

## Membership Update

*Cindy Schlenker Davies (NM), Vice President for Member Resources*



The end of the year means many different things as FCS educators or agents. One thing it means is NEAFCS membership renewal is due! We hope the state affiliate treasures have been in contact with you regarding membership renewal and date requests from her/him. Most states have their state dues in addition to the \$100 yearly fee for NEAFCS membership. If this has snuck up on you there is still time! Existing members can log into the NEAFCS [website](#) and update their profiles – which you then send a copy of the confirmation to your affiliate treasurer with their dues. Anyone who is not a current member must fill out the application form – even if they were previously a member and are coming back to us. No one can create his or her profile online.

Membership is open all year round but the deadline of December 31<sup>st</sup> is set for any member wishing to apply for National Awards.

Other types of membership available through our association include life membership and student membership.

We love our life members and want any newly retired NEAFCS members to join the group! Life membership is a one-time fee of \$300. With this membership, you can remain active in our association, serve on committees, join webinars, write articles for the JNEAFCS and attend the annual session. Student membership is \$50 a year and offers great professional development and resources for your Extension FCS career.

For more Membership information, please visit the [website](#).

**Member Highlight:**

*Debbie Stroud (NC), NEAFCS Member*



Debbie Stroud is an Area Specialized Agent, Consumer and Retail Food Safety with North Carolina State Extension. She began her career with Extension in 1997 as a county FCS agent, eventually becoming an area FCS agent and began her present responsibilities in Feb 2017. In her current role, she provides support to FCS agents primarily in the area of Home Food Preservation. In addition, she helps to run the Safe Plates Food Safety Information Center (FSIC) that provides evidence-based scientific food safety information that can help people make safe food choices. You can find Safe Plates FSIC on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @SafePlatesFSIC.

## **Portal for PILD Conference Scholarship Applications Opens Dec. 11**

*Mary Liz Wright (IL), Vice President of Public Affairs & PILD Planning Team Member*



PILD first-timers may be eligible for one of the 20 (\$455) NEAFCS 1<sup>st</sup> Timer's scholarships. Contact your affiliate President if you wish to be considered for the state PILD team and this award. Only one scholarship is available per affiliate. See the NEAFCS.org website for details and a link to the online submission portal. Complete apps are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

The 2020 Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) Conference will be April 5-8, 2020 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, VA. This conference is sponsored by the Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP). Go to the JCEP [website](#) for up-to-date conference information. You can also find the link on the NEAFCS Public Affairs Home Page.

Go [online](#) to read the inspiring reflections of past PILD scholarship recipients.

**NEAFCS Impact Statement Portal Open Dec. 1 to Feb. 1**

*Mary Liz Wright (IL), Vice President of Public Affairs & PILD Planning Team Member*



We invite all affiliates to submit impact statements for potential inclusion in the 2020 NEAFCS Impact Statements! These statements are used widely to show what our programs accomplish nationwide. Now is the time to begin gathering your stories, photos, and quotes!

Each state is encouraged to submit one to three high-impact programs in one or more program/subject areas. In 2019, we added a new category: disaster education. Click on the “Public Affairs” tab and the “Education” section of the NEAFCS website to review tips about writing powerful impact statements. Check out the “share your story” worksheet to help with planning. We encourage the submission of high-resolution photos. And short quotes from program participants. The review committee looks forward to reading about the impacts your programs have made in the past year.

## Come Join Us at JCEP Extension Leadership Conference

Sharon McDonald (PA), Eastern Region Director & Mary Ellen Fleming (CO), Western Region Director



Let's start at the beginning -- What is JCEP? The Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) is an umbrella organization that includes representatives from all seven [Extension Professional Associations](#). The purpose of the Extension Leadership Conference (ELC) is to support and challenge Extension professionals in their leadership development journey.

The upcoming ELC conference will be at the Wyndham San Antonio Riverwalk in San Antonio, Texas, February 12-13, 2020. The theme for this year's conference is *2020 A Vision for the Future*. Conference sessions will provide professional development to address leadership and management skill development critical for building confidence in today's emerging Extension leaders. Sessions will incorporate interactive components or hands-on-learning opportunities. These skills apply across all Extension program areas and JCEP member organizations.

During ELC, there is time designated for NEAFCS attendees to gather and discuss issues relevant to our association. Speaking for all the Regional Directors, we highly encourage each NEAFCS Affiliate to send a representative to this conference. Recognizing that many of our Affiliates do not have the resources to send a representative, the NEAFCS Board of Directors is offering thirty-five (35) \$350 scholarships to subsidize the cost of attendance. For more information, contact your Affiliate President or Regional Director. We hope to see you in San Antonio!

## **Awards and Recognition News**

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



Awards season has begun, and we have updates and tips for you, in addition to the results of the successful silent auction held in Hershey, PA. Please let me know any questions you might have.

### **Please Note Changes in the Awards Manual**

The 2020 NEAFCS Award information was opened on December 1, along with social media and a notification on the NEAFCS website cover page. Several changes were made in the manual and everyone is encouraged to follow the directions closely. Awards are due on March 16, 2020, instead of March 15, 2020, which is a Sunday. The other changes are the result of committee discussions and changes requested by sponsors. These are some specific changes to note:

- The Clean and Healthy Families & Communities Award will not be offered in 2020.
- The Financial Management in Memory of Dean Don Felker (new title) is now a \$500 cash award for one national winner. The award is sponsored by Purdue.
- The Past Presidents' New Professional Award now recognizes members within their first five years of employment with cooperative extension (previously three years). The award recipient must attend the national session to receive the award.
- The Educational Curriculum Package Award was moved from the communications awards category to its own category.
- New for 2020 - Extension Disaster Education Award. It recognizes innovative educational programs and outreach efforts that help individuals, families or communities become more resilient and decrease the impact of natural or human-made disasters.
- The Social Media Education and Social Media Education-online Video Award were combined to form the Social Media Education award.
- All 1st place Communication Award recipients will receive a \$300 voucher for Annual Registration fees.

## **Creating a List and Checking it Twice: Supporting Documents for Award Applications**

*Diane Reinhold (IL), NEAFCS Awards and Recognition Training Subcommittee*



Now that you have decided to submit an award application, take time to learn as much as you can about the award and the award requirements.

Start by making a checklist to stay on task. First, you will want to establish a timeline. Start early and allow enough time to have your application reviewed by colleagues within your practice area and outside of Extension.

Having multiple reviewers will provide valuable feedback, ensuring your application is well written, relevant and interesting, as well as meeting the application criteria.

When asking for feedback, be specific about the type of feedback you are looking for. Specify if you are having a reviewer review for grammar, content, and/or award criteria. If you are requesting feedback on award criteria, remember to provide the reviewer with both the award criteria list and the judging sheet.

Next, make a list of all program outline required fields, and include necessary supporting documents. Before writing, locate and organize all materials and compile data.

Address each section of the program outline using keywords and/or phrases, writing succinctly. Use powerful descriptive verbs when writing. If including tables and figures, ensure they aid in understanding and are not superfluous.

Your award application is a persuasive document, indented to convince the reader of the value of your project. Creating a list and checking it twice will not only help you stay on task but it will also contribute to the quality and clarity of a successful award application.

## **The Results Are In: Silent Auction, Hershey, PA**

*Tonya Johnson (OR), 2019 Silent Auction Committee Chair*



Thanks to YOUR incredible generosity and creativity, the 2019 silent auction was filled to the brim with lots of beautiful items. From colorful quilted wall hangings to sterling jewelry to hand-carved measuring spoons there was something for everyone. That shone through as members continually perused the auction items, making bids, and creating some friendly competition. Check out the following results:

- Total Amount Raised: \$4,445
- Number of Items Donated: 171
- Number of Affiliates that Donated Items: 34
- Number of Corporate Exhibitors that Donated Items: 3

To each and everyone – THANK YOU for your support! And, a very special thank you to our committee volunteers who put tireless time and effort into collecting, logging, laying out, promoting, packaging, and disseminating the silent auction items. Together, they contributed more than 200 hours to make the silent auction a success -- I am so very grateful. Well done team: Liz McBee and her Oklahoma friends, Melissa Wyatt, Melissa Rupp, Cheryl Spires, Patrice Powers-Barker, Terry Serio, Mary Ellen Flemming, Karen Jones, Carol Miller, Jane Newton, Amy Ressler, Nancy Stehulak, Michelle Treber, Barbara Woods, Mary Liz Wright, Vicki Wynn, Susan Routh, and our AMAZING Will Ferguson!

We look forward to an even bigger and better Silent Auction in 2020. The new Chair, Melissa Wyatt, is already planning some exciting things, including some new donation and bidding techniques. Stay tuned ... it is going to be a great year! Thank you for your continued support!



## **Embracing A Culture One Smile at A Time**

Kimberly Gowdy (MS), Diversity Subcommittee Member



Could you imagine an African American female FCS Agent leading a community-based program with only Spanish Speaking women to be successful? Also, the agent does not speak Spanish. New Bethel CDC Entre Amigas (Between Friends) program is offered in the East Biloxi community which has an increasing population of Hispanic/Latino families in South Mississippi. Since 2012, the Entre Amigas program has had 52 Hispanic/Latino women successfully complete a nine-month program on educational sessions regarding parenting, financial management, health, and nutrition. An oddly matched group as you can imagine, but this group has broken down so many walls and barriers with just the simplest gestures of a smile. For Latino women, high rates of poverty, poor education, limited job resources, language barriers, and fear of deportation increase their difficulty finding support services to assist in their efforts of improving their lives.

As Extension Agents, our shared goals need to be assessed in identifying, educating, and embracing the diversities within our communities. We need to identify, teach, and support these families in developing and achieving their educational, personal and financial goals. Where we lack in differences, we share goals of enriching the lives of everyone in our respected communities. None of these women are fluent English speakers; therefore, it makes the delivery of this program even more challenging, yet rewarding. However, the smiles on their faces after completion of our classes is always universal and clearly understood by everyone that “knowledge was gained, and change was made.”

## Experience Life Elevated: NEAFCS 2020 (Sept. 14-17, 2020)

Teresa Hunsaker (UT), Annual Session 2020 Tri-Liaison



Happy New Year to all of you! The planning team for NEAFCS 2020 is looking forward to providing you monthly updates and information about the 2020 conference in Snowbird, Utah. We hope you are planning on joining us, and are beginning to plan for, and budget, this event into your year.

The Snowbird Resort is a beautiful facility that is nestled up Little Cottonwood Canyon just 30 minutes south and east of Salt Lake City. The views are amazing, the mountains majestic, and amenities are world-class.

Scheduling of events, deciding on keynote speakers, and the planning of the Welcome Event and General Sessions are all underway. This, and many more updates will follow, so watch the newsletter each month to get a glimpse of what unfolds.

In addition to the conference full calendar of events, there are thousands of interesting places, sights, and wonders to be explored in the Salt Lake area. The challenge will be narrowing down your options within the time available outside of the conference itself. There truly is something for everyone—scenic drives, fantastic shopping, beautiful State and National Parks, outdoor biking and hiking, and some pretty amazing museums, galleries, and cultural arts.

Highlights from Utah for this month are:

The Great Salt Lake and [Antelope Island](#): home to buffalo, migratory birds, and the salt flats. Besides the opportunity to ‘float’ in the salty waters of the lake itself. (45-60 minutes West from Snowbird.)

[Utah’s Hogle Zoo](#): the zoo has a wonderful diversity of animals and wildlife. It features almost 5 acres of a wonderful African experience—grasslands with zebras, giraffes, ostriches, lions, and so much more. (20 minutes from Snowbird.)

[Red Butte Garden](#): Utah’s premier botanical center, is the largest botanical garden in the Intermountain West. It contains themed gardens, ponds, waterfalls, and has nearly five miles of natural hiking trails. It is up on the east bench of Salt Lake City, near the edge of the University of Utah, and besides being amazing in its design and landscape, the views of the city and valley are spectacular. (30 minutes from Snowbird.)

[The Clark Planetarium](#): a world-class planetarium allows you to explore 10,000 square feet of free exhibits and experience incredible visuals in the Northrop Grumman 3D IMAX® Theatre or Hansen Dome Theatre and shop the Planet Fun Store. (30-35 minutes from Snowbird.)

[Family History Library](#): Salt Lake City is the genealogy and family history capital of the world. This facility will help you learn more about your ancestors, your family history, and engage you in some pretty amazing genealogy activities, all with staff/volunteers to walk you through the process. (35 minutes from Snowbird.)

[City Creek Center](#): I would consider this area to be Salt Lake's premier shopping and dining area. It was also awarded "Best Retail Development in the Americas". Wow! Not sure who named it that, but it is a pretty cool place to walk and shop and eat. There are over 110 stores, shops, and eating locations...Sephora, Banana Republic, Nordstrom, Macy's, Anthropologie, Gap, Apple, and MORE! Plus, for foodies...The Cheesecake Factory, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria, Brio Tuscan Grille, and Blue Lemon...to name only a few. (35 minutes from Snowbird.)

More highlights to come next month!

## Eastern Region Update

*Sharon McDonald (PA), Eastern Regional Director*

Maryland – Awarded a \$1.1 million Rural Opioid Technical Assistance Grant. The goal is to strengthen understanding of the epidemic and prevention strategies in rural Maryland and to provide technical assistance with cutting edge research. Includes the creation of prevention materials, treatment strategies, and recovery programs.

Delaware – Extension online program [“Health Insurance Literacy”](#) is available to consumers free of charge. This was a collaborative effort with Maryland Extension and the Smart Choice Health Insurance Program. A special [text messaging initiative](#) designed for millennials was developed. Those that signed up received lessons via text messaging. Upon completion of the program, they were eligible for a \$50 gift card.

Pennsylvania – Annual PA JCEP Conference in November where the 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NEAFCS was celebrated with a special cake. PEAFC members from the western part of the state visited Burch Farms in Erie, PA. This is a third-generation family farm with an active apple orchard and vineyard as well as a farm market, bakery, and winery. A perfect example of agritourism as a way to diversify the family farm.



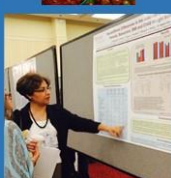
New Jersey – As an 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration members put together a collage of members in action. Congratulations to Dr. Barbara O’Neill who will be retiring after 41 years with Rutgers Extension but will continue to work in the financial education field as an entrepreneur. Kudos to Dr. O’Neill and Dr. Nurgul Fitzgerald on being recognized as two of 50 Rutgers faculty most cited for expertise in various media.



# NEAFCS-NJ Members in Action

## Life Members

## Active Members



## Affiliate Spotlight on Arkansas

Debby Mathews, (AL) 85th Anniversary Chairman



As the affiliates celebrated NEAFCS in 2019, they did so uniquely. Arkansas made sure that 85 was the focus of all they did. Here is their report.

How did your affiliate celebrate the 85<sup>th</sup>?

*Arkansas held a reception during their state meeting in June. A short history of the organization was read, followed by a group photo of members who attended the meeting. A large cake, fruit tray, and infused water were served. We had a food donation collection at the celebration, where over 85 food items were collected.*

*A copy of the link for the Webinar “Celebrating 85 years: A History of Extension FCS” was sent to all members. Members were encouraged to attend this program.*

How did your affiliate implement the **85 Things to-do** list as a group /individually?

*Copy of the form was emailed to all members. The committee encouraged individuals to implement some of the items on the list. As a group, we collected over 85 food items at our state meeting, which were donated to the Salvation Army of Hot Springs where the meeting was located.*

*The members who worked on the **85 Things to Do** list sent in what they completed. Twenty-three members turned in their list, completing 237 items on the list.*