

Volume 90

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year???

What does the New Year have in store for each of us? Will it be a positive, uplifting year or will there be events which negatively impact your contribution to society? We probably won't have answers to these questions until 2016 is knocking at our door.



One thing I do know is that your State Association needs your input and participation. If we are to survive as a positive influence on the education of Connecticut residents - be they middle and high school students, Extension System participants or business related clients - we must work together. The message we send through lessons, programs, and workshops needs to be inspiring and relevant.

As educators - active or retired - in any venue - your time is stretched to the max. I am sure you are wondering how you can add one more item to your 'To Do' list.

Unfortunately there is no magic wand which will give you 25 hours in a 24 hour day.

My one hope is that you will take a few hours once or twice this spring and attend one of our workshops or our Spring Meeting. The energy generated at these gatherings is infectious. Hopefully we will send you on your way home reinvigorated to meet the challenges of the next day, week, month or year!"

Happy New Year!!!

Becky Person

AAFCS/CT Affiliate President

2016 Connecticut Teacher of Year

Nomination Form is on the website - click on tab for Awards

Mail application form to:

Kathy Brophy
35 Jennifer's Way
Rocky Hill, CT. 06067

By March 15, 2015

2014-2015 Regional Fall & Winter Workshops ~ Celebrating the Year of the Family

Winter Workshop is scheduled for **Thursday, January 22nd**.

Families, Finances and Extension

As Cooperative Extension is celebrating its' Centennial Anniversary, let's reacquaint ourselves with the wonderful Extension resources available through UConn Extension and Cooperative Extension network for FCS teachers, families and community organizations. Personal finance resources will be emphasized related to current topics such as student loan debt, financial education for teens and increasing savings behavior among Connecticut citizens through the Connecticut Saves Campaign.

Faye Griffith-Smith is the associate extension educator in the New Haven extension office. Through collaboration with community organizations she designs, conducts and evaluates financial education outreach programs for a wide variety of audiences throughout Connecticut. Since 2013, she coordinates the Connecticut Saves Campaign promoting a culture of savers with the support of several community partners. She serves as Vice President of the Connecticut JumpStart Coalition for Financial Literacy. She also has important leadership roles in AAFCS/CT including President.

Our early Spring regional meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 19th**, at Conard High School in West Hartford with the content to be determined.

Please check the AAFCS/CT website for more information as these regional meetings develop. You will also receive registration forms from Lee Marcoux our state FCS consultant.

Our Spring Meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, May 7th**. So Please Save These Dates!!!

Becky Person at becknp@aol.com

The registration form can be found on the AAFCS/CT website: www.ctaafcs.org

MEMBERSHIP MINUTES*Time to Organize Priorities!*

Don't Misplace Professional Connections!!!

The day in and day out reality of our lives brings out the best of our repetitive nature. The approach one takes with the tasks that *have to be* verses that which can be *done later* tells a good deal about what is important to each of us. Many set high, high standards for their personal and professional life while others take things as they are and resolve to better next time around. In essence, the motto is "we do the best we can."

Our professional role requires that we assess progress and direction frequently to ascertain if we are goal-directed, making an impact and have the best interests of those we serve and our colleagues in mind. We take an in depth look at ourselves to review the positives and negatives with much attention given to ways to improve our work habit and thereby, making good changes for the position we occupy. Support from others becomes critical as we take that step to assess. Are colleagues seeing what I am seeing? Are others having a bigger more positive impact? What can I do to be more resourceful? These questions certainly are important to consider in an evaluation process year in and year out.

Professional connections make a difference! Networking continues to be a forceful word when one assesses his/her importance in a job. There is nothing like the mentoring and the look-see another can offer that can mean I'm on target and moving in the right direction. Finally, in the end the priorities get set as we see where we are headed and the effect we can have on impact!

Take a moment and review *your* professional organization. What does it do for me? Have I taken time to consider the benefits AAFCS offers a member? I thought it best to outline these as the benefits can make for an effective impact as one organizes priorities.

- Print materials---the Journal, Research Journal, and FACS Newsletters are examples that the membership has appreciated over the years. These are available online as well.
- Products--- via the AAFCS Store such as note cards, books, and jewelry are all there. Check out the product line from National.
- Annual Conference & Expo---brings professionals from all areas of expertise together to share, learn and contribute to AAFCS. The program highlights are advertised in the Journal and included on National's web site .
- Advocacy Role---there is nothing like contributing and being a part of an initiative to support others. Our National organization continues to participate in a public policy/advocacy position on several issues; have contributed to several causes. There is much information regarding the advocacy role on the web site.
- Networking---THIS IS A BIG ONE! Interacting and learning from others puts our profession in a forward position. The connections we make with others in the field specifically and the related entities enhance quality people and programs.
- Special Services---perks such as discounts on insurances, travel planning, professional certification, and FCS Career Connection. Again, the web site outlines all addition services.

Make *your* membership work for *you*!

Make membership in *your* National organization a priority each and every year!

Membership with National includes membership in *your* Connecticut state affiliate---more benefits!

Check out the Connecticut and National web sites for more information!

Stephanie Fians, *Membership Chair*

2015 PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

Recognized at Spring Annual CT/FCS Meeting in May

Application on web site under Awards Tab

Mail by April 15, 2015 to:

Kathy Brophy

35 Jennifers Way

Rocky Hill CT 06067

Questions on applications to Kathy Brophy at 860-978-0088 or brophyk2@cox.net

2015 STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

TEACHERS, PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR STUDENTS TO APPLY FOR THE AAFCS/CT SCHOLARSHIP.

Applications can be FOUND ONLINE AT <http://www.ctaafcs.org/>

The scholarship is for any high school senior that plans to major in a Family and Consumer Sciences field of study at a two or four year school of higher education.

One \$1000.00 scholarship will be awarded, in the possible categories:

- 1) FCS related field of study
- 2) Future FCS teacher

Send Completed Application by **March 15th** to:

Mrs. Carole Christensen

394 Wells Road

Wethersfield, CT 06109

Questions or if you need further information, please contact: Carole Christensen ~ (860)563.4038

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Where do I find items on the website?	Location	Due Date
➤ Winter 2015 Newsletter	Links Tab	-
➤ <i>Registration Form for Winter Workshop 01.22.15</i>	<i>Conferences Tab</i>	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
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CONNECTICUT AFFILIATE

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www.ctaafcs.org

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This newsletter is one of your membership benefits!