

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FALL 2013

This June, I attended the AAFCS 104th Annual Conference in Houston and then, two weeks later, the FCCLA Annual Conference in Nashville. Houston's theme was "Embracing and Managing Change Through Family & Consumer Sciences."

I kept thinking about "change" while I was working with our FCCLA students in Nashville. So many of these enthusiastic high school and middle school students stopped at our AAFCS table at their Expo and told me how much they loved and admired their FCS teachers. They shared their plans for the future including colleges and careers. Some even confided that they wanted to be FCS teachers. It was gratifying to see the bright future of our organization reflected in the eyes of these young people. Through the eyes of youth, change is fun and exciting. Their optimism, passion and joy were contagious.



So here we are at the start of a new year. Change and challenge loom ahead. In our careers, communities and schools the ground is seismically shifting beneath our feet. Revised federal, state and professional standards, codes and protocols mandate training and new systems of evaluation and assessment. The landscape is radically altered; you need a GPS to navigate. It's a struggle to stay on course when the course keeps changing beneath you. Our first impulse is to fear change, but then I remember those 5,000 FCCLA students and I realize it's an exhausting struggle to fight the inevitable. It's better to welcome and enjoy it!

This year, the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences Board of Directors is supporting exploration of an Academy concept. We will have the opportunity to be part of the process at the Leadership Conference. We want to make sure that our history and relevance are preserved and recognized. The Connecticut Affiliate of AAFCS will make our voices heard. As your President, I will do my best to be your voice.

We have a great year before us. Workshops and meetings are being planned to help and support us. We will have opportunity to network with our colleagues and learn. The resources of AAFCS and our Connecticut Affiliate are at our disposal.

So let us embrace AND manage change. Take a chance this year; change something — recruit a colleague, volunteer for a committee, come to a workshop, and support your organization. Together, we can do it!

Happy Changes!

Belle Garafola CFCS

AAFCS/CT Affiliate President

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2013 ~ 2014 Regional Workshops ~ Building Success in FCS

Join fellow Family and Consumer Sciences teachers as we explore new issues in our FCS classrooms. As the new year starts – new challenges are being placed on your plate.

Once again this year we will hold three regional meetings around the state in place of a single fall meeting. This concept has met with much enthusiasm from past participants.

Do yourself a favor – visit a school you have never been to before. Learn about their curriculum, their challenges and their blessings.

The three meetings have been scheduled:

October 17th (weather date October 24th)
Norwich Free Academy – Norwich CT

January 23rd (weather date January 30th)
School to be determined

March 13th (weather date March 20th)
School to be determined



We hope you will join us for one or all of these meetings. The format will be the same for each meeting:

3:30 p.m.	Registration – Networking & Tour of facilities
4:00 p.m.	Workshop #1
5:15 p.m.	Dinner
6:15 p.m.	Workshop #2
7:30 p.m.	Wrap-up and Evaluation

Please check the registrations forms as they become available on the **AAFCS/CT website** for workshop topics. We hope you will pencil one or all of these dates into your busy schedule.

Need more information – please contact Becky Person at becknp@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP MINUTES *Making the most of the benefits!*

Your membership in AAFCS has its rewards! Some might view it as just a token added to the mix of labels and attachments we might have in our community. Yet, joining your professional organization indicates support of its mission, vision and value. It does make a positive mark and in this case demonstrates a commitment to the betterment of others.

Are you making the most of the membership in *your* national organization? A quick review of the web site via aafcs.org or ctaafcs.org will show you the numerous pluses to going national. Several people have noted high marks for the webinar series national offers throughout the year. Members can bring up the listing of offerings in the archives and view them at packaged rates. Others include:

*Your Affiliate Membership	*Savings/Discounts on Affinity Partners
*Journal of FCS	*Support of FCS Secondary Programs
*Networking & Leadership Opportunities	*Professional Certification & Continuing Education Opportunities
*Teacher Resources	*Travel
*Conference Discounts	*Insurance Coverage
*Discounts on Publications & Products	

In Connecticut our membership has remained constant since the beginning of the year. We have many who are employed in business & industry, several who are teachers and a fairly large number of retired members in the 123 total membership number. We continue to offer regional meetings throughout the year and the Spring Meeting in May. Recognition of the Teacher of the Year, Professional of the Year, High School Scholarship winners, Professional Enrichment and membership awards are honors we highlight at this meeting. There are many in our state that are committed to AAFCS ----its mission, vision and goals!

It is time to review and move forward with *your* professional organization. Check out the many benefits AAFCS offers you as a member. Also, review the features on the state site too. It is updated regularly and keeps you current with the many affiliate FCS event offerings in the state (ctaafcs.org).

Let me end with a quote from Kathryn Kemp, Illinois Executive Director---

“To me, one of the biggest benefits of AAFCS is the ability to interact with FCS professionals from all different fields- whether it is nutrition and foods, apparel and textiles, child life, design or consumerism, from educators to business to social agencies. I feel that we can often get isolated into our own little worlds of work in one specific field—and forget how in FCS, all the areas cross over and affect each other.”

Stephanie Fians.
Membership Chair

SPRING MEETING HIGHLIGHTS MEMBERS

The annual Spring Meeting honored four affiliate members who have given many years of experience and commitment to the FCS profession. Their time and energy is invigorating; each continues to dedicate much of their expertise to family and community in many, many capacities.

Antonia Palazzolo from Rocky Hill, CT was honored as a 50 year member of AAFCS. Toni graduated from Marywood College with a B.S. in Home Economics Education and UCONN with a master's in Home Economics Education. She has served on the affiliate board and was president of the Conn. Vocational Association of Connecticut. Her employment experiences encompass many years of teaching in Hartford, CT. Toni last served at Bulkeley High and Fox Middle Schools. While at the alternate school she created independent units of study and was nominated Teacher of the Year for this accomplishment. Her teaching years allowed her to enjoy connecting with many cultures and appreciated the food connection between them. Her students taught her as well!

Toni and her husband Sal have traveled to Tuscany and Amalfi and still look forward to a trip to Sicily which is the homeland of her in-laws. They are members of a gourmet club and enjoy gardening. In her free time Toni peruses cookbooks always looking to “add to” and “reinvent” a dish or two. Her mom shared so much with her *from the old country*.

Carole Fromer from South Glastonbury, CT was honored as a 50 year member of our National organization. Carole graduated from Russell Sage College with a B.S. in Home Economics and was the President of her class. Additional degrees include an Advanced Graduate Certificate in Media Administration and an M.A. in Media Instruction. At the University of Hartford Carole earned a Certificate of Advanced Professional Accomplishment in Business & Marketing. Her employment history includes marketing positions, senior educator and home economist at UCONN Cooperative Extension, consumer relations representative and a department head (Japan) at Simplicity Pattern Company in New York.

Carole has held numerous positions in our affiliate including president and moved on to president of AAFCS. She has presented at conferences throughout the country and has received awards for her many accomplishments. Over the years she has been a contributor to journals and other publications.

Cynthia Van Fleet from Walcott, CT was honored as a 25 year member of our organization. She is a classroom teacher at Platt Technical High School in Milford, CT where she teaches human relations, textiles, and foods. She is certified to teach the HDFs- UCONN program and has piloted the ECE program at her school as well.

Cynthia has received numerous awards. In 2011 she was awarded the ECE Instructor of the Year Award from UCONN and also has been named Meriden Teacher of the Year. Even with her full time work at Platt Technical, she continues to work at the Waterbury UCONN branch teaching HDFs.

Marjorie Wheeler from Gales Ferry, CT was honored as a 25 year member. Marjie is a 1971 graduate of UCONN in Home Economics and she received her graduate degree from there as well in 1991. She has taught preschool at Norwich Free Academy and was a classroom teacher at Westbrook High School until retirement.

Marjorie has held positions on the affiliate board over her working years. Since retiring she has branched off into another career path! She is a business owner --- “Marjorie Wheeler Hand Woven Designs” --- her pieces include textiles and art to wear. Her items have been on display at the Hand Weavers Guild of CT events here in the state. Her retirement years are not dull. They are filled with weaving, grandchildren and church work.

We wish all of these professionals continued success in all their endeavors.

Stephanie Fians,
Membership Chair

AAFCS104th ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXPO

It was an honor to attend the 104th Annual Conference entitled “Embracing and Managing Change Through Family and Consumer Sciences” and serve as the delegate for our Connecticut Affiliate. The Conference took place in Houston, Texas this past June. The Conference consisted of forums, workshops, meetings and many “ticketed” events over a 5-day period. To help participants stay fit and start the day energized, a daily walking or zimbra session was available from 6:00am to 7:00 am. Houston has seven miles of tunnels below the city center connecting business centers and parking areas. The tunnels have a wide variety of eateries and shops.

The important role of the delegate is to serve as a Senator with our President, Belle Garafola at the Senate Assembly on June 29, 2013. Each Senator has one vote. Belle and I took our seats after being credentialed. After Senate is called to order, a verification process takes place. Eighty-nine Senators representing 42 states were present along with the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs. Individual committees made their annual reports which the Senators voted to accept.

The Ethics Committee presented a proposed Code of Ethics to the Board of Directors. The Board approved the revisions on March 25, 2013. The new Code of Ethics has been posted on the AAFCS website. We were able to read the new Code of Ethics and follow committee reports by viewing an 89-page document that had been sent to us in May. It was also interesting to read though the 38 individual affiliate reports that highlight the many activities and accomplishments from the past year.

The Senate Session went smoothly. It was a privilege to stand beside our President and cast our votes to demonstrate the support of our affiliate for the many accomplishments that have taken place throughout the year.

Next year’s Senate session will have a very different atmosphere. The Board of Directors presented their “VISION” for a change of our association’s name: Academy of Family and Consumer Sciences. This change supports the inclusion of 19 alliances from family and consumer sciences related organizations working as partners to move the field forward. The Membership Committee illustrated that our Association has gone from having 12,000 members in 2000 to roughly 4886 members in 2013. The Board feels that by increasing numbers and using resources collaboratively, the Academy model will “increase our capacity to be effective in advocating for the entire profession”. I can tell you this concept was not accepted by many members who expressed an extensive list of concerns. National has hired a consultant who is using a research-based book entitled “Race for Relevance”. The 105th Annual Conference and Expo is scheduled to take place on June 25-28, 2014 in St. Louis, Missouri. I wish next year’s Delegate, Karen Redanz good luck!

Gail Dwyer

Delegate, AAFCS Annual Meeting



Gail Dwyer
at National Conference in
Houston, Texas



Pam Martin, Carole Fromer & Lucille Bayer
at the National Conference honoring Carole
for 50 years as a member



Sue Clark received
Spirit of Advising Award at the
FCCLA National Conference



To: Professional Family and Consumer Sciences Teachers;

This information is for **you!**

Your state professional organization, the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences/Connecticut Affiliate, is seeking to recognize a teacher who has developed an outstanding program in our profession. State awardees will compete for national Teacher of the Year, sponsored by the Elementary, Secondary, and Adult Education (ESAE) Section of AAFCS and Goodheart – Willcox Publishing Company.

The objective of the annual Teacher of the Year Program is to stimulate the development of state of the art programs that are both timely and newsworthy as well as to expand the focus of family and consumer sciences. Each nominated program should be in one of the following main areas:

1. **Alternative / Creative Programs**
2. **Consumer Education**
3. **Personal & Family Finance**
4. **Early Childhood Education**
5. **Family Studies**
6. **Food Production & Services**
7. **Nutrition & Wellness**
8. **Housing & Interior Design**
9. **Textiles & Apparel**

All current members of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, who teach in grades K-12, are eligible and are, invited to apply for this award. You may submit your own program or you may nominate another teacher's outstanding program.

Please read the following program areas (following page) to become familiar with the numerous possibilities for eligible outstanding program awards. **Yours** could be selected as the AAFCS Teacher of the Year.

But...first you must apply!

All applications must be postmarked by **March 15th**.

Selection is according to the AAFCS Guidelines.

For help or information please call **Janice Uerz at 860.871.8853**

The winner will be honored at the Spring Meeting. All entries should be sent to:

Janice Uerz
44 George Drive
Vernon, CT 06066

New Feature ~ Educational Links

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**Learning About a Healthy Home:**

[http://today.uconn.edu/blog/2013/08/learning-about-a-healthy-home/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+uconn-today+%28UConn+Today%29](http://today.uconn.edu/blog/2013/08/learning-about-a-healthy-home/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+uconn-today+%28UConn+Today%29)



| <b>Where do I find items on the website?</b>             | <b>Location</b>        | <b>Due Date</b>       |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| ➤ Fall 2013 Newsletter                                   | <b>Links Tab</b>       | -                     |
| ➤ Registration Form for Afternoon Workshops 10.17.13     | <b>Conferences Tab</b> | See registration form |
| ➤ Student Scholarship Application                        | <b>Scholarship Tab</b> | March 15              |
| ➤ Teacher of the Year Application/Nomination             | <b>Awards Tab</b>      | March 15              |
| ➤ Professional of the Year Application/Nomination Form   | <b>Awards Tab</b>      | April 15              |
| ➤ Professional Development Application                   | <b>Awards Tab</b>      | April 15              |
| ➤ Contact Information for Connecticut Affiliate Officers | <b>Contact Tab</b>     | -                     |