



THE AGGREGATE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Sharman J. Charles

Greetings to all! It brings me great pleasure to wish you a very Happy New Year. I hope that after returning from the holidays you are invigorated and excited to begin 2006 with a renewed spirit.

During 2005, we saw and faced many challenges. But with true Extension spirit and passion, we met those challenges head-on and provided valuable outreach to many families throughout the state.

As we enter 2006, we, yet, again are looking to face many challenges. With budget and staffing issues looming, there are many uncertainties ahead. But with our determination, we can persevere. Yes, we will have many days busy with work strengthening the lives of

Louisiana's citizens, but we must also take the time to strengthen ourselves.

My greatest challenge to each of you, including myself, is to take care of self. Caring for our physical, emotional and spiritual selves is the greatest gift that we can give to our families, our organizations, and our clientele. We should find the things in life that bring us pleasure and peace and take the time to enjoy them. We should take the time to eat right and exercise, our health is so important. Spend time with our families; we owe them just as much attention as our clientele. Take the time to stop and reflect if only for a minute; find the simple pleasures in the chaos of each day.

Something that I am trying to do this year is to find at least one thing each day to be grateful for. So, today my gratitude will be

for each of you. I am grateful for the wonderful women that make up LEAFCS. I am grateful for your confidence in me to lead this association. I am grateful for the kindness and support that each of you has shown to me since I have been installed as president. I am grateful for the words of encouragement, the voices of reason, the shoulders of compassion, and the strength of friendship. This association truly has a group of remarkable women. I take from each of you your wisdom, strength, professional knowledge, and determination. Each of you has touched my life individually in your own wonderful way. So, to each of you, I say thank you for your gift of improving me.

May each of you have a very prosperous 2006!

EDITOR'S NOTE Adrienne Vidrine

My head is still spinning from what Mother Nature bestowed upon us in '05! Hopefully the silver lining on the clouds of Katrina & Rita will be that, in the future, Louisiana will be a better and safer place to live! The LSU AgCenter and FCS Agents will certainly be facing challenges and opportunities in making that come true.

I have enjoyed serving as editor of *The Aggregate*. It has been fun hearing from co-workers from all corners of the state as they e-mail both personal and professional information to include in the newsletter.

March and April will be full of professional development opportunities as we look forward to both the FCS spring meeting in Ba

ton Rouge and the LEAFCS convention in Lake Charles. See you there!

Special thanks goes to Paula Stewart who is responsible for giving our newsletter such a professional look!

LEAFCS STATE CONVENTION

Ahoy! The Southwest Region members of LEAFCS invite you to join us for our annual spring convention in the heart of Louisiana's Sportsman's Paradise. Mark your calendar for **April 24-27** in Lake Charles for fun, fellowship, education, and plenty of good food!

We will have educational and professional development programs in our three Family and Consumer Sciences focus areas: Family Development; Fam

ily Resource Management; and Nutrition, Diet and Health; plus lots more! Be on the lookout during the first week in March when all registration materials will be mailed to you.

Remember to get your calendar out and mark it to join us April 24-27 in Lake Charles—our "Safe Harbor" for the LSU AgCenter FCS Family.

Mandy Armentor
2006 Convention Registration Chair



UPDATES FROM AROUND THE STATE

- **Louise McDonald** had the opportunity to attend the national convention in Philadelphia with her daughter who works for the Texas Extension Service. She says *“it is a true pleasure to have your daughter follow in your footsteps.”* In addition to the convention, they were blessed to meet relatives, through her genealogy search, that they had never seen before. She feels sure if it wasn't for the convention, she would not have met them. Prior to their arrival for convention, they visited friends at West Point and even had the opportunity to go to an Army Game.
- **Kate Ordeneaux** will be retiring on February 28, 2006 after 36 years of service!
- **Cindy Richard and Margaret Burlew** received their specialization in Family Resource Management in December. *Congratulations!*
- **Patty Vidrine** reports that the national convention was fantastic! Programs and speakers were informative and she especially enjoyed the tour of the Amish countryside and traveling to New York City.
- **Diane Glasgow** helped two child care providers get their hours of training to start their own child care business by teaching extra classes and giving on-sight recommendations. She is also preparing CDA classes geared towards candidates enrolled in the CDA program. In addition, Diane is mentoring a mom who is living at the Providence House, a homeless shelter for parents with children.
- **Tavie Bult (FNP)** has been working with the food bank at the Abundant Life Fellowship in Lake Charles to provide nutrition fact sheets in 700-900 grocery bags that are distributed weekly to families in this Rita stricken area. A survey was conducted as clients “drove through” to receive their bags of food. Seventy percent of those interviewed stated they read and enjoyed the nutrition information provided and that they either had made or intended to make changes in their eating habits based on the information they received.
- **Dr. Sally Soileau** received the Continuing Excellence Award and the Regional Food Safety Educator Award for Oyster Safety *Vibrio vulnificus* program at the national conference in Philadelphia. *Congratulations!*
- **Drs. Beth Reames & Sally Soileau** received the Regional and National Curriculum Team Award for the *Serving Food Safely* program at the national conference in Philadelphia. *Congratulations!*
- *Congratulations* to the FCS Agents who were recipients of the Denver T. and Ferne Loupe Extension Team Award for building financially literate youth through the High School Financial Planning Program. The AgCenter's Family Resource Management Team conducted 58 six-hour train-the-trainer workshops across the state to 471 teachers. **Team Leaders were Dr. Jeanette Tucker and Dr. Ann Berry. Team members included: Beverly Bailey, Kathy Mauthe, Laura Lea Perault, Ginger Boutwell, Cynthia Stevens, Margaret Burlew, Sheri Fair, Melissa Carter, Julie McLain, Carolyn Leperi, Denise Zeringue, Cindy Richard and Adrienne Vidrine.**



(L-R) Ginger Boutwell, Joan Almond & Terry Foster.

Three FCS agents took a break at the NEAFCS conference in Philadelphia & had a great time touring the Italian Market, the oldest & largest working outdoor market in the U. S., The Restaurant School at Walnut Hill College; Brandywine Valley; and a side trip into New York.



Faye Strickler of Penn State & Dr. Sally Soileau pause for a “Kodak Moment” at the NEAFCS Conference in Philadelphia.

DELTA H.O.P.E. TRI-STATE CHILDHOOD OBESITY INITIATIVE WINS TWO NATIONAL AWARDS

The Delta H.O.P.E. Tri-State Childhood Obesity Initiative was recently recognized through two national awards for the work being conducted in the area of Childhood Obesity. The Initiative aims to improve children's health through classroom based intervention in the Delta Regions of Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas.

One award received was the DHHS Innovation in Prevention Award. This award was created as part of President Bush's Healthier U. S. initiative and the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services continuing focus on preventing chronic disease and improving Americans' lives. This award highlights businesses and organizations that are leading the efforts to promote healthier lifestyles

in seven different areas. Delta H.O.P.E. was honored in the Schools K-12 category.

The second award for which the group received recognition was The Cooper Institute Gold Award. The Cooper Institute reviewed programs that were involved in prevention and/or treatment of obesity for children ages preschool to 18. Programs had to meet at least one of the following criteria: had weight management as a primary program objective or had weight targets as primary outcomes. Programs were scored based on program design, evaluation, implementation and dissemination.

The Delta H.O.P.E. Tri-State Initiative is a partnership of Wellness Incorporated, the Mississippi Alliance for Self-Sufficiency, ILSI Center for Health Promotion in col-

laboration with Cooperative Extension in the three states and elementary schools in the region. The Initiative involves classroom participation in the Take 10 program which combines physical activity with academics and also presents The Organ Wise Guys characters to the students. Funding for the Initiative is provided by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

LSU AgCenter staff working on this Initiative has included: Dr. Ellen Murphy, Dr. Heli Roy, Dr. Annrose Guarino, Dr. Jan Hicks, Kay Parnell, Terri Crawford, Joanna Strong, Kayla Sevier, Berteal Rogers, Karol Osborne, Shelia Haynes, Markaye Russell, and Cathy Agan.

ON THE PERSONAL SIDE

- **Connie Aclin's** son, Scott, and his wife, Nicole, are expecting a child June 1, 2006. This will be her *first* grandchild!
- **Nikki LeMaire** has recently relocated to the Acadia Parish office. She will be teaching Child Care Provider Trainings and Parenting Classes in several parishes in the Southwest Region. Nikki and her husband, Troy, are looking forward to having a new addition to the family in April. This will be their third child. Welcoming Baby *Boy* LeMaire will be big brother, Chance, and big sister, Chloe'.
- **Terry Foster's** oldest son, Clinton Bowers, graduated from LSU-Shreveport in December with honors. He has been accepted to the LSU Law School and is receiving an academic scholarship for his outstanding achievements at LSU-S. He is presently law clerking for his father in Shreveport and will begin law school this fall.
- **Patty Vidrine** was elected to serve as a member of the Board of Directors for the Jeff Davis Parish Business Alliance. The Business Alliance has merged all town "chambers of commerce", plus communities throughout the parish, into one organization to better market Jeff Davis Parish.
- **Sally Soileau** moved into a new garden home in Baton Rouge over the Christmas holidays and was able to celebrate the season with children, family & close friends in her new house!