

## President's Message

*Cold Days and Warm Days, don't you wish the weather would make up its mind!* As you seek shelter from weather "storms" and storms of life, I am once again reflecting on the state of our Association. At present our membership count is 108. When I addressed you eight years ago the Connecticut Affiliate had 205 members. When a newsletter mailing is sent to ALL members and non-members, we have to purchase 469 stamps. Where are the remaining 361 that could be members? A quote from Lew Wasserman:

*I think that our primary concern is the membership in our industry become active. I'm not talking about the candidates being active. I'm talking about the few hundred (thousand) people who work in the industry around (the United States) Connecticut.*

We are only as strong as our active membership. As members we need to ask ourselves how we can assist the Family & Consumer Sciences organization. Strength is found in the community we share with our professional peers. Being an active member supports the many initiatives necessary to keep the profession alive.

Be alert to the role you can play in influencing your legislators and your administration. It is vital for you to stay in touch with your elected local and state officials and your administrators. Find out what issues need input. Invite them to visit your classrooms or programs. Most are also distant from the classroom, that they need assistance in making informed decisions. You know the latest issues impacting your profession. Show them you are addressing childhood obesity, teen pregnancy, technology, and financial management just to name a few. Provide evidence that you are addressing literacy skills, math skills for the CMT and CAPT, and that you are **Building on Academic Mastery!** Family and Consumer Sciences professionals have a lot to do with the real world application and building on the basics. **YOU** have the power to impact individuals and influence the media, legislators and school administrators.

As professionals you can educate to improve children's eating habits or lower teen pregnancy rates. Your best advocates are your students. Through consumerism you can assist your students in having a voice. The "personal touch" is so important. As a member of this association, it is your responsibility to keep our leaders informed; not doing so will contribute to our demise.

I constantly use these thoughts in my daily work with others. I am reminded of the vision of Family and Consumer Sciences that is based on a belief that all students regardless of their career aspirations, need to learn to apply academic knowledge, acquire practical skills, and develop their higher order thinking capacity. We can no longer afford to pretend that someone else will be active. **We need you to be active!**



**"It's easy to make a buck.**

**It's a lot tougher to make a difference."** ~ *Tom Brokaw*

Janice M. Uerz, President  
AAFCS/CT Affiliate  
e-mail: [janice.uerz@snet.net](mailto:janice.uerz@snet.net)

### **May 3rd, 2012 AAFCS Spring Conference: "Tying It Together"**

Where: Water's Edge Resort; 1525 Boston Post Road; Westbrook, Connecticut

Time: 3:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Are we equipped to prepare our students for the challenges they will face in the 21st century? Join AAFCS for an exciting evening of information. Tie together learning strategies and tools that are important to teach and assess 21st century processing skills to enhance achievement and lifelong learning. CEU's will be available. Registration forms may be found at [ctaafcs.org](http://ctaafcs.org).

Nancy Malafatopoulos  
President-elect/ESEA  
[NMALAFATOPOULOS@fairfieldschools.org](mailto:NMALAFATOPOULOS@fairfieldschools.org)

### **Spring Conference Silent Auction**

We have many local businesses and restaurants that are very generous in our fundraising efforts, especially knowing that this fundraiser helps support our CT AAFCS scholarships, awarded to students every year at the Spring Conference. Theme baskets include: gourmet, fashion, beauty, gardening, health, travel, spa, etc. The value of the baskets and gifts range from \$20 - \$150.

Come prepared to place your bids. If you have a connection to a local business or restaurant that would like to contribute, you will find a sponsor letter on our website ([ctaafcs.org](http://ctaafcs.org)). If you have any questions please email Belle Garafola at [bgarafola@region15.org](mailto:bgarafola@region15.org) or Nancy Malafatopoulos.

Nancy Malafatopoulos  
President-elect/ESEA  
[NMALAFATOPOULOS@fairfieldschools.org](mailto:NMALAFATOPOULOS@fairfieldschools.org)

### **FCCLA Needs the Assistance of FCS Teachers**

The future of CT FCCLA is in serious jeopardy. Unless a core of enthusiastic, dedicated FCS teachers step forward to lead and keep FCCLA alive for our students in 2012 and thereafter, the state FCCLA organization will cease to exist. Not only will this be an enormous loss to our students, it will negatively impact our FCS school programs. If there is no structured FCCLA state organization, FCCLA chapter advisors who receive stipends funded through Perkins, will no longer be eligible to receive those stipends.

Please contact me at [lori.matyjas@ct.gov](mailto:lori.matyjas@ct.gov) with any and all suggestions to keep FCCLA viable in CT. As I've said many times before, the FCCLA state advisorship should be a team of teachers, not one individual doing all the work. The FCCLA State leadership could be an advisory board or another configuration.

I strongly urge any FCS teacher to become a part of the team but would like to see newer teachers to consider this.

Lori Matyjas  
Liaison, CT State Department of Education

### **Late Winter Meeting-AAFCS/CT**

Your State Association invites you to the last of 3 fall/winter meetings. One of our goals has been to gain your input regarding marketing our profession. Your insight will help us develop a marketing plan to shape our future.

Our last meeting will be held at Pomperaug High School in Southbury, Connecticut on Thursday, March 22nd. Belle Garafola and her students will host this event.

As usual – two workshops will be provided. Karen Redanz – our 2012 FCS Teacher of the Year will showcase her program entitled ***The Sustainable Table***. Karen will present this workshop with the Environmental Sciences and Anatomy & Physiology teachers that co-teach this class with her. Come prepared to participate in foods lab activities.

If you need technology CEU's - Janice Uerz will give you hands on opportunities to explore child development applications. All of the information provided can be incorporated into your human development programs. This will lead to improved literacy skills which are critical for CMT/CAPT and Perkins testing.

The registration form for this meeting is included in this newsletter. Please complete the form and return it to Becky Person by March 15<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you there!

Becky Person  
Colleges, Universities & Research  
[becknp@aol.com](mailto:becknp@aol.com)

## **AAFCS Resolution**

FCS has always been at the forefront in implementing programs that guide individuals and families. We all know this. We all know that we are constantly changing curricula to adapt to individual student needs, technology, scientific findings, societal trends, etc. But how well do your local and state political leaders know what you do? So often, we only “speak to the choir”.

At the national conference in June, 2011 a “Sustaining FCS Education Resolution” was passed. The full document can be located on the national website, [aafcs.org](http://aafcs.org). Select Advocacy on the tool bar. Our goal is to develop well constructed and coordinated plans for building support for the contributions made by FCS education. With budget constraints tighter each fiscal year, we need to market FCS education.

Marilyn Swierk, CFCS, AAFCS started a "Taking It to the Streets" Campaign. We need to contribute to all we do by marketing to your administrators, board of education, guidance, legislators, and other forms of public relations. I encourage you download the icons for FCCLA, FCS and AAFCS and create your own letterhead. Put these icons on all your written documents.

Look at your curricula. Are your math, science and common core objectives written in 21<sup>st</sup> century terms? Do the objectives clearly empower students with the CMT, CAPT, SAT, and CBIA's employability skills?

AAFCS/CT affiliate will assist you. Communicate with us by attending workshops and spring meetings, emailing board members, etc. We all want to see FCS through another 100 years.

Judy Hinman, AAFCS/CT past president  
Public Policy and Legislation chair  
[jplantman1@att.net](mailto:jplantman1@att.net)

## **2012-2013 Elections**

At the May 3, 2012 Spring Meeting, we will be electing the officers and board positions for next year. In the spring AAFCS/CT newsletter there will be the list of candidates.

Judy Hinman, AAFCS/CT past president  
Nominations committee chair  
[jplantman1@att.net](mailto:jplantman1@att.net)

## **CHANGE OF DEADLINE FOR AAFCS/CT TEACHER OF THE YEAR APPLICATIONS**

The AAFCS/CT Board voted to change the deadline for the Teacher of the Year applications to March 15 of each year. The Connecticut Teacher of the Year will have until early January 2013 to prepare the notebook for the National Teacher of the Year. The person chosen will be announced at the Spring Meeting on May 3, 2012, and then recognized at the Spring Meeting of the following year.

Guidelines for the National Teacher of the Year may be downloaded from the AAFCS Website when they are available. Using the guidelines and detailed evaluation criteria from the previous year may be necessary to start compiling materials. This can be obtained by downloading it from the AAFCS web site.

Two items that are important for the National Teacher of the Year evaluation points are:

- (1) Membership in AAFCS must be current with a minimum of the past three consecutive years. (Also an AAFCS/CT requirement)
- (2) The featured program has been successful for at least three years, is sustainable, and can be duplicated. (AAFCS/CT requires that the program is in effect for one year).

Participation as a board member or committee member, being an FCCLA Leader, and attending workshops and conferences also builds a strong submission packet.

To apply, download the Teacher of the Year application from our web site at [ctaaafcs.org](http://ctaaafcs.org). Disregard the deadline of September. 30, and return the application by March 15.

Shirley Randazzo  
Chair, Awards and Recognition Committee

## **TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR 2012**

Karen Redanz of Rocky Hill High School has been chosen as the 2012 AAFCS/CT Teacher of the Year for her program "The Sustainable Table." She will represent Connecticut at the AAFCS Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, June 24 to 27, 2012, and compete to be the National Teacher of the Year.

Karen's program promotes and encourages good food choices and encourages eating locally grown foods. Students learn to identify real, whole foods vs. partially or fully processed foods,

and work to educate others as well. The program not only includes the Culinary Arts class, but has expanded to include the Environmental Science and AP Biology classes.

Karen will be honored at the AAFCS/CT Spring Meeting on May 3, 2012.

Shirley Randazzo  
Chair, Awards and Recognition Committee

## **HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**

Teachers, please download the AAFCS/CT High School Scholarship Application from the AFCS/CT web site and print to share with your students. Go to [ctaafcs.org](http://ctaafcs.org). Two \$1,000.00 scholarships will be available. One is for a student majoring in a FCS-related field of study and the other for a student majoring specifically in Family and Consumer Sciences Education.

The application lists the criteria and the due date is March 15.

Shirley Randazzo  
Chair, Awards and Recognition Committee