

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE WINTER 2014**

Members and friends,

*Happy New Year!*

*"The major difference between a dream and a goal is a timeline for progress, coupled with accountability." -- Dr. Phil*

After the stress of the holidays, it's time to chart a course for a more productive and successful 2014. Many of us are reeling from acronym overload -- STEM, SLO-s and IAGDs. The new state evaluation process for teachers is taking its toll. And some of our retired members are struggling with a multitude of volunteer commitments.

We have decisions and plans to make. AAFCS is in the process of changing to an "Academy." What is our place in the "Academy"? Many of our members have voiced concerns. We understand your frustration and confusion, and we are working to make our voices heard by the national board.

This is the year to make purposeful changes. Go to our website and sign up for one of our spring workshops. They are great opportunities to meet and network while expanding your knowledge. For those non-members who already enjoy our workshops, this might be the year for you to finally become a member of our Connecticut affiliate of AAFCS. We welcome you! Get involved! We need your enthusiasm and strength. Our passion for our profession is the only insurance that FCS can survive. Many of you are struggling alone to market and strengthen your FCS programs. You feel isolated and overwhelmed. United, we have a better chance to affect change!

I look forward to seeing you at our workshops and board meetings. We are all accountable for progress.

Best wishes,

*Belle Garafola CFCS*

*AAFCS/CT Affiliate President*

**AAFCS/CT Spring Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Affiliate of AAFCS returns to St. Clements Castle this spring. What a wonderful way to celebrate May Day.

On **May 1st** you will find yourself watching the Connecticut River bubble along as you enjoy networking with other FCS members from throughout the state.

An informative speaker, a Silent Auction to benefit the AAFCS/CT Scholarship Fund, a delicious meal, a short business meeting and the presentation of awards will fill the afternoon and early evening.

So save the date and watch for more information in the Spring Newsletter and the AAFCS/CT website.

## 2014 Regional Workshops ~ Building Success in FCS

### Workshop Series Continues!

Our next workshop will be held at McGee Middle School in Berlin on Thursday, January 23rd. One workshop will focus on keeping FCS strong in our middle schools and how the status of AAFCS may impact this process.

The second workshop will be a service project which will utilize our sewing skills to create dresses from pillow cases which will be donated to Third World countries. This is a project that can be easily recreated in your own classroom.

Please check out the registration form on the AAFCS/CT website for more information. Hope you can find the time to join us for this informative afternoon.

We hope you will join us for this meeting. The format will remain the same:

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

Need more information – please contact Becky Person at [becknp@aol.com](mailto:becknp@aol.com)

*Becky Person*

Professional Development Committee

## MEMBERSHIP MINUTES . . . . . *Staying In the Numbers!*

The importance of being in the count just cannot be underestimated. Membership in a professional organization makes solid your intent to be an active partner in and among a group who share common credentials, interests and goals. There is much value in numbers hence, being a representative of a group allows you to have a voice in decisions being made for the greater good -----in this case AAFCS.

Member benefits have been addressed in previous Connecticut Affiliate newsletters. I trust that you are aware of these as a partner in AAFCS and are making the most of them throughout the year. To review the listings see the [AAFCS .org](http://AAFCS.org) site or the state section that is [ctaafcs.org](http://ctaafcs.org). The National site will show a link to the membership/benefits page.

Back to the numbers! For our CT Affiliate to remain strong each member needs to be *in* the count. One does this by staying current with updates on professional identification, changes in address, etc. Renewal notices are sent well before the expiration date of a membership. I ask that you keep up with the notices and renew in a timely manner. This is the only way to stay connected to one of *your* professional organizations, that is, being a represented partner.

Currently, our membership numbers are remaining steady with renewals coming in as we welcome a new year in a few weeks. National is promoting a campaign titled 2013 Race to Renew. Connecticut is participating in the campaign and I'm pleased to note that our renewals are coming in!

Another new promotion being offered to members is online access to the Journal of Family & Consumer Sciences. This benefit is one that has been requested by the membership and National has now put into motion. Again, *your* organization has responded to those partners who want to make the most use of technology and prefer to read the journal online. This will not cancel out a mailing of the publication to each and every member. To access JFCS online you simply need to register and activate. The address is [www.ingentaconnect.com/register/personal](http://www.ingentaconnect.com/register/personal) and then follow the steps. If you have questions, please email [pr@aafcs.org](mailto:pr@aafcs.org).

Connected? In the numbers? Be a partner in *your* National organization and utilize the benefits to the fullest!

*Stephanie Fians ~ Membership Chair*

## ***“To Be ... Or Not To Be...”***

(The Status of AAFCS)

Since June - we on the Board of AAFCS/CT - have been involved in a conversation involving the fate of AAFCS and in essence the fate of the Connecticut Affiliate of AAFCS.

The Board of Directors of AAFCS has put in motion steps leading to the creation of the Academy of Family and Consumer Sciences which would become the governing board of the Associations which now make up the AAFCS Alliance.

Members of AAFCS would become Members-at-Large of the Academy of Family and Consumer Sciences. All financial and intellectual assets of AAFCS would be used to create this new Academy. The Board of AAFCS is pushing for a vote at the Annual Meeting in St. Louis at the end of June.

This whole process will be one of the topics discussed at our January workshop at McGee Middle School. If you want to be part of this discussion - please join us on January 23rd.

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## **Honor Our Professionals**

Take the opportunity to nominate yourself or a colleague for Connecticut American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (CT/AAFCS) TEACHER OF THE YEAR (TOY) or PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR (POY). It is my privilege to be Chair of the committee to select TOY 2015 and POY 2014 for our Connecticut Association. I want to personally thank Shirley Randazzo for being chair of this committee for so many years. Shirley has done an excellent job over these years.

### **TEACHER OF THE YEAR ~ 2015**

CTAAFCS is looking for a teacher to highlight their program, a part of their program, and unique aspects of their program in an area of FCS content or community interaction. Over the years, CT has had two National Teachers of the year!!

Visit website: [www.ctaafcs.org](http://www.ctaafcs.org) and click the ‘Awards’ tab to get the Nomination Form.

2015 – CT Teacher of the Year time line:

Nomination Form completed and postmarked March 15, 2014

To: Kathy Brophy

35 Jennifers Way, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Selection by Committee

2015 Teacher announced and honored at Annual CT/AAFCS Spring Meeting

2014 Summer – Work on National Application Materials for National AAFCS

2014 Fall – National Application submitted

2015 Late June – Attend Annual AAFCS Conference as CT TOY

Selection is according to the AAFCS Guidelines. For help or if you have questions, call Kathy Brophy at 860-978-0088. Nomination Form postmarked by MARCH 15, 2014.

## **Honoring Our Professionals Continued...**

### **CT/AAFCS ~ PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR**

It is time to recognize a professional home economist or a teacher whose program performs outreach to others, service to community, state or field.

NOMINATION Form is under 'Awards' tab on the web site: [www.ctaafcs.org](http://www.ctaafcs.org)

All Professional of the Year (POY) application forms must be postmarked by

**APRIL 15, 2014** to: Katherine Brophy

35 Jennifers Way

Rocky Hill, CT 06067

For help or information, please call Kathy Brophy at 860-978-0088 or email [brophyk2@cox.net](mailto:brophyk2@cox.net)

Connecticut Professional of the Year 2014 will be announced and honored at the Annual CT Spring Conference 2014.

*Kathy Brophy, Committee Chair*

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### **HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**

Two AAFCS/CT scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school students at our May meeting. The purpose of these scholarships is to provide financial assistance in college. One is for a student who plans to become an FCS teacher and one is for a student majoring in an FCS related area. The scholarship application is on our web site [www.ctaafcs.org](http://www.ctaafcs.org). Please urge your students to apply and follow the guidelines. Please remind your guidance department of our scholarship and the due date. The deadline for the application is due March 15. If there are any questions please contact Mrs. Carole Christensen at [clgchris@aol.com](mailto:clgchris@aol.com)

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

If you are interested in taking a course for enrichment or credit, consider applying for the AAFCS/CT Professional Enrichment Scholarship. To qualify you must be a member of AAFCS for at least three years. Suggested courses in New England are King Arthur Flour in Vermont, Johnson and Wales University in Rhode Island and our state colleges. Funds are available and applications are on our web site [www.ctaafcs.org](http://www.ctaafcs.org). Applications are due on March 15 to Mrs. Carole Christensen at [clgchris@aol.com](mailto:clgchris@aol.com). Recipients will be announced at our May meeting.

*Carole Christensen, Chairperson*

<b>Where do I find items on the website?</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
➤ Winter 2014 Newsletter	<b>Links Tab</b>	-
➤ Registration Form for Afternoon Workshops 01.23.14	<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>	-



CONNECTICUT AFFILIATE

44 George Drive  
Vernon, CT 06066

[www.ctaafcs.org](http://www.ctaafcs.org)  
[www.aafcs.org](http://www.aafcs.org)

This newsletter is one of your membership benefits!