



Connecticut Affiliate Spring Conference

Transforming Your Life

through FCS – YES!

The conference committee is in the process of planning an exciting Spring Conference with three breakout sessions to provide you with relevant information for your FCS classroom.

Keynote speaker and presenter **Corinne Hoisington** is a full-time Professor of Information Systems Technology at Central Virginia Community College in Lynchburg, VA with over 25 years of teaching experience. Corinne's experience includes providing keynote motivational topics and training to corporations, small businesses, conferences, college & university professors and K-12 teachers.

Come enjoy a day with your colleagues and learn ways to transform your teaching and that of those we encounter. Registrations forms will be available soon. Look for information on our website or in your email. For further information, contact:

Karen Redanz kredanz94@gmail.com
Lori Peck loripeck@charter.net

Radisson Hotel Cromwell, CT



More information and registration will be available in the Spring Newsletter and on the ctaafcs.org website.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends of the Connecticut Affiliate of AAFCS,

The Officers of Connecticut Affiliate of AAFCS have been working very hard this year. We are busy planning a daylong conference for all to attend. Mark your calendars now for April 27th. You will find more information about the conference in this newsletter.

At the national level, I had the pleasure of attending the AAFCS leadership conference in November. Every time I have the opportunity to be at a meeting with the other Family and Consumer Scientist from around the country I am awe struck. The other men and women in our profession are smart, dedicated, and caring. Professionally they are individually and collectively moving our profession forward. However, there is a growing shortage of professionals in our area. The national organization has started a new campaign to recruit highly qualified individuals into our profession. The campaign is called "Say Yes to FCS". For more information, go to the national website.

So I challenge you to help with this campaign. If you are a teacher, encourage your best students to pursue FCS as a career. Also, talk to other adults about your job. So many people are confused about who we are and what we do, that a conversation can be enlightening. You never know, you could influence, a career change.

Thanks so much for being a valuable part of this important organization. I look forward to seeing you all on April 27th at our state conference.

Best Regards,

Lori

Lori Peck
President, AAFCS-CT
loripeck@charter.net or lpeck@ridgefield.org

MEMBERSHIP MINUTES..... What is Next?

The fact that we plan, prepare and make decisions each day gives one a sense of purpose. Often interruptions to this design will change things and perhaps take one to a whole new idea! This can be a good happening as a new approach can offer a better decision in the end.

Affiliate members have defined a purpose. They share in a wealth of information that National AAFCS provides all year long for the membership. This professional connection provides many benefits to those in the field. These include:

- *80+ webinars free of charge.
- *Certified Wellness Educator certification is now offered--- this involves a computer-based test at a fee of \$165.00. Prep materials are available on AAFCS web site.
- * Parenting Press provides a monthly newsletter and classroom resources as well as information for parent educators in the field.

This is not an exhaustive list! The web site for National---www.aafcs.org should be a ready reference for all of us and one to review throughout the year. In addition, the fine work that many professionals in the country are doing is highlighted. You can readily see the plan, prepare and execute model utilized by these hardworking people in many FCS and related fields.

What is Next?

Do you know professionals who are missing out on this membership? Perhaps you mentioned your membership to some in the past. Have you considered reintroducing the "join" idea? Several out there in the world of work have come into our field by varied means. Some are not right out of college FCS major graduates. Why not offer the suggestion to join National AAFCS and reap the benefits? Again, a review of the membership page will show the wealth of programs, discounts, and resources available.

The National connection is not the whole piece. Membership in AAFCS automatically makes one a state member too! The Connecticut Affiliate offers many pluses! A look-see at the web site---www.ctaafcs.org will show the various programs and resources it provides. This spring the CT Affiliate is holding an all-day meeting April 27, 2017 at the Radisson Hotel in Cromwell, CT. Professionals throughout the state will gather to share, network, hear a main speaker, review resources, etc. This is also the meeting where student scholarships, teacher and professional recognition are given, and 25/50 year members are honored. This mid-state meeting is a *must* for those out there in the field. This is an opportunity for you to invite non-members to an affiliate function. What better way to introduce someone to the organization! Do review the program outline in this and future newsletters.

What is Next?

The start of a new year can mean a new start toward a purpose. Our professional lives can take us in many directions. So much is required of one out there in our family, job, and community. We want to show our best and do it with our all! The support of AAFCS and the CT Affiliate is the support that *adds* to one's best. Why not share this with another out there in your professional realm who at this point has not taken the opportunity to be a member. Perhaps this *is* a good happening?

*Stephanie Fians, Membership Chair
Connecticut*

Winter Newsletter Public Policy and Legislation

LETTER TO AAFCS

Early in 2016, AAFCS/CT sent a letter to Sen. Chris Murphy in support of the senator's legislation for "Mental Health Reform Act" {senate bill #1945} and "Help Find the Missing Act" {senate bill #2105}, also known as "Billy's Law". After approval from the board, I sent 12 emails. Eleven went to the Board of Directors of AAFCS and 1 to Marilyn Swierk, chair of Taking it to the Streets {TIS}. The letter encouraged AAFCS to endorse CT affiliate letter to Senator Murphy and to consider making a resolution, or to incorporate into TIS. The only response I got was from Gwynn Mason, Senior Director of Communications and Marketing; she would suggest this as an agenda item at next board meeting. Both senate bills #1945 and #2105 have only been introduced to HELPS; remaining steps are to pass Senate & House, signed by the President and then the bills become laws.

TEACHER CERTIFICATION

The State Board of Education approved a quicker path to certification to help address teacher shortage. The "Relay Graduate School of Education" has campuses throughout the US that offers a 1 year certification program for an Initial Teacher certification and a MA in Teaching program. Critics state the educators that graduated from these programs are inexperienced, have high rates of failure and turnovers, and receive little guidance. Critics went on to say it's a crash course to increase test scores, not to increase students' skills. CT Education Association {CEA} had urged the state to put more resources into established prep programs with proven record of success rather than to allow Relay into CT.

FCS DAY

Did you share with your school and community the participation in "Dining In for Healthy Families" on Dec. 3? Did students follow any meal planning guidelines? What were some conversation topics families had during mealtime? The December holidays can be joyful and stressful. They are also centered around food and conversations.



FINANCIAL FITNESS

The 108 annual conference is June 25 – 28, 2017 at the Hyatt Regency, Dallas, Texas. The theme is "Financial Fitness – trends, innovations and impacts". All areas of FCS have a link to finances. The Federal Reserve has a free "What We Do" teaching kit that gives teachers many hands-on activities. The kit includes a curriculum guide, a DVD movie, a CD, and a bag of Fed Shreds money. Go to the November 17 Fast FaCS and click on the link or www.dynamindspublishing.com to order.

FOODS AND NUTRITION

What Americans have eaten has been based on food availability, finances and other global topics. Are you interested in nutrition and food history that might surprise your classes? Maybe some historical background could tie in with other school curricula areas. Michigan State University hosts networks that embark on the history of nutrition and cultural meanings of food and drink around the world. Addresses are:

<http://networks.h-net.org/h-nutrition>

<http://networks.h-net.org/h-food-studies>

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Parenting Press has many free or low cost resources that have no advertisements. There are monthly newsletter articles, teacher guides and language arts projects at www.parentingpress.com/newsletter. Many child development topics are covered in information sheets and short books that can be downloaded at

www.parentingpress.com/instant-help.html.

Submitted by Judy Hinman

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Where do I find items on the website?	Location	Due Date
➤ Fall 2016 Newsletter (Archived Spring 2016 Newsletter)	Links Tab	-
➤ <i>All Day Conference April 27, 2017</i> Watch for announcements...	<i>Conferences Tab</i>	Registration available in February
➤ 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	-



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