

# eEnterprise

## Message from OEAFCs President

Important topics abound—our role as Extension professionals, the purpose of NEAFCS/OEAFCs, leadership quotes—I pondered and reconsidered. Here are my truths: because services you provide and the professional manner in which you go about them is *so admirable*, the *differences you make* for individuals, families and communities can be life changing & often, *life long*, and because there are *many strong leaders* among us, it is both *humbling & an honor*, to have been offered this opportunity! **Special**

**thanks** to: Brenda Sheik for providing the best possible mentoring during my year as President-Elect, past officers, those who remain on the Board, and others recently joining this group. I thank FEW for sustaining wisdom, caring advice, historical insight, support, encouragement and involvement. DASNR, OCES & CHES Administration have been positive and generous with time and resources—thank you gentlemen! While the Board & I will give this association much attention, it *thrives* on each member's commitment &



actions. Together, we create the outcome! The more we invest personally & professionally in our association, *the greater the returns!* Front row, back row, side door or podium, employed, retired—we each have responsibilities & *opportunities* to claim!

~Recia Garcia

### **PILD Report** Public Issues Leadership Development

*When considering grants or scholarships for professional development, remember PILD! While participants are often state association leaders, any Extension professional and also volunteers may attend! As follow-up, via the next newsletter I plan to share thoughts regarding "public value" of the work we & volunteer organizations with whom we engage provide to society—it merits a closer look! Thanks again for this opportunity to learn and serve. ~Recia Garcia*

Public Issues Leadership Development Conference  
was held April 28-29, 2008 in Arlington, VA, with  
visits to Capitol Hill/Washington D.C. on April 30<sup>th</sup>!

The conference theme was  
***"CONNECTIVITY: COMMUNITY TO THE CAPITOL"***

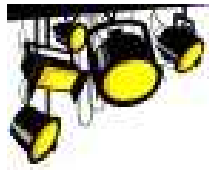
#### **Tips for connecting at the Capitol—**

- E-mails come in overwhelming numbers & aren't effective
- Letters are always good
- FAXING is the best long distance way to connect with congressional D.C. offices & as *timely as e-mail!*
- In Washington, D.C, expect to meet with young staffers in early to mid-twenties
- Limit discussion to 1 or 2 key points
- Provide a business or personal card, or have contact information ready to exchange
- Have a concise packet to leave with staff, when appropriate for the issue(s) you convey
- Don't be offended by meeting in a hallway—at times it offers more privacy & attention than the office!
- As we asked each staffer, "*How can we help?*" the consistent reply—"*Stay in touch & always let us know when an issue of interest comes up!*"
- **Best bet**—visit district congressional offices in Oklahoma and attend their public meetings in your locale! It's needed, appreciated and one of the many privileges of our democratic society.

***WHO COUNTS? We do, when we take time to connect with decision-makers!***



Brenda Sheik, 2006-07  
OEAFC President,  
presenting a gift to our  
Advisor, Dr. Glenn Muske.  
"Thanks Glenn,  
for all you do for us!"



## Spotlight on Our Retirees

Two of our retirees were asked to share with us advice, insights, favorite memories, what they are doing with all their "free" time, or whatever they would like to share. Thanks Kaye and Edwina for sharing!

### Kaye Tipton

Retirement began on April fool's Day in 2002 and it hasn't been a joke. I have loved every minute of it. When deciding to retire you will know when it is time. All the little things about work irritate you and those new employees' get by with things and do things you would never have gotten by with. So the time comes for you to move on. My only regret was I didn't use all my leave before I retired and spent more time with my mother who died in November before I retired.

I returned to the farm where I grew up near Chouteau, settled the estate and am now a rancher. I started with 300 pound calves then moved to calving heifers. I now

breed for Black Baldie calves, having a mix of Hereford and Angus cows. I've pulled calves, took cows to the vet, bottle fed calves and work cattle. I traveled so much living in Texas County that I hate to "go" all the time. My pick-up is not moved for days.

I have been to Alaska, Tennessee and Kentucky and our annual ski trip to Santa Fe has been reinstated for the past two years. I have a vegetable garden and do some canning. As a result I judge canning at several county fairs each fall and have continued to judge the State Fairs. I've finished those projects I started while working - gradually.



They make good setting down projects. My work schedule is to get everything done outside and around the house in the morning and do what I want to do in the afternoon. Sometimes the heifers change that schedule but that is my plan. I knew I was retired when I took a cup of coffee out on my front porch at 9:00 am one morning, looked down the hill at my cattle grazing, sat down and hearing the birds chirp, took a long sip of coffee.

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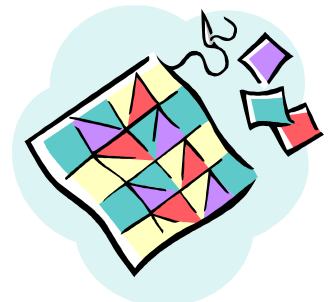
*"My favorite thing about extension was the people."  
Edwina Kelly*

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### Edwina Kelly

My favorite thing about extension was the people and if I miss anything it would be the people. I really don't miss anything though. I'm kind of spoiled to just doing my own thing which mostly involves my sewing

machine!! Quilts and throws, throws and quilts. I love all the bright colors. I have joined a quilt guild, which I thoroughly enjoy. Take each day as it comes there are no guarantees!



## Upcoming OEAFCs Officer Elections

by Brenda Sheik  
Nomination Committee Chair

*Elections will be held for the following OEAFCs offices during the 2009 Annual Meeting:*

President-Elect  
Treasurer-Elect  
Vice-President for Professional Development  
Vice-President for Awards and Recognition  
Northwest District Director  
Southwest District Director

*Article V, Section 2 of the OEAFCs Constitution provides the following officer qualifications. (Emphasis added.)*

Officers shall be elected from the active membership of the association.

The **elected officers** of Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and director must be:

Members of the Association for **three consecutive years**.

**Be in attendance** at the Annual State Meeting at the time votes are cast for election.

The **president** shall be **selected from any of the past elected officers** of Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, or

Director. The candidate **should meet the qualifications of the other officers** as above and be an Association **member for five years**.

The Historian and Chaplain are appointed by the President and therefore do not have the same requirements.

*Duties of each officer are posted on the OEAFCs website at [fcs.okstate.edu/oeafcs/](http://fcs.okstate.edu/oeafcs/)*

*Serving as an OEAFCs officer and on the OEAFCs Board of Directors is an opportunity to grow professionally, become better acquainted with co-workers from across the state and provide service to our organization. The rewards and potential for growth far outweigh the costs of time and energy!*

*If you meet the above qualifications, and have the desire and ability to serve as an officer, please consider putting your name forward as a candidate. Otherwise, (or in addition!!), nominate those colleagues you believe would do an excellent job in one of the above mentioned positions. **Please channel all suggestions through your OEAFCs District Director.***

## Awards and Recognition

By Susan Moffat  
Vice President for Awards & Recognition

A special awards luncheon took place during the OEAFCs annual meeting to recognize the achievements of members, in 33 award categories, during the past year. In many categories, Oklahoma award winners proceed to competition at the Southern Region level and some go on to national competition.

New this year is the sponsorship of state plaques for OEAFCs award winners. They were jointly sponsored by the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives and Oklahoma Living Magazine. With similar focus on serving individuals, family and communities, the award sponsors and Extension educators make for great collaborators. We're fortunate to have this support from OAEC

and Oklahoma Living.

Additionally, the FEW organization sponsored the Extension Educator of the Year Award, Recia Garcia Sponsored the New Educator Award, Brenda Sheik sponsored the Para-Professional and Communications/Newsletter awards, and the state Family & Consumer Sciences area of the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service sponsored the Research Award.

Seventeen award applications were submitted for Southern Region and National competition; along with 2 Continued Excellence, 2 Distinguished Service and 1 Educator of the Year Awards.



**Indianapolis, Indiana**  
**Sept. 15-19, 2008**  
**Galaxy III**  
**Early bird deadline**  
**is June 15th.**

NEAFCS will be sponsoring three pre-conference sessions on Monday, September 15th:

- Consumers & Technology
- Aging Successfully Preparing for the Silver Tsunami
- The Childhood Obesity Pandemic



**We're on the Web!**  
**[fcs.okstate.edu/oeafcs/](http://fcs.okstate.edu/oeafcs/)**  
**Be watching soon for our new web page!**

## 2008-2009 OEAFCFS Officers

President—Recia Garcia  
Vice President for Public Affairs—Kathy Enyart  
Vice President for Professional Development —Radonna Sawatzky  
Vice President for Member Resources — Cindy Griffith  
Vice-President for Awards & Recognition — Susan Moffat  
Secretary — Lori Black  
Secretary-Elect — Susan Routh  
Treasurer — Dana Baldwin  
Northeast District Director — Charlotte Richert  
Northwest District Director — Jean Bailey  
Southeast District Director — Cindy Clampet  
Southwest District Director — Brenda Medlock  
Past President & Parliamentarian — Brenda Sheik  
Chaplain — Barbara Denney  
Historian — Chellee Burson  
Advisor — Dr. Glenn Muske



Check out the living well website. Lots of good resources!  
[www.learningandlivingwell.org](http://www.learningandlivingwell.org)

## Member Resources

By Cindy Griffith  
Vice President for Member Resources

As I made a couple of stops on my way home from work yesterday, I was reminded how quickly \$100 can be spent. My trip to fill up my vehicle and pick up a couple of prescriptions cost me more than \$100.

We all have many places to spend our money today –our homes, our families, helping others, and saving for our future. But the \$100 spent on your OEAFCFS Membership is a type of investment that doesn't directly build assets: It is an investment in yourself.

At our Annual Meeting in April we installed seven new members who made the decision, as have those of us who have rejoined annually, to make an investment in themselves. These new members are Trena Medlock, Greer County; Gerri Ballard, Carter County; Sara West, Marshall County; Jennifer Southers,

Harmon County; Debra Duncan, Beckham County; Megan Logan, Seminole County; and Misty McFarland, Hughes County.

It is important for us all to remember that the vision and purpose of our organization is to:

- Build leaders for the future.
- Recognize and promote excellence and scholarship in FCS programming
- Provide innovative professional growth and development opportunities
- Serve as a nation-wide resource for education, information, networking and partnership.

By taking advantage of what the Association has to offer and building relationships with the members, we are all investing in ourselves in ways that increase the probability that we will achieve our professional goals. Mentor and encourage new members and prospective members to help them see

the Association as a valuable asset to their professional development.

To get the full value from your membership, invest your skills, ideas, knowledge, personal networks, and ability to make things happen within the Association. Then, as a return on your investment, take advantage of the sharing of others and the recognition you can receive for program excellence.

Hopefully, at the end of the year, when it's time to renew your membership, you will see that the investment you have made in your professional growth and development is worth making again.

