



## We're Ready to Grow!

OEAFCS—We're sixty-two members strong and we're ready to grow! Just ask any OCES District Director and District FCS Program Specialist, and they will tell you how busy this past month has been with interviews to fill vacant positions we've had since the summer of 2003.

Our OEAFCS District Directors are primed and ready to ask new FCS educators to join our association, because we are the professional development association in which new FCS Extension employees can gain the most benefit by their membership and participation.

As current members each of you can help our new Extension employees feel welcomed, valued and respected as members of the Oklahoma Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. How? I'm glad you asked!

- First, consider yourself a mentor. Pick up the phone and give the new employee a call. Introduce yourself and tell the new staff member where you're located and how you might be of help to them as they discover the world of "Extension Work." Answer questions they have and before you know it, you've made a friend for life!
- If you are in the same district, at the next opportunity to meet the new staff member, introduce the new staff member to your co-workers from other counties. Help them learn the names and backgrounds of those in your district, and if mealtime approaches, please include them in your mealtime plans. Let's step out of our comfort zones with a verbal invitation to the group for a

meal. Remember, when you were first employed and how you felt? And remember the Golden Rule? It applies here as well.

- Keep the language simple. Don't confuse the new employee with Extension acronyms or complex explanations of programs. Explain in easy to understand terms and allow the new staff member to immerse himself/herself gradually in Extension vocabulary.
- Encourage bite-sized involvement, including a membership in the OEAFCS. She/he should be encouraged to attend our association meetings and will feel a true connection to his/her peers as he/she takes part in committee work, one bite at a time!
- Remind the new staff person that they have a lot to offer and we welcome, value and respect their opinions, contributions and their eventual leadership is important to our organization.
- When time allows, take a minute to email or jot a note to the new staff member with words of encouragement, or program offerings, lessons, or handouts you may have ready to share. Wouldn't that put a smile on anyone's face and truly make their day?
- Let's consider it everyone's job to make our new FCS educators feel welcomed, valued and respected and let's watch our OEAFCS membership grow!

**Karen Armbruster**  
OEAFCS President

*Happy Holidays!*



## Public Affairs

Well, how time has flown by since I took office in April for Public Affairs. I have studied, learned, and thoroughly enjoyed this position for our state association. I find that the more I understand the state and national components the more interesting the position is. I encourage all of you to get more involved in our state and national organization.

I have several items to report on and will just briefly go over these now and give you the complete list at our meeting in December. The Living Well campaign is going on now and I have a set of CD's for each District Program Specialist for counties to check out and use. This is a public service campaign that was launched in October 2002 to raise consumer awareness of the valuable educational resources available through Extension Family & Consumer Sciences. The CD's are full of information with guides, etc. and other items of interest. We have also received a Living Well display that I picked up at National for any county to check out and I will have it up at the meeting for you to see. If you need more information about Living Well check out the website at <http://learningandlivingwell.org> and see what all it has to offer.

One of the other items of interest that I

## Awards & Recognition

It is once again time to start thinking about applying for award recognition on the outstanding programming you have done this year. During our OEAFCs Mid-Year Meeting I will be giving you a list of awards that are available and directions for completing the applications.

Everything you need to apply for an NEAFCS Award or Fellowship can be found on our national website at [www.neafcs.org](http://www.neafcs.org). You will be able to start this process as soon as we submit our 2005

heard about is the opportunity to apply for a Public Affairs Mini Grant. All affiliates/states are welcome and encouraged to apply for a grant. An amount of \$300 up to \$1000 can be applied toward multi-states holding a regional training/meeting for NEAFCS members in the area of Public Affairs. This might be something that we could sponsor with another state if possible. Please think this over and let me know if this is something that our state would like to pursue at the December meeting. If it is something we might want to do, I can contact surrounding states and check the interest there.

I would like to say a special "Thank You" to the members of our state association for allowing me to serve as your Public Affairs Vice President. I attended the national meeting in Nashville as one of your voting delegates and enjoyed every minute of it. I look forward to working with you, our members, to make our association the best in the nation! If you have any questions about the items I have mentioned or just have a general question, please feel free to contact me and I will be happy to help you! See you in the city in December!

**Renee Allison**  
OEAFCs Vice President



due to national (around the first of the year).

If you are uncomfortable "tooting your own horn", help me out and let me know of a colleague that has an outstanding program going on. I'll contact them for you, without giving the name of my informant! I am looking for at least one entry per district in each category (I prefer more).

**Susan Pearson**  
OEAFCs VP/Awards & Recognition



## SW District News

The SW District Holiday In-service will be held on Thursday, December 16th at Platt College at 2727 W. Memorial in Oklahoma City. We will begin at 10:00 am with a tour of the Culinary Institute and after lunch we will have a time of program sharing. Hope everyone can make it.

We welcome three new staff in the Southwest District. Rebecca Anderson has joined the staff in Roger Mills County and

there are two new CNEP Coordinators, Mugdha Jog in Jackson County and Nicole Neilson in Comanche County. If you have a chance please welcome them to our district. The FCS positions in Jackson, Jefferson and Greer Counties remain open at this date.

**Gloria King**  
OEAFCSSW Dist. Director



## NE District News

The Northeast District currently has 17 active members and we are in the process of collecting dues for 2005.

We are excited to report that most Vacant FCS positions in the NE District have been filled. A list of new FCS educators is listed below:

Cherokee—Heather Winn  
Creek—Karin Davis  
Nowata—Aarika Buck  
Okmulgee—Andrea Buck  
Okmulgee (CNEP)—Carolyn Clifton  
Ottawa—Kathy Enyart  
Pawnee—Trinity Brown  
Payne—Dea Rash  
Tulsa—Charlotte Richert  
Tulsa (CNEP)—Donna Pelky  
Wagoner—Rachel Lockwood  
Washington—Gale Mills

The NE District FCS/4-H In-Service will be December 13, 2004 at Whitlock WISH House in Muskogee. Lunch and refresh-

ments will cost \$13. The Agenda includes a tour of the WISH House, a “Get Rid of Stress” Presentation, and suggestions on increasing visibility for Cooperative Extension, Resource Sharing, and a wonderful lunch prepared by the WISH House Chefs. We will also have fun with a “White Elephant” Gift Exchange, so bring a gift (\$15 range) if you would like to participate. To register, email Joyce Cunnius at [joyce.cunnius@okstate.edu](mailto:joyce.cunnius@okstate.edu).

You should have received detailed information about this In-Service Via Email. Please Contact me at 775-4838 if you did not receive the email or if you have any questions.

Don't forget dues are to be paid by December 31, 2004. We encourage everyone, especially new educators to join!

**Lori Dillon**  
OEAFCSSW Dist. Director



## NW District News

Plans are currently being made in the NW District for the annual FCS Holiday In-Service/OEAFCSS Meeting, where our 13 members, as well as other FCS/4-H educators will be traveling to Ellis County on Thursday, December 16th. Part of the In-Service will be a presentation and group discussion with Joe Wilmuth, and election of a new NW District Director for

OEAFCSS.

We are glad to welcome potential OEAFCSS members as recent additions OCES: Robyn Rapp in Grant County and Paula Post in Kingfisher County.

**Dana Baldwin**  
OEAFCSSNW Dist. Director

# LOOKING FOR LEADERS!

Yes!...the “Daring Detective” is on the trail for some new, excited, and adventurous leaders for the Leadership Team—OEAFCs, 2005! During our noon meeting, December 2nd, you will have the opportunity to recommend yourself or your colleagues for leadership positions in OEAFCs. Some of these clues may be...creativity, good work ethic, coordinator of projects, enthusiastic, teamwork skills, has initiative, wants to network with other colleagues from around the state and

country, has an interest in helping Family and Consumer Science programs be recognized on the state and national levels... So, between now and then...look around for clues that you or they would be remarkable leaders and then place their (and your) names on the form next week...I DARE YOU!

**Jan Maples**  
Past President—OEAFCs and  
Nominating Committee Chair



## TREASURER NEWS

Your District Directors will soon be contacting you for renewal of your OEAFCs and NEAFCS membership. At the national meeting this year, the proposed increase in National Dues from \$40 to \$50 was approved. This dues increase will be reflected in a \$10 increase in your dues from the coming year.

State dues for a previous member continue to be \$25, New member state dues are \$15, Dual 4-H Association members pay state dues of \$12.50 and Dual First Time

members pay \$7.50

I will have enrollment information for each District Director at the December 2 Association Meeting. Please remember that membership renewal to the national office must be postmarked by February 1 for members to be eligible for awards. Membership renewal to your District Director will be due on January 1.

**Ginny McCarthick**  
OEAFCs Treasurer



## WHO DUN IT CONTINUED .....

You have a continuing opportunity for the next two years to be a secret agent, detective, sleuth, and an informant. I am going to need your help in identifying FCS activities during the year and getting pictures, documentation, articles, statements and quotes from co-workers for our history book. I would very much appreciate everyone's help, especially at events that our members are participating in and that I am not present, to get information to me for the history book. I really would like to have candid shots where members are doing presentations, etc. If pictures are done

digitally, please email them to me along with any descriptive information to: [cothrep@okstate.edu](mailto:cothrep@okstate.edu). I really need them as we go so that I can get them in chronological order but I will take them when I get them. I want to be able to display it at our annual meetings. Thanks in advance for all your help and continuing your detective work. You can also mail information to me at: 201 W. Grant, Room 7, Pauls Valley, 73075.

**Phillis Cothren**  
OEAFCs Historian



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