**Notes From Your President**

This year 2020 has brought many changes to all people of the world including our North Carolina ECA members. We have had sadness, not seeing family and other big changes in every day routines. So many facets of our life has changed but we are staying positive and finding purpose in life – that is what ECA members do. How wonderful to know that our members have made thousands and thousands of masks plus a few more. Thank you for showing you care through this much needed effort.

Your NCECA Leadership Team has been meeting often by conferences calls to try to stay on top of what is happening. We have had to make some difficult decisions but we feel we acted in a responsible manner. It was hard to cancel our District and State Meetings but we felt it was necessary for the safety of our members. One big question in making this decision was what happens to cultural arts. After much discussion and thought, the NCECA Leadership Team made the following decision, trying to be fair to all:

“At the 2021 State Meeting, NCECA will accept items for cultural arts that were completed after county competition in 2019 and those items completed during 2020 and 2021 for the competition in 2021.” Our Cultural Arts co-chairs, Rose Cotton (704-202-6900, rcotton@uga.edu) and Mary Forrest (910-893-2282, wfinnc@aol.com) are available to answer your questions about cultural arts.

We will have more information regarding a State Business meeting by August 15th.

This is uncharted waters so please bear with us as we make our plans for this.

Stay safe and healthy as we continue with 2020.

Shelby Ford
Stay Connected!
In these unprecedented times, staying connected is critical. Please check with your members to see if any would like to subscribe to the Tar Heel Homemakers eNews. We cannot arbitrarily add them . . . they have to request to be added. Send their name and email address to Geri Bushel.

As usual, we ask that if you have members without email, please copy and distribute the eNews to them . . . no ECA member left behind!

ECA Steps up to make masks for many organizations across our great state!
Many county ECA groups have answered the call to make homemade face coverings for various groups, family members, etc. As North Carolina was ordered to shelter in place and now in Phase 2, we are all asked to wear masks when outside our houses.

This edition of eNews should be called Face Mask eNews as that is mostly what is reported. Kudos to ALL ECA members who have participated. Thousands of masks have been made and donated!! If you made masks, NCSU has asked that you report your activity via the online reporting at https://forms.gle/qGps2b3RMuCAG8E66

Many members enlisted the help of their children, grandchildren, 4-H members, friends and family to help make masks!

Jayne McBurney’s take on the masks:
1. Wear one because you might be sick and it keeps your aerosolized droplets closer to your face not mine.
2. Wear one because it could keep you well from other infections which would weaken your system.
3. Wear one with at least 2 layers of cloth.
4. Wear one OVER your medical grade PPE to protect its longevity of use.
5. Wear one.

PLEASE NOTE!! From Your Leadership Team!
NCECA in partnership with NC Cooperative Extension continues to closely follow all directives and recommendations from local and state officials about this rapidly evolving situation relative to the Coronavirus. NCECA is taking proactive steps towards preventing the spread of the Coronavirus which includes things like travel and meeting restrictions; therefore all ECA meetings and activities are cancelled until further notice. The Leadership Team decided to cancel the 2020 State Conference. At our July meeting, plans will be made as to how we will adopt a 2021 budget and elect officers. More information will follow!

Regarding 202 Cultural Arts Competition!
ECA will accept items for Cultural Arts that were completed after the county competition in 2019 and those items completed during 2020 and 2021 for the competition in 2021. Any items already judged at the county level in 2020 may be re-entered in 2021.

We will also include the VP reports from the Leadership Team for each District in each eNews!
Across the State!

Northeast

From Joan:

Reported for April/ May . . . 1206 masks have been distributed. Wake County made 846 masks, Currituck County made 300 and Halifax County made 60.

Wake County

Members have spent much of the shelter in place participating in the Growers Face Mask Project.

Chowan County

Chowan County ECA has also been busy making face masks. Here is one thank you they received . . . .

Hi Mary, thank you so very much for the wonderful masks that you provided for our staff here at Out of the Box Childcare Center. We know how important it is to engage and have healthy practices and so we appreciate your support and should help and to ensure that we are doing just that. And that we are exemplifying those same characteristics towards the families we serve. Again on behalf of all of the staff here and the owners thank you so very much. Do you continue just be safe for yourself and your family as well.
From Betsy:
Reported for April/May . . . Craven and Wayne Counties have each made over 1000 masks, Columbus County made 540 and other counties made about 200. Contributions were sent to Boys & Girls Homes.

From Linda:
Reported in April/May . . . 9 counties are working on face masks. Harnett County has made more than 400 masks, Catawba, 163 masks, Lincoln, 300 masks, Iredell, 130 masks made, Rowan, 91 masks, Cabarrus made 1400 masks, and Gaston County 1000 masks made and another 1000 being worked on.

Harnett County

Five Ambassador ECA members and one Progressive ECA member were very busy before the “Quarantine”. We made over 80 stockings in one day for the military. One of Ambassador’s new members, Sabrina Thompson, was instrumental in getting us on the right track. She had her husband cut out a wood template of the stocking for us to use as a sturdy pattern to draw around. This sped up the process tremendously. She also thought through the stocking making process and decided that we could make the backs out of felt and the front out of Christmas fabric. We stacked the two fabrics together so we could cut them out together so when we got to the sewing machine we had very little shifting of the fabric. We used pinking shears to cut out the fabric eliminating the need to do something to the edges. All we had to do then was to sew them up. What a good show of support from our Harnett County ECA members.
Harnett County, continued

Harnett County ECA members made over 400 face masks during the coronavirus pandemic. They went to various places: nurses, pediatric clinic, group homes, fire department, family, friends or anyone who needed or asked for one. We were happy to provide something for others during this time of shutdown. It gave us something to do to fill those long hours and it gave us a sense of satisfaction that we could help someone. All of our masks were donated and made from stash fabric and elastic.

Before the “Quarantine” Harnett County ECA had been busy with their sewing projects for the year. We provided six laundry baskets full of items for the new arrival at the Boys and Girls Home of Lake Waccamaw. This year we decided to make comforters and matching pillow shams instead of purchasing them. Cynthia Wilder had fabric and batting she wanted to use up. She determined what size and how these comforters and shams could be made. Mason Smith came by to pick the baskets up and was so impressed that we had taken the time to do such a project for the B&G Home. Those helping with the project were Cynthia Wilder, Rose Cotton, MaryForrest, Belivia Spaulding, Ann Burgin, Juanita Gutierrez, Sue Langley, Sabrina Thompson, Patricia McKoyand Mary Lish.

After quarantine was somewhat lifted we packed the bags for Mason to pick up.

Gaston County

Eleven ECA members immediately jumped in when local requests started arriving for the cloth face coverings. So far, Gaston County volunteers have made over 700 cloth face coverings and distributed to local hospice groups, medical offices, home help organizations, local restaurants, drug stores, as well as many friends and family members.

Patti Wells, Gaston County ECA President said, “Volunteers will continue to cut, sew and deliver the masks as long as the need is there. The social distancing factor has not hindered Gaston County ECA's passion to help where it’s needed. Much of the fabric, thread and elastic have been freely donated by each of the volunteers. Some of the fabric was donated to the organization.”

Members don’t have to be an expert in sewing – volunteers cut fabric and elastic, as well as crochet. In fact, Gaston County ECA volunteers are making crocheted headbands (to relieve pressure placed on ears by face masks) which have been specifically requested by Charlotte Regional Hospice, that can be used with face coverings.
From Kim:
Reported April/May... Person County made 1800 masks, Randolph County made masks for Brenner Children's Home, other counties are making masks as well.

Person County

On May 4th, one of the Piedmont ECA club members, Dorothy Coates, turned 90 years old. 66 Even though her club members could not throw her a party, they wanted her to know how special she was to them. So they did a drive-up birthday surprise with 5 members going over to her house to surprise her. They took her fresh baked bread, a homemade chocolate pie, a door hanging, a bag of gifts and homemade cupcakes. Everyone left her house feeling better. It is funny how the best way to make yourself feel better is to do something for someone else.

Randolph County

One hundred and two years ago, in 1918, the Spanish Flu epidemic raged through North Carolina and our nation. Members of our North Carolina Home Demonstration Clubs and County Home Demonstration Agents gathered to form nursing squads. The members and agents were not trained nurses, but many of them had received training in-home nursing. Members made and distributed large quantities of food to the sick. They tended to the critically ill in local emergency hospitals. They joined forces with the Red Cross and together made thousands of masks to be worn to help stop the spread of influenza.

ECA members are once again being asked to use their homemaking skills to sew Homemade Face Masks. The cloth masks that are being made are used to cover reused, professional, medical-grade masks. Our local grocery store clerks, postal workers, sanitary workers, electricians, adult residential community residents and staff, daycare workers, Cooperative Extension staff, neighbors, relatives and friends all need your help.
From Melody:

Reported in April/May . . . the District has made 1406 masks, Henderson County made 130 masks, Cherokee made masks for Brevard. Renay Knapp added that 22 sewers had given her masks to distribute.

Cleveland County

Cleveland County ECA participated in the NCECA Sewn Face Mask Project. Jean Ann Privett, ECA member and Coordinator of Fostering Family & Community, presented 100 face masks to Arium Staff. 100 face masks were sewn by ECA members and donated to Atrium Health Cleveland for the Cleveland and Kings Mountain Atrium Health Sewn Face Mask Project.

In agreement with CDC guidelines, fabric masks are an appropriate option when other supplies have been exhausted. Atrium Health still has their regular mask options, but would like to be prepared for any scenario that may occur during these unpredictable times. Atrium Health has an updated and improved face mask instructions with graphics. They ask you to follow these instructions a closely as possible to ensure the integrity and strength required for recipients to use these indefinitely, per Atrium Health Cleveland Local Operations Center.

Dates to Remember . . .

June 1    eNews Deadline
July 1    County activity report due to District VP
July 15   Leadership Team Meeting
August 1  Leadership application due
eNews deadline

go.ncsu.edu/nceca
Join the Safe and Clean At Home Challenge!

Is it Okay to Dilute Liquid Hand Soap with Water?
We’ve all been there: you go to wash your hands and realize you’re down to the last dregs of your liquid hand soap. You may be tempted to add water to the soap dispenser. But there’s a good reason not to. continue reading...

Clean Wherever You Are for National Cleaning Week
Whether using a disinfectant spray, a wipe or soap and water, there are times and places that are critical for preventing the spread of germs. continue reading...

Home Safety Tips from Physician Assistants
Health care professionals know how fast accidents can happen in the home, especially with little kids. That’s why we’ve teamed up with the PA Foundation to help spread the word about home safety. continue reading...

4 Spots in Our Homes that Need the Most TLC
Ever feel like your home just isn’t clean enough? If so, you’re not alone. According to ACI’s 2020 National Cleaning Survey, 78 percent of adults say that on a typical day they’d like their homes to be cleaner. continue reading...

If you have ideas for content, email us at chirp@cleaninginstitute.org.

Until the next time, stay safe, stay clean and always make each day all about better living.

American Cleaning Institute®
ECA Foundation Innovative Grants Awarded

The innovative grants are awarded annually to fund projects that increase awareness and support the NCECA at the club, county, district and state levels. Nine (9) applications were submitted to the committee.

Listed are the names of the applicants and a brief project descriptions.

1. **Gaston County ECA** - Special Interest Group – Purchasing equipment and supplies to teach basic sewing and quilting classes and supplies to support community service projects.

2. **Moore County ECA** – Offer classes on heritage skills, healthy meal preparations.

3. **Orange County ECA** – “Bonding over Blanket” program in collaboration with the Senior Center.

4. **Person County ECA** – Provide leadership opportunities for ECA members, educational support by recruiting new members, and training current members.

5. **Randolph County ECA** – “Monarchs in the Kitchen” a collaborative service learning project between RCECA and Randolph Monarch VOC (Vocational Opportunities.)

6. **Rutherford County ECA** – Conduct a recruitment event for ECA, Master Food Volunteers, Master Gardeners and 4-H.

7. **Stanly County ECA** – Books for Babies Program – literacy project.

8. **Wake County ECA** – Produce a marketing brochure for membership recruitment.

9. **Wayne County ECA North George** – Provide a two day program for 11 – 13 year old girls. Programs on positive self-esteem, basic principles of etiquette, personal hygiene, finances and healthy habits.

Applications were judged on five (5) major criteria: Project Description, Objectives, Implementation and Marketing Strategies and Partnership. Each had a merit scale of 1 - 5 (with 5 being outstanding). Judges scores were averaged and a percentage was given to each results. The amount of money awarded was based on the percentage of each score calculated.

The amount of money requested from the application was $9,375.00

Awarded $4,990.00

Budget $5,000.00
YEARLY REPORTS CLARIFIED!!

Our Yearly Activity report form has undergone changes! You have a “paper” version in the 2020 Yearbook! You may keep up with your hours on paper but at the end of the year, you will need to input that activity into an electronic version!

It has come to our attention that there is still concerns about the reporting. We’ll try to clarify some issues!

Don’t panic! Those who are not technologically savvy are not left behind. We are asking that one person in each county **PLEASE** take the responsibility of inputting the information for those not comfortable doing so!

This should streamline our reporting process and make it more accurate! These reports will be **individual**. There is no longer a need to compile a county report to submit! The program will automatically generate a county report which will be available to agents for their reporting. We have had questions regarding what can be counted. **ALL** of your volunteer hours are counted... whether they are ECA/Extension related or not! Your hours are divided into 5 categories:

- **ECA & other Extension Programs**
- **Food & Nutrition**
- **Youth Development**
- **Faith-based Programs**
- **Community Partners!**

It is more important than ever to report ECA activity. Our Memorandum of Understanding with North Carolina Cooperative Extension requires us to do so. If we fail to report activity, the time agents spend with us is in jeopardy. We know that ECA members love working to improve and meet the needs of their communities and are not looking for recognition for doing so, **but the reports are not bragging on your efforts, your agent needs to report your activity!!**

**The FORM**

- ECA activity and/or Extension programs are grouped together. You may separate foods programs and 4-H or youth programs and list them under those categories. It is not as important as to **WHERE** you list them... just **LIST** them somewhere!!
- Your Scout, school or other activity working with our youth may be listed under Youth Development.
- All church volunteer hours are listed under Faith based... you may list youth groups, Sunday School, etc here or under Youth Development.
- CVU or Volunteer Hours Brought Forward - if you’ve received CVU certificate with a seal for each 500 hours, you may add to those hours by listing your previous hours logged.
- Community Partners encompasses all other volunteer activity not listed in other categories, i.e Hospice, Garden Club, Board of Elections, etc.
- Number reached - this has been a BIG concern. It has been decided that each individual report the numbers while they were working. Case in point... a fair has attendance of 1,000 per day. You worked 1/2 day... report 5,000 reached. You may not have talked with that many, but that many had the opportunity to pass by or see your exhibit. Some counties prefer to let 1 person report the number reached for each activity. Again, use your best judgement.

**BIG CONCERN**

How do we report specific activity, i.e. fair booths, county or club projects or events? There is NO place on the form to report these. That is where your county reports to your District VP are critical. Before every Leadership Team meeting, your VP calls for an activity report from your county. Those are reported at Leadership Team meetings. These reports give us the information needed for our Annual Report. We will add this to our calendar to remind you so that you will be ready for your VP’s call! These are just a list of activities your county has engaged... no hours, numbers, etc.

If you still have questions, please **ASK**!