

**NEAFCS Network  
April 2020**

**President's Message:**

*Roxie Price (GA), President*

Please click the image below to view this month's President's Message from Roxie Price.



*The first 5 people to [email me](#) with the location of the icon, and a tip on how to enhance this newsletter, will be entered into a drawing for a free registration to the 2020 NEAFCS annual conference in Snowbird, Utah.*



**JCEP Extension Leadership Conference**

*Dianne Gertson (TX), President-Elect*

San Antonio, Texas was the sight of the 2020 JCEP Extension Leadership Conference.

More than 40 NEAFCS members attended with 28 receiving first-timer scholarships.

Mary Ellen Fleming, Western Region Director, gave a great presentation on Parliamentary Procedure. Sharon McDonald, Eastern Region Director, led the NEAFCS group on brainstorming innovation.

Each scholarship recipient was required to write a reflection paragraph about their experience.

The paragraphs can be found on the [JCEP Extension Leadership Conference Scholarship](#) webpage.

**Member Resources Update**

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

Please click the image below to view this month's video message from our Vice President Member Resources, Cindy Davies.



### **NEAFCS Awards Are Being Judged**

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

I send my greetings to everyone. Our world drastically changed in 2020, and now our efforts throughout the nation are needed as much as, if not more than, ever.

We are making excellent progress on the 2020 awards process. We had 405 excellent state-winning applications, which advanced to regional and national judging. We will inform the winners later this Spring after all the scores have been compiled. Be thinking about next year's awards program in case you did not have time to apply this year.

I would like to thank the 103 NEAFCS members who stepped up to judge, and especially, the 62 judges who were randomly chosen to serve as judges. I appreciate their time and diligent efforts on behalf of NEAFCS. We will look forward to celebrating with everyone at our 2020 conference!

Best wishes as we navigate our new world with innovative ideas to help people improve their lives and communities. If you have questions or comments, please share it with me via [email](#) or [phone](#).



### **Public Affairs Update**

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

Surreal, unprecedented, making history...how often have we used those words these past few days? At the risk of redundancy, I will repeat---despite our surreal work situations our Impact Statement reviewer/compiler/editors have done a marvelous job! The information that all of you submitted is a testament to the good work we all do---it is amazing the difference we have made in our world over the past year.

- Thanks again to our editors: Julie Buck, Karen Ensle, Sonya McDaniel, Rebecca Stackhouse, Brittany Martin, Daniel Remley, Julie Cascio, Lila Karki, and Glenda Hyde.
- Special thanks to Becca Stackhouse for turning our statements into marvelous infographics!
- We are not sure when or how the Impacts will be delivered to our legislators. Our thought is that we wait a bit due to their offices being focused on the pandemic. Rest assured, we will find a way to share our great news with them.
- Many of you joined the virtual PILD. Although this is a change to the typical event, this provided a great alternative. Thank you all for attending and we look forward to reading our scholarship recipient reflections in future editions of this newsletter.
- We just wrapped up Living Well Month promotions. I hope you saw the Facebook graphics the National Office created for us. We had several states share articles, posts, and other information. Thank you to those states! I hope that you all shared what you saw. Let's look toward next year with some new fresh ideas to make the Living Well month a nationwide event!

I hope you and your families are well.

### **Public Issues Leadership Development Conference (PILD)**

*Jackie Carattini (WI), NEAFCS PILD Representative*

Please click the image below to view a message by Jackie Carattini, your NEAFCS PILD Representative.



## **Exciting News and Opportunities with Journal of Extension (JOE)**

*Dana Wright (WV), JOE Liaison*

Greetings, I hope that each of you and your loved ones are remaining well amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The Journal of Extension (JOE) has been very productive over the last few months. From implementing more efficient online publication features, to quickly transitioning our March face-to-face meeting to a virtual format following social distancing recommendations from the CDC the board has accomplished a lot.

One of the updates readers may have already noticed is that the journal article template looks differently. Readers now have the benefit of the volume number, as well as article identifiers on the table of contents page of publications. These new features will provide the editorial committee insight into JOE impact factors. Readers will be pleased to know identifiers will be automatically applied to articles going back as far as February 2009, with older articles being gradually updated. Another change to be noted is the removal and replacement of the printable pdf option. Readers can now use a print plugin located at the top of each article for printing articles.

JOE has a reputation for publishing high-quality publications that affirm and improve our daily work as Extension professionals. Publications are selected by professionals who lend their time and expertise to serve as a reviewer. I am encouraging those of you with expertise in agriculture, dairy, health, financial resource management, and/or aging to please consider serving as a reviewer for JOE. Learn more about this professional development opportunity in the FAQ [How can I become a JOE reviewer?](#)

The final update I would like to share with you is the addition of four positions under JOE's new editorial structure. To continue to accentuate scholarly and editorial strengths while also increasing the efficiency of the editorial process, the editorial committee is seeking candidates to fill the positions of editor-in-chief, senior editor,

associate senior editor, and associate editor. This is an excellent professional development opportunity for anyone who may be interested. Visit the [webpage](#) for more information on this rewarding activity.

COVID-19 is affecting our lives in ways both large and small. Use this time to focus on staying healthy and reconnecting with those most dear to you. I whole-heartedly believe that our NEAFCS family, as well as our communities, will get through these challenging times to see brighter days.



## **Five Fantastic Reasons to Attend 2020 Annual Session in Snowbird, Utah**

*Sheila Gains (CO), 2020 Annual Session Tri-liaison*

1. Educational Pre-Conferences – Workshop topics will include: activities and lesson plans to teach and promote home baking; strategies for entrepreneur success from a family known for their food, health and lifestyle blogs, videos and publishing; and more!
2. Inspirational Opening Session – Our keynote speaker will challenge and inspire you to live your life with purpose and elevate your happiness.
3. Meaningful Welcome Event – Visit with old friends and make new friends, all while tasting the best of Utah. Then lend your hand to complete a variety of humanitarian projects that will warm bodies and relieve suffering throughout the world.
4. Engaging In-depth Sessions – Understand how to design an effective survey, see and experience the humanitarian work and mission of the LDS humanitarian and welfare centers in Salt Lake City. Tour a local quilt shop, discover if home freeze-drying is in your future or receive training to conduct a nationally acclaimed parenting education training. Visit the famous genealogy/family history library in Salt Lake City. And much, much more!
5. Absorbing Concurrent Sessions – Learn from others' experiences! Discover new programs, delivery methods, evaluation strategies, and research projects worthy of replicating in your community.

## **Mental Health and the effects on African Americans**

*Terri Thompson (MS), NEAFCS Diversity Subcommittee Member*

There are many myths about depression and African Americans like: *“Why are you depressed? If our people could make it through slavery, we can make it through anything.” “When a black woman has a mental disorder, the opinion is that she is weak. And weakness in black women is intolerable.” “You should take your troubles to Jesus, not some stranger/psychiatrist.”* (Depression in African Americans n.d.).

Black/African Americans of all ages are more likely to be victims of serious violent crime than are non-Hispanic whites, making them more likely to meet the diagnostic criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Black/African Americans are also twice as likely as non-Hispanic whites to be diagnosed with schizophrenia. African Americans

are also not as forthcoming in receiving treatment for mental illness. (Black & African American Communities and Mental Health. n.d.).

Historical adversity, which includes slavery, sharecropping, and race-based exclusion from health, educational, social, and economic resources, translates into socioeconomic disparities experienced by African Americans today. Socioeconomic status, in turn, is linked to mental health: People who are impoverished, homeless, incarcerated, or have substance abuse problems are at higher risk for poor mental health. Despite progress made over the years, racism continues to have an impact on the mental health of Black/African Americans. Negative stereotypes and attitudes of rejection have decreased, but continue to occur with measurable, adverse consequences. Historical and contemporary instances of negative treatment have led to a mistrust of authorities, many of whom are not seen as having the best interests of Black/African Americans in mind. (Black & African American Communities and Mental Health. n.d.).

*References:*

[Depression in African Americans. \(n.d.\).](#)

[Black & African American Communities and Mental Health. \(n.d.\).](#)

## **Eastern Region Update**

*Sharon McDonald (PA), Eastern Regional Director*

Please click on the image below to view this month's message from Sharon McDonald.





## **85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Kentucky Affiliate**

*Debby Mathews, (AL) 85th Anniversary Chairman*

Please enjoy reading these excerpts from Kentucky's report! With 109 members in this affiliate, they can spread out and get lots done quickly! Cheers to them on coordinating efforts throughout Kentucky to spread the news about NEAFCS.

In Kentucky, each district chose a non-profit organization in which to work. Each district interpreted the work differently, but as a group, we achieved the goal of widespread impact across all 120 counties.

- Green River Area agents worked with a local Salvation Army to stock shelves and organize donations.
- Lake Cumberland Area members supported the Lake Cumberland Children's Advocacy Center during their day of service on July 10<sup>th</sup>. Our members donated \$85.00 to the Center along with items (in quantities of 85+) to be shared on medical days such as snacks and hygiene products, coloring pages/books and crayons for use in therapy sessions, and paper for creating resource packets for families. Agents met with Center staff to discuss needs and ways that their partnership could be strengthened including additional outreach throughout the year and training for our communities conducted by Advocacy Center staff.
- The Northern Kentucky agents worked at Master Provisions in Florence, Kentucky. Master Provisions is a faith-led organization that collects surplus resources (mainly food and clothing) and distributes to people in need.
- The Purchase Area agents worked with the Merryman House, the regional Domestic Violence Shelter in Paducah, Kentucky. Agents worked to learn more about the shelter as well as ways the two groups might work together in the future to encourage saving, building, and changing lives of survivors of domestic violence.
- The Pennyriple agents visited Sanctuary, the regional Domestic Violence Shelter in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, Agents set up a rotating schedule of programming for shelter clients and their children. Participants were able to take classes on relationships, basic sewing, cooking, budgeting and more. While Moms were taking classes, the children were able to take part in Stories, Songs, and Stretches as well as nutrition and germ-busting lessons. The day ended with agents and participants working together to make dinner for those living in the shelter.
- KEAFCS purchased 85+ jars of peanut butter and donated them to the Big Blue Pantry. Big Blue Pantry is a campus base food bank that is open to all University of Kentucky students.
- The Licking River Area Agents met earlier this month and decided to send \$85 to the NEAFCS Endowment fund in honor of Debra Cotterill's years of service to the organization.

How did your affiliate use the NEAFCS history/archives information on our website?  
Which resources did you use?

Kentucky made a new addition to our KEAFCS website this year – KEAFCS history! Under it, we now have posted historical documents for many aspects of our association. We also added the [KEAFCS History](#) link to our webpage, for easy access to all members.

We are also finally completing a long-term project of setting up archives of our important KEAFCS records with the library at the University of Kentucky. This archiving project is part of our KEAFCS policies but was never completed until we decided this would be an important achievement to correspond with the NEAFCS 85<sup>th</sup> celebration.

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

- Leaving it up to each area, the 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee encouraged agents as individuals and with their local groups such as Homemakers to choose an item from the list and implement it in their community.

Additional comments/feedback regarding our 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

Inspired us to complete an important historical project for our website and archiving project with the UK Library.

