



## **Eastern Region Update**

*Sharon McDonald (PA), Eastern Regional Director*

Just like everyone else, here in the east our members have been adjusting to the “new normal” and doing phenomenal things to continue to serve our clients. Here are just a few snippets.

Maryland members continue to offer free webinars on a variety of topics such as Health Insurance Literacy, finance, nutrition, and food safety. They have been co-teaching so that those not as strong in using the webinar platform have a partner to help them with the logistics so that one person can focus on teaching.

The Maine and New Hampshire affiliate met virtually in the last month. In Maine, the very popular in-person food preservation classes have been converted to webinars that are being held weekly. These are live webinars and people can register for free to view the presentation and ask questions of the educators.

Early in June, Pennsylvania held its spring meeting virtually of course. The professional development portion of the program included a presentation titled "Impact of COVID-19 on the Food Supply System." This included brief presentations from a meat specialist, horticulture and dairy educators, and farmers market coordinator. They provided their expertise on the impact of the pandemic on these various commodities and changes they see as a result of this experience. Members from other Eastern affiliates joined in the presentation as well.

This will be my last update as Eastern Regional Director. It has been a great pleasure and experience serving in this role and I am so grateful for the opportunity. I have made many friends that I otherwise would not have and hope that I have served our members well. Thanks for the opportunity and if it comes your way, say yes – you will not regret it!