

**NEAFCS Network**  
**June 2020**



**President's Message**

*Roxie Price (GA), President*

First of all, thank you for all you do to continue to make NEAFCS and the FCS profession shine. I want to draw attention to a special article this month, written by Traci Armstrong, Diversity Committee Chair. I believe you will truly enjoy her passion and concern as she calls us to do what we all do best: love one another.

As we all now know, our 2020 Annual Conference will be virtual. This is exciting as we will share this new experience together.

I want to take a moment to truly thank Utah State University, the tri-liaisons, Teresa, Kathy and Shelia, the committee chairs and members who have worked for two years to make sure our members would have an awesome face-to-face experience in Utah. The excitement of the adventure and challenge of this task, was one they accepted with passion and pride. Their dedication and perseverance have been remarkable throughout this journey.

Due to COVID-19, a decision had to be made. I can only imagine the tear of heart strings during that conversation. I truly hope none of us will ever have to wrestle with a decision like they did, knowing it would affect the entire membership, one way or another. It is my goal to honor their hard work and resiliency in this time of chaos. Utah State University, with all my heart, thank you.

Another huge thank you goes to Jayne McBurney, NEAFCS VP for Professional Development, and the committees who have been diligently planning. Along with Partners, our management company, who have helped us make hard decisions after weighing out all the options.

More information about the 2020 NEAFCS Virtual Annual Session will be released soon. Please keep an eye on your inbox and our [website](#) for future announcements and the opening of registration. Due to the quality of the professional development, the low cost, and convenience, I hope this conference will have a record number of attendees.

NEAFCS members, you continue to be educational first responders and the light that shines in the darkness. Your research-based educational programs are exactly what our world needs at this very moment. Continue to circulate this information in all the creative ways you have learned. Don't forget to continue to report your successes on the county, state, regional, and national levels. Remember to tag and invite decision makers and stakeholders when you use social media.

Check out the new [NEAFCS YouTube channel](#). I challenge members to post videos, two (2) minutes or less, on technology tips and tricks you have learned on your journey over these last few months. Let's use our collective knowledge to support one another so we can work smarter and not harder. A token of appreciation will be mailed to the person whose video is chosen as the most helpful, between now and the end of July.

Thank you again for all you do for others. Don't forget self-care. I welcome emails and phone calls with questions, concerns, or advice.

Sincerely,

Roxie Price  
NEAFCS President

*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 September.*

### **NEAFCS 2020 Annual Session Announcement Video**

We are sad to not be seeing you face-to-face for this year's Annual Session, but we are excited about the new format and finding new ways to connect with each and every one of you! The Board, Tri-Liaisons, and staff have put together this short (only 1 minute!) video to share the news with you. Please click the image below.





**Expanding Opportunities for Professional Development!**  
*Jayne McBurney (NC), Vice President for Professional Development*

The most important benefit of being a member of NEAFCS is the Professional Development opportunities. Did you know that TWO committees are working to provide that to you? If you are interested in serving on one of these committees, please sign up on the Member Resources tab on the NEAFCS Website.

The **Professional Development Sub-Committee** has just concluded the review process for 2020.

We appreciate all of the reviewers who assisted in the process of reviewing numerous proposals and thank the members for submitting such great content for review.

We are working on ways to include additional professional development sessions in the way of program sharing, 'tools that work', and sharpening programming skills. Watch for changes in the proposal system in December.

Leading these efforts are the following members who have volunteered to serve:

Committee Co-chairs: Candace Heer (OH) and Christine Kendle (OH)

Chair-Elect: Karla Belzer (IL)

Apprentice: Amy Bartels (MO)

And though you may have become a "ZOOMBIE" webinars are a great opportunity to expand your knowledge base and add to your toolkit. The **Webinar Sub-Committee** reviews proposals on a rolling basis for virtual presentations throughout the year.

Based on your response to our member survey in coping with COVID-19, a need for more information was identified. PLEASE encourage the specialists and experts in YOUR state to present a webinar with NEAFCS!

Committees within our organization and partner members are eligible to present webinars for the full membership, as well.

Serving as leaders on this committee are:

Chair: Valerie Vincent (LA)

Chair-Elect: Kisha Faulk (GA)



**Announcing: The Virtual Silent Auction!**  
*Melissa Wyatt (AZ), Silent Auction Committee*

The Sponsorship and Support subcommittee is excited to announce that we are bringing the silent auction to a virtual platform this year.

Since we are entering a new and exciting way of offering the Silent Auction, we will invite you to consider donating with the following information in mind. We will provide more details later.

- The cost of shipping is the responsibility of the Affiliate or person donating the item.
- We will need a picture along with the Silent Auction Donation Form submitted to Will Ferguson ([WFerguson@executiveoffice.org](mailto:WFerguson@executiveoffice.org)). More details will be announced later.

**Suggested Items to Donate**

- Food items that represent your state, such as the following:
  - Muffin, cookie or soup mixes
  - Hot sauce
  - Jellies or Jams of fruits that are found in your state (e.g. Prickly Pear for Arizona)
- Gift cards
- Hand-made gifts
  - Cutting boards
  - Quilts or wall hangings
  - Wood carvings
- Jewelry, especially handmade



**Ideas for Shipping Your Donation to the Winner**

- Consider using USPS Flat Rate Boxes where you pay for the box and as long as the item fits in the box it can be shipped
- If you choose to donate food products in glass jars, pack it with plenty of cushion



## **Mid-Year Board Meeting Highlights**

*Jessica Trussell (MO), Secretary*

The NEAFCS Mid-Year Board meeting was held on May 5th & 6th and utilized Zoom conferencing technology to connect, hear reports, discuss member benefits, and discuss the direction of NEAFCS.

Teresa Hunsaker, Utah Annual Conference Tri-Liaison, started the board meeting with our thought for the day, in working with our theme for NEAFCS 2020, Experience Life Elevated, one way to elevate is our life is to remember... "Life becomes more meaningful when you realize this simple fact-you will never get the same moment twice. This moment is your life." --Miriam Gates. This was a great reminder for the board as we opened the two-day meeting.

Several monthly actions occurred such as the approval of minutes and the review of the financial report. President Price and all the officers gave updates and shared progress toward specific goals and objectives throughout the two-day meeting. It is clear from the reports of board members that our committees are moving forward and continually working to make sure our association continues to support our members, be fiscally responsible, and improve each and every year.

Reports and updates continued on Day 2 and Cindy Schlenker Davies started our meeting with the poem "Anyway" by Mother Teresa. The board continued to work on and update the NEAFCS strategic plan. As always, the board minutes are available on the NEAFCS website if members are interested in learning more.

It is hard to believe that we are already over halfway through the year, please know that the board is active and will continue to provide outstanding professional development for its membership!





## **Cooperative Extension Positions Each of Us to Enact Change**

*Traci Armstrong Florian, MS, RD (AZ), Member Resources Diversity Subcommittee Chair*

As the Chair of the Member Resources Diversity Subcommittee, I feel a responsibility to speak about recent events that have underscored the discrimination members of Black communities and other minority groups face based solely on the color of their skin. I feel inadequate in words, but I hope my message will be received in the spirit of friendship, love and unity in which it is being written.

All of America has the undeniable reality that so many people in society today do not experience full inclusion, equity, liberty and justice for all. Our unique positions as members of Cooperative Extension place upon us the responsibility to enact change within ourselves, in our offices, communities, colleges and universities. Prejudice, hate and discrimination are learned and can be unlearned. We can be the change agents to teach and show by example the value of diversity and inclusion in tearing down the walls of hate and discrimination that subtly—and not so subtly—affect our clients, communities, country, and world. We must stand up and say enough is enough.

We bring knowledge, hope, and even empowerment to others by the education that our programs share in our communities, so why not do more now? We can focus more on demonstrating positive, inclusive values in our programming and equity through the structures of our systems and organizations. We can teach parents and other program participants about diversity and inclusion, kindness and love, and to reject hate of any kind. We can help shape and teach children to love all and find the good in others.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stated, that "hate cannot drive out hate...only love can do that." It is this love that propels us, and even inspires us, to do the difficult work of building bridges of cooperation rather than walls of alienation. Solutions will come as we work to build genuine bonds of friendship. We have a duty and a place in this bridge building, and indeed, we must say with our voices, and show with our actions, that we reject prejudice, hate and discrimination – enough is enough!

## Member Spotlight Videos

Please click the image below to view this month's Member Spotlight Video featuring Sara Sprouse of Iowa:



Please click the image below to view this month's Member Spotlight Video featuring Tracy Davis of North Carolina:





## **Sweet Treats and Memories from Three States/Three Regions**

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

As North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee recognized our milestone 85th anniversary, they displayed individual style. North Dakota made use of Facebook. Pennsylvania made use of historic resources provided by their very own Jan Scholl and shared about NEAFCS at their state JCEP meeting. Tennessee had not one, but three regional celebrations **and** a state celebration. Once again, we see that our affiliates reflect the marvelous diversity of our nation. Here are excerpts from their

reports.

### **NORTH DAKOTA**

How did you use the NEAFCS Facebook monthly 85th Anniversary tidbits?

We shared the Facebook information to our affiliate page.

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

We shared the Facebook information to our affiliate page.

### **PENNSYLVANIA 85th Anniversary Report**

**Prepared by Mandel Smith, PEAFCs President**

How did your affiliate celebrate the 85th?

The affiliate celebrated the 85th anniversary by sharing information during the Penn State Extension JCEP Annual Awards Banquet and Auction held in State College, PA on November 18, 2019. The state president-elect gave a brief overview of the organization and an announcement about the anniversary was placed in the event program. The Pennsylvania affiliate provided a cake decorated to celebrate the anniversary and offered dessert to all that attended the banquet.

During our state affiliate meeting members shared archived photos, brochures, and other memorabilia for county offices from past events and programs over the years.

How did your affiliate use the NEAFCS history/archives information on our website? (Under **About NEAFCS**) Which resources did you use?

The president-elect gathered information from *Biographies of FCS Educators in the 20 and 21st Centuries*, by Jan Scholl of Pennsylvania to provide a brief overview of the history of the organization. The wording for the information provided in the banquet program was gathered directly from the website.



## TENNESSEE

How did your affiliate celebrate the 85th?

At our TEAFCS Spring Meeting, we celebrated with an 85th Anniversary cake and NEAFCS decorated cookies. Each cookie had a tag attached listing 3 ways to spread kindness.

### **Did you have an affiliate 85th Anniversary Chairman/Committee?**

State President – Carla Bush

Western Region Director - Michelle Atkins

Central Region Director - Hilda Lytle

Eastern Region Director - Mary Beth Lima

Affiliate: **TENNESSEE**

### **How did your affiliate celebrate the 85th?**

We have three Extension regions in Tennessee and each region recognized the NEAFCS 85th Anniversary.

**Western Region** - On November 1st at our FCS Agent Share Day, we are celebrating 85 years with a birthday party, along with cake and a video presentation of FCS throughout the years! We plan to have party hats and make it a fun PARTY for the region association members! And one Western Region member reported personally committed to exercising for 85 consecutive days in a row.

**Central Region** – We had 85 blue, white, and silver balloons to commemorate the 85th anniversary and we kept them in the air for 85 consecutive seconds as an active break during the Central Region FCS Planning Day. We also shared Facebook posts on our page and Tweeted about the NEAFCS 85th Anniversary.

**Eastern Region** - At our TEAFCS Spring Meeting we celebrated with an 85th Anniversary cake and NEAFCS decorated cookies. Each cookie had a tag attached listing 3 ways to spread kindness. This added to 85 ways to spread kindness.

How did your affiliate use the NEAFCS history/archives information on our website?  
(Under **About NEAFCS**)

Which resources did you use?

How did you use the NEAFCS Facebook monthly 85th Anniversary tidbits?

Yes, they were shared and reposted on social media.

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

It was sent to every member and individual members pledged or completed tasks from the list provided by the national office.



### **Tribute to Bill Viar –2015 Friend of NEAFCS**

Carol Schlitt (IL), NEAFCS Historian

Many NEAFCS members who have attended an Annual Session in the past 25 years will remember interacting with Bill Viar, Director of the Special Risk Division at American Income Life Insurance Company in the Exhibit Hall. Bill was a cheerful and engaging exhibitor who really enjoyed reconnecting with NEAFCS members each year and his passing on April 17, 2020 was shocking and sad news, especially for those who have served on the NEAFCS Board and Exhibit committee.

Because of Bill's dedication and commitment to NEAFCS and the entire Cooperative Extension Service System, NEAFCS bestowed on Bill in 2015 the Friend of Extension Award during the Annual Session at The Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, WV. "This award is the highest honor bestowed by the Association in recognition of an individual who has made significant contributions to The Extension Family and Consumer Science education program," said NEAFCS 2015 President Peggy Eihler who presented the award to Bill during the Thursday evening Award Gala in the elegant Greenbrier Colonial Ball Room.

Cheryle Jones Syracuse, NEAFCS President in 2000 remembers fondly of Bill as he shared the stage with her during the afternoon NEAFCS awards ceremony in the Morris A. Mechanic Theatre in Baltimore Maryland. "At that time American Income Life was sponsoring our Communications Awards," said Cheryle. American Income Life, which began sponsoring NEAFCS Communication Awards in 1981, was a major NEAFCS Award Sponsor in 2000, sponsoring 8 categories. "I remember inviting Bill to join me on the stage at the theatre to present these awards," said Cheryle. "He was pleased to be there, had a smile, a handshake (and sometimes a hug) for the award winners. Bill always had a warm smile, remembered people's names and truly seemed to enjoy being part of our annual sessions each year," added Cheryle.

"Bill was such a great supporter of Extension and Family and Consumer Sciences and I'm proud to have known him and thank him for his longtime support and friendship to me and our association," concluded Cheryle.

We will miss you Bill...



Elnora Perry (VA), Lifetime Member  
Patricia S. DeCoursey (KY), Lifetime Member