited possibilities and I am looking forward to seeing all of you here in 2021!



#### **NEAFCS Annual Silent Auction – Virtual, Valuable, and Vital**

*Melissa Wyatt (AZ), Awards Sponsorship and Support Committee*

This year was the first time NEAFCS offered a Silent Auction virtually. While we missed seeing you in person, we did have a great auction. This was a successful first Virtual Silent Auction.

Here’s the Silent Auction by the numbers:

- 61 items were donated
- Over 500 bids were placed on those items
- \$2,692 was raised for awards



Thank you to the donors and bidders for making the first virtual auction a success. I know bidding happened right up to the end of the auction.

We are looking forward to Silent Auction 2021 in Grand Rapids, Michigan!

## Member Spotlight Video

Click the image below to view the member spotlight this month.



### **JCEP Extension Leadership Conference & First Timer Scholarship Application**

*Will Ferguson (FL), NEAFCS Staff*

The JCEP Extension Leadership Conference will be held February 10-12, 2021. Due to the pandemic, budgetary issues, and travel restrictions, the 2021 JCEP ELC will be a virtual conference. Because they are still finalizing the meeting in a virtual format, registration for JCEP ELC will not open until late November.

We will be opening the JCEP Extension Leadership Conference First Timer Scholarship application soon. As a reminder, this scholarship is open for Affiliate Presidents, President-Elects, or designee only. Please keep an eye on the website and your inbox for further details as they become available!

If you are interested in learning more about why you should attend the ELC, [click here](#).



### **The NEAFCS Professional Development Committee is gearing up for the 2021 Webinar presentations – are you?**

*Chelsey Byers (IL), Professional Development Committee Member*

Maybe you are feeling all zoomed out, and we feel you. However, we hope you will remember that one of the great benefits of being a NEAFCS member are the professional development webinars. These webinars are a wealth of information on a variety of topics.

If you are spending copious amounts of time on the computer or your schedule conflicts with the scheduled NEAFCS webinars, no worries, they are recorded. In fact, we want you to be mindful of your schedule and to be kind to yourself during this unique time. We encourage you to set aside time for you and your professional development. You can listen later when it is a better time for you to embrace the incredible information shared. For those looking for the archived webinars, look no further, click [here](#).

Webinar topics we are looking for:

- Administrative/Financial
- Food/Nutrition
- Health/Chronic Disease/Food Safety
- Lifespan/Child Development/Parenting/4H
- Technology
- Trending Topics

I challenge you to think creatively and partner with others doing similar work across state lines, form panels, deliver a program in an interview/conversation manner on a topic.

As a previous presenter, I can attest that Will Ferguson and the NEAFCS crew make it easy to present a webinar. They will assist in a practice run with you before the live session to work out any tech issues that may concern you. And if you are like Illinois, sharing your work (scholarship) is favorable for annual evaluations and promotions.

If you have a stellar colleague or Extension Specialist that you think we should invite to present a webinar, please contact the [NEAFCS Vice President for Professional Development](#).



### **Planning for PILD 2021**

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

The PILD Planning Committee is seeking abstracts from Extension Professionals who have demonstrated to local, state, or national decision makers the impact of Extension's response to critical public issues such as COVID19 and natural disasters. "How did you communicate the actions, impacts, and results of your program to decision makers?" "How did you build buy in from community leaders?" "What tools did you use to share your program's successes and how did that result in increased support from the Land Grant University, county, region, or state?"

- April 11-14, 2021, Communicating Success: Building for the Future.
- Go to <https://www.jcep.org> to learn how you can be a part of the important conference

Interested in Public Affairs? Not sure which committee to join? Questions about what the Public Affairs committees do? [Please contact me](#)---we would love to have you as part of our team!



### **Meet the Board**

*Susan Routh (OK), President-Elect*

One of Winston Churchill's famous quotes is "A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity while the optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty." As I presented my candidate's response at the past Annual Session, I included the word "opportunity" in that response several times. I chose that word for my "Word of the Year" because I wanted to create a positive attitude during a year which focuses on the negativity and difficulty of the pandemic. As 2020 continues, it may be difficult to see

opportunities. I know that this past week while sitting in my house in Oklahoma without electricity because our state had experienced a major ice storm in October which is highly unusual, I was having difficulty finding or seeing opportunity. It was there; I just had to “see” it.

My vision for NEAFCS is to engage members in the opportunities that NEAFCS provides. I have served as the Oklahoma affiliate President, NEAFCS Southern Region Director, and the NEAFCS Vice President for Awards and Recognition. All these offices have created opportunities to initiate new projects, engage with fellow members, and serve on teams to develop new member benefits. If you are a member who wants to determine a path to become more involved in NEAFCS, I would like the opportunity to visit with you about the possibilities.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve you as the NEAFCS President-Elect.

## Award Winning Programming from NEAFCS Members

*This is a new feature of the newsletter! You asked for examples of the programming that your fellow members are producing and we'll be doing just that each issue.*

### Communications Awards - Internet Education Technology

#### 1st Place National Winner - Lisa Poppe & Team, Nebraska "Choosing Quality Child Care Website"

*Childcare programs are not the same, so it may be helpful to identify what values, elements, and standards are important to your family when choosing the care for your young children.*

Team Members: Sarah Roberts, Linda Reddish, Jaci Foged, Katie Krause, Holly Hatton-Bowers, Becky Aiken, Anne Holz, and Lee Sherry  
[File 1](#), [File 2](#)



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](#).

Marilyn Myers, NY (Life Member)

[Elizabeth Guyer, AZ](#) (Life Member)



[Sharon Blasé, NJ](#) (Life Member)

[Ruth Armstrong, NC](#)

Ruth Scarlett, WA (Life Member)