

Winter 2006

LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION FOR FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Louisiana Chapter



THE AGGREGATE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sharman J. Charles

Greetings to all! As we close another year, it is important to reflect on this year's events. There have been so many wonderful things to remember. Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) agents were treated to two wonderful conferences, the annual FCS Conference in Baton Rouge and the LEAFCS Convention in Lake Charles. Although we were shown the power of devastation from the two hurricanes Katrina and Rita; we were also shown the greater power of hope and perseverance.

Throughout the state, FCS agents are conducting phenomenal programs to improve the quality of life for families. We as FCS agents have such a wonderful opportunity to reach all individuals from all walks of life regardless of

background. Through our work, we are following the teaching mission of NEAFCS: to assist families in Raising Kids, Eating Right, Spending Smart, and Living Well. By spreading our message via news articles, television, radio features and the numerous other educational presentations we are making an impact on families.

As this year closes, reflect on all of the wonderful work that you have done. Take the time to appreciate your contributions to society and know that your work is valued. I challenge you to fill out the Awards Data Form with your membership form and the national awards forms on the NEAFCS website. It is important to share all of the wonderful things that you are doing. It is not just to celebrate your accomplish-

ments, but all of the accomplishments of the FCS program.

As I close, I share with you a wonderful quote by Marian Wright Edelman: *We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee.*

Have a very special and relaxing Holiday Season! Take the time to enjoy your family and friends and enjoy the peace of this time of year. See you in 2007!

EDITOR'S NOTE

Cathy S. Judd

As I look back through my calendar I can't believe another year has come and gone. It is amazing how much work is going on! Our program participants are making behavior changes by practicing and implementing healthy eating habits; sound financial decisions, and improved family relationships.

I am so proud of my co-workers/friends for their accomplishments, awards and achievements this year. Let's celebrate another successful year! I know we will all continue to carry out our mission in 2007.

Thanks to all of you who emailed infor-

mation so I can share updates around the state. Many thanks to De Wilson, our wonderful secretary who learned publisher this week to bring you this professional looking newsletter.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

STATE-WIDE AWARDS

UPDATE ON NEAFCS CONVENTION IN DENVER

The NEAFCS convention was held in Denver, Colorado.

Opening session keynote speaker was Dr. James Hill, Editor-in-Chief, Obesity Management Journal and Professor, Pediatrics and Medicine, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver. Dr. Hill is the co-founder of

America on the Move, a national weight gain prevention initiative that aims to inspire Americans to make small changes in how much they eat and how much they move to prevent weight gain. During the session, he announced a new partnership between CSREES and America on the Move. A pre-conference workshop was conducted by John Parfrey, Director of the National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) High School Financial Plan-

ning Program who unveiled the new Program which will be launched in early 2007. The closing keynote speaker was Marianne Neifert, M.D., a renowned pediatrician, best-selling author and medical educator. Dr. Neifert is best known by parents and educators as Dr. Mom, as she provides counsel in balancing personal and professional lives.

STATE-WIDE AWARDS (Continued)

Awards

- Iris Webb and Cathy Holmes received the National Continued Excellence Award. Debbie Melvin received the National Florence Hall Award (\$500).



- Debbie Melvin also was the Southern Region Finalist for the Community Partnership Award and Communication Award—Written News, Second Place.
- Terri Crawford and Adrienne Vidrine received the National Distinguished Service Award.

- Terry Toombs received the Extension Housing Outreach Award.



UPDATES

- Adrienne Vidrine recently became an Accredited Financial Counselor through the Association for Financial Counseling Planning and Education (AFCPE). Accredited Financial Counselors have certified skills to assist individuals and families in the complex process of financial decision making, including the ability to educate clients in sound financial principles and help clients identify and modify ineffective money management behaviors.

- Deniese Zeringue networked with the St. Charles Parish Child Nutrition Director, Cynthia Ruffin, and her Assistant, Teresa Brown, a team of NSU dietitian students, cooking students, and many volunteers from seven schools to involve 900 St. Charles third graders in the Body Walk Exhibit. The students were introduced to tasty fruits and vegetables and completed Body Wise fact sheets.



Deniese Teaching the children about Little Organ Annie

- Joan Almond received her specialization in nutrition and is presently serving as Northwest Regional Nutrition Specialty agent. She also completed the FEMA training for

Claiborne Parish First Responders and Serv-Safe Certification at Bossier Parish Community College. Congratulations!

- Cathy Holmes shares that she, Beth Gambel, Iris Webb, Alexis Navarro, and Cheri Gioe worked together to present 18 childcare classes over a two day period. They awarded 387 certificates to child care providers on the North Shore. Cheri conducted Director Training the same week on the North Shore and issued 100 certificates. Great teamwork girls!

- NEAFCS Committees, Sub-Committee (Task Force) Membership: Applications for committees, sub-committee (task force) membership is due December 31, 2006. Please sign up for national committees and sub-committee (task forces) as they are both very important. Get on-line and complete your application today. Applications for both Committee and task force service are due by the end of 2006. These sub-committee groups are already busy with planning for next years annual session. This is a great opportunity to increase your resume for national awards application. Members can apply for two committees or sub-committees (task force), but can only chair one committee or sub-committee. Galaxy III is also looking for individuals to be on Committees for the Meeting in 2008. Visit the JCEP web-site

www.jcep.org, Susan Brown and Peggy Eihlers are the NEAFCS representatives.

- JCEP Southern Region Leadership Conference: Cindy Richard, LEAFCS President-Elect, and I will be attending the 2007 JCEP Southern Region Leadership Conference being held in Nashville January 31-February 2, 2007. We will inform everyone of updates when we return.
- Concurrent Session Proposals and Showcase of Excellence in St. Paul: If you are interested in presenting at the 2007 NEAFCS Annual Meeting in St. Paul, MN, your proposals are due on January 31, 2007, for concurrent session and showcase of excellence presentations.
- Membership Deadline: Please remember that February 1, 2007, is the deadline for Dru Levrier to send our membership for 2007. Please remember that the number of members will determine our number of Distinguished Service Award, Continued Excellence Award, and voting delegates to national meetings. Please encourage new co-workers who are not members to join our association. It is a tremendous way for agents conducting FCS (adult & youth) work to provide support to each other.

ON THE PERSONAL SIDE

- Cathy Agan and her husband, Bill, have a new addition to their family. Anna Claire was born on August 7, 2006, weighing 8 lbs. 2 oz and was 20 1/2 inches long. Welcoming Anna Claire home was her big sister, Emma Grace.
- Mimi Stoker will be retiring January 3rd. She had this to say: "I wanted to let you know how much I have enjoyed working with you. I have had some great years with Extension, and I thank you for the part you played in making my career so enjoyable. I honestly think the best part of being an Extension agent is the great people we get to work with—co-workers and clients." Mimi also reports that she is starting a part-time job in January with the Women's Resource Center in Natchitoches.

- Cathy Judd was the recipient of the PILD Scholarship and had the following report:

The PILD Conference was a wonderful experience, all Extension facility should have this opportunity to share programs and tell our story. One of the conference sessions gave us an overview of the different leadership styles and programs. We got an up date on eXtension and how beneficial this program will be for Extension and our customers. Family and Consumer Sciences, Extension Agents, shared the impact of their programs in three areas, 1) Raising Kids 2) Eating Well, and 3) Spending Wisely. There are a lot of great educational programs going on all over the U.S.! Capital Hill was a great venture for all Louisiana delegates. We were able to visit with all of our congressional delegation; three delegates face to face and

four of the congressional aides. We visited with our two senators' aids. We had a great time meeting our congressional members, sharing local information, and talking on formula funding. We were well received on capital hill, it made us feel good to know the work we do for the people of Louisiana is appreciated.



Senator Rodney Alexander takes time out to pose with the LA delegates attending the PILD Conference in Washington, D.C.



Members attending National Convention

Pictures from left to right (bottom row): Iris Webb, Terry Toombs, Terri Crawford, Cathy Holmes, Adrienne Vidrine, Debbie Melvin and Margaret Burlew. (Top row): Ophelia Allen, Sharman Charles, Cathryn Robinson, Bertea Rogers, Dr. Ellen Murphy, Dr. Sally Soileau, Cindy Richard, and Alexis Navarro. (Not pictured, but attended the conference): Mandy Armentor, Dr. Kasundra Cyrus, and Carolyn Robinson.