



North Carolina Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences

The Professional Association of North Carolina Cooperative Extension
Family and Consumer Educators

2007 Southwest District Annual Report

The fall meeting for the Southwest District -- Alexander, Burke, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, McDowell, Polk, Rutherford, and Union counties was held at Union County Agricultural Services and Conference Center in Monroe on October 27, 2006. President Sally McNeill hosted the meeting. It was announced that Margo Mosley, Alexander County, received a youth award at the 2006 state meeting and Debbie Cox, Caldwell County, expected to complete her Master's Degree in Agricultural Education from NCSU in December, 2006. Sally McNeill reported that the Southwest District had four members installed as officers at the State Meeting held in New Bern:

Melinda Houser, Secretary
Marilyn Gore, Vice President Member Resources
Sandi Sox, State Chair for Awards Group B
Debbie Cox, State Historian

Julie Padgett, McDowell County, announced her resignation from Extension to accept a position with the Early College Program at McDowell Tech and McDowell County Schools. During the business meeting, 2007 officers were installed. Members participated in a silent auction to benefit the Angelic Riders Program at Mephibosheth Farms, a non-profit therapeutic horseback riding facility in Union County. Local food entrepreneurs Bill and Gerrie Hasty, gave an educational presentation about their healthy buffalo wraps and barbecue sauce and served lunch to members. Following lunch, members toured Mephibosheth Farms to learn about the Angelic Riders.

The spring meeting for the Southwest District was held in Burke County on April 20, 2007 at Burke Agricultural Building with District President Eleanor Summers as host. Dr. Deborah Crandall, Southwest District Director, attended the meeting as a special guest along with Burke County Extension Director Spring Williams. Dr. Crandall presented a plaque to Eleanor Summers for successful completion of the New and Aspiring County Director program. Marilyn Gore, who retired from Cooperative Extension on February 25, 2007, was paid tribute for her dedication, enthusiasm and leadership for the association. Tracy Davis, Rutherford County, accepted the nomination to fill Marilyn Gore's state position. We were pleased to welcome as a new member Marcie Schaeffer, who filled the Family and Consumer Sciences vacancy in McDowell County. President-elect Leigh Guth, Lincoln County, shared the favorite books list of members and directed a book sale as a fundraiser.

Rhodney Honeycutt from Ice Cream Engineers in Hickory told the story of family entrepreneurs from his grandmother's kitchen to his own research and development with ice cream. His catered lunch included an ice cream sundae buffet. Following lunch, members journeyed to The City of Morganton Municipal Auditorium (CoMMA) to view Sacred Dance & The Muses, one of the fresco paintings on the Benjamin F. Long IV Fresco Trail in western North Carolina.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eleanor Summers, President
Southwest District

Posted: August 1, 2007