



### *Entering the Virtual World—Is This Our New Reality?*

2020 has been the year where it seems like we've all entered an alternate universe.

First, in March and April we quarantined ourselves at home for weeks at a time. To mask or not to mask became a hot-button, political issue. Those of us who were able purchased everything we could online. Now we debate whether we are personally safe every day. Do we stay quarantined, or do we dare to go to the grocery store, to church, or out in a crowd? Do we go back to work or go back to the classroom in September?

Enter the Virtual World.

Now it's July. *As FCS professionals, most of us are very social creatures; we thrive in face-to-face encounters with others. Staying distanced from others is a real challenge for some of us.* We're reviving old ways to communicate and learning new ones. Suddenly, we've stepped back a few years and are writing letters and calling each other on the phone. We're also testing our text and email skills and sometimes find them woefully lacking. I don't know about you, but I've become concerned about friends and relatives who are not connected online. So many elders don't have computers or cell phones and have difficulty catching up with others. Who should I be spending a few minutes with today by telephone?

Since January I have been drawn into new methods of communication, collectively calling it the virtual world. I had a little experience with online face-to-face meetings before this year. My husband and I tried to Skype every day when he was off to all corners of the earth before he retired in 2018. Sometimes it worked, more often it didn't. It was nothing like what I've learned this year. Since April we've done Go-to-Meeting "Happy Hours" with our family scattered all over the US and overseas with a certain degree of success. Usually the unpredictability of everyone logging on is good for a few laughs.

Now I'm learning how to become proficient with Zoom. The WAFCS board meetings have all been online and we are doing reasonably well with them. Because we are not traveling to a common location we've started having meetings more often than we have for years. We've also done committee work that way; you haven't lived until you've done a bylaws revision online! This year, because of the pandemic, most FCS conferences will be a virtual. Although not ideal, there are some definite pluses for attendees.

The biggest conference I have attended so far was the AAFCS Annual Conference. Originally scheduled to be in Baltimore, in April the AAFCS Board of Directors made the decision not to have a face-to-face conference because of safety concerns. The virtual conference was a big leap for many of us. However, it paid off big time all around.

The conference was the biggest AAFCS has hosted in years: 665 people registered! It was two days, featuring a broad spectrum of sessions. Although there was the disadvantage of not being together, we quickly found out that we were able to communicate with others through a "chat" feature and all the sessions were interactive, allowing you to submit questions to the presenters and participate. Each attendee was sent a "Playbook" that contained the links to all the sessions, making it very easy to move from one session to another. All the presentation materials were immediately available on the AAFCS website, and as of last week if you attended the conference you can log in and view the sessions again. Probably the biggest advantage was the relative low cost, \$100 for professionals and \$25 for students to attend. No airfare, no hotel, no airport transportation. For some of us, that was a savings of close to \$1000! In my opinion, the virtual meeting will never replace the excitement of a face-to-face meeting but in this uncertain health climate, it was a good option.

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*This issue of the newsletter will be focusing on many of the meetings that have occurred, or are occurring, online the remainder of this year. There will be updates on the IFHE World Congress, information about the Virtual Washington FCS Annual Conference in October, and much more. Check out all the upcoming meetings and activities, and if you are able, take the plunge into the Virtual World with other FCS professionals. Enjoy!*

*Donna Graham*  
WAFCS President-Elect

## WASHINGTON AFFILIATE NEWS CONNECTION

### *Washington Affiliate Activities*

#### Promoting Washington FCS

WAFCS President, Andrew Chamberlin, was featured in a podcast hosted by Barb Sculley, an FCS educator whose podcasts focus on recruiting, supporting, and maintaining family and consumer science (FCS) educators in the modern day home economics class. Andrew talked about his career, his dedication to the profession, and promoted our association. To listen, go to: <https://connectfcsed.com/fcs-ed-teacher-andrew-chamberlin/>

#### WAFCS Executive Board — a very busy year

The Executive Board has been very engaged in 2020. They have already met five times this year via Zoom and will be meeting again in August and October. In past years they only met three times, which means they've almost doubled the number of meetings, all from their homes or offices. This year they tackled updating the Bylaws and Policy & Procedures, last revised in 2015.

#### AAFCS Annual Conference

Washington State was well represented at the virtual annual meeting. We were also delighted to see some friendly faces we had not seen for some time. Debbie Handy, Sharleen Kato, and Raedene Copeland were among the presenters of sessions!

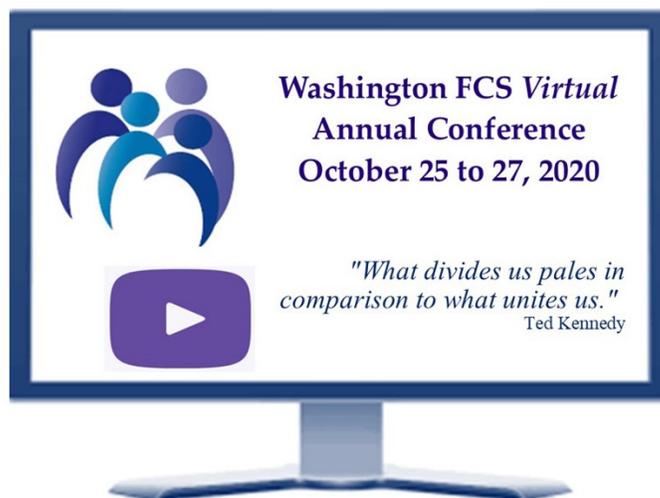
#### AAFCS Leadership Council Meeting

The Leadership Council, comprised of the Presidents and Presidents-Elect of each state affiliate, met on June 30. Reports were given on the state of the association. Some changes to the structure of the AAFCS office are being proposed; more details will be coming in the near future.

The highlight of the council meeting was the swearing in of the new Board of Directors members, including Washington's own *Debbie Handy*. We are so pleased to once again have a Washington State member on the Board!

#### AAFCS Membership Growth Grant

Each affiliate that was awarded one of the ten grants in 2019 reported on their activities for member recruitment. Because of the pandemic, Washington has not been able to complete their plan but will do so in the future. In the meantime, other states gave us very good ideas for recruitment that we may incorporate into our 2021 Affiliate Action Plan.



Preparations are underway for the 2020 Washington FCS Annual Conference. Because of safety concerns the conference will be virtual. Some sessions will be live, others pre-recorded. All sessions will be available for viewing post conference. As details become available more information will be posted on the WAFCS website ([washingtonafcs.org](http://washingtonafcs.org)), on Facebook, in E-Blasts, and via postal mail.

All FCS professionals are encouraged to attend.



### **Interested in presenting at the Washington FCS Virtual Annual Conference?**

The planning team is seeking presenters who are interested in leading virtual session on a variety of topics for the conference.

We would like to find speakers from Extension, education, textiles, finance; topics that would appeal to active and retired FCS professionals.

If you have a topic of interest, or want to learn more about presenting virtually, please contact:

|                                                                                                |                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Andrew Chamberlin<br>President<br><a href="mailto:achamberlin@nsd.org">achamberlin@nsd.org</a> | or Donna Graham<br>President-Elect<br><a href="mailto:donnacgraham@msn.com">donnacgraham@msn.com</a> |
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WASHINGTON AFFILIATE  
**NEWS CONNECTION**

**Mark Your Calendars: WAFCS Events in 2020**

**AAFCS Leadership Council Workshop, Alexandria, Virginia.**

September 18-20, 2020

The annual workshop of AAFCS Affiliate officers.



**WA FCS Virtual Annual Conference**

October 25-27, 2020

Jointly sponsored conference by WAFCS and the Washington Association of Family & Consumer Sciences Educators (WAFACSE). More details as they become available!

Check the WAFCS ([washingtonafcs.org](http://washingtonafcs.org)) and WAFACSE ([wafacse.org](http://wafacse.org)) websites often for updated information.

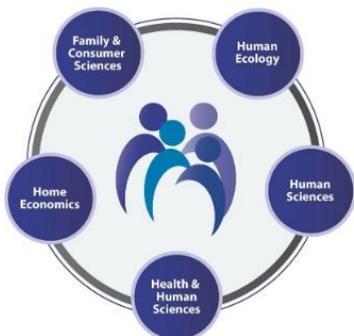
**WAFCS Annual General Meeting**

October, 2020, specific date to be determined.

The AGM is held during the annual conference. The meeting will be virtual; members will be able to connect on Zoom or by phone! More details will be sent as available.



**AAFCS**  **June 25-27, 2021**  
**ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPO**  
Minneapolis, MN



**The People-Centered Sciences**

**The Nominations Annual Quest for Candidates Seeking Members for the WAFCS Executive Board**

**President-Elect:** The president-elect is elected annually, serves one year as president-elect and one year as president. The person will assume the duties of the president in the event of their absence, and in case of a vacancy, will take over the duties of president.

- Term of office begins January 1 and ends December 31 of the second year.
- Represent WAFCS at the AAFCS meetings.
- Work with the treasurer to prepare the annual budget.
- Serve on the budget committee.
- Set the audit review date and designate an audit review committee.
- Prepare an Affiliate Action Plan to be implemented during their term as president.
- Work with the nominations committee to develop a slate of officers.

**Executive Director:** The executive director is a contracted, paid position, responsible to the executive board and supervised by the president. The duties of the executive director are reviewed annually at a pre-determined time. Annual contract will be from January 1 to December 31. Some duties include:

- Assist with board and committee functioning
- Records management
- Responsible for WAFCS communication, both electronic and paper.
- Financial Administration – file annual tax forms and other legal documents
- Program Support

For more information and applying for this position, contact:

Andrew Chamberlin or Donna Graham  
President President-Elect  
[achamberlin@nsd.org](mailto:achamberlin@nsd.org) [donnacgraham@msn.com](mailto:donnacgraham@msn.com)

Every four years the International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) hosts a World Congress. IFHE is the only worldwide organization focused on Home Economics. It is an International Non-Governmental Organization (INGO), having consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC, FAO, UNESCO).



Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2020 World Congress has been postponed to 2022.

For more information, go to [www.ifhe.org](http://www.ifhe.org).

WASHINGTON AFFILIATE  
**NEWS CONNECTION**

*Coming in 2021:  
 Celebrating 100 years as an Affiliate of AAFCS*

*Historical Facts about Home Economics / Family & Consumer Sciences in Washington State*

**Milestone Dates**

- 1909 Founding of AHEA and the Washington Home Economics Association
- 1921 Affiliation with the National Organization (AHEA )
- 1940's Membership Growth
- 1940's Committees for research, business, and other related fields
- 1957 Scholarships offered for the first time
- 1964 Collaborations!
- 1964 WHEA began involvement in Public Policy
- 1969 First WHEA Professional Day
- 1978 Alberta Hill was President of AHEA (AAFCS), WAFCS honored her with a contribution to the AHEA Foundation
- 1982 **Record membership of 704! 351 Active, 186 Reserve, 167 Students**
- 1994 Name change to AAFCS/WAFCS

***Centennial Celebration  
 July 2020 Update***

The celebration is a work in progress. Like so much of our lives this year, some things have been put on hold because of the pandemic. Access to the Washington State Archives has been restricted until recently when the office has opened up on an appointment only basis. Our plans are still to honor the history of the Washington Affiliate at the Washington Annual Conference in October, 2021.

We would still like you to write your stories to share with others. The committee will compile your stories in a binder to display at our special event in 2021 and place one copy in the Washington State Archives to preserve for future generations.

We would also all like Washington FCS Professionals to participate by telling us who has influence you, mentored you, or been your role model. Who would you like to publicly honor?

If you have pictures, stories, including ones about a person you would like to honor, or questions about the Centennial Celebration, please contact Donna Graham, President-Elect, at [donnacgraham@msn.com](mailto:donnacgraham@msn.com).

**TELLING OUR STORIES**

*Why is it so important to tell our stories?*

Our culture demands proof of the value of FCS

FCS needs to engage more in the story-telling movement to help show value and to stem the decline of support for our work.

Share your FCS stories with others! If you would like to have them included in our Centennial, send them to Donna Graham, Centennial Chair, at [donnacgraham@msn.com](mailto:donnacgraham@msn.com)