

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE SPRING 2013

So, you can bake and decorate a cake, babysit children, and sew on a button! Does that make you a Family and Consumer Sciences educator? That seems to be one of the many opinions of leaders today. Society, through marketing, infuses value systems into the minds of the masses. Much of what we respect is often taught to us through a television. Education strives harder than ever to achieve more and more and yet it seems to accomplish nothing other than the loss of respect for the teaching profession. The value of the FCS programs are seen as an expense and easily slashed from the budget. Leaders fail to recognize the connections that occur across content areas. It also seems the school districts with the greatest financial difficulty are the systems that cut the FCS programs for those that need us most!



FCS professionals **bring it home**. We as specialists, share our knowledge and experience to improve the lives of our students, their families, and society. It isn't just "a piece of cake" it is food science, nutrition and wellness. It isn't just "playing with children" it is human development and of course it isn't just a "stitch in time" it is textiles and apparel, and housing and interior design. Don't forget "penny pinching" being taught as personal and family finance and consumer issues. How do we earn RESPECT? How do we build our programs? How do we change the minds of our leaders? I believe if we can follow the acronym below, that would be a great start;



Remember we were founded as Home Economics

Embrace the future

See what you and the field can contribute to the "fabric" of education

Practice weaving an understanding of the FCS content

Encourage discussion of ideas & issues to help others gain a perspective

Connect your content with the world and other professionals

Transform the community by touching lives



Don't wait for the latest innovation in education to come to you, find ways to connect the ideas to what you do, an example would be the Common Core State Standards. Look at the College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards; these shout Family and Consumer Sciences! It is what we do to deliver our content, and it does not mean that there has been a compromise of the FCS standards; it means you have found a way to connect and BUILD on the delivery of FCS content.

"What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight.

***Build ANYWAY.*" ~ Kent M. Keith 1968**

The AAFCS/ CT Affiliate will continue to provide professionals with relevant information on how they can facilitate educational practices, address current challenges and find new solutions for FCS programs that focus on families, students, and their communities. "Never give up, never surrender!"

Janice McKnight Uerz

AAFCS/CT Affiliate President

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AAFC/CT Spring Meeting

Thursday, May 2nd

Hopefully by the time you read this Spring will have arrived in Connecticut. We are all growing a bit weary of snow storms of any size!!!

On Thursday, May 2nd AAFCS/CT will be holding its' annual meeting at Courtyard Hartford Marriott in Cromwell, CT. We hope you will join us for an engaging evening. No matter where your interest lies in Family and Consumer Sciences we feel our speakers will address issues of concern today.

Concurrent presentations will be provided. For those FCS professionals involved in direct instruction ~ Dr. Andrea Mosenson from Queens College in New York City ~ will engage educators on incorporating the Common Core into FCS classrooms. At the same time Lt. James Perez will share materials on Elder Scams. This should be of interest to FCS professionals in business and Extension ~ as well as our retirees.

As usual there will be time to visit our Silent Auction tables, the AAFCS/CT Jewelry table and network or just visit with old and new friends. An Awards Dinner will cap the evening festivities.

If you plan to join us - please check the ctaafcs.org website for registration materials. We look forward to visiting with you on this special evening.

Laura McCabe & Lois Neumann ~ Spring Meeting Co-Chairs

Fall ~ Winter Workshops Revisited

With winter settling in early - our first workshop had to be postponed and rescheduled. In late January about 25 FCS professionals gathered at Bolton High School for our first program. Deb Bigelow - a FCS teacher at Woodstock Academy - talked about her experiences with high school level Iron Chef Competitions. The teachers attending had the opportunity to be an active participant or a judge in a mini Iron Chef competition. Wendy Scott and several of her Culinary students served a delicious buffet dinner. Maryanne Taft - a business teacher at Hall High school - concluded the evening with a discussion of a hands on approach to financial literacy within the classroom. It was easy to see how many of the activities she does with her business students could be utilized with our FCS students.

Late February found us being welcomed to Rocky Hill High School by FCS students that greeted us at the door. Karen Redanz - our Teacher of the Year- started us off with a discussion of the program which garnered her, this honor. The Sustainable Table program takes Karen and her students to many sites where food is produced - something many of our students never have the chance to visit. After a delicious meal Deb Wolfe followed up the theme of the first workshop with a program on Sustainable Stitching. All of us had the opportunity to create a coffee cozy out of scrap fabric and went home with new ideas for our Clothing and Textiles programs.

By the time you read this we will have completed our third workshop which was held at Fairfield Ludlowe High School. Amanda Langlais has been involving her Child Development students with a CDA licensure program. She discussed the opportunities available to FCS teachers throughout the state in regards to this program. Our final workshop of the season revolved around the warning signs of Alzheimer. This was a wonderful experience for those teaching lifespan development.

So stay tuned and watch for new workshops during the 2013 - 2014 school year. If you would like to host or present a workshop - please contact Becky Person at becknp@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP MINUTES *Marching On!*

Yes, time is marching on ---- with or without us! This month we welcome a much long anticipated new season and with it numerous plans and events emerge. For several, employment continues to place a demand on our time and we often find ourselves struggling to keep our personal and professional commitments in a priority arrangement. Yet, with balance and practice we stay on top of it all; never sure just how we get it all done.

The Connecticut Affiliate faces this same dilemma. Our membership remains at 123 with a steady number of renewals coming in throughout the year. Though each of us is a year older, we *stay the course* and maintain our membership status with AAFCS. Yes, the commitment and priority of first things first is clearly evident for many in Connecticut.

I encourage everyone to visit both the national and state web sites to view the benefits of your membership status. The many events and programs offered by National show direction toward a mission and vision that addresses the concerns of the members throughout the country. Currently, the association is doing the final planning steps for the 104th Conference and Expo being held in Houston, Texas in June. The outline, program descriptions, and registration forms are all easily accessible on the National site. Another important piece of information for several members is the listing of the virtual events that AAFCS offers via the web delivery. All the specifics for doing one of the programs are described on the site as well. See aafcs.org for the complete listing.

The state site ctaafcs.org also outlines the many events sponsored by the CT Affiliate and the State Department of Education. There is one late afternoon workshop being offered in early April as well as the Annual Spring Meeting in May where we honor long-standing members, student scholarship winners and vote in a new slate of officers. Review the plans for the events sponsored by our state organization; make it one of those first things first priorities.

Getting it all done *is* a challenge. There is no question that it is often difficult to focus *well* on both personal and professional interests and obligations. Just don't let time pass you by as it *marches on!*

Stephanie Fians, Connecticut Affiliate
Membership Chair

Slate of Officers for 2013 – 2014

President – Belle Garafola

President-Elect –

Vice Presidents (Program) – Lori Peck & Dee Horowitz

Assistants to the Vice Presidents – Barbara Morris & Karen Redanz

Recording Secretary – Pam Geyer

Corresponding Secretary – Katie Pierpaoli

Treasurer – Gail Dwyer

Counselor – Janice Uerz

Delegates to National Convention June 2014 – 2 are needed

Voting will take place at the Spring Meeting on May 2nd.

Where do I find items on the website?	Location	Due Date
➤ Spring 2013 Newsletter	Links Tab	-
➤ Registration Form for the Spring Meeting 05.02.13	Conferences Tab	See registration form
➤ Student Scholarship Application	Scholarship Tab	March 15
➤ Teacher of the Year Application/Nomination	Awards Tab	March 15
➤ Professional of the Year Application/Nomination Form	Awards Tab	April 15
➤ Professional Development Application	Awards Tab	April 15
➤ Contact Information for Connecticut Affiliate Officers	Contact Tab	-



Pictured are Ms. Cheyanne Barkley and Janice Uerz, they are at the University of Connecticut College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Annual Scholarships and Awards Recognition Dinner held on Tuesday, March 26, 2013. The evening was to honor students for their outstanding accomplishments.

The AAFCS/CT Affiliate is one of the organizations that make this award possible. Cheyanne was this year's recipient of the American Family & Consumer Sciences Scholarship that is awarded every other year.