

News from a Long-time Retiree

By: Phyllis Northway

Note: Phyllis retired from Kenosha County UW-Extension in 1986. She has served as an officer of WEAFCs and as national president for NEAFCS. It appears that even after 23 years, one is as active in retirement as one is as a professional in Extension.

It's hard to believe that I've been retired for 23 years --- just 10 years short of my entire 33 year career with Extension! Of course, change is inevitable (and a wonderful thing), but the number of changes in Extension makes it totally foreign to me today.

Fortunately, I have been in relatively good health. I can't say that I have been involved with any Family Living activities ---- but isn't that what retirement is for???

I continue to be very involved with my Church, currently serving as Chair of the Memorials Committee and a Scholarship Committee. I also serve on the Endowment Committee and the Church Council. I have been even more involved with the United Methodist Women's Organization and served as the District President for a number of years. Volunteer work at the Kenosha History Museum, P.E.O. and Delta Kappa Gamma activities add interest and variety.

My husband and I enjoy time at our Door County Condo in Fish Creek ---- our favorite vacation spot, at any time of the year. It has become a tradition for us to write our Christmas cards there while sitting in front of an open fire listening to Christmas music.

We spent 3 weeks in Florida this past winter, visiting my Sister in Sarasota and a niece in Wellington on the East Coast. Throughout the year, we maintain close contact and holiday gatherings with 2 nieces in near-by Racine and Oak Park, IL.

My husband, Don, is very involved (and I, to a lesser extent) in 3 Antique Car Clubs and frequent shows. We are now down to just one old car, a 1954 Buick Hardtop.

Remembering my years with Extension, I can honestly say that I loved my work in all 3 counties (Marinette, Fond du Lac, Kenosha) I found it to be extremely rewarding and continue to maintain friendships with a number of former colleagues.

Asked to offer any "advice," I would simply say, "Never be reluctant to get involved with your Professional Organizations --- on committees or accepting an office --- first at the State Level and also at National. My experience (for 20 years) as a National Committee Chair, officer, and ultimately as National President proved to be an invaluable, intensely interesting and rewarding experience ---- one I have never regretted! It is truly another form of Professional Improvement. Try it. You'll like it!!!