



*National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences*

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*Wisconsin Affiliate*

## ***Communiqué***

National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences - Wisconsin Affiliate

**July, 2006**

### **President's Letter**

**Kathy Metzenbauer**

Dear WEAFCFS Members:

#### **NEAFCS National Meeting:**

The NEAFCS Annual Session in Denver will take place soon and before we know it, the time for the St. Paul session will be here. Many of our colleagues (and retirees) are involved with the planning to make both of these worthy and memorable events. Thanks to everyone involved as many plans are underway. I would like to give a special thank you to Marilyn Herman for her efforts in coordinating the work with Minnesota and Illinois. We will have more updates throughout the year. I hope many of you will be planning to attend the St. Paul session as the proximity is close.

#### **Committees:**

I have had the pleasure of listening in on some of the committee wislines. A special thank you to all committee chairs for your leadership. I am inspired by your work and have learned more of what your goals are for the coming year. Keep up the great work as this shows what great colleagues we have in our institution and association. Please read the committee reports to see how you can become more involved.

I would also like to give a special thank you to Jenny Wehmeier for getting the WEAFCFS website up to date. If you notice of any changes that need to be made, please give her the specific page, etc.

#### **JCEP:**

The 2007 JCEP conference will be held Tuesday April 17 through Thursday April 19, at the Bridgewood Resort and Hotel Conference Center in Neenah. The JCEP Conference Planning Committee is already at work planning for it. So hold these dates on your calendar.

#### **Conclusion**

As we are in the midst of summer, I am sure many of you are involved with your county fair along with all the other duties that our jobs require. I hope you are also taking well deserved vacations with family and friends. Sometimes taking one day off to get things organized at home can energize one. Or, clean off one corner of your desk so you can find things. Whatever it takes, enjoy the rest of the summer!

Kathy Metzenbauer

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## Awards & Recognition Committee

Annette Larie, Chair

Congratulations on the exceptional work represented in NEAFCS award applications. Results have been received from the national office and Wisconsin has winners! They will be recognized at the NEAFCS “Reaching New Heights” conference in September, and announced in the November Communiqué. The time and effort put into preparing these award applications is commendable. Wisconsin’s accomplishments are definitely something to be proud of. We applaud your success and encourage continued sharing of your work in future award applications. If you are programming in areas that are eligible for the Environmental Education award or the Clean Homes Healthy Families award, the National office encourages award submissions to maintain funding for these awards. All National award information can be found on the NEAFCS website@ <http://www.neafcs.org/awards.asp>. As a reminder there is a wonderful power point presentation regarding current awards. Check it out at <http://www.neafcs.org/eneafcs/enews.asp?P=864>.

Welcome to WEAFCFS Awards & Recognition committee’s newest member, Bev Doll, Grant County Family Living Educator.

The WEAFCFS Awards portion of the website is up-to-date. Many of your questions regarding awards can be answered there. Check it out at <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/weafcs/award.html>.

Happy Summer,

Annette Larie  
Awards & Recognition Chair

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## Vice President / Editor

Jenny Wehmeier

The WEAFCFS web site is in a constant state of change while many corrections and additions are made weekly. If you see something on the web site that you would like to see added, please do not hesitate to contact me with specific details. Did you know that by visiting <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/weafcs/> you can access a number of documents.

As a reminder, you can obtain important dates by visiting the calendar at <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/weafcs/calendar.html>. If you would like to submit dates for the calendar, please feel free to email them to me!

The next deadline for the Communiqué will be on November 17th. Please remember to have your article in its final format as a Word document. This will help expedite the posting of the newsletter.

If you have any questions or suggestions about the web site or Communiqué, please do not hesitate to contact me. Otherwise, I will see you in Denver at the NEAFCS National Meeting. Hope to see you there!

Jenny Wehmeier  
Vice President / Editor

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## Member Resources Committee

The Member Resources Committee met via WisLine on May 1, 2006. Items discussed included working with the Executive Board to explore State membership categories and forward these findings to the National Association. The MRC formed a work group to develop "The Top 10 Reasons to Join WEAFCFS" list for member recruitment. If you have your "top" reasons for joining, you're encouraged to forward them to our committee. The MRC would also like to increase the involvement of our recently retired honorary members in our Association.

The next MRC WisLine is scheduled for October 17, 2006 at 11 a.m. If you're interested in helping to create a stronger association focused on members' needs, then you are invited to join the MRC. Contact Peggy Olive for more information.

Peggy Olive, Chair of the Member Resources Committee

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**2005-2006 WEAFCFS New Members**

Welcome to our newer Association members. We're glad you're on board!

Bev Doll  
Molly Haak  
Jane Piltz

Angela Flickinger  
Gayle Rose Martinez  
Susan Taylor

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# WEAFCS Professional Development Committee Report

**Pam Peterson, Chair of WEAFCs Professional Development Committee**

Hello WEAFCs Members! The Professional Development Committee met in May by wisline to review and update the committee description and goals. We made a few changes and are working on a few more. The committee's revised goal is to create awareness about a variety of professional development opportunities, identify best practice and evidence-based programs and encourage sharing of scholarly work. We're also looking at ways of linking systems and websites to make it easier for us/you to access a broader range of information to enhance our/your professional development.

Professional development includes a variety of activities that can increase our effectiveness as educators. District meetings offer an excellent opportunity to not only learn about best practices and the scholarly work of others but to also offer our own scholarly work for peer review. Meaningful evaluation of our work by others will enhance the effectiveness of our programs.

Books are also a valuable resource to increase our knowledge base and improve our understanding of concepts. But who has time to sort through hundreds books to determine what's pertinent to our work when we can hardly keep up professional journals? The Professional Development Committee would like to include book reviews regularly in the Communiqué. If you've read something recently that you got excited about and think it might excite others, please share a paragraph or two so it can add to our professional development.

## **Book Review (Readers Corner)**

A series of autobiographical books by Dave Pelzer, *A Child Called "It"*, *The Lost Boy*, *The Privilege of Youth*, and *A Man Named Dave* chronicle a young boy's survival of physical and emotional abuse at the hands of his mentally ill and alcoholic parents, his teen years in the foster care system and his struggle to come to terms with his past abuse as an adult. Dave Pelzer gives readers manageable bite-sized pieces of the abuse he endured although the reality was much more crude. The books provide insight into Pelzer's courage, determination and resiliency.

*Resiliency: What We Have Learned* by Bonnie Benard (WestEd, 2004) actually reinforces Pelzer's anecdotal accounts with a summary of resilience research, reflecting how children and youth overcome the odds to become competent, confident and caring individuals. Benard notes that in the 1980s "resilience" was found in the Social Science Citation Index only 24 times. In the 1990s there were 735 such references. However, the current decade is on pace to at least double the previous total output of scholarly research on resiliency.

*Resiliency: What We Have Learned* synthesizes the key research findings and their application in programs that support positive youth development and resilience. Benard provides a framework, research support and rationale for resilience-based prevention and education. Briefly stated, resilience is a universal capacity. Certain personal strengths are associated with healthy development and successful learning. Certain characteristics of families, schools and communities are associated with the development of personal strengths. Changing life trajectories of children and youth from risk to resilience starts with changing the beliefs of adults in their families, schools and communities.

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Finally, Benard argues for a transformation of our youth and human services systems to not only restructure policies and programs, but to alter relationships, beliefs, and power opportunities to focus on human capacities rather than on challenges and problems.

### **Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities:**

**Stimulants and Hallucinogens: Methamphetamine, cocaine, ecstasy, steroids and nicotine**, Tom Nelson, Ph.D., Pharmacy Clinical Coordinator, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, August 10, 2006, Pyle Center, Madison, \$110. For more information contact Merrilee Pickett at 608-263-8268 or mpickett@dcs.wisc.edu

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual Crisis Intervention Conference**, Ho-Chunk Casino Hotel and Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells, September 28-29, 2006. Keynote speakers include David Mays, MD, Ph.D., and Ron Diamond, MD both from the University of Wisconsin Dept of Psychiatry, and Frederick Frese, Ph.D., NE Ohio Universities College of Medicine. Registration is \$175 including conference materials, lunch and an evening reception. For further information contact UW Stevens Point Continuing Education at 800-898-9472.

**Through the Eyes of a Child**, Heidel House Resort, Green Lake, November 2-3, 2006. General session speakers include Jan Hindman, ME from Oregon, on The system as Perpetrator, Mark Courtney, Ph.D., University of Chicago and Hugh Johnston, M.D., University of Wisconsin. For more information call Elaine Barrett at 1-888-391-4255.

**National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences 2006 Annual Session & Exhibits.** It's not too late to Reach New Heights at the 2006 NEAFCS Annual Session, October 3 – 6 in Denver, Colorado. The advanced registration deadline is September 8<sup>th</sup>. Dr. James Hill, co-founder of America on the Move, will provide the keynote address, *Obesity: New Research for Effective Prevention & Treatment*. See the latest resources; learn about the newest programs, models and research. Recharge your batteries! For more information, check out the website at [www.neafcs.org](http://www.neafcs.org).

Remember to add the **NEAFCS 2007 Annual Conference**, September 17 – 20 at the Radisson Riverfront Hotel in Minneapolis, Minnesota to your calendar! Not only is this a wonderful chance to learn about new and exciting programs but a great opportunity to present your own scholarly work.

Other 2007 dates to add to your calendar: **JCEP** will be at the Bridgewood Resort Hotel and Conference Center in Neenah April 17 -19, 2007. **PILD** Conference will be held April 23 - 25, 2007 in Washington, DC. The anticipated travel dates will be April 21, returning early evening on April 25, 2007.



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