

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Happy Winter!!!

As I am writing this - temperatures have been hovering in the 50's - no snow, no ice, and no freezing rain. It just doesn't feel like New England. But January, February and March are still to come. We have even seen snow storms as late as April and May.

However - back to the business at hand. With the holidays behind us it is time to move forward with our plan of work. The Connecticut affiliate of AAFCS will be sponsoring two workshops - one in January in Madison and one in March in Fairfield - which will provide professional development and networking opportunities. **We hope you will join us.**

Our other main goal is to update the email data base maintained by the State Department of Education. This will allow for a more fluid dissemination of material from the SDE and your Connecticut affiliate. So if you receive an email, phone call or text message asking for input - please do so.

Please feel free to contact the Board with exciting issues happening in your program that we might highlight in our newsletter. We also want to hear from you if your program is struggling. We can't fix everything but we can certainly provide support.

So as we venture into the new year let's keep the positive aspects of our programs intact and infuse new ideas and concepts into programs where needed. Let's continue to build a bright future for FCS in Connecticut together.



*Becky Person*  
AAFCS/CT Affiliate President



*Downton Abbey Tea*  
*"helpers"*  
from Rocky Hill High School

## **MEMBERSHIP MINUTES . . . . . Are we staying the course???**

### ***Are members doing enough to make connections???***

The Connecticut Affiliate of AAFCS is *your* national organization that defines *your* connection to a profession. Some of Connecticut's members joined the association as undergraduates at their chosen university while others came on board during the early years of their careers. The mission, vision and core values of national have remained the same with new wording, direction and outreach as the driving force behind AAFCS national endeavors.

The outreach we do as professionals strengthens our purpose whether it be as educators, business owners, childcare teachers, etc. Since the branding of AAFCS some years back, initiatives have evolved that offer strength to our group. Related fields to the organization can only make our connection to the mission better and more developed. In essence, we can "fuel off" each other, share resources and combine efforts in order to meet the needs of those we serve. Affiliate members in education can connect with childcare facilities in our immediate work communities and suggest workshops offered here in our state that supports their field. The same can be said for the food service industry as this area changes constantly with updates on food safety, sustainability and health issues. Again, educators can reach out to those in their locale and invite them to meetings covering related topics. The thinking is to be aware of those outside of our immediate work environments who would appreciate a look-see on these subjects from perhaps another angle. Reach out and connect up!

Take a few minutes and consider the above. Review your national and affiliate membership benefits and see if *you* are maximizing them. See the professional development section to find information on webinars and events. The communities section offers numerous opportunities to share with professionals who have *your* interests and background. The National site is [aafcs.org](http://aafcs.org)

Do not forget your affiliate state! The web site [ctaafcs.org](http://ctaafcs.org) offers much information on what is of concern and happening right here in Connecticut. The site is current and easy to access and read. The workshop schedule is exciting and we are seeing new faces at each of them. The word is: ***Stay current ...stay connected!***

Right now, our numbers are hovering at 100 and in fact we have been at that total for a few years. We are fortunate that our renewals are fairly up-to-date and our members are involved. Though retirements are regular too, these members are certainly active people. Their interests are many with learning and sharing continuing each and every day. They are committed and staying connected.

Stephanie Fians,  
*Connecticut Membership Chair*

## **Appointment to the UN**

This summer the new AAFCS president, Carolyn Barnhart called me and asked if I would be interested in representing AAFCS at the United Nations in NYC. I said I would agree if they would allow me to bring with me two high school students. Once they said yes then I went about getting approval from my superintendent. I will be representing AAFCS at the UN as part of the NGO (Non-governmental organization) committee on the family. Through an application process at Daniel Hand High School a committee selected one junior student and one senior student to attend briefings and the meetings of the committee on Family. This is a position I will hold for the next three years. I will attend meetings then send the reports to national and will print my report in our state newsletters.



Anita Ferron

## United Nations Report

This year, the United Nations turns 70 years old. As part of their current initiative, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In its adoption, world leaders are committing to 17 Global goals which set to end extreme poverty, fighting inequality and justice, and fixing climate change. I encourage people visiting NYC to visit the UN and to view the wonderful exhibit on the first floor titled United Nations at 70: Moments and Milestones. My students and I were transported through history by viewing the many photos depicting the United Nations influence around the world. To learn more about the 17 global goals and the exhibit, visit the UN website.

On October 22, I took two of my students to register for UN passes. We were looking for the briefing on The UN at 70: Working together to make a difference, ended up in another briefing talking about the right to adequate housing. The discussion was led by a woman from Israel whose research was on homelessness. Points were made to strengthen local government, involve the private sector through coordination and communication, and the Human rights laws which would be affected. She felt it was a human right that everyone be provided with adequate housing and each community would set standards depending on their resources.

In the afternoon we attended the NGO committee on the Family. The focus that day was “Engaging and Supporting Families So Their Children Thrive”. There were two presentations. In the first presentation, Dr. Williams and Dr. Pinder from Jamaica discussed the program they developed, The Health, Art Therapy & Literacy Project. They set up a program at rural clinics; where families go for medical care. Often people spend the majority of the day waiting, so there are guidance counselors, art therapy, lunch, exercise programs, as well as a literacy programs, and activities for the children. They began this program servicing 120 families six years ago, and now they are servicing 400 families.

The second speaker, Allan Shedlin, talked about his program REEL FATHERS where he engages fathers in various communities to become active role models and participants in their children’s lives. He actively partners with the community to see where the need is the greatest then helps them organize one of three programs he has developed. The first program is Fathers and Young Children in Educational Settings where they select animated children’s stories that bring key father - family issues to the surface. Staff works with the fathers in an open ended dialogue, and then they have movie night with the children and fathers. A movie of the book is shown with popcorn and fun, and then the book is read by each father to their children, followed by a discussion. Fathers then get together to reflect on the evening while staff do a related art project and activities with the children. The second program’s focus is on Youth in Educational Settings where fathers come into the school systems and volunteer in the classrooms on a regular basis. The third program is Fathers and Youth in Correctional Systems. Similar to the Fathers and Young Children program there are films shown that depict both positive and negative models of fathers providing compelling springboards teaching communication skills. In this program the whole family is also involved with counselors before the release of the fathers enforcing the fact the fathers want to be part of their children’s lives.

Anita Ferron  
IFHE Chair for CT



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- ❖ RECOGNITION
  - 2016 TEACHER OF THE YEAR
  - PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR
  - STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

<b>Where do I find items on the website?</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
➤ Fall 2015 Newsletter	<b>Links Tab</b>	-
➤ <i>March Workshop in Fairfield on 03.31.16</i>	<i>Conferences Tab</i>	Registration available in February
➤ Student Scholarship Application	<b>Scholarship Tab</b>	March 15
➤ Teacher of the Year Application/Nomination	<b>Awards Tab</b>	March 15
➤ Professional of the Year Application/Nomination Form	<b>Awards Tab</b>	April 15
➤ Professional Development Application	<b>Awards Tab</b>	April 15
➤ Contact Information for Connecticut Affiliate Officers	<b>Contact Tab</b>	-



CONNECTICUT AFFILIATE

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[www.ctaafcs.org](http://www.ctaafcs.org)  
[www.aafcs.org](http://www.aafcs.org)

This newsletter is one of your membership benefits!



## Scholarship Fund Raiser

“I have found this apron comfortable and a conversation starter. I wear it in my classroom for the pockets especially when my garment does not have them but also so students can ask questions about Family & Consumer Sciences.” *Barbara Morris*

Get an AAFCS apron while supplies last. Cost is \$15 and goes to support our scholarship fund.

Contact me at 860-482-5929 or by email [morris\\_barbed@yahoo.com](mailto:morris_barbed@yahoo.com) to place an order. I look forward to hearing from you.



## Dine In Day News

The second year of the national initiative encouraging the practice of eating a meal with people for health and well-being happened earlier this month. Over 125,000 people committed to participation, and probably lots more dine in on a regular basis. Oh the possibilities for 2016.

Kudos if you...

- Registered and where counted
- Dine in regularly anyway
- Or your awareness has been raised and curiosity has been peaked.

Connecticut was out of the Top 10 states to get numbers but our size is so much smaller than others.

News thus far specific to CT., and I hope to hear others,

- Lots of pins on the interactive map
- McGee Middle School in Berlin tied for third as organizations by number of individual sign ups.
- A student from Torrington High School posted to social media then national posted their Facebook.

The map and news can be seen on the [aafcs.org](http://aafcs.org) website. An email mentioned a Storify page with photos and posts from Twitter and Instagram.

Good job CT.

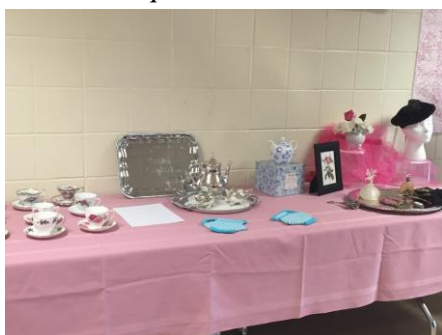
## ***Honor Our FCS Teachers and Professionals – No News is not Good News!***

### ***Needed: Applicants for Teacher of the Year and Professional of the Year!***

Selection is according to the AAFCS Guidelines. For help or if you have questions, call Kathy Brophy at 860-978-0088. **Nomination Form postmarked by MAR CH 15, 2016.**

## Fall Workshop – Downton Abbey Tea

The audience was taken back in time by performance actress Kandi Carle on October 17 at Rocky Hill High School. As she dressed layer upon layer, the audience was taken on a journey reliving the fashion, life and history of the Edwardian Era. How a woman used the hand fan to communicate to men and women had us laughing and gave a different perspective of the time period. Following the interactive performance filled with questions, students dressed as servants, served the light luncheon of



tea, scones, sandwiches, and finger desserts. The food was prepared by FCS students and teachers throughout the state. Prizes were given for the Best Hat, Best Dressed and to the table that had the highest score for our “Downton Abbey Trivia” icebreaker. Proceeds from this fundraiser went to the AAFCS/CTT Scholarship Fund. See you at the January and March workshops.



Anita Ferron, Judy Hinman, Karen Redanz, chair

## Policy and Legislation

### 2015 Resolution

AAFCS actively supports policies that consider and uphold the best interests of the child. The *Unaccompanied Children Entering the U.S. Resolution* was proposed by the AAFCS Global Perspectives Community. There is an influx of unaccompanied children entering the United States from a number of countries due to a myriad of reasons that include escalating violence, abuse, persecution, and insecurity.

These children may become victims of human exploitation, trafficking and abuse. AAFCS is proposing to actively collaborate with other organizations to consider the complexity of the issue. These children need legal counsel. The following questions also arise: should they be held in detention centers or returned to their home country? Are their educational needs and wellness care being met? Appropriate strategies and actions for the entire U.S. need to be adopted to uphold the best interest of the unaccompanied child.

### FCS Shortage

AAFCS is committed to addressing the severe shortage of family and consumer sciences educators in extension, and secondary and higher education. Through a monthly campaign, “Say YES to FCS”, AAFCS is hoping to recruit prospective educators. The social media campaign has themes to highlight and emphasize what we do and suggested strategies. Resources can be found at [www.aafcs.org/FCSEdPipeline.asp](http://www.aafcs.org/FCSEdPipeline.asp). Maybe this will help you with a public relations tie to your community or develop a “Taking It To The Streets” activity.

The goal is to show how we make a difference through FSC education. With all of your activities, AAFCS suggested sharing videos, photos, write up of events, testimonials, etc. on the school’s website, and social media – YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Use the following monthly themes as a guideline to plan events/activities/ teachable moments.

Nov. – “Family & Consumer Sciences + Teamwork = A Formula for Success”

Dec. – “Strengthening Families & Communities” began with “Dining In for Heathy Families”.

Jan. - “Resolving to Build Better Futures” acknowledges skills and knowledge to help yourself, families and communities.

Feb. – “Empowering Future Generations” promotes the value and importance of FCS in adults with roles in the community.

Mar. – “A Perfect Pair: STEM and FCS” showcases FCS involvement in what we constantly do.

Apr. – “Cultivating Great Leaders” allows you the opportunity to highlight FCCLA chapters.

May – “FCS is HOT” focuses on higher order thinking that is constantly done in our classrooms, and steps involved with critical thinking, planning, organizing, and problem solving.

June – “The Power of Peer Education and Mentoring” links students with many generations.

Submitted by Judy Hinman

## 2016 AAFCS/CT HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

The American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, Connecticut Affiliate is offering one (1) \$1,000.00 scholarship to a graduating high school senior. You must be majoring in an FCS related area or FCS education in college, as specified on the application.

Please see the website [ctaafcs.org](http://ctaafcs.org) to obtain a copy of the application. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Carole Christensen [clgchris@aol.com](mailto:clgchris@aol.com)

IT MUST BE SUBMITTED AS ONE COMPLETED APPLICATION FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT.

The deadline for receiving the application is March 15.

Remit to: Becky Person  
16 Niederwerfer Road  
Broad Brook, CT 06016

**TEACHERS, PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR STUDENTS TO  
APPLY FOR THE AAFCS/CT SCHOLARSHIP!**